

Water quality issues

According to a 1997 report by the National Park Service, surface waters within Chickasaw National Recreation Area and the surrounding region have been significantly impacted by human activities. The report noted that potential sources of contaminants include municipal and industrial wastewater discharges; storm water runoff; agricultural, livestock, and fish hatchery operations; oil and gas development and residential development; quarrying operations; recreational use; and atmospheric deposition.

Screening tests performed on surface waters in the Chickasaw NRA region

since the 1950s suggest that fecal coliform, dissolved oxygen, copper, and chloride are the parameters that fail to meet EPA drinking water quality standards most often (Wikle et al. 1998). Additionally, Hillside Spring has had a long history of intermittent bacterial contamination from fecal coliform and fecal streptococci (Wikle et al. 1998).

As with the water quantity concerns, water quality issues are being addressed through several project statements outlined in the Chickasaw Water Resources Management Plan.