

GEORGIA ADOPT-A-STREAM: Stream Habitat Survey


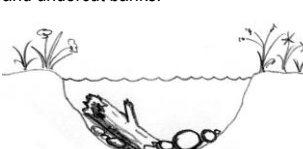
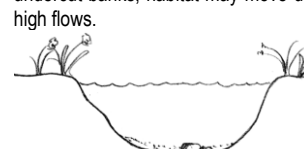


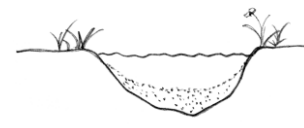
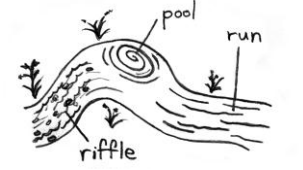

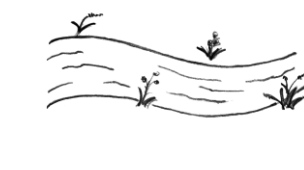
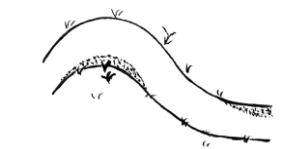
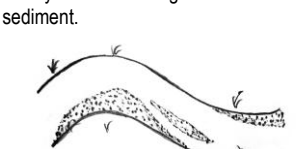
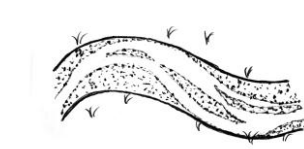
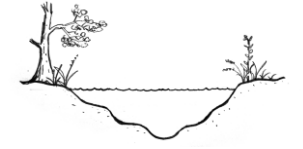


(Also fill out the *Basic Visual Form* when completing this survey)

Type of Stream:

- ☐ Rocky bottom
☐ Muddy bottom

Stream habitat will be evaluated looking both upstream and downstream, and includes: channel bottom materials, streamside vegetation, slope, and other channel characteristics. You may choose a value between 0-10 for each parameter. Note #s 8-10 ask you to evaluate each bank separately.

All measurements should be taken during baseflow conditions. Stream reach is defined as 12 times stream width, bankfull to bankfull.

Habitat Parameter	Excellent ----- -Poor											
1. Epifaunal Substrate What types of submerged materials are on the channel bottom?	Abundant stable habitat cover for colonization by macroinvertebrates and fish: submerged roots, woody and vegetative debris, cobbles, leaf packs and undercut banks. 	Adequate stable habitat cover for colonization by macroinvertebrates and fish: submerged roots, woody and vegetative debris, cobbles, leaf packs and undercut banks. 	Little or no stable habitat cover available for colonization by macroinvertebrates and fish: submerged roots, woody and vegetative debris, cobbles, leaf packs and undercut banks; habitat may move during high flows. 	What did you see?								
	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	Score <input type="text"/>
2. Embeddedness * For ROCKY BOTTOM streams only Are fine sediments being deposited in riffle/run area?	Gravel and cobble are slightly embedded in riffle area. 	Gravel and cobble are partially embedded in riffle area. 	Gravel and cobble are completely embedded in riffle area. 	What did you see?								
	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	Score <input type="text"/>
3. Riffle/Run/Pool Is a diversity of instream habitats available: riffle, runs and pools?	Yes, all three (3) habitat types (riffle, run, pool) are present and frequent. 	Two (2) habitat types are present. 	Only one (1) habitat type present and dominant. 	What did you see?								
	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	Score <input type="text"/>
4. Sediment Deposition Are point bars and islands present?	Point bars and islands stable and of small size and frequency with some vegetation. Composed mostly of gravel and cobble. 	Point bars and islands less stable and of moderate size and frequency with some sparse vegetation. Composed mostly of some gravel and finer sediment. 	Point bars and islands unstable and of a large size with little or no vegetation. Composed almost entirely of fine sediment. 	What did you see?								
	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	Score <input type="text"/>
5. Channel Flow Status How much water is in the stream channel?	Water reaches base of both lower banks; little substrate exposed. 	Some substrate is exposed and water partially fills channel. 	Most substrate is exposed and very little water in channel. 	What did you see?								
	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	Score <input type="text"/>

Total first side _____

Habitat Parameter		Excellent -----Poor													
6. Channel Alteration		No evidence of channelization (straightening) or alterations such as dredging, agriculture, concrete banks or construction activities.			Some evidence of channelization (straightening) and/or alterations such as dredging, agriculture, concrete banks or construction activities.			Most of stream reach channelized and/or many alterations present such as dredging, agriculture, concrete banks or construction activities.					What did you see?		
Is the stream channel altered by humans? * For MUDDY BOTTOM streams only Does the channel have lots of curves and bends?													Score		
		10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0			
7. Channel Sinuosity		Yes, bends in the channel are frequent.			There are more bends than straight sections.			There are more straight sections than sections with bends or channel is entirely straight.					What did you see?		
Does the channel have lots of curves and bends?													Score		
		10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0			
8. Bank Stability		Bank stable; erosion, scouring, undercutting or bank failure absent or minimal. Vegetation overhanging the stream is abundant.			Bank moderately stable; evidence of small areas of erosion, undercutting and scouring, or bank failure present. Moderate amounts of overhanging vegetation present.			Bank unstable; many eroded and scoured areas with undercutting; bank failure present; steep banks. Little overhanging vegetation present.					What did you see?		
How stable are the streambanks? Determine right/left bank by facing downstream Left bank Right bank													Score (Add both banks)		
		5	4.5	4	3.5	3	2.5	2	1.5	1	.5	0			
9. Vegetative Protection		Most streambank surfaces covered and shaded by a large variety of vegetation (trees, shrubs, flowering plants and grasses).			Some streambank surfaces covered and shaded by some variety of vegetation (trees, shrubs, flowering plants and grasses).			Few streambank surfaces covered and shaded by vegetation. Little variety of vegetation. Streambank dominated by one type of vegetation (trees, shrubs, flowering plants and grasses).					What did you see?		
Are streambanks covered & shaded by a variety of vegetation? Determine right/left bank by facing downstream Left bank Right bank													Did you see any nonnative vegetation? Check here if YES <input type="checkbox"/>		
		5	4.5	4	3.5	3	2.5	2	1.5	1	.5	0	Score (Add both banks)		
10. Riparian Vegetative Zone Width		Buffer present; a large variety of vegetation extends at least three channel widths on each side.			Some buffer present; some variety of vegetation extends two to one channel width on each side. Human activities have impacted buffer zone.			Little or no buffer present; vegetation extends less than one channel width on each side. Human activities substantially impact buffer zone.					What did you see?		
What is the amount of buffer available? Determine right/left bank by facing downstream Left bank Right bank													Did you see any nonnative vegetation? Check here if YES <input type="checkbox"/>		
		5	4.5	4	3.5	3	2.5	2	1.5	1	.5	0	Score (Add both banks)		

Stream Habitat Score: **Excellent (69-90)** **Good (46-68)** **Fair (23-45)** **Poor (0-22)** Total second side _____

Please submit data at: www.GeorgiaAdoptAStream.org Total first side _____
 Or send to: 2 MLK Jr. Dr. S.E., Suite 1462, Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Fax: 404-651-8556 Phone: 404-463-1511 Total _____