



We preserve land along streams for flood control, clean water, and wildlife



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bayou Land Conservancy Protects One of Texas's Last Prairies — Safeguarding Wildlife and a Vanishing Landscape

MONTGOMERY, TX – June 3, 2025 – Bayou Land Conservancy (BLC) proudly announces the completion of its \$62,000 stewardship campaign for Phase 1 of Cindy's Redbud Nature Preserve. This 176-acre tract, located just south of Montgomery, represents one of the last remnants of Texas tallgrass prairie. The first 88 acres are now permanently protected through a conservation easement with BLC, with future phases aiming to safeguard the entire site.

"We knew this land was special," said Cindy Martin. "Partnering with Bayou Land Conservancy means it will stay wild forever. We're grateful others see its value too."

The preserve provides vital habitat for native wildlife—including rare species like the Texas windmill grass and crested caracara—and supports clean water and natural flood control for the surrounding region. Owned by Cindy Martin and Ray Audas, the land helps maintain the area's ecological health and resilience.

A celebration event was held on April 26, 2025, to honor the achievement and the community's commitment to conserving Texas's natural heritage.

Full-Length Release

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MONTGOMERY, TX – June 3, 2025 – Bayou Land Conservancy (BLC) is thrilled to announce the successful completion of its \$62,000 stewardship fundraising campaign to support the long-term protection and restoration of Cindy's Redbud Nature Preserve. Located just south of Montgomery, this 176-acre property is one of the last remaining tracts of Texas tallgrass prairie—less than 1% of which still exists today. The first 88 acres have been permanently protected through a Phase 1 conservation easement with BLC, with future phases set to expand that protection across the full landscape.

This milestone was celebrated on April 26, 2025, with a special event at the preserve, bringing together donors, supporters, and conservationists to honor the community's shared commitment to protecting Texas's natural heritage.

"We are proud to protect spaces that still echo the natural heritage of this region," said Justin Hicks, Bayou Land Conservancy's Board Chair. "As Houston continues to grow, it's more important than ever to conserve wild places where native species can thrive, floodplains can function naturally, and clean water flows freely to our communities. This project is a powerful example of what can happen when private landowners, generous donors, and a committed land trust work together."



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Owned by Cindy Martin and Ray Audas, the preserve protects native prairie grasses, wetlands, and forested grassland. It provides habitat for rare and declining species, including the Texas windmill grass and the crested caracara. The land also plays a vital role in supporting clean water by filtering runoff and mitigating downstream flooding, making its conservation not just an environmental priority—but a community investment.

“Redbud is full of life—from native grasses waving in the wind to birds you just don’t see anymore,” said Cindy Martin. “Partnering with Bayou Land Conservancy gave us a way to ensure it stays wild forever. We’re humbled by the support and excited to know others value it like we do.”

Restoration efforts at the preserve include prescribed burns and invasive species removal, in partnership with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, to return the land to its historic prairie and forested grassland character.

Bayou Land Conservancy thanks every donor and partner who made this campaign a success. Their support ensures that this rare piece of Texas continues to benefit both people and wildlife for generations to come.

[LINK TO FULL PRESS RELEASE AND PHOTOS](#)

PHOTO 1: Cindy Martin, landowner, and Jill Boullion, Bayou Land Conservancy Executive Director, celebrate the success of the Redbud Preserve project.

PHOTO 2: Ray Audas and Cindy Martin, landowners, pictured between Bayou Land Conservancy staff, gathered to celebrate the protection of their land for future generations.

PHOTO 3: Ray Audas, landowner, and Clayton McKenzie, BLC volunteer, pause during a tour of the restored prairie landscape.

PHOTO 4: Donors explore the Redbud Preserve, where wildflowers surround a peaceful pond—just one of the many natural features now protected forever.

PHOTO 5: A quiet moment on the trail, as a visitor takes in the views from a custom bench at Cindy’s Redbud Nature Preserve.

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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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