

Pecan Creek (1221C) Recreational Use Attainability Analysis Summary and Recommendation

A recreational use-attainability analysis (RUAA) was conducted on Pecan Creek (1221C) in the summer of 2009 to determine the appropriate recreational use and numeric criteria. Pecan Creek is an unclassified perennial water body in central Texas, approximately 12 miles in length. It was removed from the 2010 Texas Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List of Impaired Water Bodies due to ambient bacteria data meeting water quality standards. It was initially listed in 2006.

The RUAA identified evidence indicating the designated use of primary contact recreation (PCR) for Pecan Creek is appropriate. PCR is defined in §307.3 (a) (47) 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).

One out of two property owners interviewed stated that PCR activity occurred four to five times a year, year-round on the stream. Physical characteristics of the stream include an average thalweg of 0.22 meters (8.66 in) and presence of pools greater than one meter deep. Pecan Creek is easily accessible to the public. The stream flows through three parks, Pecan Creek Park being the largest, with a sports complex, playgrounds and a hiking trail along the creek.

Due to evidence collected during the RUAA determining that PCR is an existing use and ease of access to the stream, the TCEQ recommends Pecan Creek retain its PCR use and corresponding geometric mean criteria of 126 colonies *E. coli* /100mL for the entire segment, from its confluence with the Leon River upstream to its confluence with an unnamed tributary, approximately 3.5 km upstream of SH 36 near the City of Hamilton. This recommendation is in accordance with §307.4 (j)(1) of the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards.