

Recreational Use Attainability Analysis for Smith Creek

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

Smith Creek

Smith Creek is a tributary of Pine Creek in the Red River Basin. It flows 5.6 miles northeast from within the city limits of Paris, Texas in Lamar County to the confluence with Pine Creek approximately 2 miles east of Lake Crook. The watershed includes approximately 3,800 acres. Smith Creek is one of many 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. Concerns are also noted for Smith Creek due to elevated ammonia, total phosphorus, and orthophosphorus.

The Smith Creek watershed is located at the border of an urban environment, but is mostly rural. Much of the watershed is used as an industrial overland flow (OLF) land treatment system. The City of Paris is the only city within the watershed, and has an estimated population of 25,171. Smith Creek was first listed as having a bacteria impairment for contact recreation on the *2006 Texas 303 (d) List*, and remains on the *2012 Texas 3030 (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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