

## VISUAL SURVEY DATA SHEET

Complete this data sheet and keep for your records. (\*) fields are required. Submit data online at [mostreamteam.org](http://mostreamteam.org)

*Site #:	*State:	*County:	Trib of <input type="checkbox"/>	*Stream Name:
*Site Description:				
*Data Submitter:			*Stream Team:	
*Sampling Date:			*Time (Military Time):	
Number of Participants:		Rainfall (inches in the last 7 days):		Water Temp in shade (°C):
<b>*1. Floodplain Land Use (note that percentages must sum to 100%)</b>				
Industrial %:		Commercial %:		Pasture/Hayfields%:
Row Crops %:		Woods %:		Other %:
Other Description:				
<b>*2. Riparian Cover (note that percentages must sum to 100%)</b>				
Trees %:		Grasses/Weeds %:		Parking Lots/Streets %:
Buildings %:		Other %:		Other Description:
<b>*3. Streambank Conditions (note that percentages must sum to 100%)</b>				
Trees %:		Grasses/Weeds%:		Bedrock %
Pavement/Riprap %:		Other %:		Other Description:
<b>*4. Bed Composition of Riffle (note that percentages must sum to 100%)</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Riffle habitat NOT available. <i>Leave section blank.</i>				
Silt/Mud %:		Sand %:		Cobble (2" - 10") %:
Boulder (over 10") %:		Bedrock %:		
<b>5. Percent Embeddedness of Substrate</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Cobble substrate NOT present. <i>Leave section blank.</i>				
Cobble 1 %:		Cobble 2 %:		Cobble 4 %:
Cobble 5 %:		Average %:		
<b>6. Signs of Human Use</b>				
<b>7. Algae</b>				
What percent (%) of the stream bottom is covered by visible algae?:				
Of the algae observed what percentage is: <i>Both fields to the right must sum to 100%</i>		Close-Growing (under 2" long):		Filamentous (strands over 2" long):
<b>8. Water Color (circle one)</b>				
Clear   Brown   Green   Orange   Oily Sheen   Other				
<b>9. Water Odor (circle one)</b>				
No Perceptible Odor   Organic   Fishy   Musty   Rotten Egg   Petroleum   Sewage   Chemical   Other				
<b>10. Weather Conditions - Cloud Cover (circle one)</b>				
Clear   Partly Cloudy   Cloudy				
Please note that Numbers 1 through 4 should each add up to 100%				
<b>Comments:</b>				
<b>Fish present during sampling event?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No				

## VISUAL SURVEY DATA SHEET INSTRUCTIONS

The purpose of the visual survey is to determine if there are any obvious water pollution problems on the stream and to characterize the riparian environment through which the stream flows. If thoroughly done, the watershed map should provide good guidance on which segment of your stream should be concentrated on in your visual survey. This data sheet has been developed to help you collect information during the visual survey of your 300-foot monitoring site. You are encouraged to fill out all of the data sheet items and any additional notes you feel help describe your observations.

1. **Floodplain Land Use:** Estimate the percentage of dominant land uses adjoining the stream represented by the area that would be covered during a major flood.
2. **Riparian Cover:** For the purposes of this data sheet, the riparian zone is the area extending back from the top of each streambank for a distance of 100 feet. Estimate the percentage of this area that is covered by the various categories listed.
3. **Streambank Conditions:** The streambank is the area of the land that rises from the streambed and reaches a crest. Such crests are more noticeable when looking at the outside bend of a stream meander. Estimate the percentage of the area of the streambank that is covered by the categories listed.
4. **Bed Composition of Riffle:** A riffle is an area of shallow, rapidly flowing water within a stream. If your stream site contains a riffle, estimate the percentage of streambed within the riffle that is covered by the various sized sediments listed. If you do not have a riffle, check the box and describe alternative habitat substrate.
5. **Percent Embeddedness of Cobble Substrate:** Estimate the percentage (0% - 100%) of the surface area of the cobble substrate embedded in the sediment or sand. Randomly pick up five rocks between 2" - 10" in size from the riffle and estimate the percentage each rock is embedded. Sum the 5 percentages and divide by 5 to get an average. If cobble is not present, then place a check in the box. Be sure not to choose rocks from areas where you will be sampling macroinvertebrates.
6. **Signs of Human Use:** Note any signs of human use in the area along the stream (e.g., pull-offs or dirt roads for cars, footpaths, trash, campfires, fishing equipment, etc.).
7. **Algae:** Estimate the percentage of the stream bottom covered by visible algae. Of the total algal cover, what percent is: (a) close-growing? (b) filamentous? Remember that (a) + (b) should total 100%.
8. **Water Color:** Collect a sample of water using a clear container and circle the water color that best describes what you see.
9. **Water Odor:** Take a whiff of the water from a container. Circle the odor that best describes what you smell.
10. **Weather Conditions:** Please circle the option that best describes the cloud cover over your stream site location at time of sampling.
11. **Comments:** List anything else not covered on the data sheet such as pipes, drainage ditches, and any changes in conditions since the last survey.
12. **Fish Present:** Mark "Yes" or "No."



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**SUBMIT DATA ONLINE:**  
[mostreamteam.org/reporting-forms.html](https://mostreamteam.org/reporting-forms.html)

*Data may be mailed to:*  
VWQM Coordinator, Water Protection Program, Department of Natural Resources,  
P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65102  
800-781-1989

