

White Oak Bayou
Resource Inventory

by

White Oak Bayou Association

Conservation Committee

First Edition

January 24, 1991





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The White Oak Bayou Association is a non-profit citizens organization dedicated to the preservation, restoration, and maintenance of the natural wildlife habitats along our bayou. We promote compatible recreational opportunities and seek to increase public awareness, appreciation, and enjoyment of White Oak Bayou, its tributaries, and environs. Membership consists of individuals, civic groups, professional organizations, and businesses and is open to all interested persons city-wide. All membership contributions are tax deductible.

A quarterly newsletter is published and mailed to a growing mailing list with additional copies distributed to area businesses. General Meetings are held quarterly at various locations. Board Meetings are held at 7pm on the third Tuesday of every month at Hickory Hollow, 101 Heights Blvd. and are open to all interested persons.

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WHITE OAK BAYOU

RESOURCE INVENTORY

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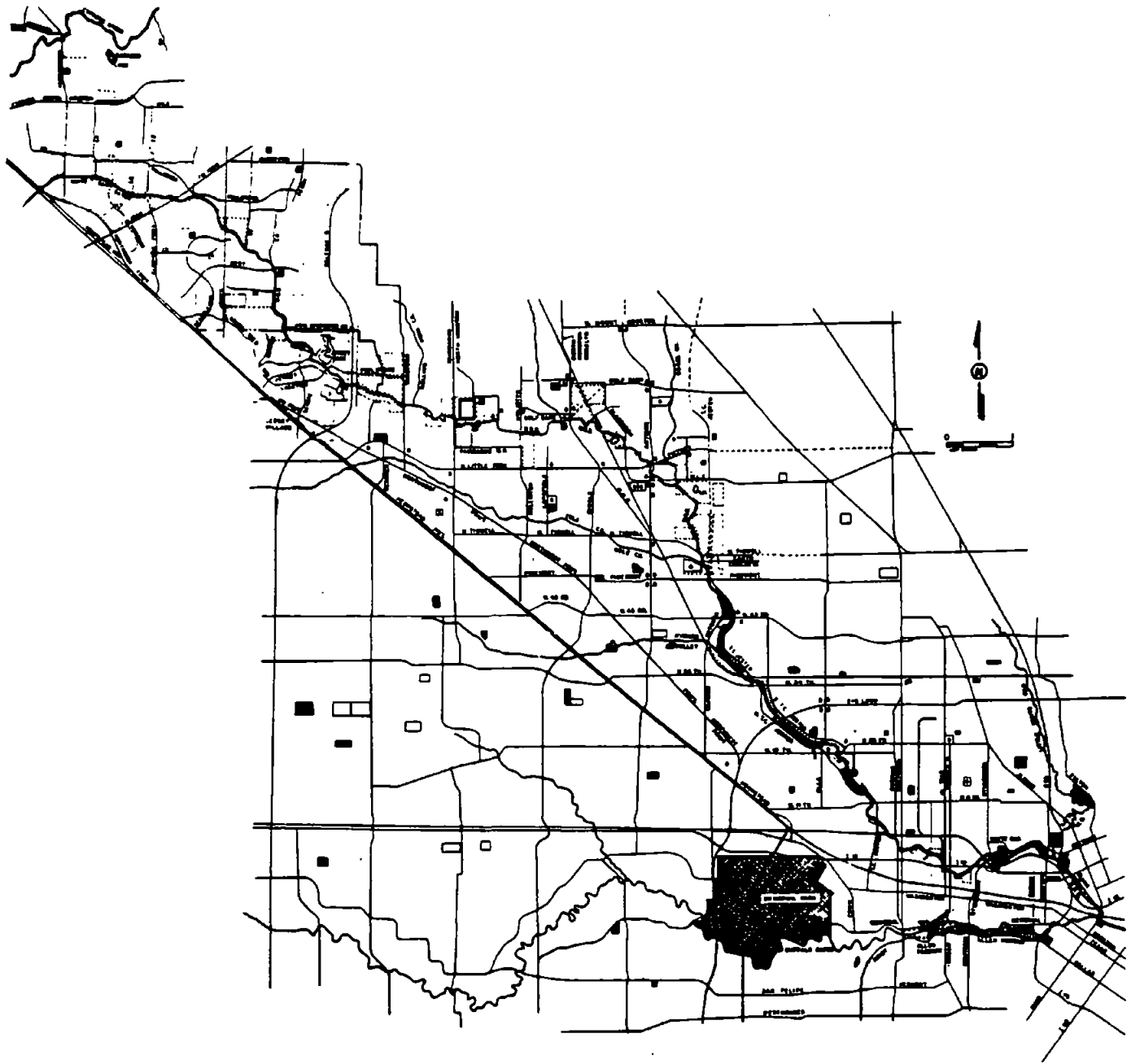
Introduction

The White Oak Bayou Association has initiated a project to inventory the wildlife habitat and recreational resources along the bayou right of way. The initial goal of the inventory is to identify access points, parking locations, parks and recreational facilities, and natural characteristics of the lands along the bayou. Volunteers walked the bayou from Allen's Landing to Cy-Fair north of Jersey Village and recorded their observations, both good and bad. The response from volunteers was tremendous.

Our findings will assist us in targeting areas for restoration programs to develop new park lands and improve access to the bayou, and planning and development of a hike and bike trail system along the entire length of White Oak Bayou. Both hike and bike trails and nature walking trails are envisioned that will link existing recreational facilities and create new access to nature preserves and future recreational features.

The narrative that follows summarizes information gathered to date. Members and friends of the White Oak Bayou Association who want to explore the recreational opportunities afforded by the natural resource of White Oak Bayou may find it useful.

You can help us improve the report by contacting the White Oak Bayou Association if you find any errors or omissions. Future editions of this report will include descriptions on each of the major tributaries, namely, Little White Oak, Brickhouse Gully, Cole Creek, Vogel Creek, Rolling Fork Creek. Information on these or on the upper reaches of the bayou in Jersey Village and Cy-Fair is needed. Any assistance is most welcome.



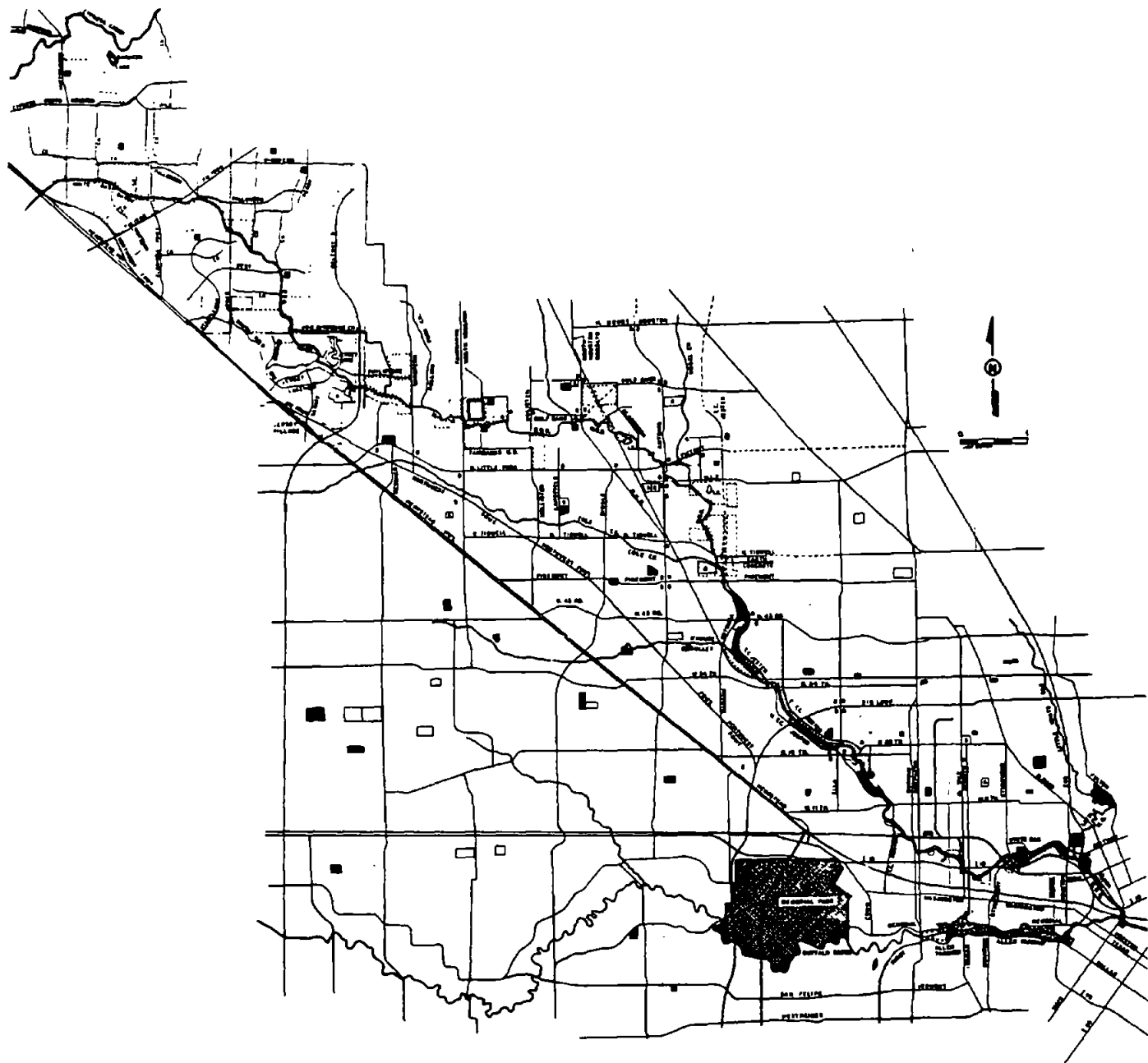
An Overview of White Oak Bayou

White Oak Bayou flows in a southeasterly direction from its headwaters north of Jersey Village to Allen's Landing in downtown Houston where it discharges into Buffalo Bayou. The bayou collects stormwater runoff from a 108 square mile drainage area (exclusive of its tributaries), and the treated effluent from six sewage treatment plants. Tributaries that discharge into White Oak Bayou include Rolling Fork Creek, Vogel Creek, Cole Creek, Brickhouse Gully and Little White Oak Bayou. The lower 10.7-mile reach of the channel was concrete lined by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the late 1960's. The trapezoidal concrete channel reaches from Hogg Park (located 3/4s of a mile from Allen's Landing) upstream to Cole Creek. The right-of-way is wide enough on both sides to allow mowing machines and maintenance trucks to travel the full length of the channel. Some of the highway and railroad bridges are obstructions to free travel along the bayou with little or no clearance to pass underneath. None were designed as pedestrian underpasses, but all of them are accessible to walkers.

Public and private parks along the bayou include Allen's Landing, Hogg, White Oak, Ley, Stude, Lawrence, Timbergrove Manor, Little Thicket, Stonecrest, T C Jester, Watonga, Inwood Forest Golf Course, Woodland Trails West, Woodland Trails North, and Central Park. Parks located on tributaries include Woodland, Moody and Monty Beach on Little White Oak Bayou; Mangum Manor and Langwood on Brickhouse Gully; and Cole Creek Park on Cole Creek. In between these designated parks are several large tracts of undeveloped public land available for passive outdoor recreation such as nature study, short hikes, or camping. Among the outstanding features of the bayou are several pockets of wetlands which provide habitat and food supply for an impressive bird population, small mammals, and aquatic wildlife.

Existing recreational features include indoor gymnasiums, pools, ballfields, asphalt and aggregate trails, and playgrounds. Paved parking is available at major recreation centers managed by the City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department. Three trails systems are now available along White Oak Bayou - (1) a 2.2 mile asphalt looped trail in White Oak and Stude Parks, (2) a 1 mile aggregate looped jogging trail in Timbergrove Manor Park, and (3) a 1 mile aggregate linear jogging trail at T C Jester Park. Many well-traveled dirt paths evidence use of undeveloped sections of the bayou for exercise, dog walking, bicycle riding, etc.

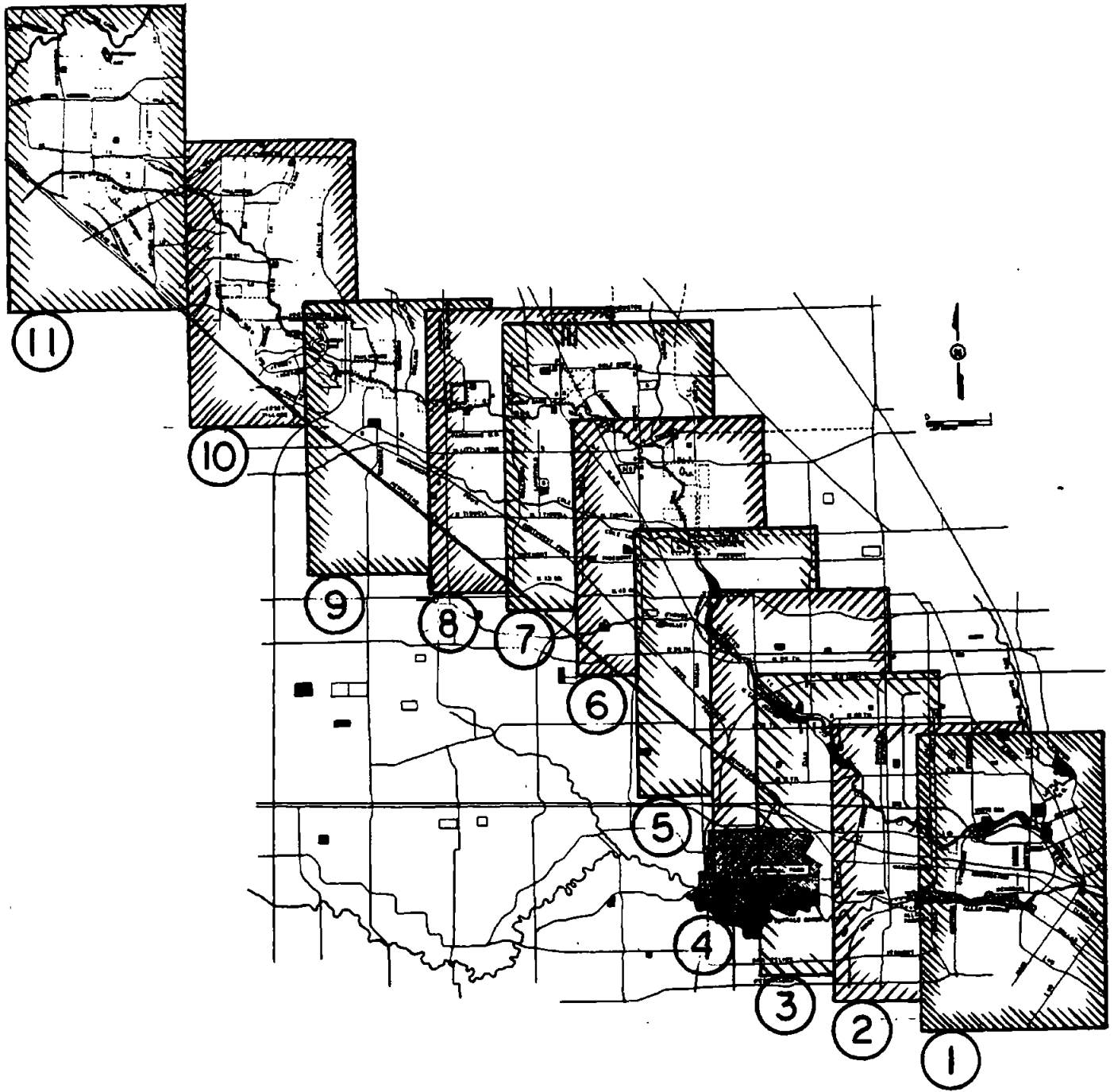
Two public projects by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers affect White Oak Bayou. In 1986, Congress authorized a flood control project for White Oak Bayou. The initial feasibility study for flood control on White Oak Bayou was conducted ten years prior in 1976. Because of subsequent repeated floods in the upper reaches, Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) has improved the stream, substantially diminishing economic justification for Corps involvement. In 1986, another proposal was made by the Corps of Engineers for flood control projects on the tributaries of Buffalo Bayou including channelization of the entire length of Little White Oak. Due to citizen response and comment, the project was amended to include grass-lined channelization work beginning at mile 2.0 upstream, eliminating destruction of wildlife habitat and natural detention ponds in Woodland and Moody Parks. The White Oak Bayou project proposed by HCFCD is being revisited and revised under the direction of



HCFCF Director, Art Storey. The watershed masterplan will include four detention ponds, and deepening and widening of the existing grass-lined channel in the northern reaches. HCFCF also has plans to widen and concrete line 800 feet at the confluence of White Oak and Buffalo Bayous. This work will begin in 1991 and will include concrete steps leading to the bayou's edge with canoe launches and trail connections. Trails expansion is in the design stage with plans to connect downtown Houston upstream to the White Oak Parkway. The next phase will connect Stude Park to Timbergrove Manor and will connect neighborhoods and parks. The trails expansion being promoted and planned by the White Oak Bayou Association will provide over six miles of continuous asphaltic hike and bike trails on White Oak Bayou and will link with the Buffalo Bayou trails system and parks.

