

## Running Creek (0512A) Recreational Use Attainability Analysis Summary and Recommendation

A recreational use-attainability analysis (RUAA) was conducted on Running Creek (0512A) in the summers of 2010 and 2011 to determine the appropriate recreational use and numeric criteria. Running Creek is an unclassified perennial water body within Hopkins County, approximately 12 miles in length. It was identified in the 2012 Texas Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List of Impaired Water Bodies due to elevated bacteria levels. It was initially listed in 2002.

The RUAA identified evidence indicating the designated use of primary contact recreation (PCR) should be revised to secondary contact recreation 1 (SCR 1). SCR applies to water bodies where water recreation can occur, but the nature of the recreation does not involve a significant risk of ingestion. SCR 1 applies to intermittent and perennial freshwaters where site-specific information demonstrates that primary contact recreation has little to no likelihood of occurring due to physical characteristics of the water body such as shallow depths or lack of pools.

PCR activities were not observed by field staff or reported through interviews. Secondary contact recreation was not observed by field staff, but SCR and noncontact recreation (NCR) were reported in interviews as personal and observed uses. Evidence of SCR included fishing nets, bobbers, and fish carcasses. Interviewees mentioned that thick forest and private property impede access for primary contact recreation and overall access to the creek is limited. Running Creek was publically accessible at three of nine sites. The average thalweg depth is 0.65 m (25.6 in) and none of the sites had pools deeper than one meter.

Limited public access and impediments to entering the stream decreases the likelihood of PCR. In accordance with §307.4 (j)(3)(C) of the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards, the TCEQ recommends a reclassification from PCR to SCR1 with the corresponding geometric mean of 630 colonies *E. coli*/100mL for all of the 12 mile stretch of Running Creek from the confluence with Lake Fork at the Hopkins/Wood County line upstream to the headwater 400 m south of SH 11 southeast of Sulphur Springs. This reclassification is appropriate due to “natural, ephemeral, intermittent low flow conditions or water levels” in accordance with reasons specified in 40 CFR §131.10(g)(2).

Prior to changing the currently assigned recreational use of Running Creek in the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards, the TCEQ would provide additional public notice and opportunity for public comment. In addition, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency would review this proposed change under the provisions of the federal Clean Water Act.