



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

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Contact: Jill Boullion, Bayou Land Conservancy, JBoullion@BayouLand.org, 281-576-1634, Bruce Berger, Chief of Staff Bruce Berger for Commissioner Charlie Riley Montgomery County Precinct 2, bruce.berger@mctx.org, [281-259-6492](tel:281-259-6492)

Subject: Montgomery County Precinct 2 and Bayou Land Conservancy Reach Agreement with Whitewater Midstream to avoid impacts on Lake Creek Preserve from planned Blackfin Pipeline project

Magnolia, TX –Bayou Land Conservancy (BLC) Executive Director Jill Boullion announced today that the Lake Creek Preserve, located off Sendera Ranch Drive, will not be impacted by the construction of the Blackfin Pipeline, owned by Whitewater Midstream. The sixty-four-acre Lake Creek Preserve had been in the crosshairs of the proposed 193-mile Blackfin Pipeline, TX. Montgomery County is the preserve landowner and BLC holds a conservation easement ensuring perpetual preservation of the publicly accessible green space.

The land for the Lake Creek Preserve was donated to Montgomery County for a permanent preserve by Woodforest Development Company for a wetlands development permit and put under conservation easement in 2009. Since that time, the preserve has become a popular regional park featuring trails and boardwalks and is known as a great spot to birdwatch. The preserve is also known for its healthy tree population, featuring 41 different native tree species, and a Texas Forest Service County Champion Littlehip Hawthorne tree. Located in the floodplain of Lake Creek, this land retains and absorbs floods and filters drinking water for use by millions in the Houston region.

In March 2023, the Railroad Commission of Texas approved the Whitewater Midstream project, and the Blackfin Pipeline team began meeting with impacted landowners in the region. The pipeline will begin in Colorado County and run through several counties before terminating in southern Jasper County. It will transport 3.5 million cubic feet of natural gas per day. Pipeline construction is expected to require a 145' easement reduced to a permanent easement of 50' when construction is complete.

Montgomery County Precinct 2, BLC, and the Blackfin team met about the pipeline project's plans, schedule, opportunities, and challenges numerous times. After months of meetings, Blackfin agreed that the portion of the pipeline crossing the Lake Creek Preserve will be installed through an underground boring process which should eliminate any impacts to the surface and not create a permanent, above ground, pipeline easement.

Said Montgomery County Precinct 2 Commissioner Charlie Riley, “Lake Creek Preserve is a unique section off Fishcreek Thoroughfare that is open to the public and explored by many who wish to observe the wildlife in their natural habitat as well as the beauty of the trees and trails. It is important to protect the area. The Blackfin team listened and responded to the concerns from the community.”

“We heard from many people in the community around Lake Creek Preserve that the pipeline construction and easement would be a permanent scar on the preserve and impact the experience that people expect and love when they visit”, stated BLC Executive Director Jill Boullion. “Lake Creek isn’t a large preserve, but it’s truly a gem with amazing natural diversity and beautiful views of the creek. We’re grateful for the support of Montgomery County Precinct 2 Commissioner Charlie Riley and to the team at Blackfin for really listening to our concerns and agreeing to eliminate surface impacts to a very special place in our community.”

About Bayou Land Conservancy: Bayou Land Conservancy preserves land along streams for flood control, clean water, and wildlife. BLC is a nationally accredited, community-sponsored land preservation organization working to permanently protect land, with a focus on the streams that feed Lake Houston, an important source of drinking water for millions in the region. More information is available at our website: www.bayouland.org

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