

Stream Corridor Assessment

Maryland Department
of Natural Resources



Based on Stream Corridor Assessment protocols developed by Kenneth Yetman, adapted by Amanda Sullivan and Alison Armocida, Maryland DNR.

Floodplain Vegetation



Good (4) Lots of plants, bushes and trees along banks and floodplain.



Fair (3) Some plants, bushes and trees along banks and floodplain.

Floodplain Vegetation

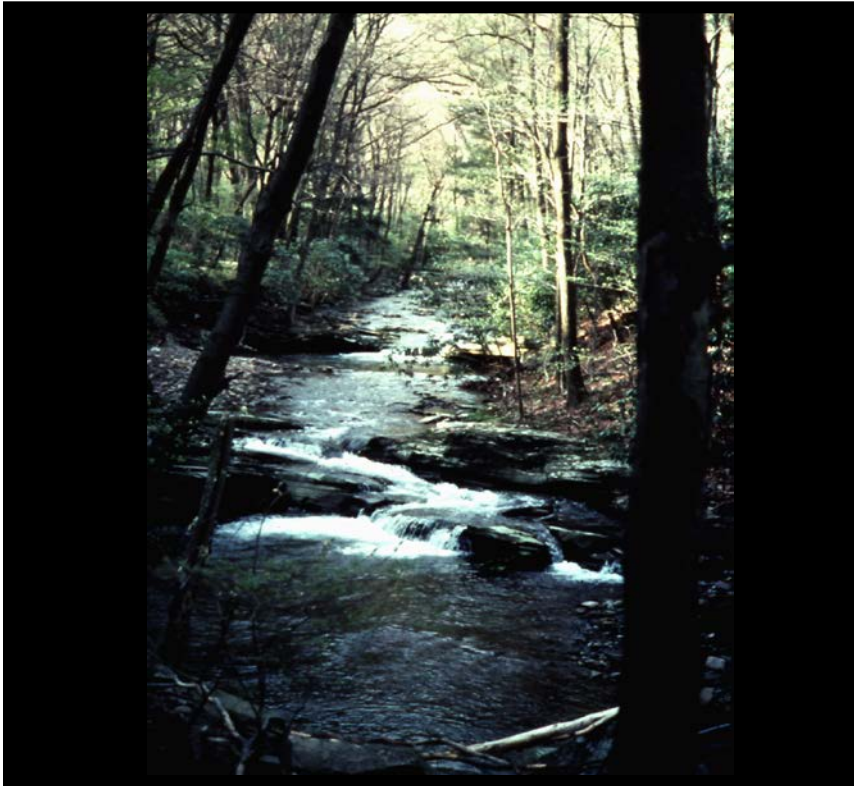


Marginal (2) Most trees and bushes gone. Vegetation is not in its natural state.



Poor (1) Very little plant life at all. Vegetation very disturbed and ecosystem is not functioning.

Channel Alteration



Good (4) Channel allowed to flow around rocks and wood and create its own channel.



Fair (3) Channel straightened in some places but most natural bends still present.

Channel Alteration



Marginal (2) Channel straightened almost entirely but still allowed to interact with the surrounding vegetation.



Poor (1) Channel straightened and separated from the surrounding vegetation by concrete.

Embeddedness

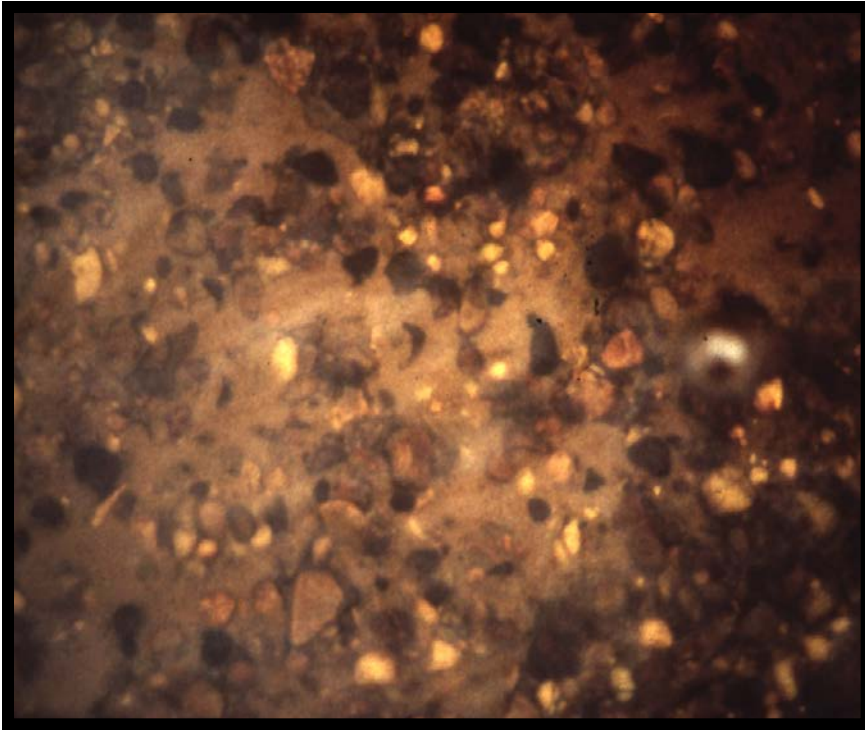


Good (4) Rocky bottom with very little sand or silt.



Fair (3) Rocks and cobbles mostly above the sand and silt.

Embeddedness



Marginal (2) Cobbles more than halfway sunk (embedded) into the sediment (sand or silt).



Poor (1) Cobbles entirely buried by sediment.

Erosion



Good (4) Banks of the stream are just slightly above the level of the water.



Fair (3) Banks slightly higher than the level of the water. May not be as connected to its floodplain as it should be.

Erosion



Marginal (2) High banks allow water to overflow onto the floodplain only rarely. Bank ecosystem somewhat separated from stream.

Poor (1) Banks too high for stream to be connected to its floodplain. Ecosystem not functioning properly.

Attachment sites for Macroinvertebrates



Good (4) Lots of cobbles, wood and leaf litter from surrounding vegetation.



Fair (3) Fewer cobbles, wood and leaves, but some still present.

Attachment sites for Macroinvertebrates



Marginal (2) No cobbles or wood, but plenty of leaf litter.



Poor (1) No rocks, wood, or leaf litter present.

Shelter for Fish



Good (4) Lots of pools, wood, undercut banks, and hiding places present.



Fair (3) Some pools, wood, undercut banks, and hiding places present.

Shelter for Fish



Marginal (2) Few pools, wood, undercut banks.



Poor (1) No pools, wood, undercut banks.

Riparian Buffer



Good (4) More than 50 feet of trees and brushy vegetation extending out from EACH bank of the stream.



Fair (3) 20-50 feet of trees and brushy vegetation extending out from EACH bank of the stream – OR over 50 feet on one side of the stream.

Riparian Buffer



Marginal (2) 5-20 feet of trees and brushy vegetation extending out from EACH side of the stream. Or a wider stretch of trees set back on one side of the stream.



Poor (1) 0-5 feet of trees and brushy vegetation on each side of the stream.

Bank Stability



Good (4) Lots of roots, rocks, and plants covering and stabilizing the bank all the way down to the water.



Fair (3) Roots, plants, and rocks covering 2/3 of the bank down to the level of the water.

Bank Stability



Marginal (2) Roots, plants, and rocks going only 1/3 of the way down the vertical part of the bank or covering only 1/3 of the bank.



Poor (1) Steep banks of bare soil with no plants, roots, or large rocks.