

**US Army Corps of Engineers - New England District
DRAFT Vernal Pool Characterization Form**

Project File # _____ Project Name _____ Pool ID _____
Observer _____ Phone or E-mail _____
Landowner/Applicant _____ Phone or E-mail _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Location of vernal pool: City/State _____
Survey date(s) _____
Longitude/Latitude (in decimal degrees) _____

A. VERNAL POOL CHARACTERISTICS (fill in all information known):

1. Landscape setting (check all that apply):

- Upland depression (4 pts; if this is also in a floodplain, use 2 pts) Pool part of wildlife corridor (4 pts)
 Pool part of a pool complex (within 1000 feet of one or more other vernal pools) (NA)
 Pool within larger wetland system (4 pts; if this is also in a floodplain, use 2 pts) Other: _____ (variable pts)

2. Vernal pool condition:

Describe any recent modifications to the pool and associated landscape: _____

3. Parent material:

- Glacial fluvial ("outwash") Loose till Peat
 Dense till Alluvium Coastal marine sediments

4. Aquatic resource type that best applies to this pool (choose dominant):

- Forested wetland (4 pts) Herbaceous wetland (4 pts) Floodplain (overflow/oxbow) (3 pts)
 Shrub wetland (4 pts) Open water (2 pts) Other: _____ (variable points)
 Peatland (acidic fen or bog) (4 pts) Intermittent stream reach (2 pts)

5. Pool canopy cover (%): _____

6. Predominant substrate:

- Mineral soil
 Organic matter (peat/muck) Depth _____ Sampling location (e.g., deepest zone, edge, etc.) _____

7. Pool size:

- a. Approximate dimensions of pool (at maximum capacity; include units): Length _____ Width _____
Area: _____
b. Maximum depth at deepest point at time of survey (include units): _____

8. Hydrology:

- a. Estimated hydroperiod (unless actual, observed hydroperiod value(s) is(are) known, use the presence of these example indicator species to best predict the expected hydroperiod of the pool):
 Dries between early March and early July (e.g., *Thelypteris palustris*, *Carex stricta*, *Impatiens capensis*, *Ilex verticillata*) (6 pts)
 Dries between early July and early September (e.g., *Sagittaria latifolia*, *Scirpus cyperinus*, *Dulichium arund.*, *Cephalanthus occ.*) (8 pts)
 Dries between early September and early November (e.g., *Eleocharis palustris*, *Glyceria cana.*, *Utricularia spp.*, *Decodon vert.*) (8 pts)
 Dries between early November and late December, or intermittently exposed (e.g., *Nuphar spp.*, *Potamogeton spp.*) (2 pts)
b. Inlet/outlet (pick one):
 No inlet/outlet (8 pts) Permanent inlet or outlet (channel with well-defined banks and permanent flow) (2 pts)
 Temporary inlet/outlet (6 pts)

9. Water quality:

- Clear High turbidity High algae content Tannic

_____ **TOTAL for Pool Characteristics (out of 28 max.)**

