

**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
Fort Worth District

# Sponsor: City of Jefferson

## Fish and wildlife restoration, Big Cypress Bayou, Jefferson

**Project Fact Sheet**  
Continuing  
Authorities  
Program (CAP)

Jan. 6, 2016

**Type of Project:** Section 1135, Environmental Restoration

**Authorization:** Water Resources Development Act of 1986, as amended

**Status:** Construction of the \$6.7 million project was completed in 2013

**Background:** The project is located in Marion County in northeast Texas on the west bank of Big Cypress Bayou within the city of Jefferson, Texas. It is about 14 miles downstream of Lake O' the Pines, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers flood-control reservoir. The construction and operation of Lake O' the Pines degraded the environment along



Removing a boat ramp helped restore water quality, habitat.



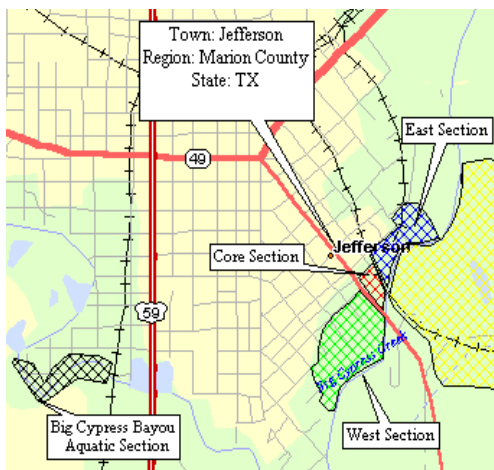
**Paddlefish**

The project was designed to restore integrity, diversity and stability of the ecosystem of the floodplain community through a combination of measures directed at specific habitat types. It included bottomland hardwoods reforestation, re-establishment and regeneration of bald cypress, construction of wetland cells, and revival of a riparian corridor, urban wildscape and aquatic habitat. Thou-

sands of feet of dual-use maintenance and environmental educational/interpretative access were created. Bat roosting and nursery abodes structures were built in an abandoned railroad bridge. Elevated education access paths and platforms supported educational goals.



Sam Ayer photo



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Aquatic habitat restoration to improve in-stream fish spawning utilized placement of two separate gravel bars, each approximately 1,000 feet in length and 30 feet wide. Restoration of permanent backwater wetlands boosted habitat for waterfowl nesting, brood rearing and wintering. Removal of the existing boat ramp and overhead electrical lines aided restoration efforts.