

# Recreational Use Attainability Analysis for The Neches River above Lake Palestine

Website: <http://tiaer.tarleton.edu/ruaa/neches-river-above-lake-palestine.html>

## Neches River above Lake Palestine

The Neches River above Lake Palestine, within the Upper Neches River Basin flows 33 miles downstream of State Highway 31 in Henderson and Smith County. The Neches River above Lake Palestine watershed includes approximately 90,100 acres and encompasses the City of Van and portions of the City of Chandler. The Neches River above Lake Palestine 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 the contact recreation use of a waterbody. It is also currently listed on the *Texas 303 (d) List* due to depressed dissolved oxygen and pH.

The Neches River above Lake Palestine watershed is rural and land use is predominantly pastureland with some cropland. While mainly rural, the City of Van has an estimated population of 2,640. The Neches River above Lake Palestine was first listed on the *2002 Texas 303 (d) List* for pH. In 2004 The Neches River above Lake Palestine was listed again on the *2004 Texas 303 (d) List* and included a depressed dissolved oxygen concentration impairment. The *2008 Texas 303 (d) List* identified the waterbody for having a bacteria impairment for contact recreation.

## 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 relating to 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

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