

CITIZENS QUALITATIVE HABITAT EVALUATION INDEX (CQHEI)

Date: ____/____/____

Volunteer ID: _____

Site ID: _____

CQHEI Total

Stream Name: _____

I. Substrate (Bottom Type)

Score: _____

a) Size

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mostly Large
14 pt
(Fist size or larger) | <input type="checkbox"/> Mostly Small
6 pt
(Smaller than fingernail,
but coarse; or bedrock) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mostly Medium
10 pt
(Smaller than fist,
larger than fingernail) | <input type="checkbox"/> Mostly Very Fine
0 pt
(Greasy or Mucky) |

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: _____

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

III. Stream Shape and Human Alterations

Score: _____

a) Curviness or Sinuosity of Channel

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 or More Good
8 pt
Bends | <input type="checkbox"/> Mostly Straight, Some
3 pt
"Wiggle" |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 or 2 Good Bends
6 pt | <input type="checkbox"/> Very Straight
0 pt |

b) How Natural is The Site ?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mostly Natural
12 pt | <input type="checkbox"/> Many Man-Made Changes, But Some Natural
6 pt
Conditions (e.g trees, meanders) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Few Minor Man-
9 pt
Made Changes (e.g
bridge) | <input type="checkbox"/> Heavy Man-Made Changes,
0 pt
(e.g leveed, channelized) |

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

Score: _____

a) Riparian Width -
Mostly:

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

b) Land Use - Mostly:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forest/Wetland
5 pt | <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation
2 pt
Tillage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shrubs
4 pt | <input type="checkbox"/> Suburban
1 pt |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Overgrown Fields
3 pt | <input type="checkbox"/> Row Crop
1 pt |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fenced Pasture
2 pt | <input type="checkbox"/> Open Pasture
0 pt |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Park (Grass)
2 pt | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban/Industrial
0 pt |

c) Bank Erosion

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chest Deep
8 pt | <input type="checkbox"/> Knee Deep
4 pt |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waist Deep
6 pt | <input type="checkbox"/> Do Not Exist
0 pt |

b) Check ALL the Flow Types That You See

- | | | |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Very Fast: Hard to
2 pt
Stand in Current | <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate:
1 pt
Slowly Takes
Objects | <input type="checkbox"/> None
0 pt |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fast: Quickly Takes
3 pt
Object Downstream | <input type="checkbox"/> Slow: Flow
1 pt
Nearly Absent | |

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

Score: _____

a) Riffles/Runs Are:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Knee Deep or Deeper
8 pt
and Fast | <input type="checkbox"/> Ankle Deep or Less and
4 pt
Slow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ankle/Calf Deep and
6 pt
Fast | <input type="checkbox"/> Do Not Exist
0 pt |

b) Riffle/Run Substrates Are:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fist size or larger
7 pt | <input type="checkbox"/> Smaller Than Your
0 pt
Fingernails or Do Not
Exist |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Smaller than fist,
4 pt
larger than
fingernail | |