



River Access Site Analysis Worksheet

This document is one of two worksheets to be used in tandem with the **River Access Planning Guide (Feb. 2020)**. This worksheet allows planners the opportunity to give specific information on an existing or potential river access site to:

- Understand the river system and setting,
- Analyze current recreation use, and
- Assess the functionality of existing sites.

The references next to/under section headings refer to sections and page numbers in the **River Access Planning Guide** that may be helpful for understanding the question and the information that is requested.

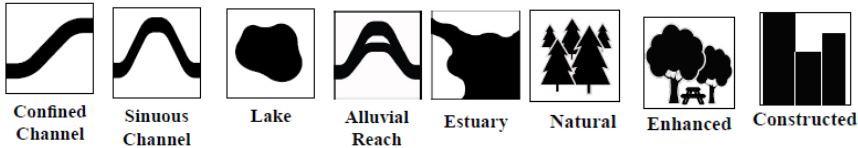
RIVER ACCESS SITE PROFILE

RAPG Pages 49-50

River Name:	
River mile (USGS maps): Lat/long coordinates:	Highway mile marker:
Popular reference name (if applicable):	Land Ownership:
Management:	Put-in, take-out, and /or intermediate trip access:

RIVER SYSTEM AND LANDSCAPE SETTING

RAPG Pages: 15-18, 32, 37



Describe the location and level of development (Include important features and their condition):

Describe the shoreline condition + riparian vegetation. (List specific or representative features, such as *healthy native riparian forest, natural landscape*):

Describe unique features, sensitive resources, and trends in natural resources (examples: *eagle habitat on the eastern side of the site; high use of informal access routes has damaged root systems and channelized natural runoff absorption*):

Describe the incidences and effects of flooding (Is the site located in a floodplain? How often does inundation occur? How can access be accommodated during inundation for specialized use and rescue facilitation?):

Describe the geomorphology + hydrology + channel migration, both physical features and their relationships to flow (examples: *stable channel conditions, the extent located within the 100-year flood zone; or that minimal bank erosion occurring during major floods*):

Remoteness - Identify population centers which are the likely source of most visitors and the distance they will travel (examples: *“60 miles” or “1.5-hour drive from Fayetteville, Arkansas, with dirt roads for the last 8 miles”*):

CURRENT RECREATION USE

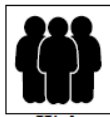
RAPG Pages: 19-26, 33-36



Low



Medium



High



1 Season



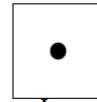
2 Seasons



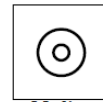
3 Seasons



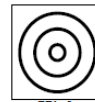
Year-round



Low



Medium



High

Describe active + passive recreation (example: *“Primary activity is rafting and kayaking by public recreationists and commercial outfitters; secondary activities include picnicking, sight-seeing, wading, and fishing”*):

Describe the temporal, frequency, and density of use (example: *“Boating use primarily occurs October-July, and commercial use May-July. Density is generally low to moderate but high in the summer. Fishing occurs in the fall, and at a high density during October. Picnicking and wading occurs in the summer. The site is used throughout the week at a low density and a high density on weekends and holidays.”*):

Identify river recreation-related features and hazards (example: *“A pool for fishing at the downstream end of the site; play boating wave just upstream; well-defined eddy for put-in and take-out; engineered log jams just downstream”*):

Identify and describe safety considerations (example: *“Limited parking at the site results in overflow parking and pedestrian traffic on the adjacent highway.”*):

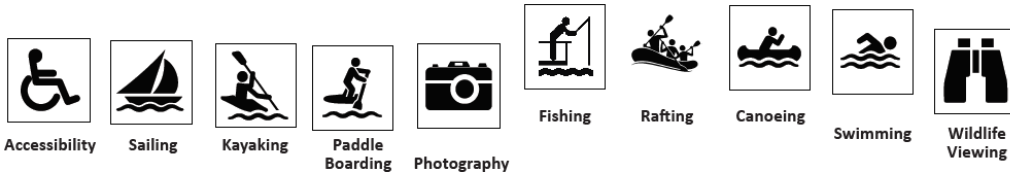
List existing formal amenities, and describe notable features (examples: "Unisex bathroom, ADA-compliant porta potty"):

List existing informal and user-created features (examples: "User-created trails, dams, firepits, and campsites"):

Carry distance (example: "100' from the boat drop-off area to the river, can extend to 1/2 mile during peak use"):

FOR EXISTING SITES: ASSESS FUNCTIONALITY

RAPG Pages: 25-28, 38



Does the site accommodate its current and projected use? Explain why or why not?

Is parking adequate for personal vehicles, buses, and trailers? If not, why?

Describe the management level, and if it is adequate (examples: "9-5 onsite, occasional monitoring, law enforcement as needed, volunteer only"):

Describe if and how the site has been enhanced to encourage equitable access.

Describe how the site addresses potential user conflicts (examples: “Raft slides, strategically designed as loading/unloading zones”):

Describe how cultural and natural resources are protected from inappropriate or over-use (examples: “Crushed gravel on a trail, fencing, one-way traffic”):

Is the site located appropriately in relationship to river function and geomorphology (yes or no)? If not, list potential sites that could be considered.

Describe the launch location in relationship to other river access sites/recreation needs.

Evaluate impediments to access, such as steep slopes or vegetation. Do these site characteristics change the level of skill needed to access the river? Do they inhibit access by people with physical or other disabilities?

Describe how on-water safety is addressed for new or inexperienced users (example: location and relevance of interpretive signage or promotion of best safety practices):