

Friends of the Chicago River



ADOPT A RIVER SCHOOLS

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"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sewage | <input type="checkbox"/> Rotten Eggs | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chlorine | <input type="checkbox"/> Petroleum | |

Water Color:

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

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 Uses:

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.

