



Streamwalk Program

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GENERAL INFORMATION AND SAFETY TIPS

Completely read the instructions to the Segment Survey and the Impaired Site Assessment sheets before starting your stream walk. Begin your walk at the outlet of the segment area and walk upstream. Try to collect information from the main stem of the stream and from all its perennial tributaries. Answer the questions based on your observations at the time of the survey. Any relevant information from previous knowledge should be recorded in the Additional Comments and Observations section.

Use a pencil or pen to label impaired sites and surveyed segments on the topographic maps.

Respect landowners' rights. Try to get the landowner's permission before entering private land. **If at any point you are asked to leave a property, do so and resume your streamwalk at another point.**

SAFETY TIPS

- **Use Common Sense.** Your safety should be your number one priority. If, at any point during the streamwalk, you feel uncomfortable with your surroundings, get out of the stream and resume your walk at a safer point. Be courteous and understanding of your partner's concerns. You can use the topographic map to get some idea of the characteristics of areas that should not be walked.
- Never work alone.
- Tell a friend or spouse where you are going to be working. Give them a time when you expect to be back. (Contact them if your time of arrival changes.)
- Aggressive dogs can be driven away by squirting water on their faces; consider bringing a spray bottle or a decent squirt gun. Pepper spray or mace are also effective, but are considered inhumane methods (especially by dog owners).
- Inspect yourself for ticks. You should have a pair of tweezers in your first aid kit for removing ticks.
- Once your hands come in contact with river water, avoid touching your mouth or eating until you have washed your hands with soap.
- Do not attempt to walk through fast flowing waters deeper than knee level.
- Do not attempt to cross muck and swampy areas where you could sink and get stuck.
- If you plan to canoe or boat through a section of the river, make sure you have with you the proper safety gear, especially life jackets.
- Have enough change to make two phone calls or carry a calling card. Carry the number of the local police department and remember to dial 911 in case of emergency. If available, you should consider carrying a cellular phone in a waterproof bag.