

1.13.4 Taylor Bayou

Taylor Bayou is formed at the confluence of its north and south forks in central Jefferson County and flows eastward to the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW). Taylor Bayou is the major drainage for Jefferson County. The bayou and the riparian woodlands that border the stream, represent an isolated sliver of the Big Thicket that extends toward the coast (TPWD 1999). Taylor Bayou and its forks were channelized in the early 1900's to provide deep draft channels to Beaumont and Port Arthur. The bayou and its forks are bordered by extensive palustrine wetlands, although much of these habitats have been fragmented and altered for farming activities (USFWS 2005). The ecologically significant stream segment is from the confluence with the GIWW upstream to and including the north and south forks and Mayhaw Bayou in Jefferson County.

- **Riparian conservation area-** fringed by the 24,366-acre J.D. Murphree Wildlife Management Area.