

Mankins Branch (1248C) Recreational Use Attainability Analysis Summary and Recommendation

A recreational use-attainability analysis (RUAA) was conducted on Mankins Branch (1248C) in the summer of 2009 to determine the appropriate recreational use and numeric criteria. Mankins Branch is an unclassified perennial water body in Williamson County, approximately 4.7 miles in length. It was identified in the 2012 Texas Clean Water Act Sections 303(d) List of Impaired Water Bodies as not supporting its recreation use due to elevated bacteria levels. It was initially identified as impaired in 2004.

The RUAA identified evidence indicating the designated use of primary contact recreation (PCR) for Mankins Branch is appropriate. PCR 1 is defined in §307.3 (a) of the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards as activities that are presumed to involve a significant risk of ingestion of water (e.g. wading by children, swimming, water skiing, diving, tubing, surfing, and the following whitewater activities: kayaking, canoeing, and rafting).

During the field surveys no recreation was observed on the stream. One rope swing was found on the segment and comments by Texas Parks and Wildlife stated that staff had witnessed PCR on site visits to the stream. The average thalweg of the stream was 0.30 meters (11.81 in) and no pools greater than one meter deep were found during the study. General public access is easy as Mankins Branch flows through a suburban neighborhood in Georgetown and has four road crossings.

Due to evidence collected during the RUAA determining that PCR is an existing use, the TCEQ recommends Mankins Branch retain its PCR use and corresponding geometric mean criteria of 126 colonies *E. coli*/100mL for the entire segment, from the confluence with the San Gabriel River in Williamson County to the intersection of CR 105 and 104 in Williamson County. This recommendation is in accordance with §307.4 (j)(1) of the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards.