

Friends of the Chicago River



ADOPT A RIVER SCHOOL

HABITAT ASSESSMENT DATA SHEET

School Name:

Site Location:

Date:

Time:

Present Weather:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clear/Sunny | <input type="checkbox"/> Intermittent Showers | <input type="checkbox"/> Heavy Rain or Thunderstorm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Overcast | <input type="checkbox"/> Steady Rain | |

Weather in past 48 hours:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clear/Sunny | <input type="checkbox"/> Intermittent Showers | <input type="checkbox"/> Heavy Rain or Thunderstorm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Overcast | <input type="checkbox"/> Steady Rain | |

Water Odor:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> None | <input type="checkbox"/> Fishy | <input type="checkbox"/> Petroleum |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sewage | <input type="checkbox"/> Rotten Eggs | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chlorine | | |

Water Color:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clear | <input type="checkbox"/> Dark Brown | <input type="checkbox"/> Reddish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Milky | <input type="checkbox"/> Oily Sheen | <input type="checkbox"/> Green |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foamy | | |

Physical Characteristics:

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Straight | <input type="checkbox"/> Meandering | <input type="checkbox"/> Braided | <input type="checkbox"/> Channelized | <input type="checkbox"/> Pool and riffle |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|

Canopy Cover:

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 0% | <input type="checkbox"/> 1-5% | <input type="checkbox"/> 6-25% | <input type="checkbox"/> 26-50% | <input type="checkbox"/> 51-75% | <input type="checkbox"/> 76-100% |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|

Available Stream Habitat:

Check all that are present:

- Pools and riffles
 Wetland
 Rocks
 Log piles
 Weed beds
 Undercut banks
 Human made objects (pilings, concrete blocks, etc.)

Bank and Riparian Vegetation:

If more than one present, please record estimated percents:

- Barren _____ %
 Grasses _____ %
 Brush _____ %
 Deciduous trees _____ %
 Conifers _____ %
 Other _____ %

Bank Erosion:

Estimate percent bare soil: _____ %

- Bank slope: Steep Moderate Slight
 Bank stability: Stable Slightly eroded Moderately eroded Severely eroded

Human Use:

Please check off all that apply:

- Biking
 Fishing
 Partying
 Hiking or nature walking
 Canoeing
 Restoration site

Watershed:

Record a "D" next to dominant land uses and an "X" next to those land uses that are minor.

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Forest | <input type="checkbox"/> | Park | <input type="checkbox"/> | Scattered residential | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sewage treatment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Prairie or ungrazed fields | <input type="checkbox"/> | Golf course | <input type="checkbox"/> | Moderate density residential | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sanitary landfill |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Wetland | <input type="checkbox"/> | Cropland | <input type="checkbox"/> | High density residential | | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> | Livestock pasture | <input type="checkbox"/> | Commercial | | |
| | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> | Industrial | | |

Site Map

Draw a 100-foot long section of the river. Make sure to include: compass rose, key (if symbols are used), direction of river flow, location of pools & riffles, roads, bridges & paths, bank vegetation and areas of erosion. Also include information which identifies where you are along the river.

