

CITIZENS QUALITATIVE HABITAT EVALUATION INDEX (CQHEI)

Date: ____/____/____

Volunteer ID: _____

Site ID: _____



Stream Name: _____

CQHEI Total

I. Substrate (Bottom Type)

Score:

a) Size

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Mostly Large
14 pt
(Fist size or larger) | ☐ Mostly Small
6 pt
(Smaller than fingernail, but Mostly Very Fine) |
| ☐ Mostly Medium
10 pt
(Smaller than fist, larger than fingernail) | ☐ (Not Coarse, Sometimes Greasy or Mucky)
0 pt |

b) "Smothering" Are fist size and larger pieces smothered by sand/silts?

- ☐ No
5 pt
- ☐ Yes
0 pt

Symptoms:
Hard to move pieces,
often black on bottom.

c) "Silting" Are silts & clays distributed throughout the stream?

- ☐ No
5 pt
- ☐ Yes
0 pt

Symptoms: Light kicking results in substantial clouding for more than a minute.

II. Fish cover (Hiding Places) - Add 2 points for each one present

Score:

- | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|---|
| ☐ Underwater Tree Roots (Large)
2 pt | ☐ Shrubs/Small Trees Hang Over the Bank
2 pt | ☐ Downed Trees, Logs, or Branches
2 pt | ☐ Water Plants
2 pt | ☐ Undercut Banks
2 pt |
| ☐ Underwater Tree Rootlets (Small)
2 pt | ☐ Backwaters, Oxbows, or Side Channels
2 pt | ☐ Shallow, Slow Areas For Small Fish
2 pt | ☐ Deep Areas (Chest Deep)
2 pt | ☐ Boulders
2 pt |

III. Stream Shape and Human Alterations

Score:

a) Curviness or Sinuosity of Channel

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ 2 or More Good Bends
8 pt | ☐ Mostly Straight, Some "Wiggle"
3 pt |
| ☐ 1 or 2 Good Bends
6 pt | ☐ Very Straight
0 pt |

b) How Natural is The Site ?

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Mostly Natural
12 pt | ☐ Many Man-Made Changes, But Some Natural Conditions (e.g trees, meanders)
6 pt |
| ☐ Few Minor Man-Made Changes (e.g bridge)
9 pt | ☐ Heavy Man-Made Changes, (e.g leveed, channelized)
0 pt |

IV. Stream Forests & Wetland (Riparian Area) & Erosion

Score:

a) Riparian Width - Mostly:

- ☐ Wide (can't throw a rock through it)
8 pt
- ☐ Narrow (can throw a rock through it)
5 pt
- ☐ None
0 pt

b) Land Use - Mostly:

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Forest/Wetland
5 pt | ☐ Conservation Tillage
2 pt |
| ☐ Shrubs
4 pt | ☐ Suburban
1 pt |
| ☐ Overgrown Fields
3 pt | ☐ Row Crop
1 pt |
| ☐ Fenced Pasture
2 pt | ☐ Open Pasture
0 pt |
| ☐ Park (Grass)
2 pt | ☐ Urban/Industrial
0 pt |

c) Bank Erosion

- ☐ Stable, Hard, or Well vegetated Banks
4 pt
- ☐ Combination of Stable and Eroding Bank
2 pt
- ☐ Raw, Collapsing Banks
0 pt

d) Stream Shading

- ☐ Mostly
3 pt
- ☐ Partly
2 pt
- ☐ None
0 pt

V. Depth & Velocity

Score:

a) Deepest Pool is At Least

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Chest Deep
8 pt | ☐ Knee Deep
4 pt |
| ☐ Waist Deep
6 pt | ☐ Do Not Exist
0 pt |

b) Check ALL the Flow Types That You See

- | | | |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| ☐ Very Fast: Hard to Stand in Current
2 pt | ☐ Moderate: Slowly Takes Objects
1 pt | ☐ None
0 pt |
| ☐ Fast: Quickly Takes Object Downstream
3 pt | ☐ Slow: Flow Nearly Absent
1 pt | |

VI. Riffles & Runs (Area Where Current Is Fast, Surface May Be Broken)

Score:

a) Riffles/Runs Are:

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Knee Deep or Deeper and Fast
8 pt | ☐ Ankle Deep or Less and Slow
4 pt |
| ☐ Ankle/Calf Deep and Fast
6 pt | ☐ Do Not Exist
0 pt |

b) Riffle/Run Substrates Are:

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Fist size or larger
7 pt | ☐ Smaller Than Your Fingernails or Do Not Exist
0 pt |
| ☐ Smaller than fist, larger than fingernail
4 pt | |