

1.10.4 Little Pine Island Bayou

Little Pine Island Bayou begins near Votaw in northwest Hardin County and flows southeasterly about 45 miles into Pine Island Bayou about 12 miles northwest of Beaumont. The bayou contains clear water that flows over a predominantly sand and gravel substrate. The channel of the bayou is relatively narrow and is shaded by abundant overhanging brush and tree limbs. The banks of the bayou are lined with beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*), and loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*) as well as several bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) that measure between sixteen and nineteen feet in circumference, which would put them at between three and four hundred years of age (Gunter 1993). From the Lance Rosier Unit of the Big Thicket Preserve eastward to the Beaumont Unit, the Little Pine Island Bayou Corridor Unit averages less than 1,000 feet in width (Peacock 1994). This is one of five slender corridor units within the Preserve designated to protect water quality and quantity as well as the vegetation within the floodplains. Moring (2003) collected 43 species of fish from two sampling sites on Little Pine Island Bayou (Appendix C), including several species intolerant of degradation. The ecologically significant stream segment is from the confluence with Pine Island Bayou northwest of Beaumont upstream to the FM 770 crossing in Saratoga in Hardin County.

- **Riparian conservation area-** fringed by the 2,209-acre Little Pine Island Bayou Corridor Unit, the 5,955-acre Beaumont Unit and the 24,942-acre Lance Rosier Unit, which is the largest segment of the Big Thicket National Preserve.



Figure 23. Little Pine Island Bayou west of FM 770 in Hardin County (8/15/01).



Figure 24. Little Pine Island Bayou east of FM 770 in Hardin County (8/15/01).