

# RAPID TRASH ASSESSMENT

Bronx River Alliance Citizen Science Trash Monitoring Program

Recorder name \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Bank (Circle one) \_\_\_\_\_ Left (east) \_\_\_\_\_ Right (west) \_\_\_\_\_ Whole Channel \_\_\_\_\_

Do you see oil/surfactant on water? Yes No

\*For the Recorder: please write everything down clearly and neatly, always place a trash piece into the right material group unless it's toxic/hazard, miscellaneous is only for mixed/unknown material.



Plastic	Total
Styrofoam Piece, Dunkin Donuts	
Styrofoam Piece, other brand	
Styrofoam Piece, no brand	
Large (> iphone 4)	
Middle	
Tiny (≤ dime)	
Styrofoam Pellet (for packaging)	
Styrofoam Cup, Dunkin Donuts	
Styrofoam Cup, other brand	
Styrofoam Cup/Container, no brand	
Plastic Cup Lid/ Straw/Cap	
Plastic Cup, brand	
Plastic Cup, no brand	
Plastic Water/Soda Bottle	
Other Plastic Bottle	
Plastic Bag, not black	

Plastic Bag, brand	
Plastic Bag, traditional black	
Plastic drug baggie	
Plastic Take-out Container/Lid	
Plastic Utensil (fork/knife/spoon)	
Chip Bag, silver-lined	
Food Pouch	
Cigar mouthpiece	
Cigar wrapper, silver-lined	
Plastic Wrapper (cellophane)	
Fishing Line/hook	
Traffic Cone/Barrel	
Plastic Fencing	
Tarp	
Other Soft Plastic Piece	
Other Hard Plastic Piece	
Miscellaneous (mixed/unknown material)	Total
Cigarette Butts	
Metal	Total
Aluminum Can	
Aluminum Foil	

<b>Ball</b> (not plastic/glass)	<b>Total</b>
Tennis Ball	
Soccer/Basketball	
Golf Ball	
Base/Soft Ball	
Other	

<b>Toxic</b>	<b>Total</b>
Oil container	
Paint Container (Spray or not)	
Aerosol Can (not paint)	
Lighters	
Small Battery	
Other	

<b>hazard (Do not touch, only record)</b>	<b>Total</b>
Syringes	
Other Mediacal Waste/Container	
Personal care materials	
Condom	
Tampon Applicator	
Human waste	
Dead Animal	
Pet Waste	
Other	

<b>Biodegradable</b>	<b>Total</b>
Paper cup, Starbucks	
Paper cup, brand	
Paper cup, no brand	
Paper sheet	
Paper piece	
Cardboard	
Cork	
lumber	
Food Waste/Offering	
Other	

<b>Fabric and Cloth</b>	<b>Total</b>
Synthetic Fabric	
Natural Fabric	
Can't tell	

<b>Glass</b> (If broken, do not touch)	<b>Total</b>
Glass Bottle/Piece	
Large (50% > regular)	
Regular (snapple drink bottle)	
Small (50%< regular)	
Other	









<b>Rubber</b>	<b>Total</b>
Rubber gloves	
Rubber boot/flip flop	
Ear Plug	
Balloon	
Other Synthetic Rubber	
Other Foam Rubber	

<b>Metal (cont'd)</b>	<b>Total</b>
Bottle Cap	
Wire	
Hanger	
Auto Part	
Bike/Scooter	
Other Soft Metal Object (bend)	
Other Hard Metal Object	

<b>Miscellaneous (cont'd)</b>	<b>Total</b>
Pen	
Shoes (not rubber)	
Light Bulb	
Furniture (mixed material)	
Mattress	
Ceramic Pot/Piece	
Bag of Trash	
Other Miscellaneous	

# RAPID TRASH ASSESSMENT CONDITION CATEGORY



Trash Assessment Parameter	Optimal	Sub Optimal	Marginal	Poor
				
Level of Trash	On a first glance, no trash visible. Little or no trash (<10 pieces) evident when streambed and stream bank are closely examined for litter and debris, for instance, looking under leaves.	On first glance, little or no trash visible. After close inspection small levels of trash (10-50 pieces) evident in stream bank and stream bed.	Trash is evident in low to medium levels (51-100 pieces) on first glance. Stream, bank surfaces, and riparian zone contain litter and debris. Evidence of site being used by people: scattered cans, bottles, food wrappers, blankets, clothing.	Trash distracts the eye on first glance. Stream, bank, surfaces, and immediate riparian zone contain substantial levels of debris (>100 pieces). Evidence of site being used by people: scattered cans, bottles, food wrappers, blankets, clothing.
SCORE	20 19 18 17 16	15 14 13 12 11	10 9 8 7 6	5 4 3 2 1 0
Actual Number of Trash	0-10 trash items found based on a trash assessment of a 100-ft reach.	11-50 trash items found based on a trash assessment of a 100-ft stream reach.	51-100 trash items found based on a trash assessment of a 100-ft stream reach.	Over 100 trash items found based on a trash assessment of a 100-ft stream reach.
SCORE	20 19 18 17 16	15 14 13 12 11	10 9 8 7 6	5 4 3 2 1 0
				
Threat to Aquatic Life	Trash, if any, is mostly paper or wood products or other biodegradable material.	Little or no (<10 pieces) transportable, persistent, buoyant litter such as: hard or soft plastics, Styrofoam, balloons, cigarette butts. Presence of settleable, degradable, and non-toxic debris such as glass or metal.	Medium prevalence (10-50 pieces) of transportable, persistent, buoyant litter such as: hard or soft plastics, Styrofoam, balloons, cigarette butts. Larger deposits (>50 pieces) of settleable debris such as glass or metal. Any evidence of clumps of deposited yard waste or leaf litter.	Large amounts (>50 pieces) of transportable, persistent, buoyant litter such as: hard or soft plastics, Styrofoam, balloons, cigarette butts; toxic items such as batteries, lighters, spray cans; large amounts of settleable glass or metal.
SCORE	20 19 18 17 16	15 14 13 12 11	10 9 8 7 6	5 4 3 2 1 0

# RAPID TRASH ASSESSMENT CONDITION CATEGORY



Threat to Human Health	Trash contains no evidence of bacteria or virus hazard such as medical waste, diapers, pet or human waste. No evidence of toxic substances such as chemical containers or batteries. No ponded water for mosquito production. No evidence of puncture and laceration hazards such as broken glass or metal debris.	No bacteria or virus hazards or sources of toxic substances, but small presence (<10 pieces) of puncture and laceration hazards such as broken glass and metal debris. No presence of ponded water in trash items such as tires or containers that could facilitate mosquito production.	Presence of <b>any one</b> of the following: hypodermic needles or other medical waste; used diaper, pet waste, or human feces; any toxic substance such as chemical containers, batteries, or fluorescent light bulbs (mercury). Medium prevalence (10-50 pieces) of puncture hazards.	Presence of <b>more than one</b> of the items described in the marginal condition category, or high prevalence of any one item. (e.g. greater than 50 puncture or laceration hazards).
SCORE	20 19 18 17 16	15 14 13 12 11	10 9 8 7 6	5 4 3 2 1 0
Illegal Dumping	No evidence of illegal dumping. No bags of trash, no yard waste, no household items placed at site to avoid proper disposal, no shopping carts.	Some evidence of illegal dumping. Limited vehicular access limits the amount of potential dumping, or material dumped is diffuse paper based debris.	Presence of <b>one</b> of the following: furniture, appliances, shopping carts, bags of garbage or yard waste, coupled with vehicular access that facilitates in and out dumping of materials to avoid landfill costs.	Evidence of chronic dumping, with <b>more than one</b> of the following items: furniture, appliances, shopping carts, bags of garbage, or yard waste. Easy vehicular access for in and out dumping of materials to avoid landfill costs.
SCORE	10 9	8 7 6	5 4 3	2 1 0
Illegal Littering	Any trash is incidental litter (<5 pieces) or carried downstream from another location.	Some evidence of litter within creek and banks originating from adjacent land uses (<20 pieces).	Prevalent (10-50 pieces) in-stream or shoreline littering that appears to originate from adjacent land uses.	Large amounts (>50 pieces) of litter within river and on banks that appears to originate from adjacent land uses.
SCORE	10 9	8 7 6	5 4 3	2 1 0
Accumulation of Trash	There does not appear to be a problem with trash accumulation from downstream transport. Trash, if any, appears to have been directly deposited at the stream location.	Some evidence (<10 pieces) that litter and debris have been transported	Evidence that (10-50 pieces) trash is carried to the location from upstream, as evidenced by its location near high water line, siltation marks on the debris, or faded colors.	Trash appears to have accumulated in substantial quantities at the location based on delivery from upstream areas, and is in various states of degradation based on its persistence in the waterbody. Over 50 items of trash have been carried to the location from upstream
SCORE	20 19 18 17 16	15 14 13 12 11	10 9 8 7 6	5 4 3 2 1 0

Total Score: \_\_\_\_\_

Site Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Recorder: \_\_\_\_\_