White Oak Bayou flows from the Cy-Fair communities through unincorporated areas of Harris County, the City of Jersey Village, into the City of Houston, and converges with Buffalo Bayou at Allen's Landing Downtown. The bayou flows through City of Houston Council districts as follows: Ben Reyes, District I (from Allen's Landing to Houston Avenue), Dale Gorczynski, District H (from Houston Avenue to 20th Street, and Pinemont to the city limits), and Larry McKaskle, District A (from 11th Street to Pinemont, bordering District H from 11th to 20th Streets). Harris County Commissioners with responsibility for the watershed include Jim Fonteno, Precinct 2 (mouth to Houston Avenue), El Franco Lee, Precinct 1 (Houston Avenue to Heights Blvd.), Jerry Eversole, Precinct 4 (Heights Blvd. to FM 1960), and Steve Radack, Precinct 3 (from FM 1960 to the headwaters near Cypress Creek). Harris County Flood Control District owns fee and easement title to property along the twenty-five mile length, plus some easements along the tributaries. HCFCF maintains the entire length by mowing, desilting, desnagging, and repairing erosion damage within the flood plain easement. Right-of-way maps can be obtained from HCFCF which indicate ownership type and boundaries for property they have acquired. The State Department of Highways and Public Transportation will also provide right-of-way maps for sections of the bayou that intersect with interstate highways.

The White Oak Bayou Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit citizens' organization which was fostered by the Bayou Preservation Association, Inc. Dedicated to the preservation, restoration and maintenance of the natural wildlife habitats along the bayou, WOBA promotes compatible recreational opportunities and seeks to increase public awareness, appreciation, and enjoyment of White Oak Bayou, its tributaries and environs. Membership consists of individuals, civic groups, professional organizations, and businesses and is open to all interested persons or groups. All membership contributions are tax deductible. A quarterly newsletter is published that has a circulation of 2,500. Board meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month. General meetings featuring guest speakers and/or field trips are held quarterly at various locations. Clean-up and planting activities are held at a minimum of twice each year. The White Oak Bayou Fish-off takes place annually for the purpose of promoting appreciation and enjoyment of the bayou while raising funds for bayou projects and increasing public awareness.

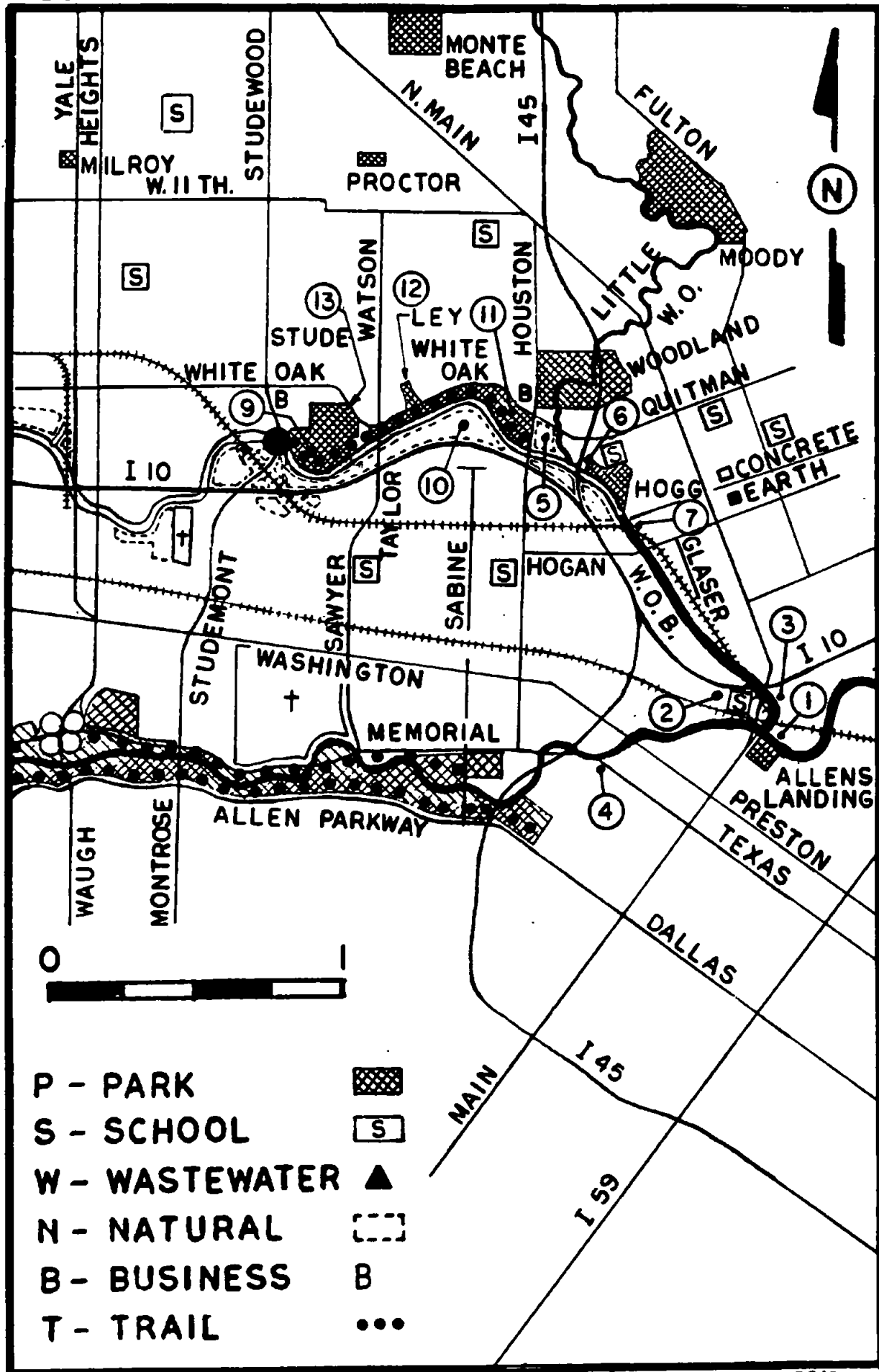


LET'S TAKE A WALK ALONG WHITE OAK BAYOU

Following are descriptive narratives for eleven sections of White Oak Bayou beginning at the mouth and going upstream. A story about each section is told from the perspective of a walker. The walk can begin at the upstream, or the downstream location for each section of the bayou. Accompanying the narrative is a map of each section. The sections are described in the narrative and are marked at the beginning and the end by black dots at major road crossings. Also highlighted on each map are parks, schools, wastewater treatment plants, natural areas (public and private), businesses, and improved trails. Major streets and landmarks are identified to assist the user in orienting his location on the bayou with the maps. The numbered bubbles on the map to the left correspond to the sections of the report. The numbered bubbles on the detail maps with each section correspond to numbers in the narrative. They identify the approximate location of the item in the report.

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SECTION 1



Section One: Allen's Landing to Studewood

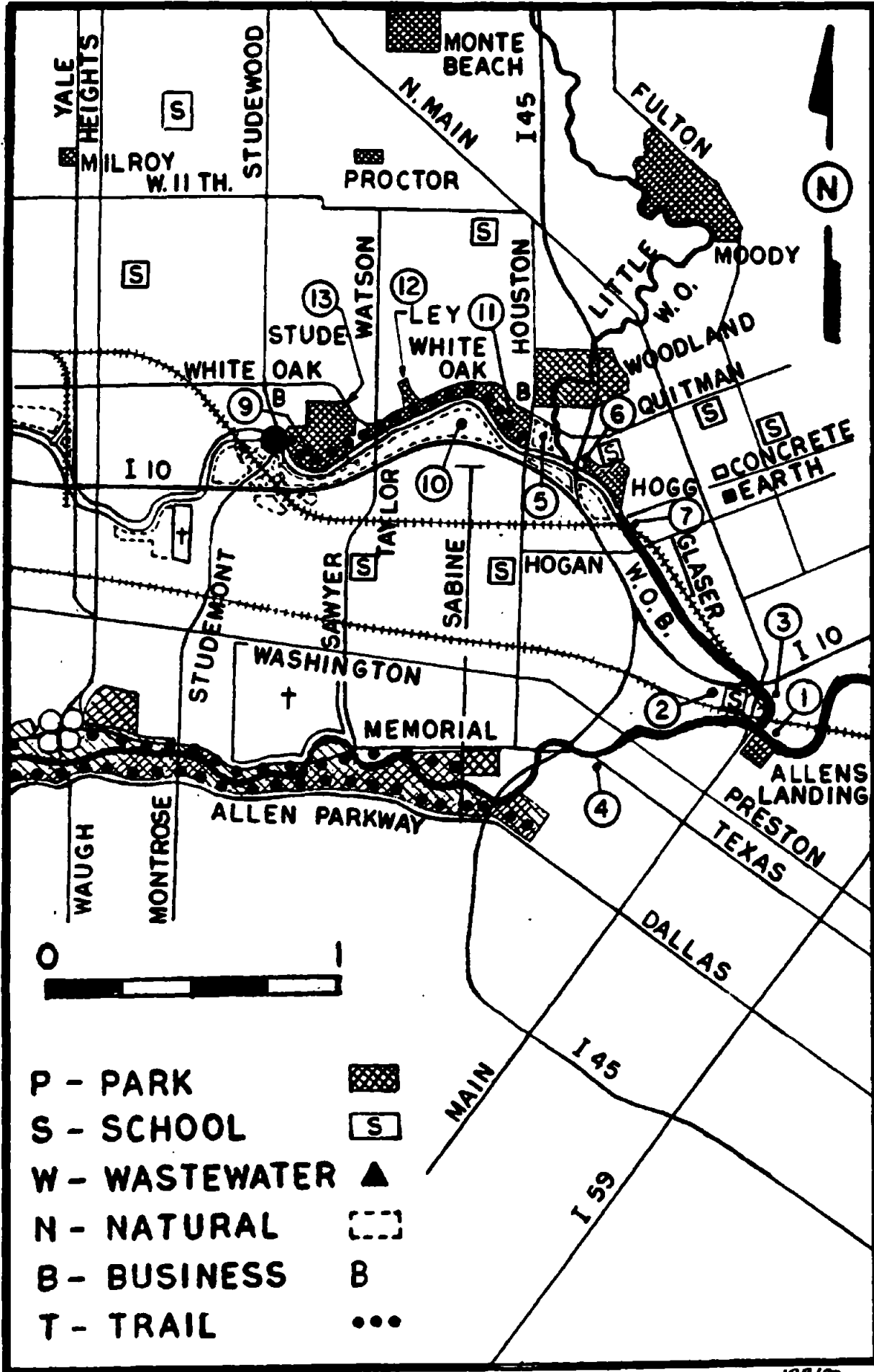
For this section, we will take two walks, one beginning at Houston Avenue and going Downtown to Main Street near Allen's Landing, and another beginning at the Stude Park Recreation Center and looping through White Oak Park and back. But first, let's see what's happening at Allen's Landing.

Part 1 - Allen's Landing

In 1836, John & Augusta Allen founded the City of Houston upon docking at Allens' Landing. Though the actual location of this historic event may in fact be further upstream on Buffalo Bayou where an old alignment then emptied White Oak's waters, we remember the birthplace of our city with Allens' Landing Park at the current confluence of White Oak and Buffalo Bayous. The wide confluence at Allen's Landing served as a turning basin for boats coming up from Galveston Bay. Ports and railroads were concentrated at this focal point of commerce and industry.

Today, Harris County Flood Control District is preparing plans for improvements to 800 feet (250 m) from the confluence to about Main Street. These plans call for stairstep bank slopes with boat docks designed into the concrete. The steps will also provide improved access for walkers and bikes and will connect to the Allen's Landing Jail Waterfront Park (1). The White Oak Bayou Association participated in a committee formed in 1988 by the Buffalo Bayou Partnership to develop a master plan for the Allen's Landing area. Allen's Landing Park is located directly south on the Downtown side of Buffalo Bayou from the confluence with White Oak Bayou. The University of Houston Downtown Campus (2) has constructed a "top-of-Main Street level" outdoor veranda with a tower staircase leading down to Buffalo Bayou trails on the south side of the campus on the north side of Buffalo Bayou. Further up White Oak, the Cultural Arts Council of Houston is developing plans to convert the abandoned city-owned Willow Street Lifting Station (3) on the north side of White Oak Bayou into a performing and visual arts showcase with entertainment and an outdoor cafe. DiverseWorks is located on the other side of Main Street near the end of the proposed trail connection. Also, the Houston Archaeological and Historical Commission is working to obtain National Historical Registry status for the Downtown Warehouse District bordering White Oak Bayou at Main Street which may provide incentive for appropriate development in this neighborhood. The trails connection to Downtown Houston provides pedestrian and bicycle access to a major activity center and an alternative transportation opportunity for citizens living in communities upstream along White Oak Bayou.

