

Atascosa River  
Historical Perspective  
&  
Recreational Use-Attainability  
Analysis Study

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# Acknowledgements

- Agency Lead:  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
- Support Funding:  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

# Historical Perspective

## Contact Recreation Use

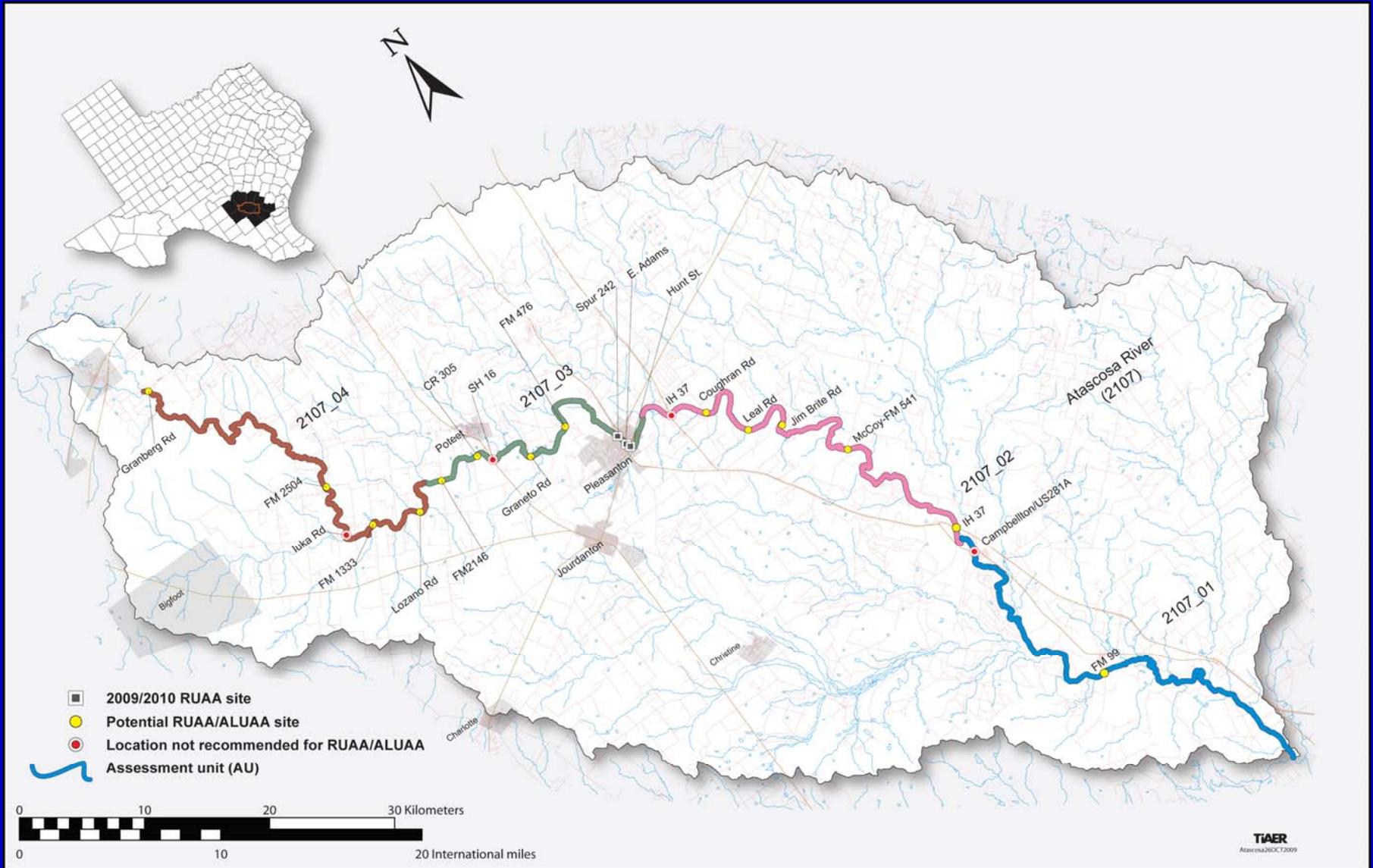
1. First year Atascosa on 303(d) list for elevated bacteria levels - 1996
2. Intensive monitoring conducted 2002 – 2004 in addition to routine sampling by Nueces River Authority and TCEQ

