



Contact: Claire de Blanc
Communication & Development Manager
cdeblanc@BayouLand.org
281.576.1634

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bayou Land Conservancy Board Passes Resolution Opposing Proposed Scarborough Development, Calls for Permanent Protection of Critical Floodplain

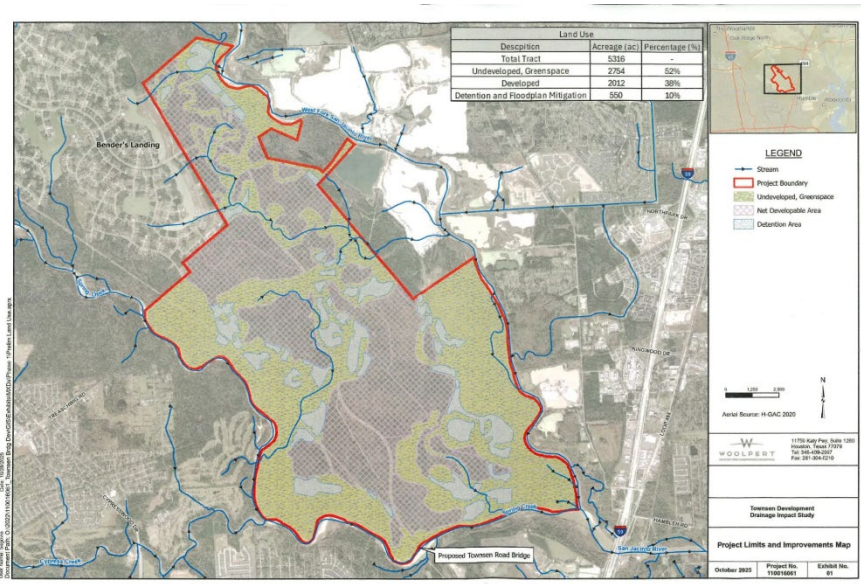
HOUSTON, TX – [July 22, 2026] — Bayou Land Conservancy (BLC) has adopted a resolution opposing the proposed Scarborough Development, a planned 5,300-acre project within the floodplains and wetlands at the confluence of Spring Creek and the San Jacinto River. The development of this highly vulnerable and ecologically sensitive land could increase flood risks for downstream communities and threaten water quality in the Lake Houston watershed, the primary drinking water source for millions of people in the Greater Houston region.

The property, commonly referred to as the "Scarborough Development" or Ryko tract, lies within one of the most environmentally sensitive and flood-prone areas of the Lake Houston watershed. Currently, the land functions as a natural floodwater storage area, slowing and absorbing stormwater while filtering water that ultimately flows into Lake Houston, a primary drinking water source for millions of Texans.

BLC is encouraging members of the public to join the effort and make their voices heard by signing a petition to support the permanent protection of the proposed development and by contacting their elected representatives.

"Bayou Land Conservancy's mission is the permanent preservation of land along streams to protect people from flooding, safeguard clean water, and conserve wildlife habitat," said Jill Boullion, Executive Director of Bayou Land Conservancy. "This property checks all those boxes. It needs to be protected, but we need help from the community to succeed."

This specific tract of land consists predominantly of active floodplains and wetlands that currently act as a critical natural sponge, absorbing and slowing floodwaters, and providing essential water filtration for the Lake Houston watershed. Clearing and filling these wetlands to elevate the property for development could increase the speed and volume of stormwater runoff, placing downstream communities at greater risk of flooding while undermining regional flood mitigation efforts.



Map showing proposed project boundary outlined in red.

Both the Houston City Council and the Harris County Commissioners Court unanimously passed resolutions in December 2025 opposing the proposed development because of its potential impacts on public safety and regional infrastructure.

Through the adopted resolution, the Bayou Land Conservancy Board formally opposes the clearing, filling, and development of these critical floodplains and authorizes BLC staff to actively advocate for the preservation of the property. Advocacy efforts may include public education, collaboration with community and environmental partners, engagement with elected officials, submission of regulatory comments, and, if appropriate and approved by the Board in the future, pursuing conservation easements to permanently protect portions of the property.

Community members interested in supporting the effort are encouraged to sign the petition, contact their elected officials, and help advocate for the permanent conservation of this land.

Link to petition: <https://www.change.org/p/protect-our-land-future-stop-the-scarborough-development>

About Bayou Land Conservancy: Bayou Land Conservancy preserves land along streams for flood control, clean water, and wildlife. BLC is a nationally accredited, community-supported land preservation organization dedicated to permanently protecting land, with a focus on the streams that feed Lake Houston, an important source of drinking water for millions of people in the Houston region.

More information is available at www.bayouland.org

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