SECTION 1



- P - PARK
- S - SCHOOL
- W - WASTEWATER
- N - NATURAL
- B - BUSINESS
- T - TRAIL

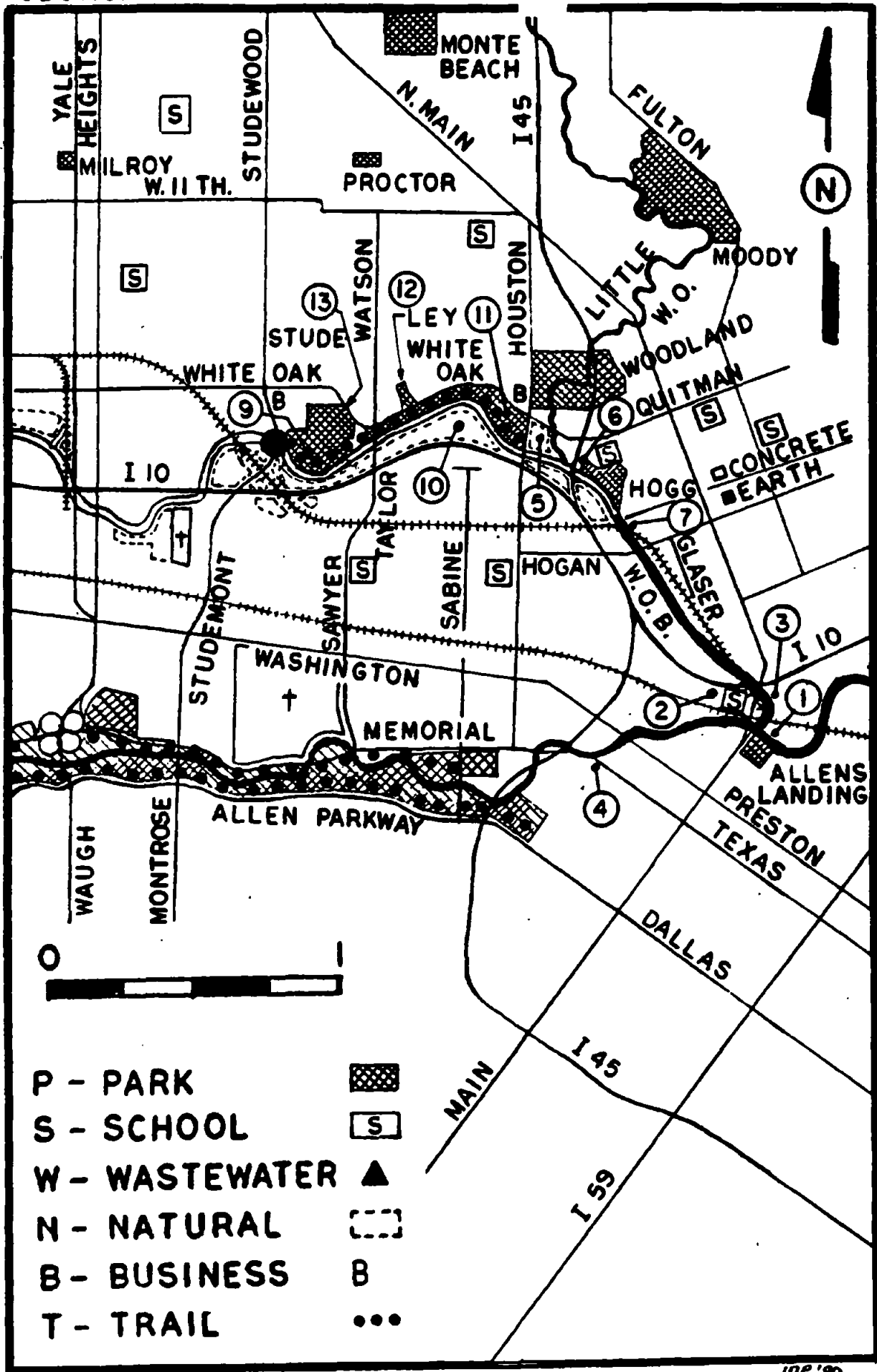
Part 2 - Main Street to Houston Avenue

Avoid the downtown traffic and park your car at Houston Avenue and Quitman Street, or take METRO's Pecore bus which passes over the bayou on Houston Avenue. The White Oak Bayou Association is hard at work to secure funding and cooperation from City, County and the general public to build a hike and bike trail from existing trails in White Oak Park (ending at Houston Avenue) to improvements slated for Downtown Allen's Landing. Precinct One has already committed to building a section up to and crossing Little White Oak via a low-water bridge. Until that time, or at high water, you must cross at the Quitman Street bridge. The property at this corner is privately held and was formerly the Freed homestead (5). From the Quitman Street bridge, we return to the bayou via Little White Oak Bayou and then downstream White Oak. A storm water outfall (6) from I-45 provides enough constant water flow to support a variety of aquatic vegetation at the edge of Hogg Park. Parking is also available next to the Robert E. Lee Elementary School overlooking the hill at Hogg Park. After passing the park and the school, the bayou curves and is bordered by thicket and woods between the bayou and the Southern Pacific Railroad Hospital (former M. D. Anderson Rehabilitation Hospital). The concrete lining of the bayou stops and rip rap lining takes over at a bridged outfall as you near the railroad bridge (7). The section from here to Downtown appears much more natural and is wide enough for an enjoyable canoe trip. The bank at the outfall slopes gradually enough to provide easy input access for canoe travelers. Beyond the railroad bridge, one sees a cleared vista highlighted by two mature cypress trees (8). At times, large waterfowl such as egrets, herons, or anhingas roost in the old cypress trees depending on the time of year. The fishing is good along this stretch, too, and is enjoyed by kingfishers and northside children alike. Spring wildflowers abound in this location including crow poison, dandelion, venus looking glass, wood sorrell, showy primrose, cutleaf primrose, coreopsis, galliardia, black-eyed susan, sunflower, Mexican hat, blue-eyed grass, etc. Mowing cycles maintained by Harris County Flood Control District are less frequent at this location allowing the wildflowers to grow and reseed year after year. The view of Downtown rising above I-10 is superb. The Southern Pacific Railroad runs along the north side of the bayou bank, but allows plenty of room for the proposed trail, accent plantings and public environmental art. Highly visible from I-10 and I-45, the area is seen by millions of travelers and commuters. Upon arriving at Binswanger Glass Company at Main Street, you may walk across the Main Street bridge to the University of Houston (2).

Part 3 - Houston Avenue to Studewood

At Studewood, a 2.2 mile (3.5 km) asphalt hike/bike loop passes through Stude and White Oak Parks in the Woodland Heights neighborhood. Known as the White Oak Parkway, the trail was built through a public/private venture with the construction of the trail performed by Precinct One. It consists of a lower segment which follows the edge of the bayou and an upper segment which follows the road. Parking is available at Stude

SECTION 1

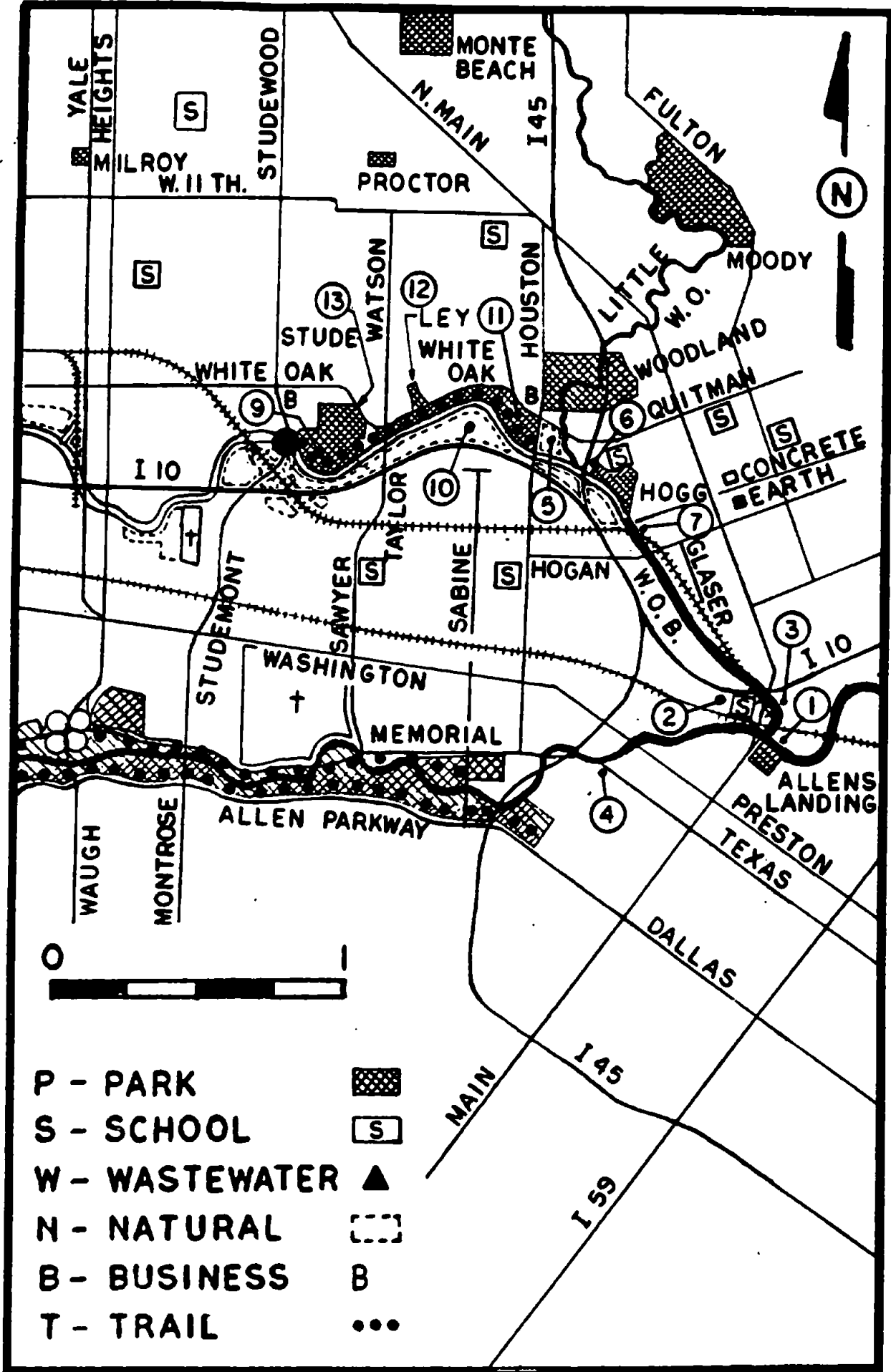


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Park located just east of Studewood. Facilities available at Stude Park include a picnic area, playground, swimming pool, indoor basketball court, meeting rooms, two ballfields, and restrooms and drinking fountains inside the pool building. A large red sculpture marks the southwest corner of Stude Park and is visible from I-10 and Studewood (9). Children love to play on the sculpture; they also paint it with graffiti. A convenience store is located on White Oak Drive at Usener to the northeast of the park. Roughly 150 trees including live oak, holly, peach, cypress, redbud, pistachio, sweet gum and others were planted by volunteers working with Houston Proud Adopt-a-Park program in 1986, in Stude and White Oak Parks.

We will begin our walk on the lower portion of the trail along White Oak Bayou at Stude Park's west end and walk east. This area is located within the flood plain and is known to flood at least once a year, if not more. The bayou makes an S curve here and the overpass for I-10 above the bayou at Studewood creates a tunnel of reverberating highway noise. Beneath the overpass, debris and unsightly rip rap has collected detracting from the view. Nevertheless, the banks along the bayou are full of bluebonnets, primrose, and gallairdia during the spring. Walking past the prominently displayed red sculpture, one notices a diverse grove of trees (Japanese loquat, pecan, cedar, mesquite, etc.) planted by the Sierra Club in 1988. To the left is the recreation center and pool. As one walks past an interesting low spot with a triangular outfall to the right, the lighted ballfield appears on the left. Just beyond is the Taylor/Watson Street overpass. White Oak Drive curves toward the bayou narrowing the park space considerably. Here the looped trail meets in a crisscross intersection. This area is accessible by the Yale METRO route which passes over the bridge. Beyond the bridge the upper and lower arms of the trail are separated by a small thicket with large sycamore trees and vines. Dead ahead an arched footbridge crosses a small stream leading into the bayou. On the other side of the footbridge is an open space planted with white oak, willow oak, burr oak, magnolia, nutall oak, drumond oak, peach, black willow, and crepe myrtle. Two park benches are positioned facing a beautiful view of the downtown skyline. Unpaved parking runs along the upper road trail section. On the south side of White Oak Bayou is a lovely wooded area flanked by grassy knolls planted in wildflowers (10). The property owners, the Texas Department of Highways, have discouraged access by walkers due to the proximity to I-10 and potential safety hazards. The thicket makes a nice vista and provides a sound and sight screen from the noisy freeway traffic. To the east is a hill leading into a heavily wooded tract where the bayou curves back to the south. These small pockets of thicket provide habitat for rabbits, possum, and racoons. North of the bayou at this point is a natural area that holds a small pond (11) filled with summer blooming lilac, water hyacinth and several dozen red eared turtles. The pond was the original channel of White Oak Bayou prior to realignment. As we walk along the trail in between the pond and White Oak Bayou, we reach the top of the hill. Looking to the south, we see the curved thicket on the opposite bayou bank and the Downtown skyline to our left. In the spring, wildflowers rim the edge of the concrete lining creating a colorful ribbon below us. To our backs is a dirt path leading into the thicket and down toward the pond and over another arched footbridge.