# Current vs. Proposed Contact Recreation Uses and Criteria

Category	Definition Summary	Current (2000) <i>E. coli</i> Criteria	Proposed (2010) <i>E. Coli</i> Criteria
Primary Contact	Significant risk of ingestion (swimming, diving, rafting, etc.)	126	206
Secondary Contact 1	No significant risk of ingestion (wading fishing, etc.)	NA	630
Secondary Contact 2	No significant risk of ingestion; recreational activities occur less frequently because of physical characteristics or limited access	NA	1030
Non-Contact	No significant risk of ingestion and contact recreation should not occur because of unsafe conditions	605	2060

*All criteria are based on geometric mean values (#cfu/100ml); Current WQS also include single sample maximum criterion of 394cfu/100mL which is not included in proposed revisions.*

# Atascosa River showing Assessment Units



# Atascosa River (Segment 2107)

Source: TCEQ *E. coli* Assessment Data  
for December 1999 – November 2006

Segment / Assessment Unit	Number of Samples	Geometric Mean (count/100 ml)	Percentage of samples exceeding 394 (%)
2107_01	30	373	60
2107_02	24	330	42
2107_03	32	55	6
2107_04	No Data	—	—

# Comparison of Assessment Findings to Present and Proposed *E. coli* Criteria (all units in counts / 100 ml)

Segment/AU	Assessed Geometric Mean	Present Primary Contact	Proposed Primary Contact	Proposed SCR1
2107_01	373	126	206	630
2107_02	330	126	206	630
2107_03	55	126	206	630

# Components of RUAAAs

# Source of Information on RUAAAs

Recreational Use-Attainability Analysis  
(RUAAAs)

Procedures for a Comprehensive RUAA  
and a Basic RUAA Survey

May 2009

<http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assets/public/permitting/waterquality/attachments/stakeholders/recUAAsproceduresMay2009.pdf>

# Basic & Comprehensive RUAA's

## Basic RUAA:

1. Establish/verify a presumed use
2. Conducted on small unclassified streams

## Comprehensive RUAA:

1. Includes Basic RUAA information
2. Required for classified water bodies or unclassified water bodies where presumed uses may be inappropriate

# Study coordination with local entities and TCEQ required

1. Coordination meeting with agencies held  
June 22, 2009
2. Includes determination and  
documentation of appropriateness for  
stream or river to have RUAA conducted

# Sampling Conditions for Surveys

1. Air temperature  $> 70$  F
2. Sustained or typical dry, warm-weather streamflow
3. Performed during period when use likely (Spring Break, weekends, holidays, and summer)

# Site Selection

- 1.Reconnaissance to select survey sites
- 2.Generally, 3 sites per 5 miles of stream
- 3.Sites located at road crossings or other public access locations

# Components of a RUAA

- Conduct field surveys comprised of:
  - Complete field data sheet for each site
  - Documented weather conditions (current and antecedent)
  - Photographic record

# Field Data Sheet Information

- Information on stream characteristics
- Streamflow measurement
- Current air and water temperature
- Riparian zone, ease of bank access, dominant substrate
- Document any recreation water and non-water uses observed
- Stream and pool measurements

# RUAA Components (cont'd)

- Two or more separate survey trips
- Historical information review
- Interviews from users and others present during surveys
- Final RUAA report to be submitted to TCEQ

