

Recreational Use Attainability Analysis for Kickapoo Creek in Henderson County

Website: <http://tiaer.tarleton.edu/ruaa/kickapoo-creek.html>

Kickapoo Creek in Henderson County

Kickapoo Creek is an unclassified waterbody within the Upper Neches River Basin. The creek flows 41 miles from the confluence of Lake Palestine east of Brownsboro to the upstream northwest of Murchison in Henderson County. The watershed includes approximately 178,000 acres that encompasses portions of the City of Murchison and Chandler. Kickapoo Creek is one of many rural waterbodies listed on the *Texas 303(d) List* due to elevated levels of *E. coli*, the indicator bacteria found in warm-blooded animals. These indicator bacteria are used to assess the possible presence of pathogens that would limit contact recreation use of a waterbody. Kickapoo Creek is also impaired for depressed dissolved oxygen concentrations, and notes concerns due to elevated ammonia and chlorophyll-a concentrations.

The Kickapoo Creek watershed is urban within the east Texas region. The cities of Murchison, Edom, and Brownsboro are within the Kickapoo Creek watershed. Within the Kickapoo Creek watershed, the City of Brownsboro has the largest population with an estimated 1,050. Kickapoo Creek was first listed as having a bacteria impairment for contact recreation on the *2000 Texas 303 (d) List* and was listed in the *2006 Texas 303 (d) List* due to depressed dissolved oxygen concentrations. Kickapoo Creek remains on the *2012 Texas 303 (d) List* for bacteria and depressed dissolved oxygen, and notes concerns for elevated ammonia concentrations.

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 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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