

# Illinois Water Trails WaterLog Update Form

Help keep paddlers apprised of trail conditions on your reach by filling out and submitting this “WaterLog” report form.

By submitting your WaterLog you help to produce a reliable source of current information on Water Trail conditions made available on Openlands’ Water Trails website for paddlers planning their trips.

### Instructions

You can download and print a copy of this form to take along with you when you monitor and report on a stretch of an Illinois Water Trail. Then return to Openlands website ([www.openlands.org](http://www.openlands.org)) and enter and submit the information using the interactive WaterLog. Please note that most of the questions below are optional on the interactive form. If the form requests static information that you have already submitted about the stretch in the past, please feel free to skip that question.

### Water Trail Reporter Information

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Age: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Years Paddling: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Date of trip: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Number of people on trip: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Other volunteer participants (if they would like to be noted)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Water Trail Stretch Logged and Conditions**

1. Waterway \_\_\_\_\_  
put-in at: \_\_\_\_\_ time \_\_\_\_\_  
take-out at: \_\_\_\_\_ time \_\_\_\_\_
2. Weather \_\_\_\_\_
3. Water Level:  
How would you describe the water level?, (very low, low, medium, high, very high) \_\_\_\_\_  
How did the water level affect paddling conditions (too shallow, ideal, current too fast)
4. If you checked the USGS Stream Gage on-line, please list the name of the gage and report the Gage reading(s)  
Gage Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Gage Height (feet) \_\_\_\_\_ Discharge (cfs) \_\_\_\_\_

**The Stretch**

1. Conditions at put-in (please report any changes noted at the put-in and any problems such as missing signage, damage to ramp/bank, etc)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

2. Current conditions of reach (please include logjams, other dangerous areas, any missing signage, etc.)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

3. Conditions at take out in (please report any changes noted at the put-in and any problems such as missing signage, damage to ramp/bank, etc)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

4. How many other canoeists or kayakers did you see on the water during your trip? (this information helps us effectively advocate for water trail improvements) \_\_\_\_\_

5. What wildlife did you see on this trip?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

6. Did you spend any money associated with this trip, such as for gas or food or other supplies? If so, please state approximately how much (this information helps us understand the economic impact of paddling and helps us advocate for water trails)

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Please describe the car shuttle if you have not already described it in the past on this form

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

8. If you engaged in activities on the river such as a clean up or water quality testing, please indicate what the activities were and any notable information about them:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Please take photos of your trip to upload

THANK YOU!