US Army Corps of Engineers - New England District
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 _____
Brief directions to pool _____
Survey date(s) _____
Longitude/Latitude (in decimal degrees) _____
USGS Quad _____ Plat # _____ Lot # _____

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

1. Landscape setting (check all that apply):

☐ Upland depression ☐ Floodplain depression ☐ Pool within larger wetland system
☐ Pool part of a pool complex (within 1000 feet of one or more other vernal pools) ☐ Pool part of wildlife corridor
☐ Other_____

2. Vernal pool origin:

☐ Natural ☐ Natural, but Human Altered ☐ Anthropogenic ☐ Unknown
Describe any recent modifications to the pool and associated landscape: _____
_____

3. Parent material:

☐ Glacial fluvial ("outwash") ☐ Loose till ☐ Peat
☐ Dense till ☐ Alluvium

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

1. Wetland type(s) that best apply to this pool:

☐ Forested wetland ☐ Herbaceous wetland ☐ Floodplain (overflow/oxbow)
☐ Shrub wetland ☐ Open water ☐ Other:
☐ Peatland (acidic fen or bog) ☐ Intermittent stream

2. Pool canopy cover (%) _____

3. Predominant substrate:

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

4. Pool size:

a. Approximate dimensions of pool (at maximum capacity; include units): Length _____ Width _____

b. Approximate area of pool (at maximum capacity): _____

c. Maximum depth at deepest point at time of survey (include units): _____

5. Hydrology

a. Estimated hydroperiod (unless actual, observed hydroperiod value(s) is(are) known, use the 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*)
☐ Dries between early July and early September (e.g., *Sagittaria latifolia, Scirpus cyperinus, Dulichium arundinaceum, Cephalanthus occ.*)
☐ Dries between early September and early November (e.g., *Eleocharis palustris, Glyceria canadensis, Utricularia* spp., *Decodon vert.*)
☐ Dries between early November and late December, or intermittently exposed (e.g., *Nuphar* spp., *Potamogeton* spp.)

b. Inlet/outlet (circle which in each instance): Pool ID _____

☐ No inlet/outlet ☐ Permanent inlet or outlet (channel with well-defined banks and permanent flow)

☐ Temporary inlet/outlet ☐ Other _____

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

1. Surrounding forest cover within 100 ft (30.5 m) (%) _____ **100-750 ft (230 m)** (%) _____

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

☐ Forested wetland _____% ☐ Agriculture _____%

☐ Forested upland _____% ☐ Developed (<25% impervious surface)_____%

☐ Shrub/herbaceous wetland _____% ☐ Developed (>25% impervious surface)_____%

☐ Shrub/herbaceous upland _____% ☐ Other (please specify) _____%

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

☐ Forested wetland _____% ☐ Agriculture _____%

☐ Forested upland _____% ☐ Developed (<25% impervious surface)_____%

☐ Shrub/herbaceous wetland _____% ☐ Developed (>25% impervious surface)_____%

☐ Shrub/herbaceous upland _____% ☐ Other (please specify) _____%

Based on: ☐ Field estimate ☐ GIS

D. SPECIES PRESENT IN VERNAL POOL

Was the entire pool comprehensively surveyed for egg masses? ☐ Yes ☐ No

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

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