

Recreational Use Attainability Analysis For Aransas Creek

<https://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/managementprogram/aransasaruaa>

Aransas Creek

The Aransas Creek is a tributary to the Aransas River within the San Antonio-Nueces Coastal River Basin. The creek flows 20 miles from its headwaters west of Beeville to its confluence with the Aransas River northeast of Skidmore. The watershed is approximately 45,195 acres. Aransas Creek watershed is one of many rural waterbodies listed on the *Texas 303(d) List* of impairments due to elevated levels of *E. coli*, the non-pathogenic indicator bacteria, used to assess the possible presence of pathogens that would limit the contact recreation use of a waterbody.

The Aransas Creek watershed is within Bee County and is largely rural ranchland with no major communities. The population of Bee County is approximately 31,860. Tributaries to Aransas Creek include Dry Creek, Elm Creek, and Olmos Creek.

Funding

Funding for this project is provided through a State General Revenue Nonpoint Source Grant from the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board. The Nueces River Authority will be collecting the data for the RUAA. The project period extends from June 2011 through May 2013.

Public Participation

Local landowner cooperation and input from the public is crucial to identify and provide access to survey locations most likely used for contact recreation, and historical documentation. 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
- Create a comprehensive GIS inventory for the study area and identify possible bacteria sources
- Facilitate public participation and involvement throughout the project to ensure stakeholders make informed decisions about the future of their watershed



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