



Key EPA Internet-Based Tools for Watershed Management

In-Depth Level Course Tutorial

Section Six: Volunteer Monitoring Resources

Full document available at

<http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/wacademy/epatools/>

**Assessment and Watershed Protection Division
Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

6. Volunteer Monitoring Resources

- 6.1 Open the [Volunteer Monitoring Home Page](#).

There are fact sheets on this page that provide an overview and resources for volunteer monitoring programs.

- 6.2 Under the Methods section, click [The Volunteer Monitor's Guide to Quality Assurance Project Plans](#).

This guide assembles all the needed elements of a QAPP and to write a plan for volunteer monitoring. When supporting funding has been received from EPA, you must submit a QAPP to document monitoring results.

- 6.3 Click the browser's **Back** button to return to the Volunteer Monitoring Resources page and click the fourth bullet under **Methods: [Volunteer Stream Monitoring: A Methods Manual](#)**.

This guidance provides information on how to plan and carry out a study. Sections 4 and 5 provide detailed links on assessing biological parameters as well as chemical and physical parameters such as turbidity, temperature, pH, nitrates, phosphorus and total solids. Each parameter links to the monitoring methods and other relevant information.

Often, a quick-and-dirty survey is necessary to establish baseline conditions; a ready-to-download form is available here for your use.

- 6.4 Click [Watershed Survey Visual Assessment](#) (Under 3.2).

This form is a comprehensive checklist of things to assess while conducting a visual assessment.

WATERSHED SURVEY VISUAL ASSESSMENT

GENERAL INFORMATION

Stream name: _____

Watershed name: _____

County: _____ State: _____

Approximate size of study area (acres): _____

Investigators: _____

Site (description): _____

Date: _____ Time: _____

Weather in past 24 hours: Storm (heavy rain)

Weather now: Storm (heavy rain)

LAND USES IN THE WATERSHED

1. Specific uses identified (check as many as apply)

	Streamside	Within 1/4 mile of Stream	Within Watershed
<i>Residential:</i>			
Single-family housing	0	0	0
Apartment building	0	0	0
Lawns	0	0	0
Playground	0	0	0
Parking lot	0	0	0
Other _____	0	0	0
<i>Commercial / Industrial / Institutional:</i>			
Commercial development (stores, restaurants)	0	0	0
Auto repair/gas station	0	0	0
Factory/Power plant	0	0	0
Sewage treatment facility	0	0	0
Water treatment facility	0	0	0
Institution (e.g., school, offices)	0	0	0
Landfill	0	0	0
Automobile graveyard	0	0	0
Bus or taxi depot	0	0	0
Other _____	0	0	0
<i>Forest / Parkland:</i>			
Recreational park	0	0	0
National/State Forest	0	0	0
Woods/Greenway	0	0	0