



Izaak Walton League of America Save Our Streams – Stream Walk Survey

Name of Stream: _____ County: _____ State: _____ Date: _____

Why take a stream walk?

- to learn more about the health of your local stream,
- to map potential sources of pollution, and;
- to determine needs for more water quality monitoring, clean-up, and enhancement.

Have Fun, Be Prepared, and Be Safe.

- Before you leave, make sure someone knows where you are going and about what time you should return. Do not go alone.
- Take with you: this survey sheet, a notebook, map, and pencils. And if you have these, take them too: a GPS unit, camera, binoculars, thermometer, tape measure, and waterproof boots.
- Most importantly take a First Aid Kit and cell phone for emergencies! Your First Aid Kit should include: adhesive and cloth bandages, surgical tape, tweezers, pain reliever, anti-histamine, antiseptic spray or ointment, hydrogen peroxide, cotton balls, and an instant ice pack.

General Stream Information. (You can answer a lot of these questions by looking at maps and talking to local and state conservation staff prior to taking your stream walk.)

- How long is the stream? _____ miles
- Where does it begin? _____ Where does it end? _____
- Do other streams flow into this stream? **YES/NO** Which ones? _____
- Does this stream flow into other streams? **YES/NO** Which ones? _____
- What type of land uses does the stream flow through in its watershed? (check all that apply)
 - Rural, such as farmland, forested land or open grasslands Other _____
 - Urban, such as cities and towns
 - Suburban, such as housing developments and some open land

Stream Walk Survey Sheet

(Fill this out as your walk along the stream. You may want to use several copies for long walks to represent various areas along the stream, or where an unusual condition appears.)

GPS Coordinates/or Description of Start Location (cross street names, landmarks, etc.): _____

GPS Coordinates/or Description of End Location: _____

Avg stream width: _____ ft. Avg. stream depth: _____ ft.

Water level/flow rate is: _____ High _____ Normal _____ Low _____ Negligible

Weather conditions (last 72 hours): _____

What is the stream bed made of? (Check all that apply. Give an estimated % for each description marked.)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ___ Bedrock (large area of rock covering streambed, cannot be removed) | <input type="checkbox"/> ___ Gravel (grape-size) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ___ Boulders (watermelon-size and larger) | <input type="checkbox"/> ___ Sand (smaller than grape-size) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ___ Cobbles (orange-size) | <input type="checkbox"/> ___ Silt (smaller than sand and feels silky) |

What color is the water? Clear Tea-colored Milky Muddy Black Grey Other _____

Does the water appear oily on the surface? **YES/NO** Describe: _____

Is there foam on the surface of the water? **YES/NO** Describe: _____

Do you see trash in or around the stream? **YES/NO**

Describe the types of trash and how much you see. _____ If collecting trash along your trip, record how many large garbage bags you collect. _____ (Can some, or all of it, be recycled? If so, you can recycle at your municipal waste facility.)

Do you smell any unusual smells such as oil, sewage, or rotten eggs? **YES/NO**

Describe the smells. _____ (Do not go into any stream with unusual smells. Instead, record a description of the smells and the location, and contact your local environmental government agency).

Are there any discharge pipes in the stream? **YES/NO** If yes, how many? _____

What types of pipes are they? Unknown Runoff (field or stormwater) describe: _____

Sewage Treatment _____ Industrial: type of industry _____

What do you see on the banks of the stream? Concrete Soil Rock Vegetation/roots

Is there erosion along the banks? **YES/NO** Describe: Severe Moderate Slight; One side Both sides

If there is vegetation growing on the streambanks, what types do you see?

Trees (woody plants 6' or taller) Shrubs (woody plants shorter than 6') Grasses and Vines

Is the land along the stream:

Paved Lawn Trees Other _____

Circle the land uses you see while walking along the stream:

Roads	Houses	Apartments	Schools
Shopping Malls	Crop Fields	Golf Courses	Pastures
Parks	Mining	Sewer Manholes	Landfill
Forest	Discharge Pipes	Construction Sites	Cut Trees

Are there any land uses not listed above? **YES/NO**

Indicate location (draw a stream map) and describe each land use. _____

Do you see any animal tracks? **YES/NO**

Draw pictures of the animal tracks.

Do you see any animal houses, such as beaver dams or bird nests? **YES/NO**

Describe: _____

Do you see fish? **YES/NO**

What size? _____ inches How many? Scattered Individuals Scattered Schools (groups)

What kind? (check box if you can identify the fish you see)

Unsure Trout (pollution sensitive) Bass (somewhat pollution sensitive)

Catfish (pollution tolerant) Carp (pollution tolerant) Other _____

What other observations can you make about your stream? Describe them: _____

For more information about stream monitoring and stream enhancement projects go to www.iwla.org/sos.

Founded in 1922, the Izaak Walton League of America protects America's outdoors through community-based conservation, education, and the promotion of outdoor recreation. The League has more than 36,000 members and supporters nationwide