

# Brown County

Volunteer Water Monitoring Program

## Stream Habitat Assessment Data Sheet

Stream/Site Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Volunteer Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Was the stream/ditch dry when it was monitored? Yes No

Stream Type \_\_\_\_\_

### Canopy Cover (circle one)

0-25%

25-50%

50-75%

75-100%

### Riparian Zone Width (check one for each bank)

Left Bank (facing upstream)

Right Bank (facing upstream)

0-5 feet

0-5 feet

5-25 feet

5-25 feet

Over 25 feet

Over 25 feet

### Riparian Zone Plant Cover (estimate percentage of each)

Left Bank (facing upstream)

Right Bank (facing upstream)

\_\_\_\_% Trees

\_\_\_\_% Trees

\_\_\_\_% Shrubs/Low Trees

\_\_\_\_% Shrubs/Low Trees

\_\_\_\_% Grass/Low Plants

\_\_\_\_% Grass/Low Plants

\_\_\_\_% Exposed Soil

\_\_\_\_% Exposed Soil

\_\_\_\_% Other: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_% Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Stream Habitat Type (circle one)

Riffle

Pool

Run

**Stream Banks**

**Left Bank (facing upstream)**

- Cut Bank – Eroding
- Cut Bank – Vegetated
- Sloping Bank
- Sand/Gravel Bar
- Rip Rap
- Constructed Bank/Drainage Ditch
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Right Bank (facing upstream)**

- Cut Bank – Eroding
- Cut Bank – Vegetated
- Sloping Bank
- Sand/Gravel Bar
- Rip Rap
- Constructed Bank/Drainage Ditch
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Stream Substrate (along transect – estimate percentages)**

- \_\_\_% Bedrock – large sheets of stone
- \_\_\_% Boulder – stones larger than 10 inches in diameter
- \_\_\_% Cobble – stones, diameter between 2.5 and 10 inches
- \_\_\_% Sand – smaller than 0.1 inches
- \_\_\_% Mud/Silt – dirt or soil deposited on bottom of the stream
- \_\_\_% Other – organic material like leaf litter, tree limbs, etc
- 100% Total

**Microhabitats (check all present)**

- Algae Mats       Sand       Undercut Banks       Logjams
- Junk (tires,etc)       Rip Rap       Root Wads       Leaf Packs
- Fallen Trees       Rocks       Silt/Muck       Overhanging Vegetation
- Weed Beds       Other (describe \_\_\_\_\_)

**Recreational Suitability (check one that applies)**

- Very Good: beautiful, could NOT be better
- Good: Very minor aesthetic problems; excellent for body contact recreation (swimming, wading, etc)
- Fair: Body contact recreation and aesthetic enjoyment slightly impaired
- Poor: Recreation potential and level of enjoyment of the stream substantially reduced (would not swim, but boating or fishing is ok)
- Very Poor: Swimming and aesthetic enjoyment of stream nearly Impossible

**Adjacent Land Use (both banks – circle all that apply)**

- Row Crop      Wetland      CRP Filter Strip      Pasture      Feedlot
- Residential      Industrial      Park      Steep Slopes      Conservation Lands

**Other Stream Observations and Notes:**

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