

Recreational Use Attainability Analysis for Mud Creek

Website: <http://tiaer.tarleton.edu/ruaa/mud-creek1.html>

Mud Creek

Mud Creek is a waterbody within the Angelina-Neches River Basin. The creek flows 56 miles from the confluence with the Angelina River upstream to of the confluence of Prairie Creek in Henderson County. The watershed includes approximately 502,000 acres that encompasses the cities of New Chapel Hill, Whitehouse, Arp, Troup, Summerfield, Gallatin, Reklaw, Cushing, and Mount Enterprise and portions of the cities of Jacksonville, Tyler, and Rush. Mud Creek is one of many 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 the contact recreation use of a waterbody. Mud Creek also notes concerns for elevated ammonia and depressed dissolved oxygen.

The Mud Creek watershed is mainly urban and residential with the City of Tyler having an estimated population of 99,320 and the City of Jacksonville having an estimated population of 14,750. Mud Creek was first listed as having bacteria impairment for contact recreation on the *2010 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 for providing historical information and the waterbody. 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