SECTION I



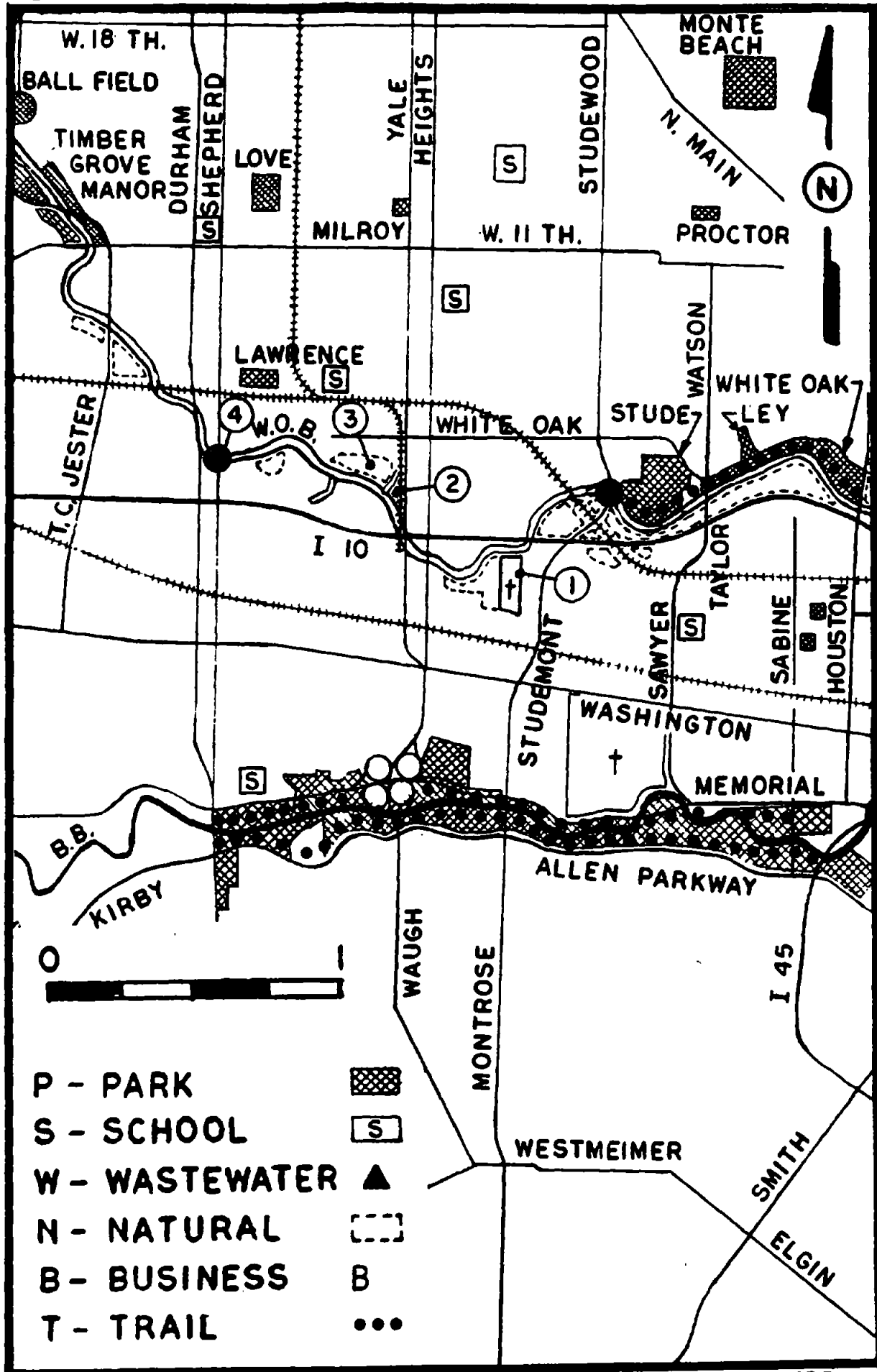
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Moving down the hill and along the trail, we approach a small dam. Constructed by Precinct One, this structure blocks an old outfall to the bayou near Houston Avenue allowing for some enlargement of the pond area. A small peninsular marking the old boundary of the pond is now covered with elephant ears. Some cattails and lots of black willow flank the perimeter of the pond. A favorite roost for yellow-crowned night heron, anhingas, and other waterfowl, the pond harbors insects and small aquatic life such as crawfish that these birds feed on, as well as numerous dinner-plate sized red-eared turtles, water snakes, frogs, etc. This low point also serves to collect trash during flooding and the debris is most visible during the winter months when the hyacinth is brown and dormant. Much of the vegetation in the thicket surrounding the pond is evergreen or semi-evergreen, such as yaupon and ivy. The pond also serves as a small containment reservoir during minor floods. A recent high water level reached to the parking lot of the convenience store across White Oak Drive from the bayou and pond area.

The trail loop reaches its eastern-most point in the cleared wooded section between the pond and Houston Avenue. A fork in the trail allows one to either travel along the pond's edge and uphill to White Oak Drive across from Toucans' Restaurant (an excellent place for a cool one and a great meal), or go long and skirt the perimeter of the park up to Houston Avenue and looping back to the west along the edge of White Oak Drive. At the far end of the loop, the METRO Pecore route passes by the bayou along Houston Avenue.

Our return trip west follows the trail on the upland side of the park next to White Oak Drive. A 20 foot (6 m) drop along a steep slope that was built up to accommodate the trail along the edge of the road has eroded and failed in two places. Though it rarely floods over the top of this trail, portions of the trail are undermined by bank erosion and will eventually need repair and bank stabilization. As we pass by the pond and thicket to our left, we approach a small clearing where the dirt trail exits the thicket and connects to the trail on the south side at the top of the hill we passed earlier. A mature southern red oak stands tall with some red rock boulders at its base providing a favored rest spot. As we continue downhill towards the cleared area landscaped with the variety of young trees, we see a parking problem. The popularity of the trail has created a need for additional parking, and parking surface treatment to handle the heavy use along the White Oak Drive edge of the park. Deep potholes are being created by cars and trucks that park here. Also, there is no barrier to protect joggers from vehicles or to prevent traffic from driving along the trails and into the park. To the right we see Ley Park (12), a triangular ravine with some newly planted trees augmenting the hackberry and ash trees. The center of the ravine tends to hold water most of the year and has given rise to some limited hydric vegetation commonly found in wetlands. Looking straight ahead, we see the small thicket to our left and a curve in the road leading to the ballfield (13) about two blocks away in Stude Park. Just before the ballfield, we pass a grove of pistachio and sweetgum trees. This curve is edged with guard posts driven deep into the ground to prevent auto access and further protect trail users from auto accidents. Parking is available to ballfield users, but the dirt pothole-ridden surface is in need of improvement. To the right is the Skylane Apartments. The trail curves with White Oak Drive near the ballfield and heading back through a grove of live oak trees between the two ballfields. As we head back to the Stude Park recreation center, we have traveled full circle and covered over two miles (3.5 km).

SECTION 2



- P - PARK
- S - SCHOOL
- W - WASTEWATER
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- B - BUSINESS
- T - TRAIL

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Section Two: Studewood to Shepherd

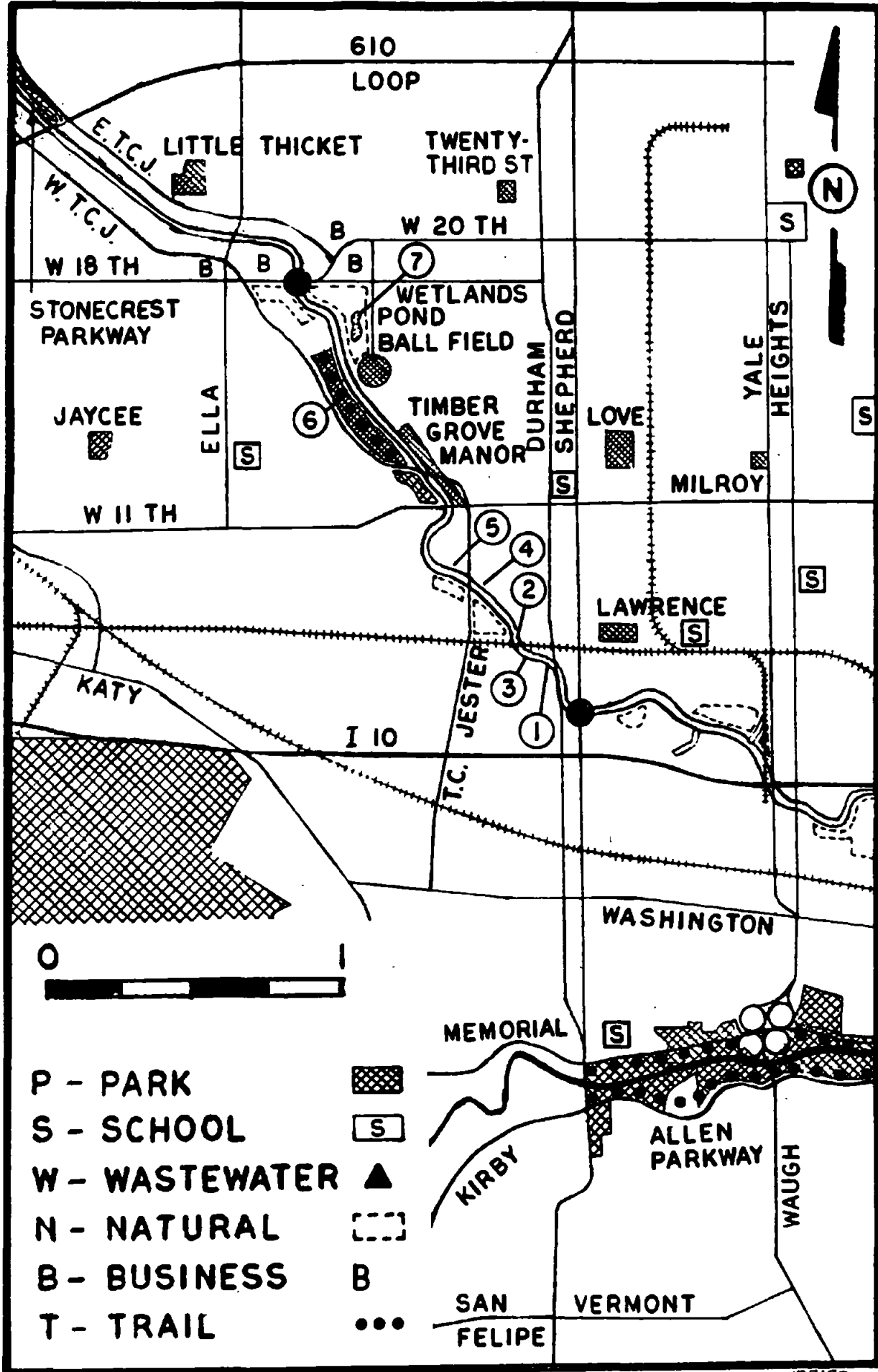
We meet again at Stude Park, but will travel west, upstream, through some unimproved stretches where we hope to see trails in the not too distant future. The bayou is channelized and concrete lined the whole way. At low flow, the trapezoidal design provides a nice flat surface about six feet wide that can be traveled easily by foot or by bike. The bayou right of way can be somewhat narrow in some places, but not so narrow as to prohibit travel. This is prime wildflower territory with blooms lasting well into the summer.

As we leave Stude Park, we walk down a steep incline down to the bayou's edge. The bank is enjoyed by children who like to slide down on pieces of cardboard. It is also a place to watch for fireants. The bayou makes a sharp turn here and goes underneath Studewood, then a railroad bridge, and then I-10. To our right is the freeway and to our left are several commercial warehouses. One hears the busy traffic, but at the bayou's low elevation, only the trees and flowing water can be seen. Just before we reach the Heights Blvd. bridge (1), we pass an old cemetery at the top of the opposite bank. Now overgrown and deteriorated we can see very little from this distance. It is at this juncture that one realizes the Buffalo Bayou trail system is only a few blocks away. Many feel that a bike route connecting the proposed White Oak Bayou trail system from Heights Blvd. to Buffalo Bayou would be a natural link allowing great ease of access for bike transportation. The Houston Heights Association is planning for a project to restore the Heights Blvd. bridge over White Oak Bayou to its historical glory complete with period design lighting. Other projects undertaken by the Houston Heights Association that border White Oak Bayou and its access routes include tree plantings on Heights Blvd., Shepherd/Durham, and Yale Street. The Greater Heights Area Chamber of Commerce has developed a master plan that calls for hike and bike trails running next to the Nicholson Street railroad easement. This proposed trails system will connect from IH-610 through the Heights Main Street improvement district up to 7th Street at the edge of White Oak Bayou, and is a natural connection to the proposed bayou trail. The Nicholson hike and bike trail plans include a boulevard, street improvements, and trolley car.

As we cross underneath Heights Blvd. and Yale, we approach a small stream entering the bayou which obstructs easy travel (2). The water is usually low, and today we wore our boots, so we make it to the other side with only a little mud to show for it. (It's only the adults that flinch at these obstructions, kids approach them handily.) Just beyond the stream is a small thicket that has been used as a dumping ground (3). The property is heavily wooded with a steep bank leading up to the Heights West neighborhoods. This pocket of woodland habitat supports a variety of wildlife including squirrel, racoon, rabbits, opossum, kestrel (sparrow hawk), and redheaded woodpeckers (flickers). Though this setting has been misused as a dumping ground, many of the aspects of its unkept condition actually promote wildlife. Scientists are learning more about the significant role that dead, rotting trees and underbrush play in maintaining the balance required for the survival of a diverse wildlife population.

Back into the open space, the right-of-way widens and the berm of the bank looks more like a tall hill with a ravine running on one side and the bayou on the other. Down in the ravine, a variety of vegetation has taken hold. As we near Shepherd Avenue, the bayou right-of-way narrows and an industrial neighborhood becomes more visible. We end our walk at Southwestern Camera Company (4) where White Oak Bayou crosses underneath Shepherd.

SECTION 3



Section Three: Shepherd to 18th Street

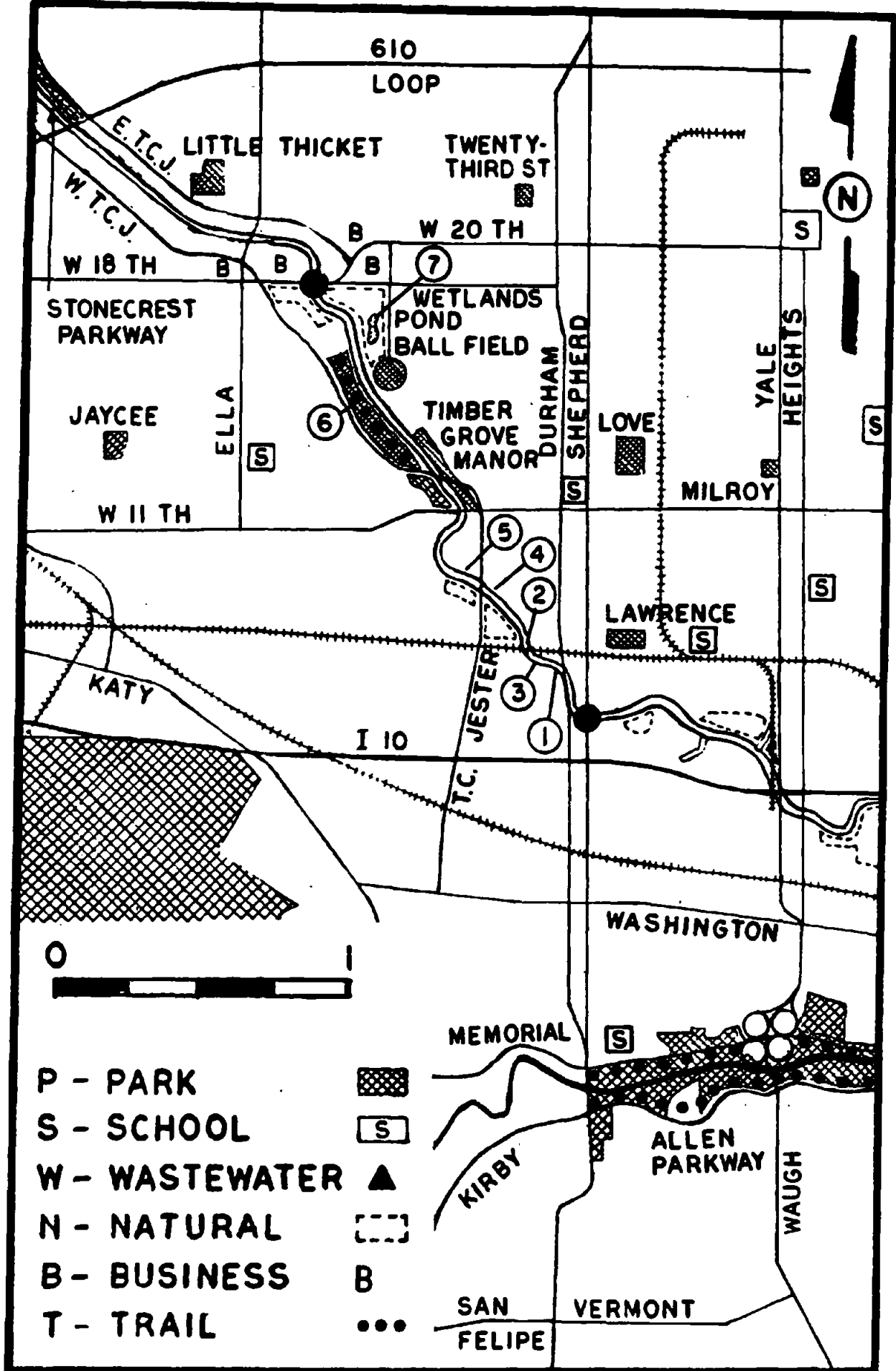
We begin our walk at the parking lot of Southwestern Camera Company just north of White Oak Bayou & I-10. Bus service is available at Shepherd with easy access to the bayou. Cross underneath the old Lowell Street bridge (built 1929) at Shepherd and continue upstream. The best view is from the top of the bank. Only one obstruction is near Durham where a small outfall enters the bayou (1). As we head northwest, we approach an old railroad bridge (2) that presents some incredible photo opportunities. Over the berm and down into the ravine one can find many varieties of wildflowers. Passage may be either underneath or over the railroad bridge. On the opposite bank is the Eureka Rail Yard (3). Further down, we cross a small stream flowing into the bayou from a grove of trees bordering a group of townhomes (4). Following the stream behind the townhomes leads into a small pond and more woods. Private property comes too close to the pond for public access to be feasible. The townhome management has done some landscaping along the bayou bank next to their property.

