

Martin Branch (0810C) Recreational Use Attainability Analysis Summary and Recommendation

A recreational use attainability analysis (RUAA) was conducted on Martin Branch (0810C) in the summer of 2010 to determine the appropriate recreational use and numeric criteria. Martin Branch is an unclassified perennial water body in central Texas, approximately 8 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 2006.

The RUAA identified evidence indicating the designated use of primary contact recreation (PCR) for the Martin Branch 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, field staff did not observe any type of recreation occurring on the stream. A landowner interviewed stated that he and his neighbors take their grandchildren wading and fishing on the stream. All sites contained some water during the study. The two sites furthest upstream, especially the one located in the city of Decatur, had very little measurable water and no flow. The two sites furthest downstream had average thalweg depths of 0.61 meters (24.02 in) and 0.31 meters (12.20 in). The stream flows through a rural watershed but public access was available at the four sites surveyed by field staff.

Due to evidence collected during the RUAA determining that primary contact recreation is an existing use, the TCEQ recommends Martin Branch retain its primary contact recreation use and corresponding *E. coli* geometric mean criteria of 126 colonies/100mL for the entire segment, the eleven mile stretch of Martin Branch running upstream from the confluence with Garrett Creek, Wise County in accordance with §307.4 (j) (1) of the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards.