## **ABSORB, SLOW & STORE**

### THE PRAIRIE SOLUTION FOR REDUCING FLOODING



#### Together, we can reduce flooding in the Addicks Reservoir and Buffalo Bayou Watersheds.

The Coastal Prairie Conservancy proposes a multi-pronged, nature-based solution with innovative engineering to: slow and store water in Upper Addicks Watershed; and absorb, slow and store water in Upper Cypress Creek Watershed and store additional floodwaters in Addicks Reservoir. The Coastal Prairie Conservancy also supports studying conveyance options that do not damage natural areas and natural resources, such as tunnels. Nature-based solutions are cost effective, use or mimic nature, adapt to extreme events, and offer recreation, wildlife habitat, and significant social and environmental contributions for the community.



#### PERILOUS FLOODING CHALLENGE

**MULTI-BENEFIT OPPORTUNITY** 



#### **EXPANDED PRAIRIE**

Just outside Houston lies a resource that already reduces flooding: The Katy Prairie. By expanding currently protected lands to 50,000 acres and restoring 21,000 of those, we can absorb, slow, and store water in the Upper Cypress Creek Watershed. Additional storage can be gained by detaining water near Cypress Creek and by creating shallow detention on private lands with the help of willing landowners in the upper watershed. These efforts will reduce water flowing into Addicks Reservoir. Better still, they build on existing conservation lands that already offer flood risk reduction – along improved water and air quality, enhanced wildlife habitat, and access to trails and other recreational opportunities.





#### UPPER ADDICKS WATERSHED RETENTION AREAS

By constructing retention and detention ponds in the Upper Addicks Watershed, floodwaters can be stored and slowed down. Further, creating retention corridors along Bear and South Maybe creeks will protect additional land, enhance wildlife passageways, and provide recreational opportunities for the community. These retention corridors can become a vibrant trail system that provides access to restored habitat and the beautiful Texas landscape, while simultaneously serving as a buffer for floodwaters that threaten the communities along the creeks. Together these projects will store up to 110,000 acre-feet of floodwaters.

#### ADDICKS RESERVOIR EXCAVATION - EXPANDING CAPACITY

Addicks and Barker Reservoirs are valuable assets that need to be restored and enhanced. Storing additional floodwaters in Addicks Reservoir can keep homes upstream from flooding and prevent extreme floodwater releases that destroy downstream properties. Through strategic excavation, storage capacity in Addicks Reservoir can be increased. Excavated dirt can be used nearby to create new recreational assets, like an amphitheater, lookout hills, trails and more. Existing homes and businesses can remain, while the reservoir continues providing recreational opportunities when the area is not holding storm water. Similar efforts to hold additional floodwaters could be accomplished in Barker Reservoir.



# **FLOODING: THE PRAIRIE SOLUTION**

### WORKING WITH NATURE TO KEEP OUR COMMUNITY SAFE



#### LEGEND

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- EXPANDED PRAIRE A NATURAL SPONGE & MANY BENEFITS
- B SHALLOW RETENTION FLEXIBLE & AFFORDABLE
  - UPPER CYPRESS DETENTION RETAINS FLOODWATERS
  - UPPER ADDICKS RETENTION HABITAT & RECREATION
  - CREEK RETENTION ACCESSIBLE GREEN CORRIDORS
  - ADDICKS EXCAVATION AVAILABLE & EFFICIENT



## **ABSORB, SLOW & STORE** HOUSTON'S NATURAL DEFENSE AGAINST FLOODING

Join us and let's build on one of Houston's great natural assets to keep our community safe. Learn more at **www.coastalprairieconservancy.org** on how you can help.