The next major street is TC Jester which we cross under. Several homeowners have built very close to the bayou easement and have, in some cases, encroached onto the HCFCD right of way (5). On the south bank is a gravel pit company with newly planted trees along the perimeter of their property. This would be a good place for wildflower plantings. Right next to the gravel pit is a large creek creating an obstruction to foot travel. An alternative trail on the south side of the bayou would require a bridge. Two other possibilities could be (a) build a fence prohibiting access to private property, or (b) a trail detour along T C Jester for the three blocks that private property encroaches on bayou right of way. For our walk, we'll follow the bayou all the way.

We are now approaching 11th Street where we will cross over to the south (west) side of the bank where the Timbergrove Manor Civic Club has constructed a jogging trail (6). While not suitable for bike traffic, the trail is enjoyed by many residents for jogging and walking and is considered a great asset to the community. This one mile looped trail runs from Bryce to Kury along West T C Jester. Timbergrove Manor Park is heavily wooded and a favorite birdwatching spot. As we approach the northern-most end of the loop, there are several apartment complexes and condominiums between the park and 18th Street; however, the bayou easement is wide enough to accommodate a trail segment behind the buildings.

When we reach 18th Street, we will cross over to the north (east) side. East T C Jester is separated from 18th to 11th Streets. In between is some remarkable acreage ranging from heavily wooded to grassy plains and wetlands. The woods border the wetlands in the center of the undeveloped property (7). To the extreme southeast of the property, a ballfield and field house are in place which were built and are now maintained by the Timbergrove Manor Civic Club. Parking space has been cleared and a road built up to the ballfield. Along the bayou's edge, Harris County Flood Control District maintains the berm by mowing, but maintenance seems to be concentrated on the bayou banks only, and does not extend into the wetlands or woods. A good bit of dumping has occurred on property near the 18th Street entrance where

SECTION 3

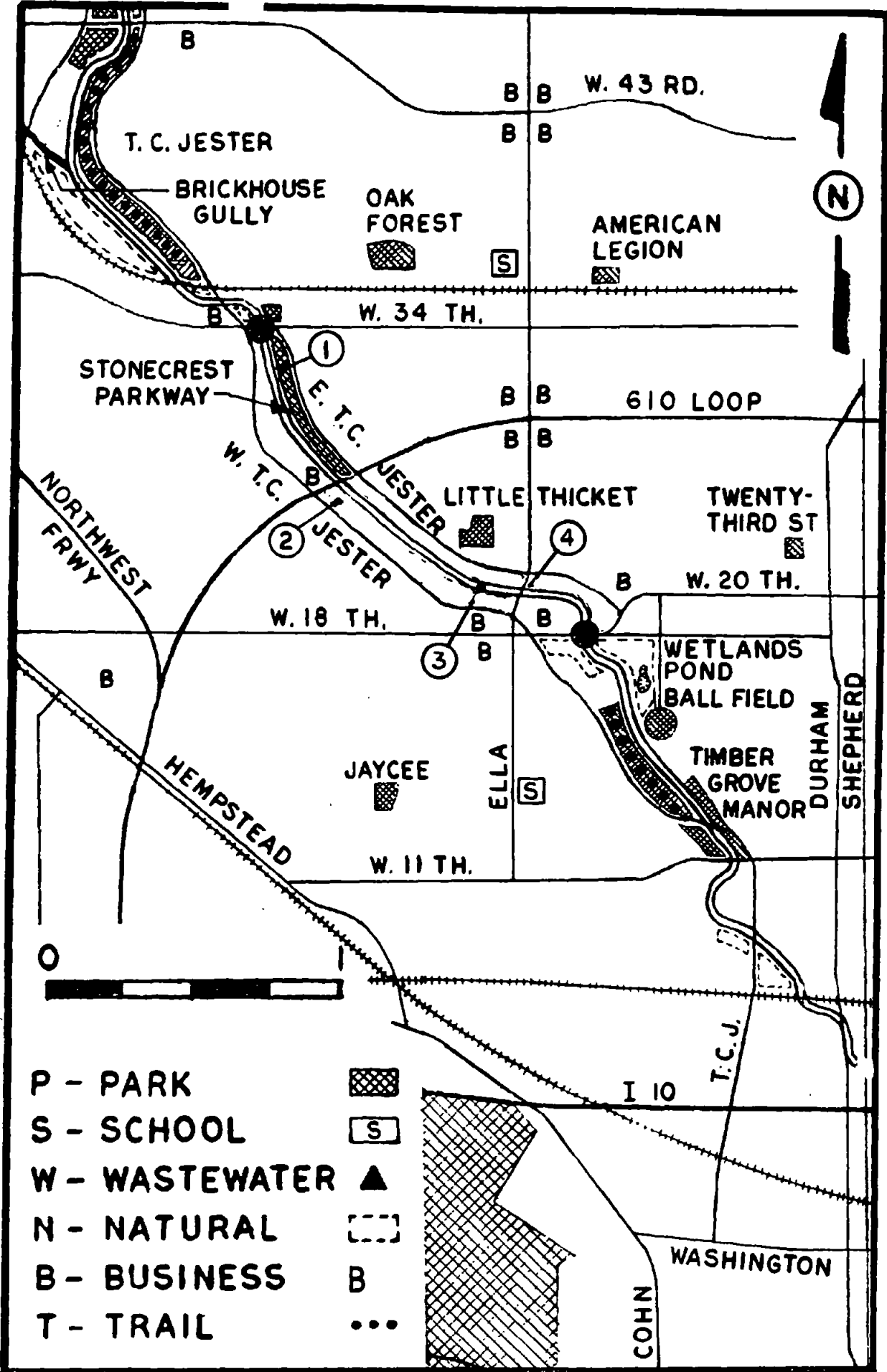


a dirt road leads into the property. Some transient activity is also evident. This section is owned by Harris County Flood Control District, the City of Houston, and private owners.

As we walk south into the woods and past the wetlands, we notice a field of meadow pink wildflowers, cattails, frog fruit, plantain, and plenty of aquatic vegetation and grassy reeds along the water's edge. The sounds are equally prolific. The call of the great blue heron, the clatter of kingfishers, the squeeks of the field mice, and baritone of the frogs make for a relaxing medley. A neighbor's little girl thinks this place is magical and that unicorns live in the woods. She's right about the magical.

With some wooden walking trails south through the wetlands, one could pass through to the opposite end to the ballfield. Without a trail or boots, you should go west to the bayou and follow the bayou's edge downstream. We are standing on a high berm which gives us a view of the ballfield and it's four diamond playing fields. Plenty of parking is available and there is room for expansion. Directly ahead is a portion of Timbergrove Manor Park where we approach the south end of East T C Jester.

SECTION 4



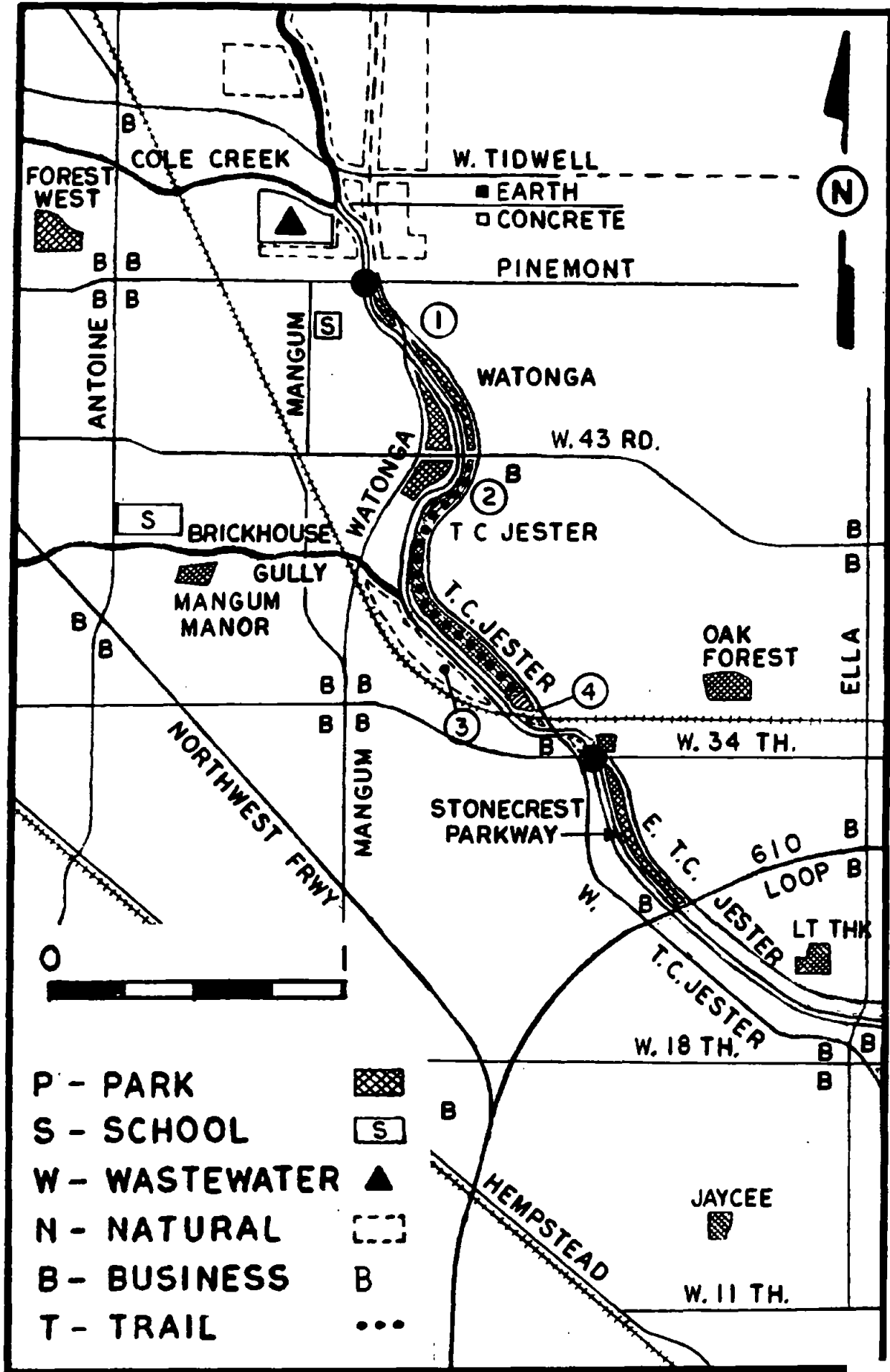
Section Four: 18th Street to 34th Street

We will start on the north bank (east side) of the bayou at the 34th Street bridge. Heading downstream through the Stonecrest Parkway, we walk between the bayou and East T. C. Jester Boulevard along the wide grassy bank bordered by several groves of large trees (1). Possible improvements could include hike and bike trails through the grassy open land, exercise stations near access points, and picnic sites among the shady trees.

At Loop 610, we will cross underneath the freeway to the west side of the bayou and continue downstream towards Ella Boulevard. The south side of the bank is graced by newly planted trees (2) which help soften the stark cleared quality of this intersection. Just 500 feet (150m) before you reach Ella Boulevard, notice the large crack across the paved bottom. This crack (3) is caused by the Eureka Heights Fault. (An interesting side trip is gained by following this fault in either direction to see the damage this geologic feature has caused in the neighborhoods.) Back on track, we follow the bayou to the east and walk underneath Ella Boulevard (4) which runs north and south. Notice how easy it is to travel on the flat section of the concrete apron under the bridge. This bridge is the standard we should encourage. Continue walking along the rear of the shopping centers to 18th Street.

The shopping center at 18th and Ella is a good place to break, or begin a new trip as plenty of parking is available. There are several restaurants in the neighborhood to choose from, as well as grocery and convenience stores, K-Mart, flower shop, and many more shopping opportunities.

SECTION 5

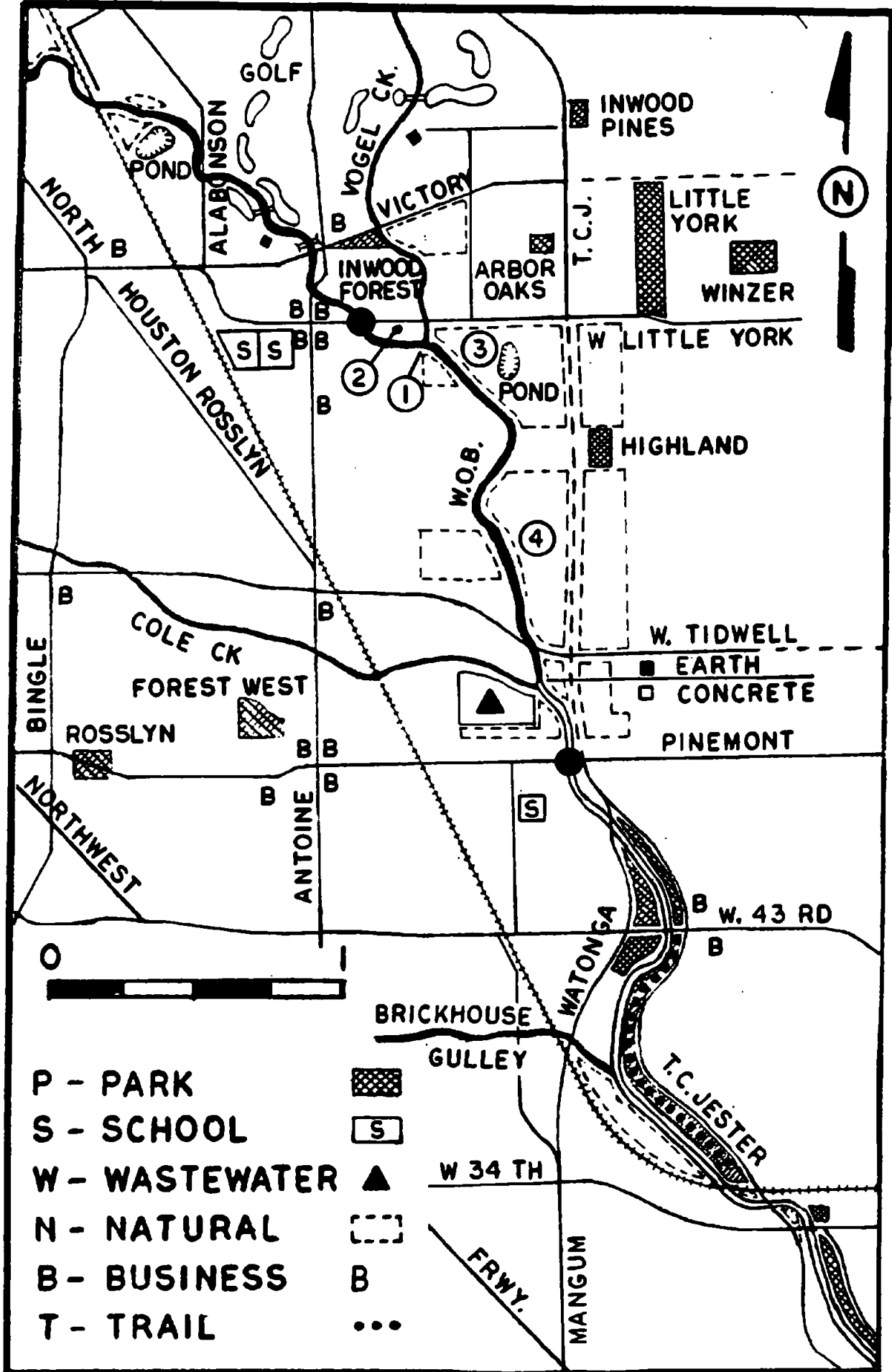


Section Five: 34th Street to Pinemont Street

White Oak Bayou makes an S curve running almost directly north and south in this section. Watonga Park is on the west side of the bayou where we find picnic tables and softball fields; T C Jester Park is on the east side which is less developed but has ample room for a trail extension.

