

Mid Pecan Bayou (1431) Recreational Use Attainability Analysis Summary and Recommendation

A recreational use attainability analysis (RUAA) was conducted on Mid Pecan Bayou (Segment 1431) in the summer of 2011 to determine the appropriate recreational use and numeric criteria. Mid Pecan Bayou is a classified perennial water body in 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, and was initially listed in 2006.

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

Interviews of individuals familiar with the watershed identified two instances of PCR as a personal use and eight instances of witnessed PCR. In addition, there were seven instances of heard of PCR occurring on the stream. Physical characteristics of the stream include an average thalweg of 0.85 meters (33.46 in) and substantial pools greater than one meter deep. Public access was only available at two bridge crossings on the stream, one a low water crossing (Brown County Road 257) that is the predominant public access point for the stream. Toward the conclusion of the study the county commissioners passed a resolution stating that the low water crossing on Brown County Road 257 shall not be used for access to Mid Pecan bayou for wading, swimming, boating, fishing, hunting, or camping.

Due to evidence collected during the RUAA determining that primary contact recreation is an existing use, the TCEQ recommends Mid Pecan Bayou retain its primary contact recreation use and corresponding geometric mean criteria of 126 colonies *E. coli*/100mL for the entire segment, from a point immediately upstream of the confluence of Mackinally Creek in Brown County to a point immediately upstream of Willis Creek in Brown County in accordance with §307.4 (j)(1) of the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards.