

# Recreational Use Attainability Analysis for West Mud Creek

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

## West Mud Creek

West Mud Creek is a waterbody within the Angelina-Neches River Basin. The creek flows 22 miles from the confluence with Mud Creek to the confluence of an unnamed tributary 300 meters upstream of the most northern crossing of US 69 in the City of Tyler. The watershed includes approximately 59,200 acres that encompasses portions of the cities of Tyler, Whitehouse, and Bullard. West 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.

The West Mud Creek watershed is mainly urban and residential with the City of Tyler having an estimated population of 99,320 and the City of Bulard having an estimated population of 2,600. West Mud Creek was first listed as having a bacteria impairment for contact recreation in the *2010 Texas 303 (d) List*, and currently 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 to provide historical information on 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



## Contact Information

### Leah Taylor

Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Research at  
Tarleton State University  
(254) 968-0513  
[ltaylor@tiaer.tarleton.edu](mailto:ltaylor@tiaer.tarleton.edu)

### Wesley Gibson

Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board  
(254) 773-2250 ext. 240  
[wgibson@tsswcb.texas.gov](mailto:wgibson@tsswcb.texas.gov)

