

# Stream Walk Worksheet

Stream Name \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Monitoring Location

(general description and longitude/latitude)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Time \_\_\_\_\_

**Attach a photo or sketch your site:**

Note features that affect stream habitat, such as riffles, runs, pools, ditches, wetlands, dams, rip rap, outfalls, tributaries, landscape features, logging, paths and roads. Include an arrow showing which way the stream is flowing, and another arrow showing 'north.'

**Weather in the past 24 hours:**

- Storm (heavy rain)
- Rain (steady rain)
- Showers (intermittent rain)
- Overcast
- Clear/Sunny

**Weather Now:**

- Storm (heavy rain)
- Rain (steady rain)
- Showers (intermittent rain)
- Overcast
- Clear/Sunny

**1. Water Appearance**

- Clear
- Turbid
- Milky
- Foamy
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Dark Brown
- Oily Sheen
- Orange/red
- Green

Notes \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Water Odor**

- None
- Sewage
- Chlorine
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Fishy
- Rotten Eggs
- Petroleum

Notes \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Temperature**

Air \_\_\_\_\_ °F °C  
 Water \_\_\_\_\_ °F °C  
 (circle temp. scale used)

(continued on next page)

#### 4. Submersed Aquatic Plants

Are there submersed aquatic plants?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Where? \_\_\_\_\_  
Identify or describe them: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### 5. Riparian Vegetation

Looking upstream, describe the streamside cover.

a) Note vegetation on streambank only and check boxes if present (left column is for left-hand side of stream; right column is for right-hand side).

- |  |  |                          |
|--|--|--------------------------|
| left   |  | right                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Evergreen trees           |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hardwood trees            |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bushes, shrubs            |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tall grasses, ferns, etc. |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lawn                      |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boulders/rocks            |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gravel/sand               |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bare soil                 |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pavement/structures       |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |

b) Note vegetation from the top of streambank back 66 feet.

- |  |  |                          |
|--|--|--------------------------|
| left   |  | right                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Evergreen trees           |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hardwood trees            |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bushes, shrubs            |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tall grasses, ferns, etc. |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lawn                      |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boulders/rocks            |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gravel/sand               |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bare soil                 |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pavement/structures       |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural fields       |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pasture                   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |

#### 6. Canopy Cover

Pick the category that best describes how much vegetation shades the stream at your site.

- 0%    25%    75%    100%

Notes on vegetation: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### 7. Bottom Substrate

Record the materials that make up the stream bottom.

Bottom types:

- Bedrock
- Boulder (>10 inches)
- Cobble (2.5 inches - 10 inches)
- Gravel (0.1 inches - 2.5 inches)
- Sand (<0.1 inches)
- Silt
- Other (include organics)

Notes on substrate: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### 8. Stream Discharge Estimate

Stream width: \_\_\_\_\_ feet  
(a)

Depth measurements:

\_\_\_\_\_ ft.  
\_\_\_\_\_ ft.  
\_\_\_\_\_ ft.  
\_\_\_\_\_ ft.  
\_\_\_\_\_ ft.

\_\_\_\_\_ total / 5 = \_\_\_\_\_ avg. depth  
(b)

Velocity: Time (per 20 ft)

\_\_\_\_\_ sec.  
\_\_\_\_\_ sec.  
\_\_\_\_\_ sec.

\_\_\_\_\_ total

divide total by number of trials

\_\_\_\_\_ / 3 = \_\_\_\_\_ secs. (avg.)

Velocity = foot/second

20 ft. / \_\_\_\_\_ sec. (avg. time)

=  ft./sec.  
(c)

**Discharge:** (width x depth x velocity)

\_\_\_\_\_ feet x \_\_\_\_\_ feet x \_\_\_\_\_ ft./sec. =  
(a) (b) (c)

=  ft<sup>3</sup>/sec.

#### 9. Watershed Features

(within about ¼ mile of the site – upstream)

Adjacent land used can impact the stream. Check "1" if present, "2" if clearly having an impact on the stream:

- 1 2 **Residential**
- single-family housing (dense)
  - single-family housing (>1 acre lots)
  - multifamily housing
  - lawns
  - commercial/institutional

- 1 2 **Roads, etc.**
- paved roads, parking lots, bridges
  - unpaved roads

- 1 2 **Construction underway on:**
- housing development
  - commercial development
  - road or bridge building/repair

- 1 2 **Agricultural**
- grazing land (pastures)
  - feed lots, animal holding areas
  - cropland (type \_\_\_\_\_)
  - inactive agricultural land

- 1 2 **Recreation**
- golfing
  - camping
  - swimming/fishing/canoeing
  - hunting land/natural

- 1 2 **Other**
- mining
  - logging
  - industry
  - sanitary landfill
  - sewage treatment plant
  - dams

#### 10. Channel Alteration

Has the stream been channelized?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_