

Brushy Creek (1244) Recreational Use Attainability Analysis Summary and Recommendation

A recreation use-attainability analysis (RUAA) was conducted on Brushy Creek (Segment 1244) in the summer of 2010 to determine the appropriate recreational use and numeric criteria.

Brushy Creek is a classified perennial water body in central Texas, approximately 75 miles in length. It is currently listed on the 2010 Texas Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List of Impaired Water Bodies due to elevated bacteria levels, and was initially listed in 2006.

The RUAA identified evidence indicating the designated use of primary contact recreation (PCR) for Brushy 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).

During the field surveys contractors observed six children wading and swimming. Interviews of residents in the watershed identified 18 personal instances of people engaging in PCR activities, with wading by children and swimming (children and adults) being the most abundant. In addition, interviewed individuals had personally witnessed 34 instances of PCR activities in the stream, and had heard about 16 instances of PCR activities. Physical characteristics of the stream include an average thalweg of 0.7 meters (27.56 in), presence of pools greater than one meter deep, and an average flow of 48 cubic feet per second. General public access was described as moderate, with six parks, four publically accessible, located along the segment.

Due to evidence collected during the RUAA determining that primary contact recreation is an existing use, the TCEQ recommends Brushy Creek retain its primary contact recreation use and corresponding *E. coli* geometric mean criteria of 126 colonies/100mL for the entire segment, from the confluence with the San Gabriel River in Milam County to the confluence of South Brushy Creek in Williamson County in accordance with §307.4 (j) (1) of the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards.