

# Friends of the Chicago River



## ADOPT A RIVER SCHOOL

### HABITAT ASSESSMENT DATA SHEET

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Site Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

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#### 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          |   |

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#### 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          |   |

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#### 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 |                                      |                                      |

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#### 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 |                                     |                                  |

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#### Physical Characteristics:

- Straight     Meandering     Braided     Channelized     Pool and riffle

#### Canopy Cover:

- 0%     1-5%     6-25%     26-50%     51-75%     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.

