

Resley Creek (1221A) Recreational Use Attainability Analysis Summary and Recommendation

A recreational use-attainability analysis (RUAA) was conducted on Resley Creek (1221A) in the summer of 2009 to determine the appropriate recreational use and numeric criteria. Resley Creek is an unclassified intermittent water body in central Texas, approximately 34 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. It was initially listed in 2004.

The RUAA identified that the presumed use of primary contact recreation (PCR) for Resley Creek should be revised to secondary contact recreation 2 (SCR 2). 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 2 applies to water bodies where water recreation activities do not involve a significant risk of ingestion and where activities occur less frequently than for secondary contact recreation 1 due to physical characteristics of the water body or limited public access.

During the field surveys, field staff did not observe any type of recreation occurring on the stream. Eight of ten interviewees familiar with the stream did not know of any PCR that occurred on the water body, and cited lack of water and public access as the reasons. Two property owners stated that PCR activity occurred on the stream and one of them had witnessed and heard of PCR. Interviewees described fishing and trapping as personal uses, and had also witnessed or heard of other individuals engaging in these activities. Physical characteristics of the stream include an average thalweg of 0.22 meters (8.66 in) and three pools greater than one meter deep. Public access is moderate. The stream flows through one park with a playground, the City of Dublin, and there are nine bridge crossings.

Naturally low water levels and the intermittent nature of the stream decrease the likelihood of primary contact recreation use. Flow regime and a shallow average depth support reclassification to SCR 2. In accordance with §307.4 (j)(3)(C) of the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards, the TCEQ recommends a reclassification from PCR to SCR 2 with the corresponding geometric mean of 1030 colonies *E.coli*/100mL for all of Resley Creek, from its confluence with the Leon River east of Gustine in Comanche County to the upstream portion of the stream north of Gustine in Comanche County. 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 Resley 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.