

Stream Visual Assessment Protocol

(Modified by the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program, www.water.rutgers.edu)

PROJECT:

Evaluators Name _____ Date _____ Time _____

Property Owners Name (if applicable) _____

Stream Name _____ Grid ID _____

Reach Location _____

Applicable Reference Site _____

GPS Coordinates (in degrees, minutes, and seconds): _____

Weather conditions today _____ Past 2-5 days _____

Active channel width _____ ft *Dominant* substrate (*circle one*): boulder cobble gravel sand silt mud

Site Diagram: Note direction of flow, pipes, photo locations, stream characteristics, stormwater infrastructure, & ditches.

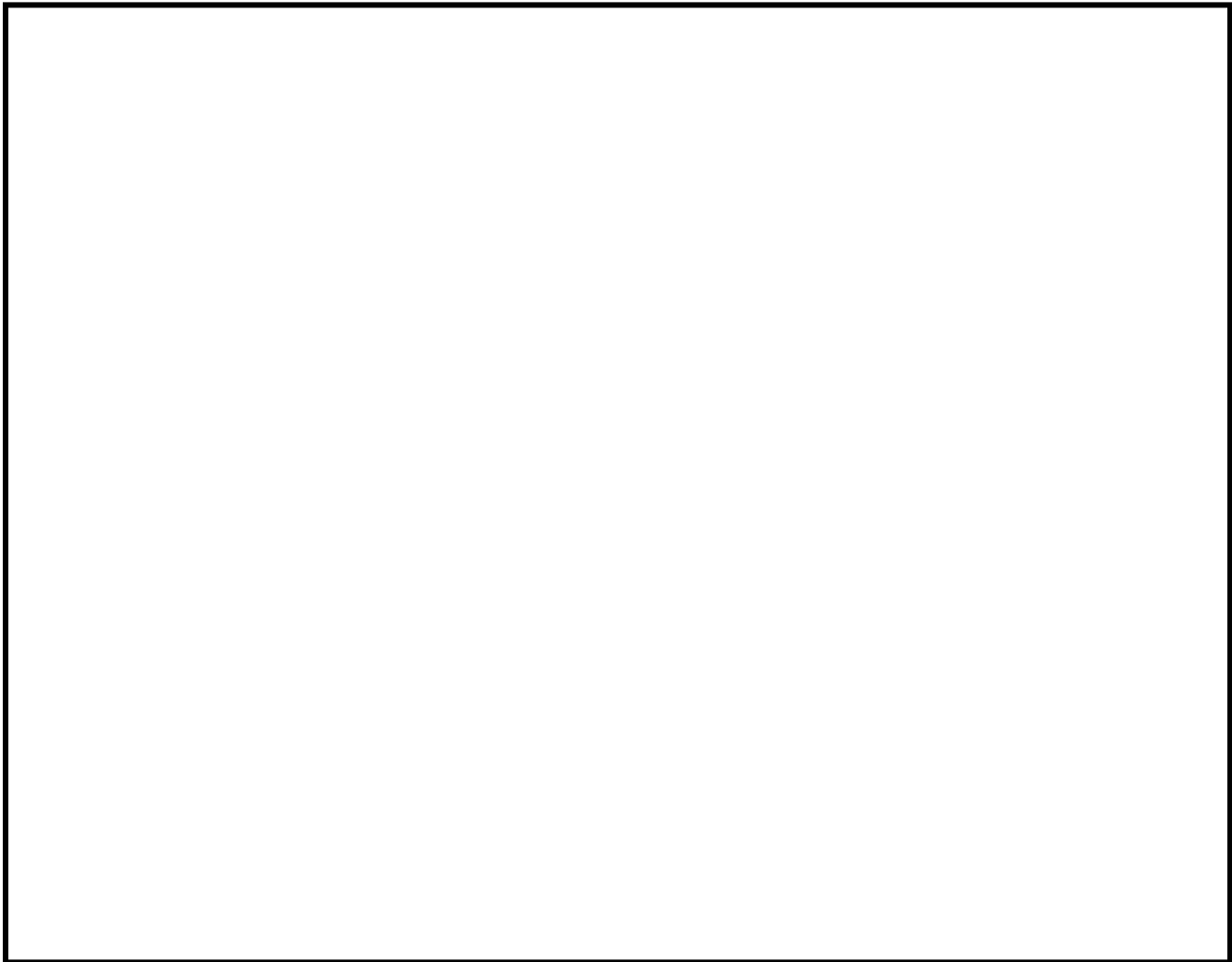


Photo Notes: 1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____
5. _____ 6. _____
7. _____ 8. _____
9. _____ 10. _____

Assessment Scores (1-Poor to 10-Excellent)

(facing upstream)

Channel Condition

Hydrologic Alteration
(Score only if Applicable)

Riparian Zone Left: Right:

Bank Stability Left: Right:

Water Appearance

Nutrient Enrichment

Barriers to fish movement

Instream fish cover

Pools

Invertebrate habitat

Score only if applicable

Canopy Cover
(use Manual for guidance)

Manure presence

Salinity

Riffle embeddedness
(look in riffles)

Macroinvertebrates

Observed (optional)

Overall Score	< 6.0	Poor
<small>(Total divided by number scored)</small>	6.1-7.4	Fair
Left: _____ Right: _____ Average: _____	7.5-8.9	Good
	> 9.0	Excellent

Streamside Land Use:

(within 100 ft. of top of bank)

Check all that apply:

Land Use Category	While Observed in the field	
	Left Bank	Right Bank
Forest		
Pasture		
Cultivated Field		
Nursery		
Residential		
Commercial		
Industrial		
Other		

Outfall Pipe 1: (Photo # ___ and mark on site diagram) GPS Coordinates _____ N
 Diameter: _____ in _____ W

Headwall? YES NO Double culvert? YES NO Streambank at outfall eroded? YES NO

Pipe Material: concrete steel PVC Clay Other

Location of Pipe: in stream, at top of bank, in bank, out of/ under bridge, other _____

Channel downstream eroded? YES NO

Pipe gathers water from (road, yard, farm, etc.): _____

Flow appearance: clear turbid oily foamy colored other _____

Outfall Pipe 2: (Photo # ___ and mark on site diagram) GPS Coordinates _____ N
 Diameter: _____ in _____ W

Headwall? YES NO Double culvert? YES NO Streambank at outfall eroded? YES NO

Pipe Material: concrete steel PVC Clay Other

Location of Pipe: in stream, at top of bank, in bank, out of/ under bridge, other _____

Channel downstream eroded? YES NO

Pipe gathers water from (road, yard, farm, etc.): _____

Flow appearance: clear turbid oily foamy colored other_____

Drainage Ditch: (Photograph #__ and mark on site diagram) GPS Coordinates _____N
Width of ditch_____ft _____W
Begins at: _____ Ditch lining: stone, vegetation, concrete, mud, other_____
Ditch is: Stable, Eroding Ditch Flow is: none, intermittent, steady
Stream channel downstream is: stable, eroded, silted Flow is: clear, cloudy, oily, foamy, colored
Ditch comes from:

Drainage Ditch: (Photograph #__ and mark on site diagram) GPS Coordinates _____N
Width of ditch_____ft _____W
Begins at: _____ Ditch lining: stone, vegetation, concrete, mud, other_____
Ditch is: Stable, Eroding Ditch Flow is: none, intermittent, steady
Stream channel downstream is: stable, eroded, silted Flow is: clear, cloudy, oily, foamy, colored
Ditch comes from:

Comments & Suggestions:

Do you have suggestions for remediation along this reach?

Given dry weather, is there any running water in nearby stormwater structures?

Access to this site...how far off of road is it? Accessible for large equipment, if necessary?

Debris, trash, litter?

Additional comments: