



## TEXAS STREAM TEAM SITE SELECTION GUIDE

### GUIDELINES:

1. Site should be safely accessible year-round (exception: major flood events).
2. Site should provide the best representation of the overall water quality conditions of a water body.
3. Site should be free of backwater effects during normal conditions.
4. Perennial flowing streams are preferable to intermittent streams.
5. Lake and estuary locations should be picked within major arms and/or near dams.
6. Coastal sites are best situated to allow representative sampling, regardless of the tidal cycle.
7. It is best to utilize existing sites that have historical water quality data. Refer to our Datamap which can be found at [Dataviewer.TexasStreamTeam.org](http://Dataviewer.TexasStreamTeam.org) to select a site that is no longer active.

NOTE ABOUT POLLUTION: Sites immediately below major pollution sources may not accurately represent water quality conditions of that waterbody. Areas with significantly different contaminant sources or water quality problems may require additional sites within the area of concern to obtain a true representation of the water body. New sites should be created if the proposed sampling location is outside 400 meters up or downstream of an existing site.

### TIPS:

1. Prioritize watersheds and streams within your group's area and identify data gaps.
2. High-priority waters: impaired, suspect to future impairments/degradation, natural springs present.
3. Testing sites that are either already being monitored by professionals/agencies or are not being monitored are equally beneficial to the data of Texas Stream Team.
4. Current routine monitoring locations via professionals/agencies for the Clean Rivers Program: [Coordinated Monitoring Schedule](#).
5. Current impaired streams and streams of concern within Texas: [The Texas Integrated Report of Surface Water Quality](#).
6. Utilize stakeholder involvement to identify waterbodies that may not be in the immediate public spotlight or within the classified and unclassified stream segments of Texas.

### SAFETY:

1. Site must be safely accessed through public or private property. Public sites requiring vehicle transportation must have a safe location to park at that is off roads and away from traffic. Be cautious of traffic when unloading or loading monitoring equipment and accessing your site.
2. Use pedestrian walkways, docks, piers, or stable stream banks whenever possible. If you must enter the water, always have a partner on the shore nearby and wear a life jacket if wading is necessary.
3. If using a boat to sample your site, learn and observe all [U.S. Coast Guard and State of Texas regulations](#) (e.g. watercrafts with paddles must have a life jacket onboard). Boat operators should have completed boating safety course.
4. Texas Stream Team recommends that you always sample with another person.

NOTE ON PRIVATE PROPERTY: Private property not under your ownership requires the completion of a [Private Property Access Form](#).

## **PROTOCOLS:**

1. Community scientists within Texas Stream Team groups must request site adoption (active or inactive) or notify site abandonment directly to their Group Leader.
2. Group Leaders or individuals must update their Monitoring Plan when adopting, abandoning, or creating new sites. To update your [Monitoring Plan](#), simply fill out and submit a new form, marking it as "revised".
3. After reading the above tips and guidelines, please refer to the [Datamap](#) to select an inactive site and collect data using a Texas Stream Team Environmental Monitoring Form. We encourage you to adopt an inactive site whenever possible, as this helps maintain continuity in our data collection efforts. Alternatively, Community scientists can fill out and submit a [New Monitoring Site Request Form](#) to create a new site. Ensure these changes are reflected in your group's Monitoring Plan.