



Improving Water Quality in the Navasota River A TMDL Project for Bacteria

In the Navasota River, Segment 1209, concentrations of bacteria are sometimes too high. High concentrations of bacteria such as *E. coli*, which are found in both human and animal waste, may indicate a health risk to people who swim or wade in the streams—activities called “contact recreation” in the state’s standards for water quality.

In response to these conditions, the TCEQ is developing a total maximum daily load (TMDL) project to determine the pollutant reductions necessary to restore water quality in the river. The goal of a TMDL is to determine the amount (or load) of a pollutant that a body of water can receive and still support its designated uses. The allowable load is then allocated among categories of sources within the watershed, and stakeholders work with the state to develop an implementation plan (I-Plan) with measures that reduce pollutant loads.

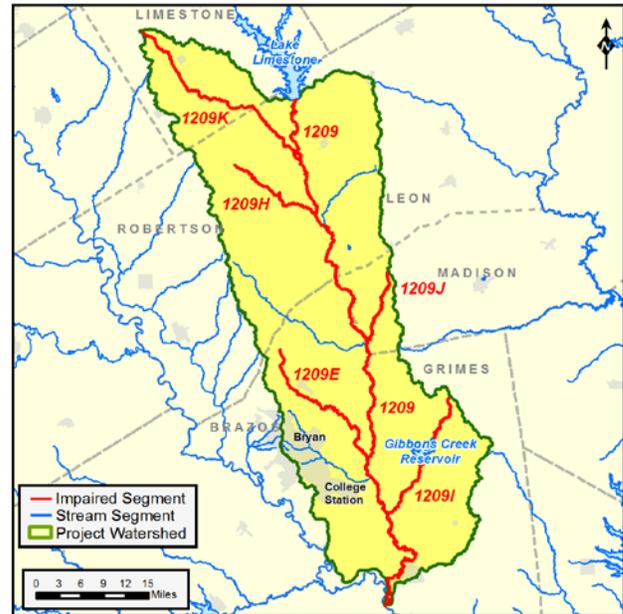
Learn more about water quality standards, monitoring, and TMDLs by reading *Preserving and Improving Water Quality*, available on our website at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/tmdl/.

Watershed Description

Segment 1209 of the Navasota River begins below Lake Limestone and flows until it connects with the Brazos River southwest of the town of Navasota. The watershed drains portions of Brazos, Grimes, Leon, Limestone, Madison and Robertson counties in east-central Texas. It is a predominately rural watershed that encompasses portions of the Northern Blackland Prairie, Southern Post Oak Savanna, San Antonio Prairie, and Flood Plains and Low Terraces. Much of the land cover in the watershed includes mixed forests and managed pastures or rangelands. Limited amounts of cropland and urban area exists in the watershed, with the cities of Bryan and College Station being the largest urban areas.

Project Development

The Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI) has been working under contract with the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) and the TCEQ to develop a better understanding of the sources of bacteria found in the stream. This included gathering existing information regarding the river’s watershed and pairing it with intensive water quality monitoring prior to conducting a water quality assessment. The knowledge gained was then conveyed to watershed stakeholders to inform them of water quality issues.



Later, stakeholders were guided to develop a restoration plan to improve water quality in their watershed. They began with a Watershed Protection Plan (WPP), and are now also participating in the development of a TMDL and implementation plan.

Public Participation

In all its projects, the TCEQ gathers opinion and information from people who represent government, permitted facilities, agriculture, business, environmental, and community and private interests in the watershed. The TCEQ solicits advice and comment from the public at meetings and through print and electronic media notices. The TWRI is coordinating public participation in this project.

For More Information

Contact one of the people listed following, or visit the project website at:

<www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/tmdl/nav/navasotariver/111-navasota-river-bacteria>.

TCEQ

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TMDL Development Status

Adopted by TCEQ:
EPA Region 6 Approval:

Project Activities: Percent Complete

	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100
Data Collection	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Assessment	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
TMDL Development	■	■								
Stakeholder Review										
TCEQ TMDL Adoption										
Implementation Plan										

Project Highlights

- Stakeholders are working on a Watershed Protection Plan, as well as a TMDL and I-Plan.

Visit our website at: <www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/tmdl/>