OhioEPA

Qualitative Habitat Evaluation Index and Use Assessment Field Sheet

QHEI Score: ◯

Stream & Location: _____ *RM:* _ _ _._ *Date:* _ _ | _ _ | _ _

_____ *Scorers Full Name & Affiliation:* _____

River Code: _ _ _ - _ _ _ - _ _ _ *STORET #:* _ _ _ _ _ _ _ *Lat./Long.:* _ _ . _ _ _ _ _ /8_ . _ _ _ _ _
(NAD 83 - decimal °) *Office verified location* ☐

1] SUBSTRATE Check ONLY Two substrate TYPE BOXES; estimate % or note every type present

Check ONE (*Or 2 & average*)

BEST TYPES — POOL RIFFLE

			POOL	RIFFLE
☐ ☐	BLDR /SLABS [10]		____	____
☐ ☐	BOULDER [9]		____	____
☐ ☐	COBBLE [8]		____	____
☐ ☐	GRAVEL [7]		____	____
☐ ☐	SAND [6]		____	____
☐ ☐	BEDROCK [5]		____	____

OTHER TYPES — POOL RIFFLE

		POOL	RIFFLE
☐ ☐	HARDPAN [4]	____	____
☐ ☐	DETRITUS [3]	____	____
☐ ☐	MUCK [2]	____	____
☐ ☐	SILT [2]	____	____
☐ ☐	ARTIFICIAL [0]	____	____

(Score natural substrates; ignore sludge from point-sources)

NUMBER OF BEST TYPES: ☐ 4 or more [2] ☐ 3 or less [0]

ORIGIN
- ☐ LIMESTONE [1]
- ☐ TILLS [1]
- ☐ WETLANDS [0]
- ☐ HARDPAN [0]
- ☐ SANDSTONE [0]
- ☐ RIP/RAP [0]
- ☐ LACUSTURINE [0]
- ☐ SHALE [-1]
- ☐ COAL FINES [-2]

SILT / EMBEDDEDNESS

QUALITY
- ☐ HEAVY [-2]
- ☐ MODERATE [-1]
- ☐ NORMAL [0]
- ☐ FREE [1]
- ☐ EXTENSIVE [-2]
- ☐ MODERATE [-1]
- ☐ NORMAL [0]
- ☐ NONE [1]

Substrate ◯ Maximum 20

Comments

2] INSTREAM COVER Indicate presence 0 to 3: 0-Absent; 1-Very small amounts or if more common of marginal quality; 2-Moderate amounts, but not of highest quality or in small amounts of highest quality; 3-Highest quality in moderate or greater amounts (e.g., very large boulders in deep or fast water, large diameter log that is stable, well developed rootwad in deep / fast water, or deep, well-defined, functional pools.

- ____ UNDERCUT BANKS [1]
- ____ OVERHANGING VEGETATION [1]
- ____ SHALLOWS (IN SLOW WATER) [1]
- ____ ROOTMATS [1]
- ____ POOLS > 70cm [2]
- ____ ROOTWADS [1]
- ____ BOULDERS [1]
- ____ OXBOWS, BACKWATERS [1]
- ____ AQUATIC MACROPHYTES [1]
- ____ LOGS OR WOODY DEBRIS [1]

AMOUNT Check ONE (*Or 2 & average*)
- ☐ EXTENSIVE >75% [11]
- ☐ MODERATE 25-75% [7]
- ☐ SPARSE 5-<25% [3]
- ☐ NEARLY ABSENT <5% [1]

Cover Maximum 20 ◯

Comments

3] CHANNEL MORPHOLOGY Check ONE in each category (*Or 2 & average*)

SINUOSITY
- ☐ HIGH [4]
- ☐ MODERATE [3]
- ☐ LOW [2]
- ☐ NONE [1]

DEVELOPMENT
- ☐ EXCELLENT [7]
- ☐ GOOD [5]
- ☐ FAIR [3]
- ☐ POOR [1]

CHANNELIZATION
- ☐ NONE [6]
- ☐ RECOVERED [4]
- ☐ RECOVERING [3]
- ☐ RECENT OR NO RECOVERY [1]

STABILITY
- ☐ HIGH [3]
- ☐ MODERATE [2]
- ☐ LOW [1]

Channel Maximum 20 ◯

Comments

4] BANK EROSION AND RIPARIAN ZONE Check ONE in each category for EACH BANK (*Or 2 per bank & average*)

River right looking downstream

EROSION (L R)
- ☐ ☐ NONE / LITTLE [3]
- ☐ ☐ MODERATE [2]
- ☐ ☐ HEAVY / SEVERE [1]

RIPARIAN WIDTH (L R)
- ☐ ☐ WIDE > 50m [4]
- ☐ ☐ MODERATE 10-50m [3]
- ☐ ☐ NARROW 5-10m [2]
- ☐ ☐ VERY NARROW < 5m [1]
- ☐ ☐ NONE [0]

FLOOD PLAIN QUALITY (L R)
- ☐ ☐ FOREST, SWAMP [3]
- ☐ ☐ SHRUB OR OLD FIELD [2]
- ☐ ☐ RESIDENTIAL, PARK, NEW FIELD [1]
- ☐ ☐ FENCED PASTURE [1]
- ☐ ☐ OPEN PASTURE, ROWCROP [0]

(L R)
- ☐ ☐ CONSERVATION TILLAGE [1]
- ☐ ☐ URBAN OR INDUSTRIAL [0]
- ☐ ☐ MINING / CONSTRUCTION [0]

Indicate predominant land use(s) past 100m riparian.

Riparian Maximum 10 ◯

Comments

5] POOL / GLIDE AND RIFFLE / RUN QUALITY

MAXIMUM DEPTH Check ONE (*ONLY!*)
- ☐ > 1m [6]
- ☐ 0.7-<1m [4]
- ☐ 0.4-<0.7m [2]
- ☐ 0.2-<0.4m [1]
- ☐ < 0.2m [0]

CHANNEL WIDTH Check ONE (*Or 2 & average*)
- ☐ POOL WIDTH > RIFFLE WIDTH [2]
- ☐ POOL WIDTH = RIFFLE WIDTH [1]
- ☐ POOL WIDTH < RIFFLE WIDTH [0]

CURRENT VELOCITY Check ALL that apply
- ☐ TORRENTIAL [-1]
- ☐ VERY FAST [1]
- ☐ FAST [1]
- ☐ MODERATE [1]
- ☐ SLOW [1]
- ☐ INTERSTITIAL [-1]
- ☐ INTERMITTENT [-2]
- ☐ EDDIES [1]

Indicate for reach - pools and riffles.

Recreation Potential
Primary Contact
Secondary Contact
(circle one and comment on back)

Pool / Current Maximum 12 ◯

Comments

Indicate for functional riffles; Best areas must be large enough to support a population of riffle-obligate species:

Check ONE (*Or 2 & average*). ☐ NO RIFFLE [metric=0]

RIFFLE DEPTH
- ☐ BEST AREAS > 10cm [2]
- ☐ BEST AREAS 5-10cm [1]
- ☐ BEST AREAS < 5cm [metric=0]

RUN DEPTH
- ☐ MAXIMUM > 50cm [2]
- ☐ MAXIMUM < 50cm [1]

RIFFLE / RUN SUBSTRATE
- ☐ STABLE (e.g., Cobble, Boulder) [2]
- ☐ MOD. STABLE (e.g., Large Gravel) [1]
- ☐ UNSTABLE (e.g., Fine Gravel, Sand) [0]

RIFFLE / RUN EMBEDDEDNESS
- ☐ NONE [2]
- ☐ LOW [1]
- ☐ MODERATE [0]
- ☐ EXTENSIVE [-1]

Riffle / Run Maximum 8 ◯

Comments

6] GRADIENT (____ ft/mi)   DRAINAGE AREA (____ mi²)
- ☐ VERY LOW - LOW [2-4]
- ☐ MODERATE [6-10]
- ☐ HIGH - VERY HIGH [10-6]

%POOL: ◯ **%GLIDE:** ◯
%RUN: ◯ **%RIFFLE:** ◯

Gradient Maximum 10 ◯

A] SAMPLED REACH
Check ALL that apply

Comment RE: Reach consistency/ Is reach typical of steam?*, Recreation/* Observed - Inferred, *Other/* Sampling observations, Concerns, Access directions, etc.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

METHOD
- ☐ BOAT
- ☐ WADE
- ☐ L. LINE
- ☐ OTHER

STAGE
1st -sample pass- 2nd
- ☐ HIGH ☐
- ☐ UP ☐
- ☐ NORMAL ☐
- ☐ LOW ☐
- ☐ DRY ☐

DISTANCE
- ☐ 0.5 Km
- ☐ 0.2 Km
- ☐ 0.15 Km
- ☐ 0.12 Km
- ☐ OTHER

_____
meters

CLARITY
1st --sample pass-- 2nd
- ☐ < 20 cm ☐
- ☐ 20-<40 cm ☐
- ☐ 40-70 cm ☐
- ☐ > 70 cm/ CTB ☐
- ☐ SECCHI DEPTH ☐

CANOPY
1st_____ cm
pass
2nd_____ cm
- ☐ > 85%- OPEN
- ☐ 55%-<85%
- ☐ 30%-<55%
- ☐ 10%-<30%
- ☐ <10%- CLOSED

B] AESTHETICS
- ☐ NUISANCE ALGAE
- ☐ INVASIVE MACROPHYTES
- ☐ EXCESS TURBIDITY
- ☐ DISCOLORATION
- ☐ FOAM / SCUM
- ☐ OIL SHEEN
- ☐ TRASH / LITTER
- ☐ NUISANCE ODOR
- ☐ SLUDGE DEPOSITS
- ☐ CSOs/SSOs/OUTFALLS

C] RECREATION
AREA DEPTH
POOL: ☐ >100ft^2 ☐ >3ft

D] MAINTENANCE
PUBLIC / PRIVATE / BOTH / NA
ACTIVE / HISTORIC / BOTH / NA
YOUNG-SUCCESSION-OLD
SPRAY / SNAG / REMOVED
MODIFIED / DIPPED OUT / NA
LEVEED / ONE SIDED
RELOCATED / CUTOFFS
MOVING-BEDLOAD-STABLE
ARMOURED / SLUMPS
ISLANDS / SCOURED
IMPOUNDED / DESICCATED
FLOOD CONTROL / DRAINAGE

Circle some & *COMMENT*

E] ISSUES
WWTP / CSO / NPDES / INDUSTRY
HARDENED / URBAN / DIRT&GRIME
CONTAMINATED / LANDFILL
BMPs-CONSTRUCTION-SEDIMENT
LOGGING / IRRIGATION / COOLING
BANK / EROSION / SURFACE
FALSE BANK / MANURE / LAGOON
WASH H_2O / TILE / H_2O TABLE
ACID / MINE / QUARRY / FLOW
NATURAL / WETLAND / STAGNANT
PARK / GOLF / LAWN / HOME
ATMOSPHERE / DATA PAUCITY

F] MEASUREMENTS
- $\bar{x}$ width
- $\bar{x}$ depth
- max. depth
- $\bar{x}$ bankfull width
- bankfull $\bar{x}$ depth
- W/D ratio
- bankfull max. depth
- floodprone x^2 width
- entrench. ratio

Legacy Tree:

Stream Drawing: