

# Ben Taub Hospital Expansion: Addressing The Urgent Public Health Necessity

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**HARRISHEALTH**

# WHO IS HARRIS HEALTH?

We are the ONLY public safety net health system  
in Harris County

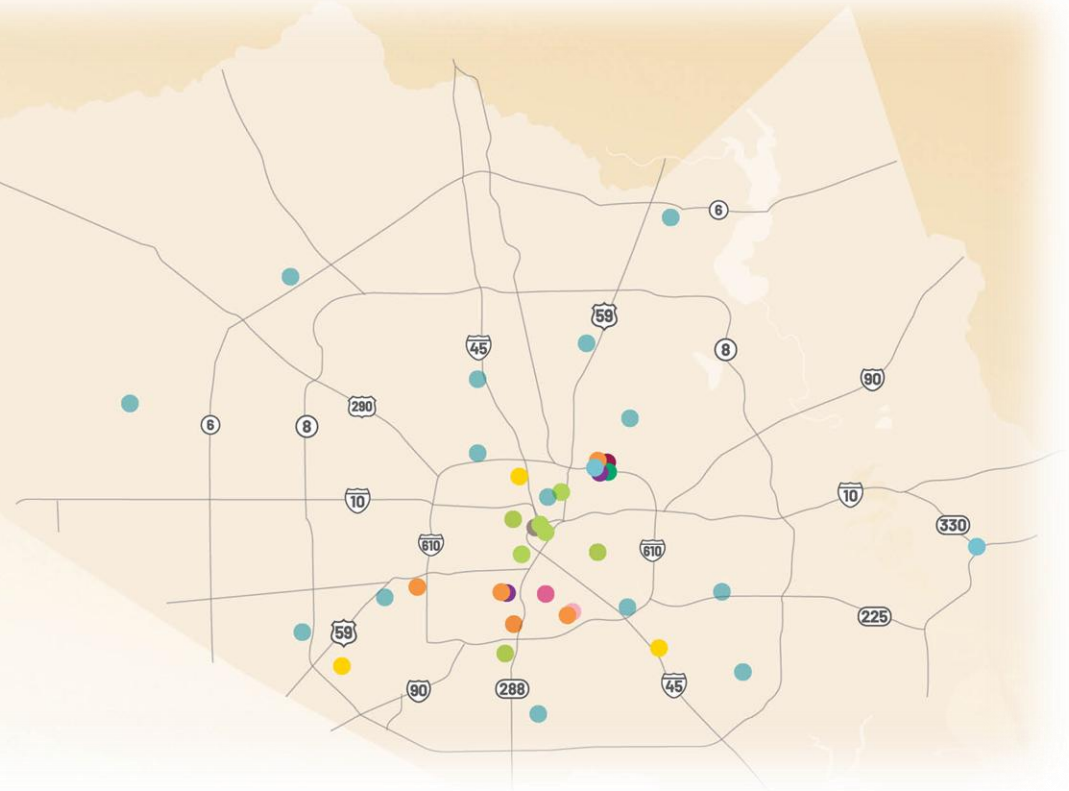
# WE SERVE THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY

Ben Taub Hospital



Lyndon B. Johnson Hospital

- 16 community health centers
- 7 homeless shelter clinics
- 5 large specialty clinics
- 3 same-day clinics
- 2 hospitals
- 1 urgent care clinic
- 1 ambulatory surgical center
- 1 dialysis center
- 1 free-standing dental center
- 1 correctional health center and multiple mobile units



# WE TRAIN THE NEXT GENERATION

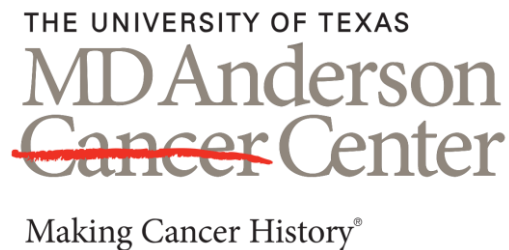
Residents **~2500**

**40+** Nursing Programs

Pharmacy & Physical Therapy  
Residency Programs

School of Diagnostic Imaging  
**4 Programs**

**45%** of providers licensed by the Texas  
Medical Board in Harris County trained  
at Harris Health facilities



# WE HELP DRIVE THE ECONOMY

A **MAJOR** Employer and Economic **DRIVER** for  
Our Community

**10,000+** Employees

**\$4.8B** total  
economic impact



Generates **\$132.9M** in state and local taxes

Every **\$1** Harris Health  
receives in ad valorem  
taxes generates **\$5.89**  
for our community's  
economy

