

# Stream Visual Assessment Protocol

(Customized for Rutgers Cooperative Research & Extension Water Resources Program)

**PROJECT:** *(South Jersey Land and Water Trust)*

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

Property Owners Name (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Stream Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grid ID \_\_\_\_\_

Reach Location \_\_\_\_\_

Applicable Reference Site \_\_\_\_\_

GPS Coordinates: \_\_\_\_\_

Weather conditions today \_\_\_\_\_ Past 2-5 days \_\_\_\_\_

Active channel width \_\_\_\_\_ ft *Dominant* substrate (*circle one*): boulder cobble gravel sand silt mud

**Site Diagram:** Note direction of flow, pipes, photo locations, stream characteristics, stormwater infrastructure, & ditches.

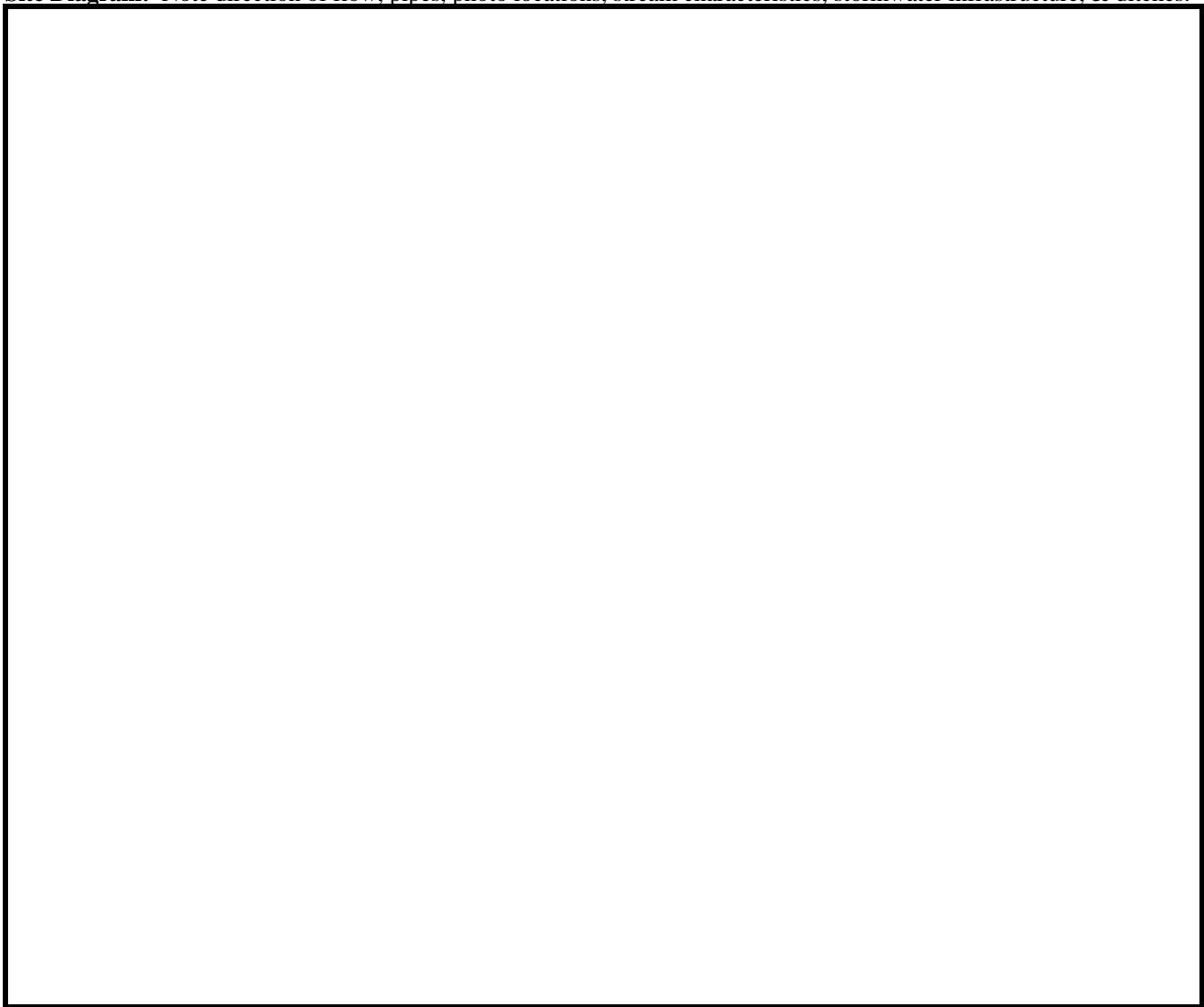


Photo Notes: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_ 6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_ 8. \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_ 10. \_\_\_\_\_

**Assessment Scores (1-Poor to 10-Excellent)**

\*\*\*(facing upstream)\*\*\*

Channel Condition

Hydrologic Alteration   
(Score only if Applicable)

Riparian Zone Left:  Right:

Bank Stability Left:  Right:

Water Appearance

Nutrient Enrichment

Barriers to fish movement

Instream fish cover

Pools

Invertebrate habitat

*Score only if applicable*

Canopy Cover   
(use Manual for guidance)

Manure presence

Salinity

Riffle embeddedness   
(look in riffles)

Macroinvertebrates

Observed (optional)

Overall Score	< 6.0	Poor
<small>(Total divided by number scored)</small>	6.1-7.4	Fair
Left: _____ Right: _____ Average: _____	7.5-8.9	Good
	> 9.0	Excellent

**Streamside Land Use:**

(within 100 ft. of top of bank)

Check all that apply:

Land Use Category	While Observed in the field	
	Left Bank	Right Bank
Forest		
Pasture		
Cultivated Field		
Nursery		
Residential		
Commercial		
Industrial		
Other		

**Outfall Pipe 1:** (Photo # \_\_\_ and mark on site diagram) GPS Coordinates \_\_\_\_\_ N  
Diameter: \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ W

Headwall? YES NO Double culvert? YES NO Streambank at outfall eroded? YES NO

Pipe Material: concrete steel PVC Clay Other

Location of Pipe: in stream, at top of bank, in bank, out of/ under bridge, other \_\_\_\_\_

Channel downstream eroded? YES NO

Pipe gathers water from (road, yard, farm, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Flow appearance: clear turbid oily foamy colored other \_\_\_\_\_

**Outfall Pipe 2:** (Photo # \_\_\_ and mark on site diagram) GPS Coordinates \_\_\_\_\_ N  
Diameter: \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ W

Headwall? YES NO Double culvert? YES NO Streambank at outfall eroded? YES NO

Pipe Material: concrete steel PVC Clay Other

Location of Pipe: in stream, at top of bank, in bank, out of/ under bridge, other \_\_\_\_\_

Channel downstream eroded? YES NO

Pipe gathers water from (road, yard, farm, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Flow appearance: clear turbid oily foamy colored other\_\_\_\_\_

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**Drainage Ditch:** (Photograph #\_\_ and mark on site diagram) GPS Coordinates \_\_\_\_\_N  
Width of ditch\_\_\_\_\_ft \_\_\_\_\_W  
Begins at: \_\_\_\_\_ Ditch lining: stone, vegetation, concrete, mud, other\_\_\_\_\_  
Ditch is: Stable, Eroding Ditch Flow is: none, intermittent, steady  
Stream channel downstream is: stable, eroded, silted Flow is: clear, cloudy, oily, foamy, colored  
Ditch comes from:

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**Drainage Ditch:** (Photograph #\_\_ and mark on site diagram) GPS Coordinates \_\_\_\_\_N  
Width of ditch\_\_\_\_\_ft \_\_\_\_\_W  
Begins at: \_\_\_\_\_ Ditch lining: stone, vegetation, concrete, mud, other\_\_\_\_\_  
Ditch is: Stable, Eroding Ditch Flow is: none, intermittent, steady  
Stream channel downstream is: stable, eroded, silted Flow is: clear, cloudy, oily, foamy, colored  
Ditch comes from:

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**Comments & Suggestions:**

Do you have suggestions for remediation along this reach?

Given dry weather, is there any running water in nearby stormwater structures?

Access to this site...how far off of road is it? Accessible for large equipment, if necessary?

Debris, trash, litter?

Additional comments: