



Adapted from USGS Abilene, Texas. Original Scale 1: 250,000.

**Figure 4. Map Location of Brazos River**



**Figure 5. Brazos River west of FM 2580**

## **Brazos River**

The Brazos River is the longest river in the State of Texas between the Red River and the Rio Grande and has a drainage area of greater than 41,000 square miles (TPWD, 1998). This section of the Brazos River slowly meanders through the scenic rolling hills and wooded bottomlands of the Cross-Timbers and Prairies area of North Central Texas and is wide with numerous sandbars that provide opportunities for camping and day use (Belisle, 1974). It was rated as the top scenic and recreational river segment in the northern half of Texas as part of the Nationwide Rivers Inventory (NRI) conducted by the National Park Service (1995). The NRI is a list of over 3,000 free-flowing river segments in the United States that possess one or more “outstandingly remarkable” natural or cultural values that are thought to have national significance (NPS, 1995). Stream segments included in the NRI are naturally functioning systems that can be used as a reference for monitoring activities or restoration efforts on similar sections of streams. The candidate segment is from a point 330 feet upstream of FM 2580 in Parker County upstream to the Parker/Palo Pinto County line (within TNRCC stream segment 1206).

- (1) Biological Function- nominated as a Texas Natural River System (NPS, 1995)
- (2) Threatened or Endangered Species/Unique Communities- significant due to the presence of the very rare, endemic Texas fawnsfoot freshwater mussel (Howells, 1997).
- (3) High Water Quality/Exceptional Aquatic Life/High Aesthetic Value- rated as the #1 scenic and recreational river in the northern half of Texas by River Recreationist Survey (NPS, 1995).