Water Quality in the Brazos Basin

Dakus Geeslin
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
What is Water Quality

• Physical, chemical, and biological characteristics in relation to a set of standards
• Aquatic Life Use, Contact Recreation, Public Water Supply, Fish Consumption
## Standards Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Segment No.</th>
<th>Segment Name</th>
<th>Uses</th>
<th>Aquatic Life Use</th>
<th>Domestic Water Supply</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Cl⁻¹ (mg/L)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1202</td>
<td>Brazos below Navasota</td>
<td>Contact Recreation</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Public Supply</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1242</td>
<td>Brazos above Navasota</td>
<td>Contact Recreation</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Public Supply</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Concerns

Thompson’s Creek, Campbell’s Creek, Mud Creek, Pin Oak Creek, Spring Creek, Tehuacana Creek, Big Creek, Allen’s Creek, and Upper Oyster Creek all have elevated E. Coli levels.
Concerns

Still Creek, Cottonwood Branch, Thompson’s Creek, and Allen’s Creek

Nutrients
Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)
TMDL Implementation

• Adjustment of effluent limitation in permits

• Schedule of elimination of pollutant

• Identification of nonpoint sources

• Modification to a storm water program
Clean Rivers Program

- The Texas Clean Rivers Program incorporates water quality monitoring, assessment, and public outreach.
- The program is a collaboration of 15 partner agencies (ex. SARA, BRA, etc.) and the TCEQ.
- The CRP works as a hub for participating collaborators to provide data as well as coordinated watershed protection.
Goal and Objectives

• A Middle and Lower Brazos River that provides for sustainable environmental, economic, and social uses.

• Manage flow-related water quality to sustain ecological, economic, and social processes and productive capacity.
Web Resources

Water Quality Standards
http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/nav/eq/eq_swqs.html

TMDL
http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/index.html

Clean Rivers Program
http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/nav/eq/texcleanriver.html

BRA Basin Report