

Recreational Use Attainability Analysis for Iron Ore Creek

Website: <http://tiaer.tarleton.edu/ruaa>

Iron Ore Creek

Iron Ore Creek is a major tributary of Choctaw Creek in the Red River Basin. It flows 19 miles east from east of Denison in Grayson County to the confluence with Choctaw Creek 5 miles east of the Grayson/Fannin County line. The watershed includes approximately 28,300 acres that encompass large portions of Denison, Sherman, and Knollwood. Iron Ore Creek is one of many rural waterbodies listed on the *Texas 303(d) List* due to elevated levels of *E. coli*, indicator bacteria found in warm-blooded animals. These indicator bacteria are used to assess the possible presence of pathogens that would limit the contact recreation use of a waterbody.

The Iron Ore Creek watershed is both urban and rural. Land-use consists of urban/developed, crop, and pastureland. The City of Denison is the largest city within the watershed, and has an estimated population of 22,773. A small portion of the City of Sherman (population 39,122) is included within the watershed, as well as the community of Knollwood (population 226). Iron Ore Creek was first listed as having a bacteria impairment for contact recreation on the *2010 Texas 303 (d) List*, and remains on the *2012 Texas 303 (d) List*.

Funding

Funding for this project is provided through a State Nonpoint Source Grant from the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board. The Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Research at Tarleton State University is the managing entity for this recreational use attainability analysis. The project period extends from November 1, 2013 through October 31, 2015.

Public Participation

Local landowner cooperation and input from the public is crucial to identify and provide access to sampling locations and areas most likely used for contact recreation and providing historical information. Local city/county officials, landowners, as well as the general public will be consulted on their knowledge of how the stream is being used. Public meetings will be held during the project to allow stakeholders to provide input and acquire information as the study moves forward.

Project Objectives

- Conduct a Recreational Use Attainability Analysis to document factors that support or hinder recreational use and the actual level, if any, and types of recreational use occurring
- Facilitate public participation and involvement throughout project activities so that stakeholders make informed decisions about the future of their watershed



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