

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.)**

**B. VERNAL POOL ENVELOPE (100 ft) AND CRITICAL HABITAT AREA (100-750 ft) CHARACTERISTICS (fill in all information known):**

**1. Landuse type and approximate percentage within the 100-ft vernal pool envelope:**

- Forested \_\_\_\_\_ % (16 pts)     Open (e.g., meadow, agriculture, golf course) \_\_\_\_\_ % (4 pts)  
 Shrub \_\_\_\_\_ % (10 pts)     Developed \_\_\_\_\_ % (0 pts)

**2. Landuse type and approximate percentage within the 100 - 750-ft vernal pool critical terrestrial habitat:**

- Forested \_\_\_\_\_ % (16 pts)     Open (e.g., agriculture, golf course) \_\_\_\_\_ % (4 pts)  
 Shrub \_\_\_\_\_ % (10 pts)     Developed \_\_\_\_\_ % (0 pts)

Are there one or more barriers to vernal pool fauna movement within the envelope and/or critical terrestrial habitat? If so, check here and see directions for explanation of how to incorporate this information.

Based on:                       Field estimate                       GIS                       Aerial photo estimate

\_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL for Pool Envelope and Critical Terrestrial Habitat Area (out of 32 max.)**

**C. SPECIES PRESENT IN VERNAL POOL**

INDICATOR SPECIES	DATE	EGG MASSES (#)	TADPOLES/LARVAE
Wood Frog ( <i>Lithobates sylvaticus</i> )			
Spotted Salamander ( <i>Ambystoma maculatum</i> )			
Blue-spotted Salamander ( <i>Ambystoma laterale</i> )			
Jefferson's Salamander ( <i>Ambystoma jeffersonianum</i> )			
Marbled Salamander ( <i>Ambystoma opacum</i> )			
Fairy Shrimp ( <i>Eubranchipus</i> spp.)		<b>PRESENT/ABSENT</b>	<b>ABUNDANCE:</b>
<b>OTHER SPECIES</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>PRESENCE/ABSENCE</b>	<b>FEW/COMMON/MANY</b>
Facultative Species (e.g., Spring Peeper ( <i>Pseudacris crucifer</i> ), Gray Tree Frog ( <i>Hyla versicolor</i> ), Caddisflies (Limnephilidae, Phryganeidae), American Toad ( <i>Anaxyrus americanus</i> ), Eastern Spadefoot Toad ( <i>Scaphiopus holbrookii</i> ), Fowler's Toad ( <i>Anaxyrus fowleri</i> ), Fingernail Clams (Sphaeriidae, Pisidiidae))(list):			
_____			
_____			
Rare Species (list): _____			
_____			
Predator Species (e.g., Bullfrog/Green frog tadpoles, Fish) (list):			
_____			
Other species (e.g., Ducks, Turtles, etc.)(list): _____			
_____			

**Presence of Indicator Species**                       Yes                       No

**SUMMARY:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL for Pool Characteristics**                      \_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL for Pool Envelope and Critical Terrestrial Habitat Area**

Other comments (append photographs, additional notes, sketch of pool and surrounding landscape):