



Improving Water Quality in Grace Creek and the Sabine River

Assessing Water Quality

In Grace Creek and a portion of the Sabine River, high concentrations of bacteria have been documented in the streams since 2000. These bacteria, which are found in both human and animal waste, may indicate a health risk to people who swim or waded in the streams. These activities are referred to as “contact recreation” in the state’s standards for surface water quality.

In response to these conditions, the TMDL Team managed a study to collect additional water quality data. These data will be used to further assess water quality and determine the appropriate strategy for addressing the issue.

Learn more about water quality standards, monitoring, and TMDLs by reading *Preserving and Improving Water Quality*, available on our website at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/tmdl/.

Project Watershed

The project watershed is located in and around Longview, Texas, and includes the entire drainage area of Grace Creek (Segment 0505B) and a portion of the drainage area of Sabine River above Toledo Bend Reservoir (Segment 0505_04). This portion of the Sabine River includes the area from Grace Creek downstream to Hatley’s Creek in Gregg County. Grace Creek flows through the city of Longview.

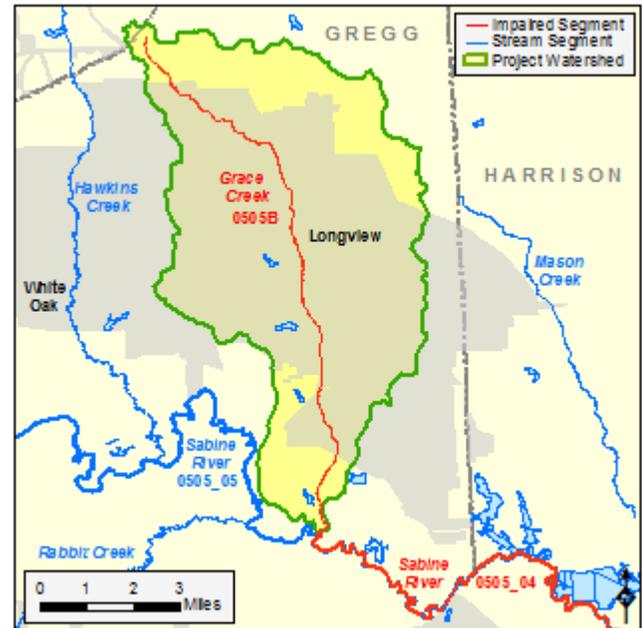
The project watershed, at about 116 square miles, is in the South Central Plains ecoregion. A popular hike and bike trail runs beside Grace Creek in Longview. To varying degrees, stormwater runoff from agricultural, industrial, and urban areas affects water quality in the segments.

Project Development

Preliminary planning for this project began in April 2012. The Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Research (TIAER) began working on the project under contract in September 2012. TIAER collected data under an approved quality assurance project plan from January 2013 through August 2014. The data were added to the TCEQ’s Surface Water Quality Information System (SWQMIS) for use in future assessment of Grace Creek.

Public Participation

In all its projects, the TCEQ seeks opinions and information from people who represent government, permitted facilities, agriculture, business, environmental,



and community and private interests in the watershed. TIAER coordinated public involvement in this project.

For More Information

Contact the person listed below, or visit the project website at:

www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/tmdl/99-grace-creek-bacteria.html

TCEQ Project Manager

Dania Grundmann, TMDL Program
(512) 239-3449
tmdl@tceq.texas.gov

Project Development Status

Start Date: April 2012

End Date: August 2014

Project Highlights

- At the April 24, 2012 meeting of the Sabine River Authority Basin Steering Committee, TCEQ staff discussed issues related to Grace Creek and the need to initiate this project.
- TIAER and TCEQ hosted a public meeting about the project on September 20, 2012, at the Longview Public Library. Project scientists explained its purpose and asked stakeholders for feedback, and for advice on appropriate monitoring locations.
- A project update was provided to stakeholders on April 8, 2014, at the Sabine River Basin Steering Committee meeting in Longview, Texas.
- The data collected for this project will be assessed by the TCEQ for the 2016 Texas Integrated Report of Surface Water Quality. The assessment results will be used to determine the need for future water quality improvement projects in the area.
- The TCEQ may recommend a revised standard of secondary contact recreation for Grace Creek in its 2017 revision to the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards.

Visit our website at: <www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/tmdl/>