# Overview of RUAA Study of Atascosa River

Tim Jones

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November 5, 2009

# Basic Components of Study

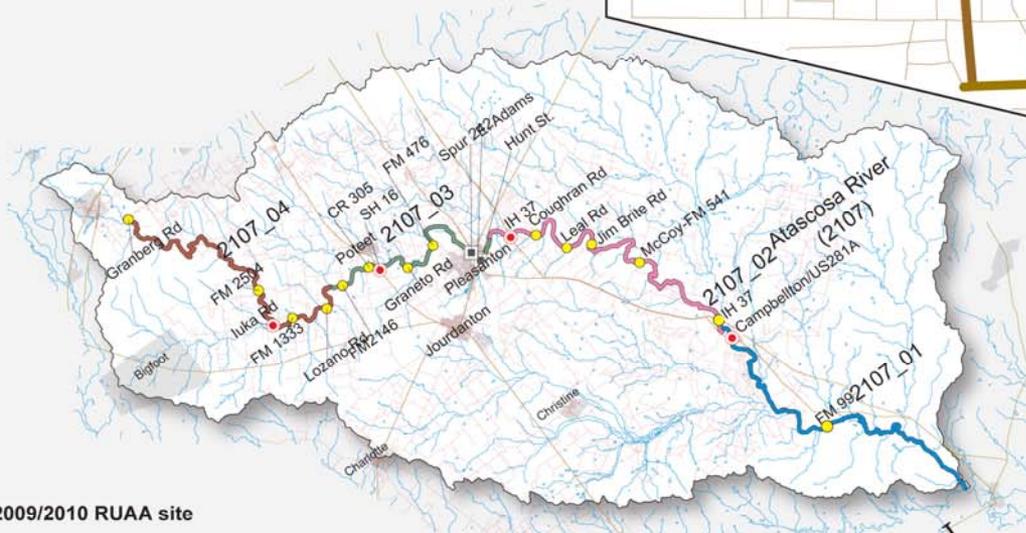
Develop and have approved Quality Assurance Plan (QAP) – approved 22 July 2009

Conduct surveys in 2009 on 3 sites in Pleasanton – performed 31 July – 1 August 2009

Conduct surveys in 2010 on all sites in Atascosa  
1st scheduled for spring/summer 2010  
2nd scheduled for spring/summer 2010

Develop Comprehensive RUAA Report for use by TCEQ and USEPA (due summer 2010)

# 2009 RUAA Stations: City of Pleasanton Atascosa River Park



- 2009/2010 RUAA site
- Potential RUAA/ALUAA site
- Location not recommended for RUAA/ALUAA
- ~ Assessment unit (AU)



# Preliminary Results

## Atascosa River

### Summary of Survey of July-August 2009

Station at Hunt St. – observed signs of fishing (previously observed fishing on scouting trip)

Station upstream of Adams St. – observed individuals eating lunch in cars (observed fishing during scouting trip)

Station upstream of Spur 242 –observed fishing at Spur 242 bridge

# Station at Hunt Street

(June 6, 2009)



Atascosa River

# Between Adams St. & Hunt St.

(US 281 Bridge, July 31, 2009)



Atascosa River

# Station Upstream of Adams Str.

(July 31, 2009)



