

## Nolan Creek/ South Nolan Creek (1218) Recreational Use Attainability Analysis Summary and Recommendation

A recreational use-attainability analysis (RUAA) was conducted on Nolan Creek/ South Nolan Creek (Segment 1218) in the summer of 2009 to determine the appropriate recreational use and numeric criteria. Nolan Creek/ South Nolan Creek is a classified perennial water body in central Texas, approximately 30 miles in length. It is currently listed on the 2012 Texas Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List of Impaired Water Bodies due to elevated bacteria levels. It was initially listed in 1996.

The RUAA identified evidence indicating the designated use of primary contact recreation (PCR) for the Nolan Creek/ South Nolan Creek 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, field staff observed eleven individuals participating in PCR activities. Interviews of residents in the watershed identified 8 personal instances of people engaging in PCR activities, with swimming being the most abundant. In addition, interviewed individuals had personally witnessed 9 instances of PCR activities in the stream, and had heard about 6 instances of PCR activities. The Belton Parks and Recreation Department employee interviewed describes the water body as frequently having primary contact recreation activities occur and it is described as a kayaking destination when the creek is up in the 2004 book *Texas Whitewater*. Baylor University uses the segment for kayaking as well as a study site for other courses. Physical characteristics of the stream include an average thalweg of 0.43 meters (16.93 in), presence of pools greater than one meter deep, and an average flow of 32.1 cubic feet per second. Public access is easy as the segment flows through Killeen, Harker Heights, Nolanville and Belton. There are eight city parks located throughout the segment and a hike and bike trail that runs parallel to the creek which connects the four Belton city parks together.

Due to evidence collected during the RUAA determining that PCR is an existing use, the TCEQ recommends Nolan Creek/ South Nolan Creek retain its PCR use and corresponding geometric mean criteria of 126 colonies *E. coli*/100mL for the entire segment, from the confluence with the Leon River in Bell County to a point 100 meters (110 yards) upstream to the most upstream crossing of US 190 and Loop 172 in Bell County. This recommendation is in accordance with §307.4 (j)(1) of the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards.