



Surveying Recreational Uses in Texas

Recreational Use Attainability Analyses

Texas protects the quality of the state's surface waters to make them safe for recreational and other uses. Activities like swimming or wading, during which a person might ingest natural waters, are protected under the "contact recreation use" in the state's standards for water quality. The criteria the state uses to evaluate the suitability and safety of streams, lakes, and estuaries for contact recreation are also defined in the standards.

The commissioners adopted four contact recreation use categories in 2010:

- Primary Contact Recreation
- Non-contact Recreation
- Secondary Contact Recreation 1
- Secondary Contact Recreation 2

Recreational use-attainability analyses (RUAA) determine what recreational use category is appropriate for a particular water body. During an RUAA project, staff members collect:

- information about a water body, such as the presence or absence of water recreation activities, stream flow type, stream depth; and
- data about physical conditions in a water body that are necessary for completing the analysis.

Learn more about standards and monitoring by reading [Preserving and Improving Water Quality](#)¹, available on our website and in print.

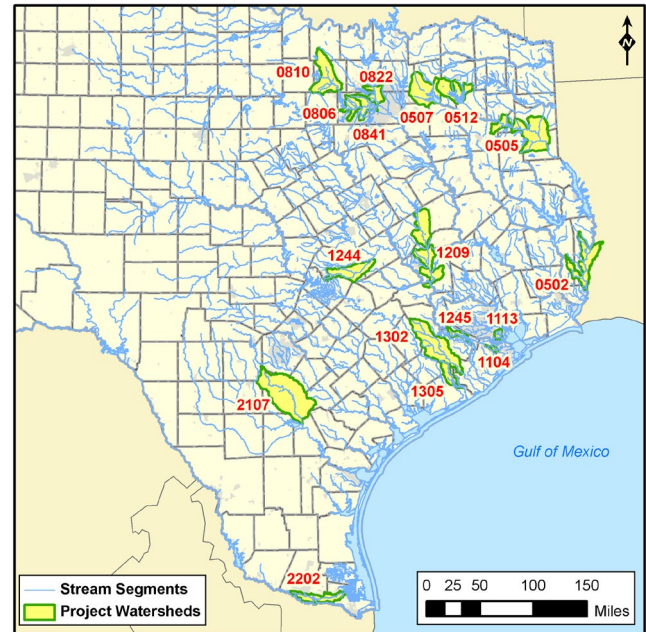
Assessing Uses

Every two years, TCEQ performs an assessment of water quality throughout the state. The results of this assessment are reported in the *Texas Integrated Report of Surface Water Quality*, also called the "Integrated Report." The state uses water quality data collected by many organizations and compares them against criteria to determine if a water body attains its assigned uses.

Water bodies that do not meet one or more of their uses are characterized as impaired for the affected use. Impairments of the contact recreation use, which are evaluated based on levels of indicator bacteria, are the most common impairments in the state.

See the most current [Texas Integrated Report](#)² online.

¹ <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/gi/gi-351>



RUAA Procedures

RUAA procedures are standardized to ensure that each water body is examined the same way. Physical stream data and recreational use information, together, provide the basis for decisions about a water body's actual and potential recreational uses and the most appropriate criteria for evaluating use attainment.

Public Participation

Local participation is crucial to identifying the locations most used for contact recreation. For each survey performed under this project, TCEQ project managers involved local residents and water quality experts to provide advice and feedback. Project personnel shared the sampling plan with the public, and stakeholders had an opportunity to change the plan based on their site-specific knowledge and expertise. This process was designed to ensure that project personnel collected samples at the most appropriate sites and that stakeholder's wishes were well represented.

Completed Surveys

RUAA surveys were completed for the water bodies listed on the next page. The affected counties include Newton, Gregg, Hunt, Hopkins, Wood, Rains, Trinity, San Augustine, Wise, Tarrant, Dallas, Johnson, Galveston, Harris, Brazos, Washington, Robertson, Leon,

² <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/assessment/>

Madison, Limestone, Fort Bend, Colorado, Brazoria, Austin, Wharton, Matagorda, Atascosa, Live Oak, Cameron, and Hidalgo.

For More Information

To learn more about RUAAS or the status of the use attainability analyses, see our webpage at:

www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/standards/ruaas/

E-mail us at standards@tceq.texas.gov or call us at 512-239-6682.

Segment	Name	Fiscal Year
Sabine River Basin		
0502A	Nichols Creek	FY11
0502B	Caney Creek	FY11
0505B	Grace Creek	FY11
0507G	South Fork of Sabine River	FY11
0512A	Running Creek	FY11
0512B	Elm Creek	FY11
Trinity River Basin		
0806E	Sycamore Creek	FY10
0810	West Fork Trinity River Below Bridgeport Reservoir	FY09
0810A	Big Sandy Creek	FY09
0810B	Garrett Creek	FY09
0810C	Martin Branch	FY09
0810D	Salt Creek	FY09
0822A	Cottonwood Branch	FY10
0822B	Grapevine Creek	FY10
0841E	Copart Branch Mountain Creek	FY10
0841F	Cottonwood Creek	FY10
0841G	Dalworth Creek	FY10
0841H	Delaware Creek	FY10
0841J	Estelle Creek	FY10
0841K	Fish Creek	FY10
0841N	Kirby Creek	FY10
0841U	West Irving Branch	FY10

Segment	Name	Fiscal Year
San Jacinto River Basin		
1104	Dickinson Bayou Above Tidal	FY11
1113A	Armand Bayou Above Tidal	FY10
Brazos River Basin		
1209	Navasota River Below Limestone Lake	FY10
1209D	Country Club Branch	FY10
1209E	Wickson Creek	FY10
1209G	Cedar Creek	FY10
1209H	Duck Creek	FY10
1209I	Gibbons Creek	FY10
1209J	Shepherd Creek	FY10
1209K	Steele Creek	FY10
1244	Brushy Creek	FY10
1245	Upper Oyster Creek	FY09
1245C	Bullhead Bayou	FY10
1245	Unnamed Tributary of Bullhead Bayou	FY10
Brazos-Colorado Coastal Basin		
1302	San Bernard River Above Tidal	FY11
1302A	Gum Tree Branch	FY11
1302B	West Bernard Creek	FY11
1305	Caney Creek Above Tidal	FY10
Nueces River Basin		
2107	Atascosa River	FY10
Nueces-Rio Grande Coastal Basin		
2202	Arroyo Colorado Above Tidal	FY11