We will begin our walk on the south (west) side of the bayou and walk east through Watonga Park (1). This park is located on both sides of the bayou and is heavily used by residents. When we reach West 43rd Street, we will cross over the bridge to the north (east) side (2) and follow the compacted gravel trail which extends one mile to the Fort Worth & Denver railcrossing just north of West 34th Street. The jogging trail passes through a pine forest, past a public swimming pool, and along a softball field. Brickhouse Gully enters the bayou on the south bank (obstructing travel on that side). It flows several miles from the west, almost from Gessner. Many west Houston neighborhoods drain into White Oak Bayou from this concrete lined tributary. As we reach the end of the trail, we approach the railroad bridge. We will cross underneath the bridge at bayou level (3). As we look upstream across the bayou on the south bank where the tracks curve northward, we notice a small wooded pocket of land isolated by the train tracks and the bayou. These little pockets along the water's edge provide cover for wildlife traveling the bayou corridor. On the east side is a wooded triangular parcel that could be added to T C Jester Park. The land south of the railroad (4) is vacant on both sides of the bayou and could be added to the park as developed as developed land for playgrounds, ballfields, and picnic sites south to West 34th Street. Fast food is available here if anyone needs a break.

SECTION 6



Section Six: Pinemont to W. Little York

We'll start this walk at the Little York bridge on the south bank of White Oak Bayou, just one block east of Antoine Street. Parking is available at the shopping center next to the bayou.

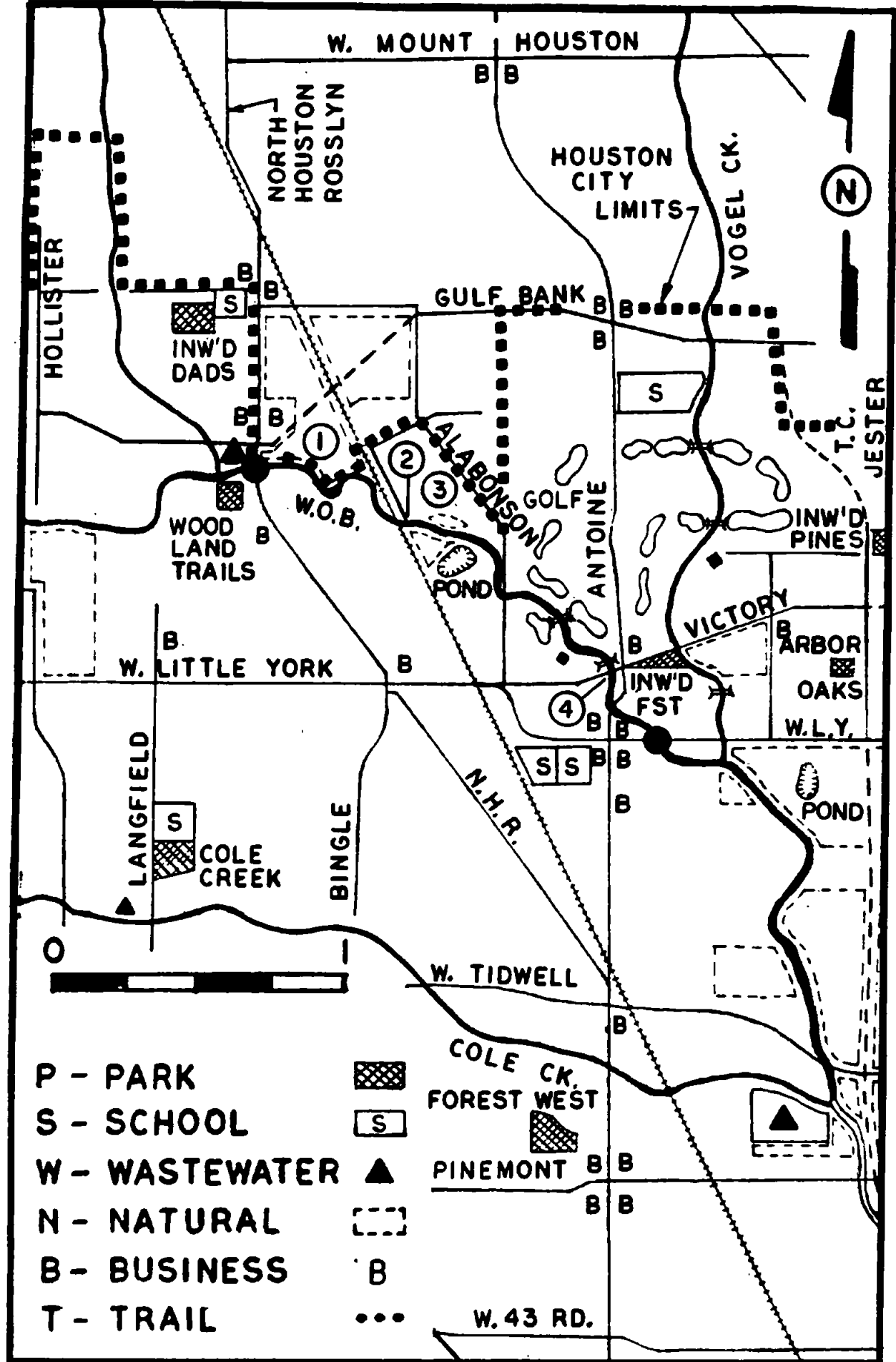
As we walk along the south bank of the bayou to the rear of the shopping center heading downstream we come upon a wooded natural area next to the confluence of Vogel Creek. The intersection of Vogel Creek and White Oak Bayou (1) is one of the more scenic spots with natural banks and woods on all sides. A favorite fishing hole, anglers have been known to catch catfish often, and bass rarely. It's also a chronic flooding problem. As the creek swells, it enters White Oak Bayou at a 90 degree angle. Street flooding in the neighborhood further compounds the problem as inadequate storm sewer outfalls cannot move the water into the channel fast enough. Harris County Flood Control is now moving forward with plans to channelize and concrete line the reach from Cole Creek up to N. Houston Rosslyn. (See Appendix A) If this severe solution to flood control is implemented, the natural beauty and value to surrounding neighborhoods and property owners will be permanently degraded. Candlelight Bible Church (2) is located on the northwest corner of the Vogel Creek confluence. They enjoy a shady wooded lot with a variety of large oak, ash, and pecan trees. Future development plans should consider the value that these trees add to their property and the surrounding lands.

As we meander downstream, we enjoy the natural banks of the bayou. Plenty of waterfowl can be noticed, including several wood ducks and their offspring. Hidden in the center of the woods on the opposite north bank is a pond (3) visible only from the air. WOBA encourages developers of private property such as this to incorporate the natural characteristics of the property along the bayou into land use planning. Often, green open space, woodlands, and wetlands can compliment office parks or housing development when preserved as a natural feature for wildlife and recreational use. Developed property bordering lands with natural beauty enjoys a premium in value, particularly when located in an urban setting.

Coming up on our right is a large apartment complex and the back yards of a residential subdivision. We pass easily underneath the West Tidwell bridge and continue to Cole Creek which enters White Oak Bayou from the south bank to the west. (The West Tidwell bridge design is quite compatible with trails additions.) At Cole Creek, the earthen channel gives way to the trapezoidal concrete-lined bayou. Cole Creek is a difficult crossing that could be greatly improved with the installation of stepping blocks in the paved channel. It is usually wet and slippery, but is passable. If the water is high, it may be necessary to walk along the top of the bank to Antoine and cross to the opposite side and return to the main channel. A very large wastewater treatment facility (enlarged only recently) is on the south bank of Cole Creek. The concrete lining extends from this point 10.7 miles downstream to Hogg Park at the intersection of I-10 and I-45 near downtown.

We could end our walk at Pinemont, or we could cross over the Pinemont bridge to the north bank (east side) and follow the bayou back along the wood's edge and take a few side trips for some exploration. These sizeable natural lands (4) on the north bank support an exciting variety of wildlife, including the occasional coyote. At Vogel Creek, head along the creek bank north to West Little York and go west to return to our starting point at the shopping center.

SECTION 7

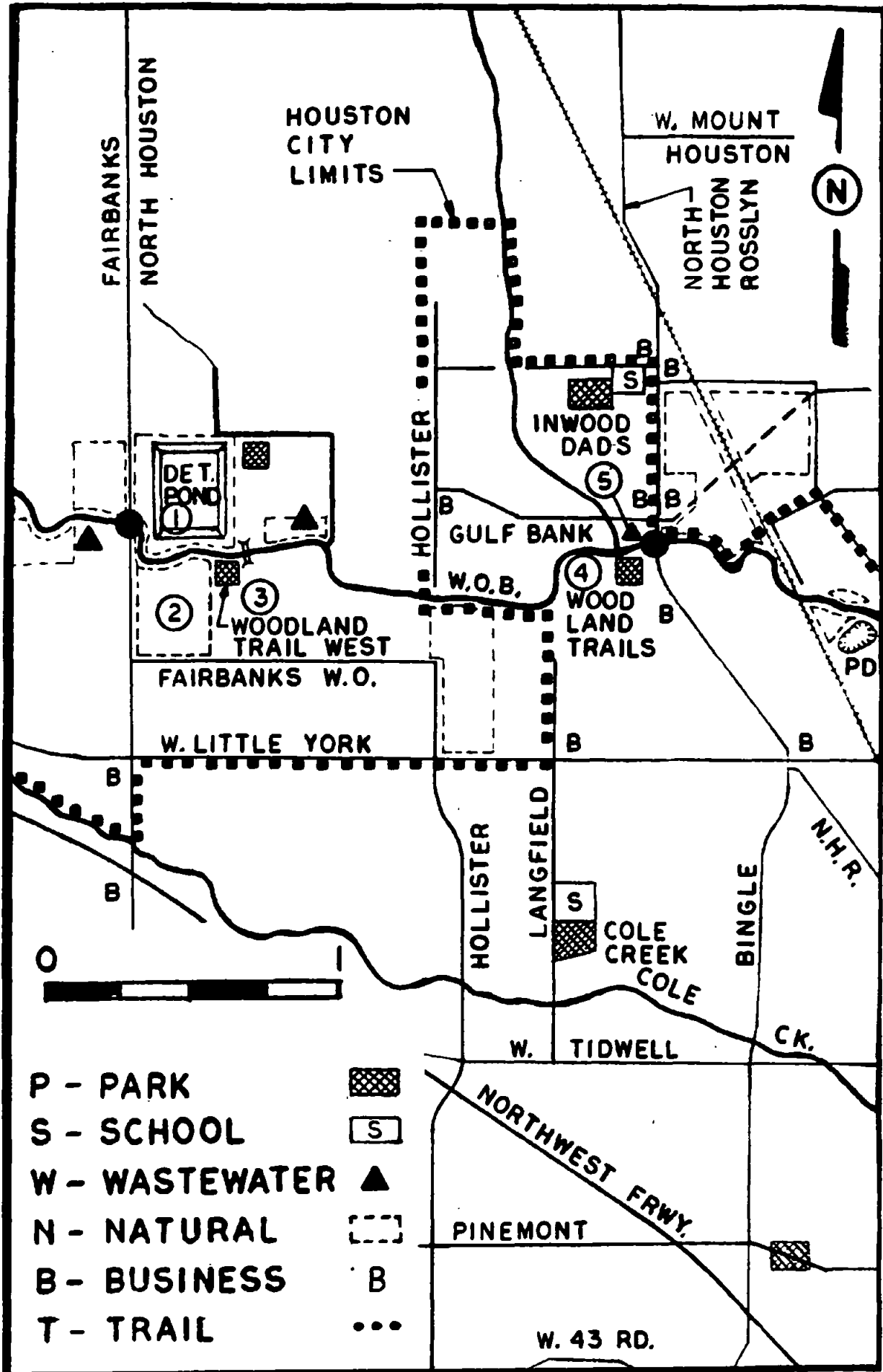


Section Seven: W. Little York to N. Houston Rosslyn

Parking is available on the north side of the bridge at the Apple Tree Grocery or the sewage treatment plant. We will begin our walk on the south bank of the bayou in the Chateau Forest subdivision. Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) has purchased the wooded property to the north of White Oak Bayou anticipating previous plans for detention ponds (1). [See Appendicies A & B.] Approximately 1.2 mi. (2 km) north on N. Houston Rosslyn the City of Houston Parks and Recreation Dept. has purchased property in the Inwood West community on W. Mount Houston for a city park to be developed by 1995.

As we approach the railroad bridge crossing, we will cross over the tracks to the north side and proceed east where we will find some interesting iron modules imbedded in the clay (2). Somewhere nearby is the site of a 1988 archaeological dig where evidence was unearthed of nomadic Indian tribes that once camped and hunted along the banks of the bayou. Some parking is available at Alabonson and White Oak Bayou (3). As we cross Alabonson, we come upon the Inwood Forest Golf Club. It is not known how pending channelization plans for this entire section will affect the golf course operations. Though it is legal to continue your walk along the bayou through the golf course, it would be courteous to the golfers, and safer to you, to take a detour south one block to Victory Drive (4), and then east three blocks to the Victory Drive bridge. We are now back to the bayou where we will travel through a busy commercial area with plenty of parking and most of the supplies and services one could hope for. Randall's (great coffee shop) is on the northeast corner of Antoine and Victory Drive. Many other eateries such as Burger King, Baskin-Robbins, Subway Sandwich are on the northwest corner of Antoine and Little York. McDonalds, and Wendy's are one block to the south at West Little York.