Atascosa River

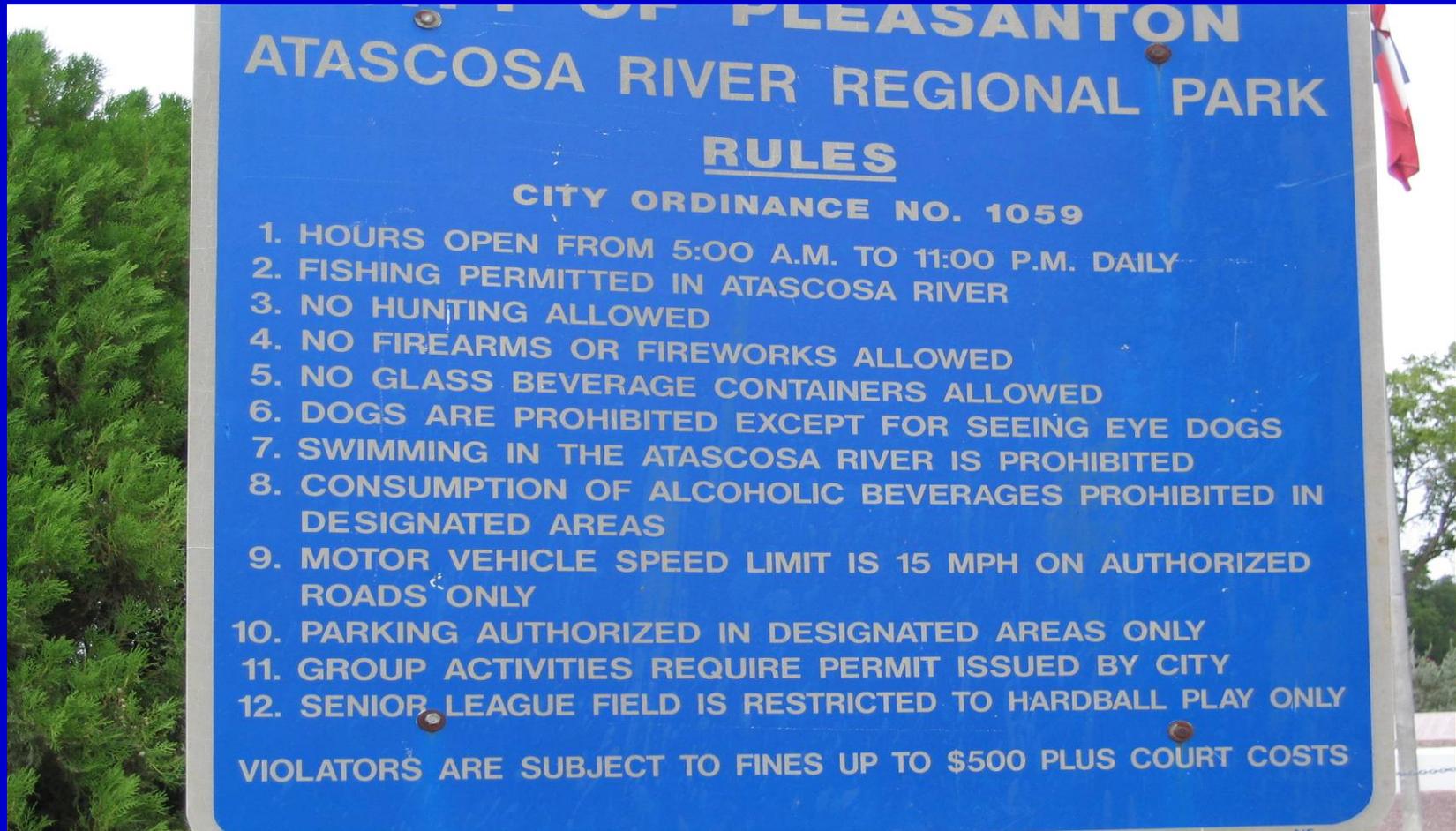
# Station upstream of Spur 242

(August 1, 2009)



Atascosa River

# Pleasanton City Park Rules



## Steps remaining in RUAA Study:

1. Perform recon to determine additional RUAA sites
2. Conduct remaining surveys spring and summer of 2010
3. Prepare Comprehensive RUAA Report
4. Evaluation of Report by TCEQ and USEPA

# Needed Assistance from Cooperating Landowners

- Information on representative areas in each AU at which RUAA and biological surveys may be appropriate
- Access to private lands both adjacent to road crossings and within properties for reconnaissance and ultimately a UAA efforts for recreational and aquatic life uses
- Commitment to allow recon visit and 2 visits over next spring and summer for completion of the RUAA

THANK YOU

Questions?