

LEADING VOLUNTEER MONITORS PROGRAM

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Partner Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Site ID \_\_\_\_\_ Stream \_\_\_\_\_ Road \_\_\_\_\_

**WEATHER**

Describe the current weather conditions at the site

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Approximate air temperature: \_\_\_\_\_ (C or F) Recent weather trends: \_\_\_\_\_

**PHYSICAL CONDITION OF SITE**

Observed Wildlife:

Birds

Herps (reptiles & amphibians)

Mammals

Fish

Type/ description	#	Type/ description	#

Type/ description	#	Type/ description	#

Observed Vegetation:

Type	Abundant	Moderate	Sparse	%of 500 ft sq area covered	Species present
Conifer trees					
Deciduous Trees					
Shrubs					
Herbaceous					
Grasses					

**Width of Riparian Zone:** Looking downstream:      Left Bank      0-50'      50-100'      100+

Right Bank                 

**Channel Characteristics:**

**Gradient:** Low       Moderate       Steep   
**Sinuosity:** Straight       Meandering       Braided

**Stream Banks:**

**Vegetation Cover:** Abundant       Moderate       Sparse       \_\_\_\_\_%

**Bank Stability:** Erosion in some areas       Erosion in many areas       Intact   
Collapsed in some areas       Collapsed in many areas

**Artificial Protection:** none < 25%       25-50%       > 50%

Describe and evaluate: \_\_\_\_\_

**Reach Habitat:**

<b>Large Woody debris:</b>	Abundant <input type="checkbox"/>	Moderate <input type="checkbox"/>	Sparse <input type="checkbox"/>	None <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Small Organic debris:</b>	Abundant <input type="checkbox"/>	Moderate <input type="checkbox"/>	Sparse <input type="checkbox"/>	None <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Overhanging debris:</b>	Abundant <input type="checkbox"/>	Moderate <input type="checkbox"/>	Sparse <input type="checkbox"/>	None <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Overhanging bank:</b>	Abundant <input type="checkbox"/>	Moderate <input type="checkbox"/>	Sparse <input type="checkbox"/>	None <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Overhanging vegetation:</b>	Abundant <input type="checkbox"/>	Moderate <input type="checkbox"/>	Sparse <input type="checkbox"/>	None <input type="checkbox"/>
( < 3 ft above water)				
<b>Aquatic vegetation:</b>	Abundant <input type="checkbox"/>	Moderate <input type="checkbox"/>	Sparse <input type="checkbox"/>	None <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Boulders:</b>	Abundant <input type="checkbox"/>	Moderate <input type="checkbox"/>	Sparse <input type="checkbox"/>	None <input type="checkbox"/>
(rocks greater than 6" in diameter)				

**Human Alterations:**

Dredging <input type="checkbox"/>	Garbage/litter <input type="checkbox"/>	Culverts <input type="checkbox"/>
Channelization <input type="checkbox"/>	Toxic substances <input type="checkbox"/>	Pipes <input type="checkbox"/>
Diversions <input type="checkbox"/>	Acid mine drainage <input type="checkbox"/>	Storm drains <input type="checkbox"/>
Dams <input type="checkbox"/>	Sewage <input type="checkbox"/>	Bridges <input type="checkbox"/>
Roads <input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/>

**Land Use:**

Enter "1" if present, "2" if you think the land use is impacting the stream.

Residential _____	Forestry _____	Grazing _____
Commercial _____	Mining _____	Crops _____
Industrial _____	Recreation _____	Irrigation _____

Additional Comments about physical condition of site: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**WATER QUALITY OF SITE**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (Partner(s)) \_\_\_\_\_

Equipment Used \_\_\_\_\_

# of strips used; what kind (if used) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

**QUANTITATIVE WATER QUALITY**

pH \_\_\_\_\_ Dissolved Oxygen \_\_\_\_\_ Temperature \_\_\_\_\_

Nitrate/Nitrogen \_\_\_\_\_ Phosphate \_\_\_\_\_ Alkalinity \_\_\_\_\_

Turbidity \_\_\_\_\_ TDS \_\_\_\_\_ Conductivity \_\_\_\_\_

**QUALITATIVE WATER QUALITY**

Water Appearance

- Scum
- Foam
- Muddy
- Milky
- Clear
- Oily Sheen
- Brownish

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Stream Bed Coating

- Orange to red
- Yellowish
- Black
- Brown
- None

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Odor

- Rotten egg
- Musky
- Acrid
- Chlorine
- None

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Other Tests:

Comments:

Total time spent at site \_\_\_\_\_

For report: Summarize findings outlined in these sheets. Address following questions:

- What procedures did you use? What equipment did you use? Were you confident about using the materials?
- What are the results of your water quality tests? List your results. What do you think the numbers mean?  
TIP: Use *Streamkeeper's Field Guide* for assistance
- What was the physical condition of the site? Describe what the site looked like and what you witnessed there.
- Did anything interesting occur during your monitoring session?
- What did you like / dislike about the site(s) you monitored?



## MONITORING CHECKLIST

Before you enter the field, make sure you have done the following:

- Read safety procedures outlined in Volunteer Handbook
- Confirmed monitoring session with partner(s)
- Checked weather conditions and made sure they are suitable for monitoring (no storms, heavy rain)
- Dressed appropriately (pants recommended, sturdy shoes, thick socks, hat, sunglasses)
- Arrived at the Meigs SWCD office at scheduled time and signed-in with a staff member
- Made sure you know your route before you left. Some areas don't have cell phone service
- Signed out all borrowed equipment

Supplies Checklist:

- Streamkeeper's Field Guide; Watershed Inventory and Stream Monitoring Methods* book  
(to help in the field with understanding field sheet terms and learning more about monitoring)
- Volunteer Handbook (available for download online)
- Field Sheets, Notebook, Clipboard, pencils
- Office Phone Number (on volunteer card)
- Sunscreen / bug spray
- Map of Leading Creek Watershed
- First aid kit
- Camera (optional, your own)
- Hip waders (if needed)
- Driver's License
- Water Quality Monitoring Test Kit
- Trash bags
- Monitoring meter (if accompanied by program coordinator or staff)
- Tape measure
- Bucket
- Safety Vest
- Gloves

After you have been in the field:

- Sign equipment back in
- Make sure you have all field sheets and notes to generate your report
- Check for ticks and poison ivy

### REMEMBER:

- **Watch out for traffic. Always park off the road; leave flashers ON**
- **NEVER enter private property without written permission. If you're not sure, don't attempt.**
- **Watch out for poison ivy, poisonous animals / insects, other hazards found in the environment.**
- **DON'T attempt to climb steep terrain. It could be very unstable.**
- **ALWAYS stay with your partner(s)**
- **If you don't know the depth of the water, DON'T enter it! DON'T enter fast moving water.**

**Last but not least...**

**HAVE FUN!** Enjoy being in the outdoors and learning about water quality monitoring and our local streams. We appreciate your dedication as a volunteer and hope you enjoy your time in the Leading Creek Watershed. Thank you! 😊