SECTION 8

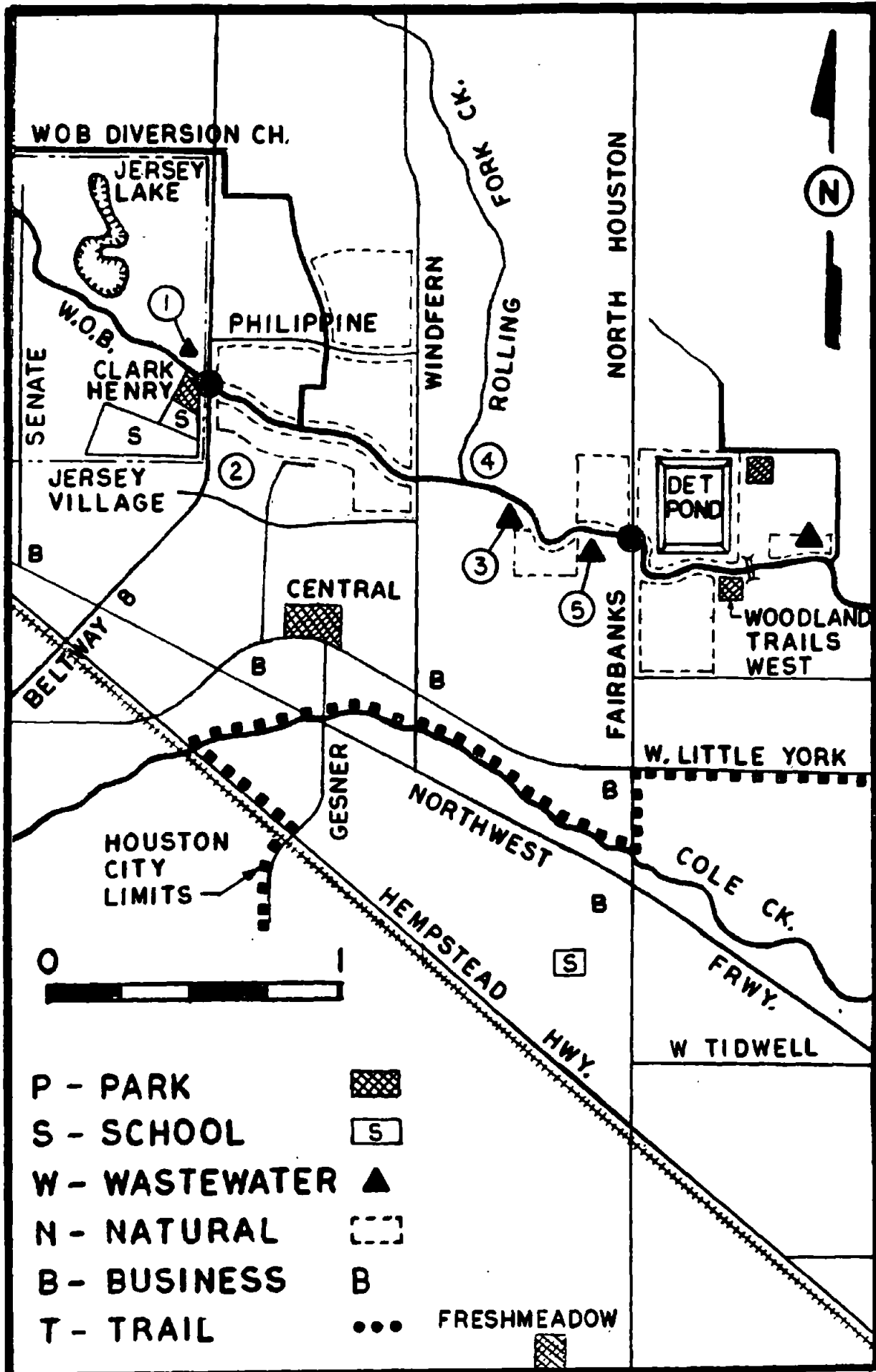


Section Eight: N. Houston Rosslyn to Fairbanks N. Houston

Limited parking is available on the south side of the bridge crossing White Oak Bayou. HCFCD has purchased eighty acres to the north and eighty acres to the south of White Oak Bayou at this juncture for detention pond development. The north side has been dug to a preliminary depth and currently gives one a good long view of that red Texas clay soil so prevalent in this area (1). Plans for detention pond development have been postponed indefinitely. For now, the removal of all topsoil on the north bank of the bayou has devastated the area allowing invasive vegetation to thrive. On the south side, a wetlands in the center of the property is ringed by some mature woodlands (2). (See Appendix B for a transcript of a field trip taken in March of 1990 with Steve Fitzgerald, Engineer for HCFCD, and members and friends of WOBA.)

We begin our walk by making the sharp turn to the south along the bayou. The mass of acreage provides excellent cover for a variety of wildlife and diverse vegetation, the means of survival in an otherwise urban environment. A little further down the bayou, we find a foot path leading into the center of the property. This bayou once meandered into the woods here, and we see evidence of that in a pond that was left behind when the bayou was realigned in the late 40's. Venturing further through the woods, we come across the wetlands to the center. Formerly a center of oil drilling, the locale shows some barren spots that could be due to salt water disposal. Some of the wooded perimeters are quite thick and difficult to travel.

Back from our side trip, we venture on downstream where we come onto a wooden foot bridge and the Woodland Trails West Park (a private subdivision park) (3). This well-kept park is nestled among a mature grove of trees with playground equipment and a small brook. Many residents use the park and the bayou for exercise and dog walking. We will walk a long stretch of the bayou that is heavily used by residents for walking and biking. As we end our walk, we approach another private Woodland Trails Park (4) which boasts a swimming pool. We are now near the North Houston Rosslyn road crossing where we find the City of Houston's White Oak Sewage Treatment Plant (5) to the north of the bayou.



Section Nine: Fairbanks N. Houston to Jersey Village (Beltway 8)

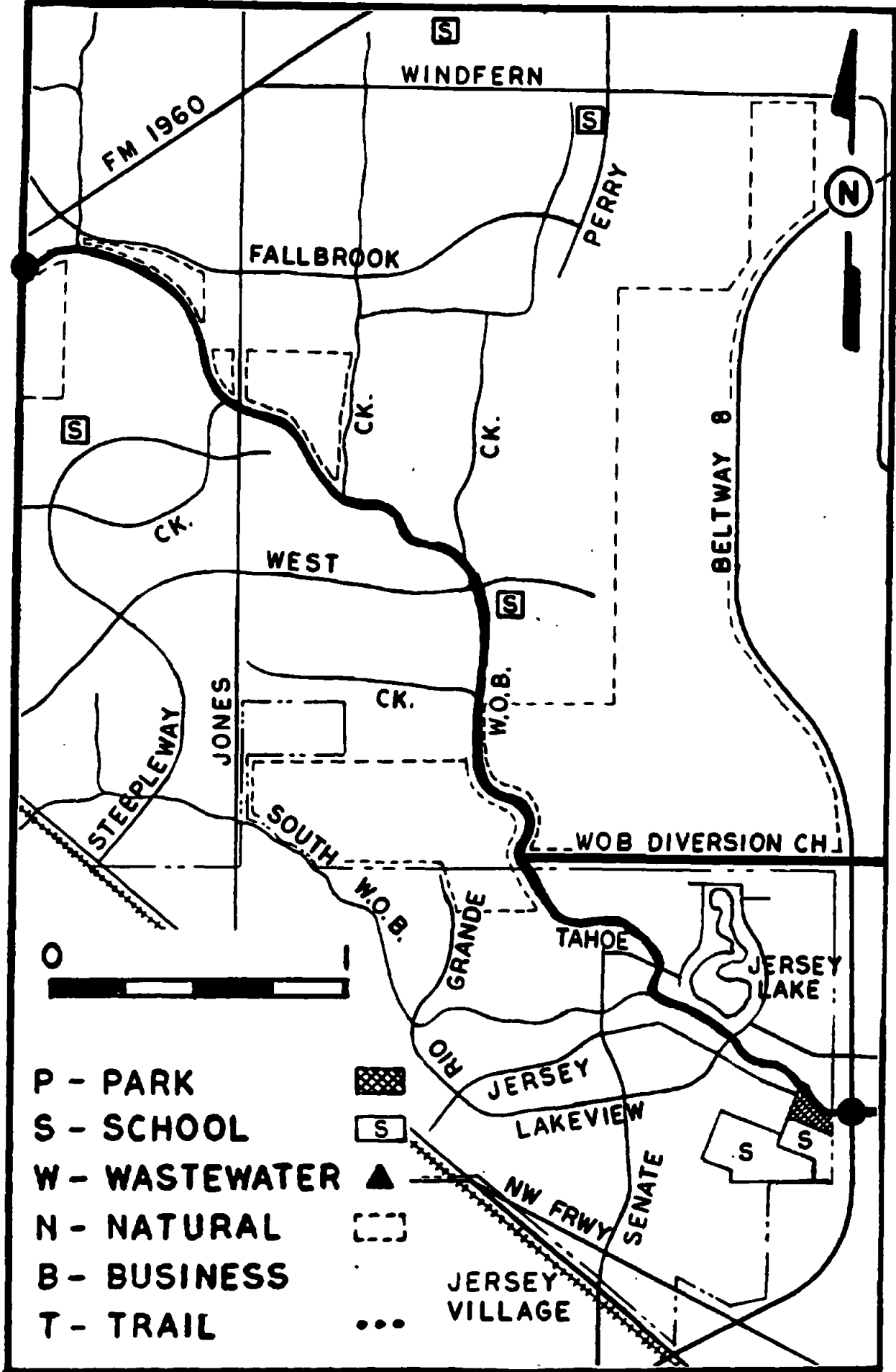
A good place to start your hike is at Jersey Village's Clark Henry Park. Leave your car at Jersey Village High School or Post Elementary School and walk downstream along the south bank of the bayou. The bank is not paved, but it is level and easy walking. The wastewater treatment plant (1) discharges treated water into the bayou.

The first obstruction will be the new Beltway Eight bridge. Unfortunately, no pedestrian underpass was incorporated into this new bridge, so it will be necessary to travel carefully under the bridge. Proceed downstream along the south bank where a wide range of native trees and shrubs support a wide variety of wildlife, and plenty of nature study opportunities (2). These woods contain numerous paths for short side trips.

At Windfern Road, you will pass under the bridge and continue downstream. The trail passes along the rear of a mobil home park that has its own sewage treatment plant (3) which discharges into the bayou. The Rolling Fork tributary joins the White Oak Bayou from the north (4). Residents living along Rolling Fork Creek have envisioned hike and bike trails along this tributary connecting to the trails along the full length of White Oak Bayou we promote in our long-range plans. As development in this neck of the woods resumes, it is our hope that land use planning include parks expansion and wildlife and wetland preserves. As noted previously, an economic premium is associated with residential and commercial development that integrates the natural beauty of the lands into the land use planning. Quality of life is not confined within the walls of the structures of a development. People are demanding more from their environments, both interior and exterior.

As we head downstream, we pass sizable undeveloped acreage and another sewage treatment plant (5). The unincorporated parts of Harris County have numerous Municipal Utility Districts (MUDs) that were formed to serve public works and utility needs of subdivision developments not served by the City of Houston. Each district has its own charter, governing board, and scope of services. Nonetheless, they all discharge treated effluent into White Oak Bayou. High volumes of chlorine-treated water are sometimes discharged into White Oak Bayou. Too much chlorine can cause fish kills. Cumulative discharges from all treatment plants should be monitored and regulated to maintain water quality in the bayou if aquatic life is to survive.

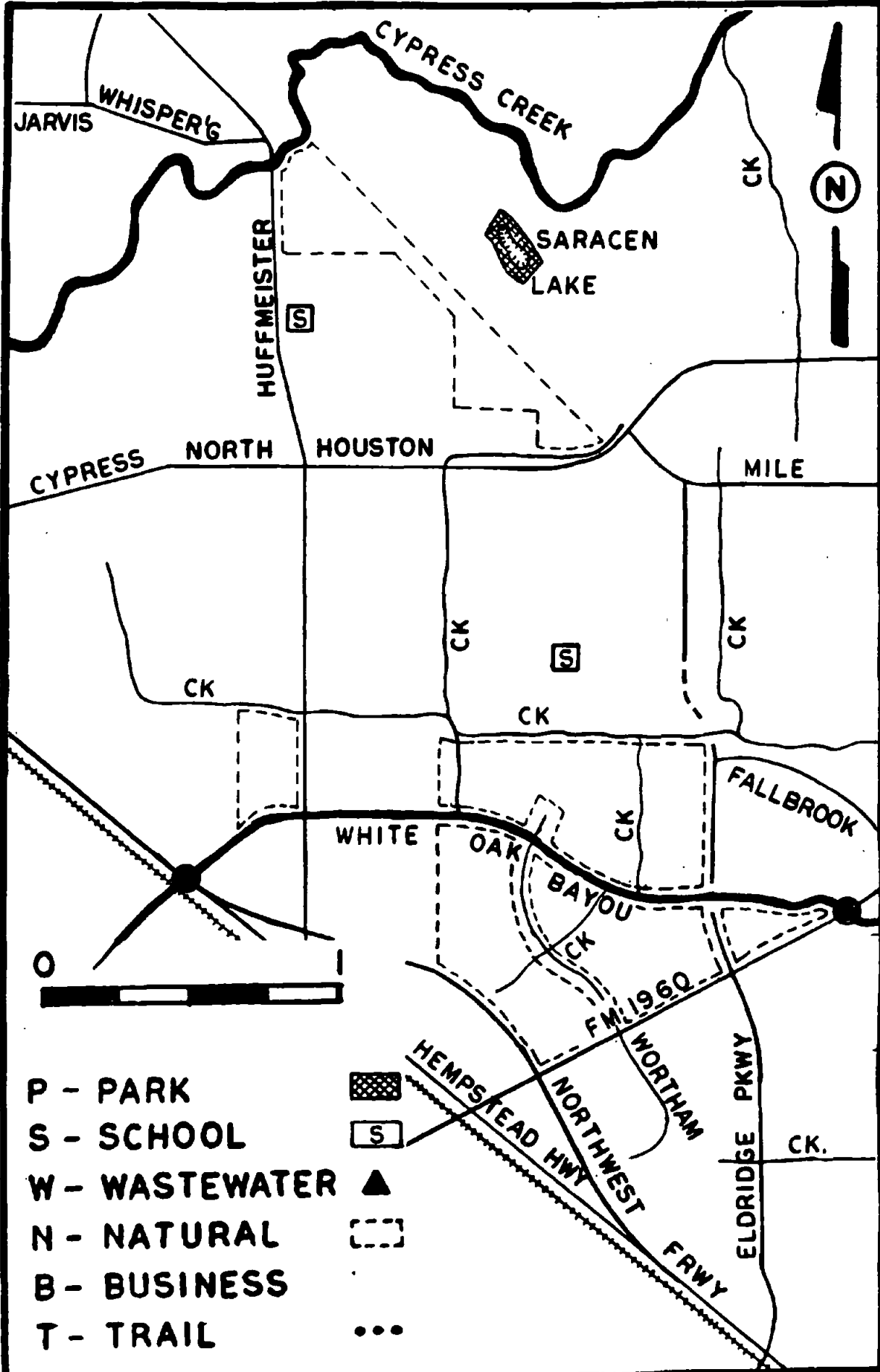
SECTION 10



Section Ten: Jersey Village (Beltway 8) to FM 1960

The descriptive text for this section has not yet been completed. If you know the area and would like to contribute a description, please write the White Oak Bayou Association.

SECTION II



- P - PARK
- S - SCHOOL
- W - WASTEWATER
- N - NATURAL
- B - BUSINESS
- T - TRAIL

Section Eleven: FM 1960 to Hempstead Highway

The descriptive text for this section has not yet been completed. If you know the area and would like to contribute a description, please write the White Oak Bayou Association.

WHITE OAK BAYOU RESOURCE INVENTORY

Appendix

Latest Flood Control Plans for White Oak Bayou proposed by Harris County Flood Control District as of December 12, 1990	A
Detention Pond Field Trip (March 31, 1990)	B
White Oak Bayou Association Projects (January, 1991)	C
METRO Bus Routes in the White Oak Bayou Watershed	D
Membership Application	E

Appendix A

Harris County Flood Control District

Latest Flood Control Plans for White Oak Bayou as of December 12, 1990

The White Oak Bayou Regional Detention Plan, which originally recommended a combination of channel improvements and detention ponds, is currently being re-studied and updated. Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) plans to have the study complete by the end of 1991. Until that time, the District will be undertaking two channelization projects on White Oak Bayou. Additional work on the channel or on detention ponds will wait until the revision of the Regional Plan. The two projects currently underway are:

- 1) Allen's Landing - The first 800 feet of White Oak Bayou at Buffalo Bayou near Main Street Downtown will be widened and deepened to increase the capacity of the channel. The first phase, to begin construction in April 1991 will include flood control improvements with park improvements such as plantings, trails, irrigation and lighting intended to follow in a later phase.

The lower portion of the bayou banks will be four continuous concrete terraces stepping up from the water's edge. These will enhance the flood carrying capacity and provide pedestrian access to the bayou edge. Canoe launches will be included on each side of the bayou. Some trails will be included on each side of the bayou. Some trails will be included in the first phase, particularly those along the water edge and connecting to the Harris County Jail Waterfront Park. Upper portions of the bayou banks will be grass. Approximately \$3 million is estimated for the flood control portion of the work while about \$800,000 is estimated for the second phase park improvements. Due to constraints of their authorizing legislation, HCFCD cannot implement the park improvements, so other public and/or private funding must be secured.

- 2) Cole Creek to N. Houston Rosslyn - This 2 1/2 mile stretch (see Sections 6 and 7 of this inventory) will be concrete lined. HCFCD is faced with the problems of a narrow right-of-way and loose sandy soils. With a goal of lowering flood elevations by 3-4 feet, it is the opinion of HCFCD that the only solution for reducing the flood hazard in the Arbor Oaks/Inwood Forest subdivisions is to channelize this section of White Oak Bayou. Work is also planned to widen and concrete line Vogel Creek which empties into White Oak Bayou near W. Little York and T.C. Jester. HCFCD is also working with City of Houston Storm Sewer Department of Public Utilities to address deficiencies in storm sewer systems in Arbor Oaks. The City has conditionally agreed to jointly fund future systems where flood impact occurs. Design of outfalls entering the channel will be improved for better drainage from neighborhoods. Agency approval for the channelization is expected by March 1st; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers approval is expected by April 1. Roughly \$9 million is estimated for the project. Work could begin as soon as late summer 1991.

Appendix B

DETENTION POND FIELD TRIP

March 31, 1990

Steve Fitzgerald, Engineer for Harris County Flood Control District led the walk beginning at a park in Woodland Trails West. The group stopped at the wooden bridge crossing White Oak Bayou to hear the status of the 1984 Regional Flood Control Plan for White Oak Bayou.

Due to problems with HCFCD financing, new director, Art Storey, put a hold on all projects pending reevaluation. Negotiations with a new consultant are underway to revise the construction plans. The new plan will accommodate anticipated development upstream along the new extension of Highway 290 and 1960 neighborhoods. Fees are now levied on new development at the rate of \$3,000 per acre to help finance flood control measures. With the recent downturn in the economy, these fees had not met with over-optimistic projections. This should change. Work on Cole Creek is expected to be bid by late summer with work at Allen's Landing to be completed prior to Cole Creek construction and other upstream channelization. Steve is concerned that the sandy banks will not hold without concrete lining of the improved channels. Concrete lining is planned for the lower cross-section of the bayou up to about eight feet from the bottom of the channel. The bayou itself will be deepened by six feet and widened. The concrete will be in a trapezoidal configuration that will not be as high as the lower 10 mile portion of White Oak Bayou, but will be visible. Steve feels that this will keep the slope from failing. Bio-engineering was rejected as an alternative because of lack of sufficient right-of-way to accommodate the brush. The original plan called for concrete only along the bends. The plans now in progress call for concrete along all areas with the sand layer. This condition extends from North Houston Rosslyn downstream, but is spotted and is not found in the entire 10 mile stretch. The worst part is between Tidwell up to Vogel. A lot of riprap previously used is now in the bottom of the channel owing to erosion.

The detention ponds are designed as temporary holding ponds for flood stage only. The storage capacity will be available when it's needed the most. Two side-channel weirs will be built at the detention pond site. The structure will be approximately 200 feet across and operates without mechanical intervention. The ponds will catch some debris and pollution, but will not get it all. This means less trash goes downstream, but it also means the detention pond sites need to be cleaned as well.

The group walked into the detention pond that had been excavate to a preliminary depth in 1989. The contractor removed the soil for use in building toll roads, but also removed all of the top soil. Steve tells us that the contractor was supposed to leave some of the top soil for later use once the pond had been excavated to its final depth. A different contractor will be used in future work and top soil will be left to use in restoring the area after excavation. The dirt was given to the Highway Department in exchange for the excavation work. During the past two years, the County has saved approximately \$10MM by exchanging dirt for work.

The Highway Department has built lateral detention pond control structures at Jersey Village to accommodate excess run-off from the Tollway. Detention has been used on White Oak for many years to allow for new development.

The edge of the detention pond site was cleared of trees - and all for nothing. Amoco held a pipeline right-of-way and had intended to move the line. However,

after the area was cleared in preparation for this work, Amoco made the decision to abandon the pipeline. A lot of residents were very upset over the clearing. Woodland Trails West residents are concerned not only because some valuable trees were destroyed, the cleared area provided access to burglars. HCFCD put up signs and barriers to prohibit access by unauthorized persons. The ultimate depth of the pond will be reached after the channel is deepened. A buffer zone with trails and other amenities are anticipated around the edge of the pond. Gulfbank will be extended through the south side of the pond.

Steve has visited other areas that have used detention ponds for alternative purposes. Some of the recreational uses explored included baseball and soccer playing fields, camping, skateboarding. Baytown has completed an 11-acre detention pond with amenities. The one being viewed is around 80 acres on each side. WOBA had proposed transplanting trees to appropriate areas where they would be destroyed. The edge where clearing was done unnecessarily would be ideal for transplanting. The control structure is planned to be a rough aggregate texture to discourage dangerous skateboard and bike use.

Jim Pulliam said that there didn't seem to be any communication between the county and the city, that they seemed to be fighting each other. Steve told that they worked together quite well from planning stage forward. Mary Gillete said that pressure should be put on The Park People to help expand our park lands using the detention pond sites. Any effort will have to be a joint effort with City and County, and probably private resources.

The discussion returned to a design which would be attractive and accommodate recreational amenities. Coordination is needed between park builders and flood control to allow for phasing of projects. For example, permanent structure such as restrooms and parking can be installed prior to full completion if built where excavation is not needed. Ballfields work well for ponds because they drain immediately following flooding. Wildflowers can be planted along completed slopes to aid soil stabilization. Topsoil would be replaced to allow for future plantings. Brown and Root will respect and comply with instructions to leave topsoil for reforestation. Excess soil from the bottom of the bayou could also be used as it is very rich topsoil and would help revegetate for erosion control. Composting could also help add to topsoil volume.

The walk proceeded to the north side of the bayou not yet excavated. Heavily wooded land borders a wetlands in the center. A pond remains where the bayou ran prior to realignment in the late 40's or early 50's. Some of the woods are too thick to travel through easily and have not been surveyed by HCFCD. Steve provided WOBA a map of the site which identifies individual trees of size. As many trees will be saved as possible. Oil drilling occurred in the past and some spots are barren of vegetation owing possibly to salt water disposal. Mature trees are located around former homesteads on the perimeter. The wetlands area is adjacent to the private park. Jim Patterson emphasized the need to save wooded habitats rather than isolated individual trees. An island in the center of the pond could provide a preserve for wildlife. WOBA could help in the project by assisting in identification of areas and trees that need to be saved.

Appendix C

WHITE OAK BAYOU ASSOCIATION

PROJECTS

January, 1991

Trails Expansion - WOBA has secured commitments from City and County for a trail link from Downtown (Main Street) all the way up to Timbergrove Manor (11th Street and T C Jester Blvd). Contributions are being solicited from anyone who supports park expansion through recreational trails. Contact Jim Patterson at 683-6546 (planning) or Jeff Priddle (finance) at 688-0510 for more information.

Fish-off - A fishing contest is held in April each year. Urban anglers of all ages are invited to compete for prizes donated by area business by fishing White Oak Bayou. In 1990, our contest should be bigger and better than ever with team competition, and bigger and better prizes! Contact Teresa Matlock 864-3008 to get in on the fun.

Wetlands Preservation - Upon discovering a pocket of wetlands in E. Timbergrove Manor inside Loop 610, ten wood duck boxes supplied by Texas Parks & Wildlife were installed on October 27th. A November 11th Wetlands Conference/Field Trip followed which brought naturalists experts and community groups together who are interested in adding this open space to our park system. Contact Lynda Smith at 869-7464 for more information.

Tree Plantings - The City Parks Dept. has donated thirty live oak trees for a 1991 tree planting project at Victory Drive in Inwood Forest. This esplanade serves as a detour and bike route for joggers and bikers around the Inwood Golf Course. Volunteers will be needed. Contact Gerald Bacus at 931-1879 to sign up.

Clean-ups - The association is committed to maintenance of our bayou's natural resources. Held in the Spring and Fall of every year, each clean-up will focus on areas if particular need or that is associated with a park site. Refreshments are provided for all volunteers. {WOBA cleans up areas are recommended by members and friends.} Contact Teresa Matlock at 864-3008 to volunteer.

Recycle for Trails - As a way to encourage recycling and raise money for our trails expansion projects, we are asking citizens to donate recyclable materials to our Trails Fund at local recycling establishments. Construction site recycling has become more rewarding for our project. Contact Margaret Kallsen at 869-0820 to get involved.

1990-91 President: Jim Pulliam 448-6626

Appendix D

METRO

Bus Service in the White Oak Bayou Watershed

Local (lots of stops) and Limited (few stops) Bus Routes:

* 85 - Antoine (local): Crosses White Oak Bayou (WOB) at Antoine and W. Little York/Victory Drive. Runs from Inwood Forest to Downtown via Antoine - Hempstead Highway - Washington Avenue. Tidwell Branch connects to US 290 via W. Tidwell.

* 79 - W. Little York (limited): Crosses WOB at Antoine and W. Little York. Runs east-west from western terminus at Antoine to the I-45 North Transitway, and then north-south into Downtown at Preston and Travis, three blocks from Allen's Landing.

* 40 - Pecore (local): Crosses WOB at three locations - Ella Blvd. between E. 18th and T C Jester, 11th Street and T C Jester, and again at Houston Avenue and White Oak Parkway. The route runs from N. Shepherd and Donovan (north of North Loop 610) along Pinemont to Ella Blvd., north-south to W. 11th Street, along W. 11th Street and through the Woodland Heights neighborhood east-west to Houston Avenue, north-south on Houston Avenue to Washington Avenue and east-west to Downtown at Main and Capitol Streets. This is a well-traveled bus route with Sat-Sun service. A Northwest Mall Branch connects to the mall and the Northwest Transit Center. Bus runs every 20-30 minutes at most locations.

* 89 - Yale (local): Crosses WOB at Taylor Street, Hogan Street, and N. Main Street (near Allen's Landing and UH Downtown). Runs north-south from Bluebell near W. Mt. Houston to Downtown via Vets Memorial Hwy., N. Shepherd Dr., Yale, Studewood, Usener, Taylor, Crockett, and N. Main to Gray and LaBranch.

Crosstown Bus Routes connecting to White Oak Bayou

* 26 27 - Outer Loop/Inner Loop Crosstown (local): Crosses WOB at Shepherd and Durham near I-10. Route 26 loops counter clockwise from its northwest quadrant at West 20th and Durham north-south along Durham, Shepherd to Greenbriar and Holcombe Blvd.; east-west along Holcombe and Old Spanish Trail to Telephone Road; north-south along Wayside Dr., Lathrop, Market, and Lockwood to Cavalcade; and east-west back on Cavalcade to West 20th and Durham.

* 34 - Montrose Crosstown (local): Crosses WOB at Heights Blvd. and stops at the corner of Studewood and Usener, within one block of Stude Park. Runs from a point south of the Texas Medical Center at Galen and Main Street northeast to Montrose and Main Street, north on Montrose, west on West Gray, north on Waugh Dr./Heights Blvd., east on White Oak Drive, north on Studewood, east on Cavalcade looping at Enid, Link, and Airline at the Northeast end of the route.

Appendix E

CALLING ALL CITIZENS

HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Watch for fish kills and water or ground pollution in or near the bayou and report these problems by calling the governmental entities listed below. Pollution can be caused by visible dumping or spills, or from non-point (unidentified) source contamination. Contact as many agency representatives as you can to ensure that proper action and follow-up occurs. Your personal involvement can make all the difference in the quality of water in our bayous.

Federal:

Environmental Protection Agency Spill/Emergency Response	1-800-424-8802
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State:

Texas Water Commission	479-5981
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Texas Parks & Wildlife	474-2811
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Seabrook Regional Office (includes Harris Co.)

State Health Department	995-1112
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County:

Harris County Pollution Control	920-2831 24-hours
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City:

City of Houston Health Department	640-4278
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City of Houston Public Health Engineering	
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Water Pollution Control Division	640-4399
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Most of the lands along the banks of our bayous are maintained by Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCFCD). Citizens need to let them know when and where there is a problem.

HCFCFCD Maintenance	684-4024
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Sarah Selman can assist you in reporting observed maintenance problems such as dumping, erosion, or snags in the bayou. She will also get back with an answer for you on the action taken.

PLEASE JOIN WOBA

The White Oak Bayou Association needs your help. Membership and citizens' participation is the very lifeblood of a grass roots organization. Founded on the principles of conservation and fueled by the efforts of volunteers, WOBA functions to a level made possible by our members. If you have experienced a problem in your neighborhood or if you envision a particular improvement or restoration project, join our efforts and share the burden. So often, a problem can be much easier to solve when addressed within an organizational structure. The White Oak Bayou Association has developed a very positive and respected reputation since our founding in 1988. Don't just go with the flow, join WOBA today and work with us towards a better quality of life within the White Oak Bayou watershed.

YES, I support the goals of the White Oak Bayou Association and enclose my tax-deductible membership contribution.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No.: _____

My main interest is: _____

Membership Categories

- Student/Senior Citizen (55), \$5* *Non-Profit Organization, \$25* *Benefactors, over \$100*
- Individual/Family, \$10* *Sponsors Business/Corporation, \$200*

Please make checks payable to – White Oak Bayou Association – and mail to: 1413 Westheimer, Houston, TX 77006