

## Upper North Bosque River (1255) Recreational Use Attainability Analysis Summary and Recommendation

A recreational use-attainability analysis (RUAA) was conducted on the Upper North Bosque River (1255) in the summer of 2009 to determine the appropriate recreational use and numeric criteria. The Upper North Bosque River is a perennial stream in north central Texas, approximately 13 miles in length. It is currently listed on the 2012 Texas Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List of Impaired Water Bodies due to elevated bacteria levels. It was initially listed in 1996.

The RUAA identified evidence indicating the designated use of primary contact recreation (PCR) for the Upper North Bosque is appropriate. PCR 1 is defined in §307.3 (a) 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, interviews of residents in the watershed identified 3 personal instances of people engaging in PCR activities, one witnessed account of PCR and one “heard of” account. This segment flows through the city of Stephenville and intersects seven public road crossings within the city limits. Stephenville also has two public parks that border the river, the Stephenville Historical House Museum and Stephenville City Park. Stephenville City Park is its largest and most popular park, has a walking trail along the river, playground, sports fields and a low water dam that creates a small impoundment in the park. Physical characteristics of the stream include an average thalweg depth of 0.49m (19.29 in), pools greater than 1m deep, and an average flow of 1.10 cubic feet per second. General public access is easy. There are 18 road and bridge crossings and numerous access points in the city of Stephenville.

Due to evidence collected during the RUAA determining PCR is an existing use and ease of access to the stream, the TCEQ recommends the Upper North Bosque River retain its PCR use and corresponding geometric mean criteria of 126 colonies *E. coli* /100mL for the entire segment, from a point immediately above its confluence with Indian Creek in Erath County to its confluence with the North and South Forks of the Bosque River in Erath County. This recommendation is in accordance with §307.4 (j)(1) of the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards.