

Creek Observations Survey

Name of Creek (if known): _____ Date: _____
 Site Location (be as specific as possible): _____

NOTE: Make overall observations of the creek by looking as far as you can see both upstream and downstream from where you are standing.

Indicator	Excellent (20-16)	Good (15-11)	Fair (10-6)	Poor (5-1)	Score
Clarity	Water is clear to slightly cloudy, visibility is good	Water is slightly cloudy, visibility somewhat impaired	Cloudy to very cloudy, impaired visibility	Very cloudy/murky, can't see below surface	Score: _____
Litter	Very little litter present in the creek and on the banks; no glass	Some litter present in the creeks and on the banks; mostly small items (paper, wrappers); no glass	Litter present in the creeks and on the banks; larger items (cups, containers, cans); a few pieces of glass	Large volume of litter in the creeks and on the banks; dumping; glass and/or sharp metal objects readily apparent	Score: _____
Flow Volume	Steady; running flow; water reaches both channel banks	Moderately running; evidence of diminished flow; some areas of the creek channel are dry	Slight, trickling flow, most of the creek bed is dry	Dry creek bed; isolated stagnant pools	Score: _____
Odor	No odor to very faint offensive odor (e.g. fishy, sulphurous, petroleum, dead animals)	Slight offensive odor (e.g. fishy, sulphurous, petroleum, dead animals)	Noticeable offensive odor (e.g. fishy, sulphurous, petroleum, dead animals)	Strong offensive odor (e.g. fishy, sulphurous, petroleum, dead animals)	Score: _____
Percent Algae Cover	Surface less than 10% covered by algae	Surface 10-20% covered by algae	Surface 20-30% covered by algae	Surface more than 30% covered with algae	Score: _____
Surface Appearance	Surface less than 10% covered by organic floatables, plants, woody debris, oil or foam, etc...	Surface 10-20% covered by organic floatables, plants, woody debris, oil or foam, etc...	Surface 20-30% covered by organic floatables, plants, woody debris, oil or foam, etc...	Surface more than 30% covered by organic floatables, plants, woody debris, oil or foam, etc...	Score: _____

Fish Present/Absent (yes/no): _____

Total:

Circle the final water quality rating:

Excellent (120-91) **Good (90-61)** **Fair (60-31)** **Poor (30-1)**

Comments (please list any other notable problems or issues): _____

Thank you for helping to protect Austin's creeks!

