**Envirothon Current Issue 2026**

**Non-point Source Pollution: It Begins at Home - Evaluation Rubric**

**Team Number:**_____

**Evaluator:**_____

| Category | Criteria | Points | Score |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Problem Diagnosis & Watershed Understanding**<br><br>**(20 points)** | Identification of Pollution Sources<br><br>• Accurately identifies the top three sources of non-point source pollution in the Bronco Watershed (e.g., residential runoff, agriculture, commercial stormwater) (3 pts)<br><br>• Clearly explains how land use, infrastructure, and human behavior contribute to these sources (5 pts) | /8 | |
| | Stream & Riparian Impacts<br><br>• Explains impacts on stream health, including sedimentation, nutrient loading, erosion, and biological impairment (4 pts)<br><br>• Demonstrates understanding of riparian corridor function and how degradation affects water quality and habitat (4 pts) | /8 | |
| | **Use of Scenario Data**<br><br>• Effectively references provided data (monitoring results, septic age, stormwater coverage, public awareness) to support claims (4 pts) | /4 | |

| Integrated Solutions & Technical Soundness  (25 points) | **Zone-Specific Strategies**  • Proposes up to four feasible strategies targeting different land-use zones (residential, agricultural, commercial, natural areas) (4 pts)  • Solutions are appropriate for the Nix context and technically realistic (4 pts)  • Thoroughly explains reason for choosing which strategies (2pts) | /10 | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **Stream Protection & Restoration**  • Prioritizes riparian buffers, erosion control, and stormwater management near streams (4 pts)  • Clearly explains how actions will reduce sediment, nutrients, and runoff (4 pts) | /8 | |
| | **Behavioral & Structural Integration**  • Includes both technical practices (e.g., rain gardens, buffers, septic upgrades) and behavioral changes (e.g., fertilizer reduction, pet waste management) (4 pts)  • Demonstrates how these actions reinforce one another (3 pts) | /7 | |

| Community Engagement & Equity (15 points) | Outreach & Education Plan <br><br> • Presents a clear education and outreach strategy to improve understanding of non-point source pollution (4 pts) <br><br> • Identifies specific tools (workshops, signage, incentives, community science, school programs) (4 pts) | /8 | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Equity & Inclusion <br><br> • Addresses participation across income levels, neighborhoods, and landowners (4 pts) <br><br> • Identifies and reduces barriers to engagement (cost, access, language, trust) (3 pts) | /7 | |
| Stakeholder Integration & Policy Awareness (10 points) | Stakeholder Consideration <br><br> • Addresses perspectives of residents, farmers, businesses, town officials, and conservation groups (3 pts) <br><br> • Identifies opportunities for collaboration and shared benefits (3 pts) | /6 | |
| | Policy & Governance Awareness <br><br> • Demonstrates awareness of existing policy gaps (e.g., lack of buffers, stormwater utility) | /4 | |

| | (2 pts) | | |
| | • Proposes realistic pathways to build support without relying on rejected ordinances (2 pts) | | |
| **Map, Visuals & Spatial Thinking** **(10 points)** | **Map Quality & Relevance** • Includes a clear map showing land-use zones, streams, and proposed actions (6 pts) • Visuals align with and support the proposed plan (4 pts) | /10 | |
| **Presentation & Delivery** **(20 points)** | **Team Participation & Clarity** • All team members contribute and demonstrate preparation (5 pts) • Ideas are communicated clearly and logically (5 pts) | /10 | |
| | **Timing & Engagement** • Presentation falls within required time limits (all-or-nothing (5 pts) • Responds thoughtfully to judge questions (3 pts) • Non-Verbal Communication: eye contact, voice and mannerisms were engaging (2 pts) | /10 | |

**Total Score: _____ / 100**