# WE ARE AMONG THE BEST



**GAGE AWARDS**

*Innovation and Excellence*



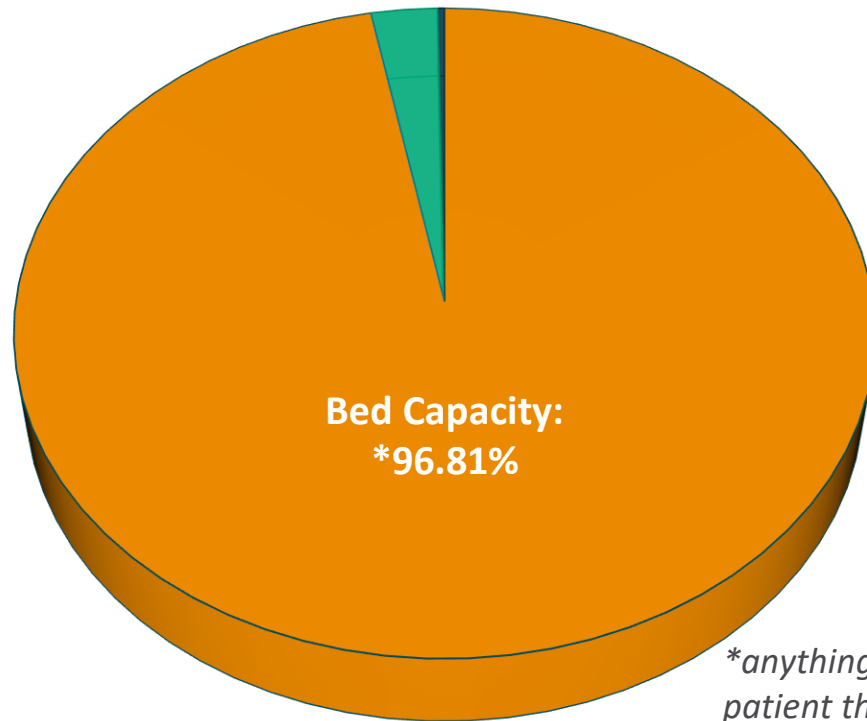




# URGENT SITUATION

# WHAT IS AT STAKE?

HOSPITAL STATUS  
% Total Hours Last Five Years



*\*anything above 85% stresses hospital operations and patient throughput*

Prolonged wait times in the emergency center (sometimes more than 24 hours)

Prolonged wait times for getting into a patient room

Overcrowded spaces impact hospital efficiency, safety and infection prevention

Undue stress for patients and staff



# BEN TAUB HOSPITAL - TODAY

The hospital operates at or above 100% capacity



# BEN TAUB HOSPITAL - NEAR FUTURE

## **Current State**

- 80,000 emergency room visits annually
- For Ben Taub Hospital this results in approximately 14,400 hospital admissions

## **Future State Needs (2030)**

- Capacity for 18,000 (22%) MORE emergency room visits annually
- Capacity for 3,200 (22%) MORE hospital admissions annually

## **ER Visits by the Uninsured in Houston is Expected to Rise Dramatically**

- OBBBA and \$1B cut to Medicaid
- DSH funding and \$800M cut to hospital funding in Texas
- ACA funding cuts leading to 1M Texans losing access to health insurance

# URGENT NOTICE

The expansion of Ben Taub Hospital is an URGENT PUBLIC HEALTH NECESSITY for our community.

The expansion of Ben Taub Hospital FULFILLS A PROMISE we made to Harris County voters to increase capacity at Ben Taub.

Harris County voters overwhelmingly supported Harris Health's \$2.5B bond request in November 2023 with \$410M allocated to expand Ben Taub Hospital.



# OUR PLAN

# DELIVERING ON OUR PROMISE

The proposed Ben Taub expansion facility will **provide the desperately needed capacity** by adding approximately 100 more inpatient beds and procedure areas.

The additional capacity added to Ben Taub Hospital will:

- Save thousands of lives in the coming years by providing time sensitive Level I trauma and critical care to our community when they need it most
- Reduce wait times in the Ben Taub's emergency center
- Reduce the use of “hallway beds” to care for our patients



# BUILDING ON TOP - NOT AN OPTION

## Ben Taub and LBJ Facility Master Plan Phase I/II Assessments

Long-Range Strategic Master Plan 2040 Implementation



Phases 1 & 2 assessment of the existing BT Hospital Campus including:

- An analysis of the existing site conditions of the Campus to help assess patient/staff service needs, including infrastructure conditions with respect to site access vehicular and pedestrian including vertical transportation.
- An analysis of the various existing departmental conditions and growth projections based on existing service lines and provided data was completed and includes recommendations on:
  - BT Campus Site Recommendations
  - Scoping and Visioning to document goals and vision for the campus
  - Site Master Planning that will identifies campus sustainability strategies
  - Departmental Information collection to identify projected departmental needs and concerns for a ten-to-fifteen-year period.
  - The impact on patient/staff satisfaction/performance
  - Identify SWOT analysis
- Infrastructure upgrades recommendations

### Assessment Conclusion:

Based on the items identified in the Phase 1 report, it is the team's opinion that continued renovations and relocations within the current facilities, while providing for existing service needs, do not facilitate future requirements with respect to quality patient care and staff satisfaction. While there is limited opportunity for some vertical expansion between the existing hospital building and the NPC, the cost to benefit ratio is high, and investment in a Vertical expansion is not feasible without major operational disruption because of



the buildings and other factors, offers a very limited footprint and by the time items such as elevators, stairs, MEP/IT required spaces, etc. are considered, the remaining footprint, is not supportive of the required area for beds, efficient workflow, staff, and patient satisfaction. Observations are based on the following conditions and considerations to help address future expansion and service needs for the next 5 – 15+ years:

- Majority of the existing facility is 30 years +
- Land locked by existing facilities/conditions/utilities
- No space for horizontal expansion
- Vertical expansion, while possible, is restricted, expensive, and inefficient.
- Existing infrastructure past its useful life
- Many existing systems are past their useful life and are maintenance issues, MEP, elevators, IT
- Only opportunities for growth require removal/relocation of existing space/functions
- Any new spaces/projects, subject to latest code requirements, which limit growth

# BUILDING ON EXISTING FOOTPRINT - NOT AN OPTION

Ben Taub Hospital  
is LANDLOCKED





# ANOTHER LOCATION - NOT AN OPTION

Another site that is separated from the current Ben Taub Hospital:

- Does not address the current and worsening capacity issue at Ben Taub
- It dramatically increases the cost by requiring duplication of support services and staff (services such as, emergency room, operating services, radiology, pathology, specialty services and many others)
- Building on another site results in a “new hospital” which is not financially possible

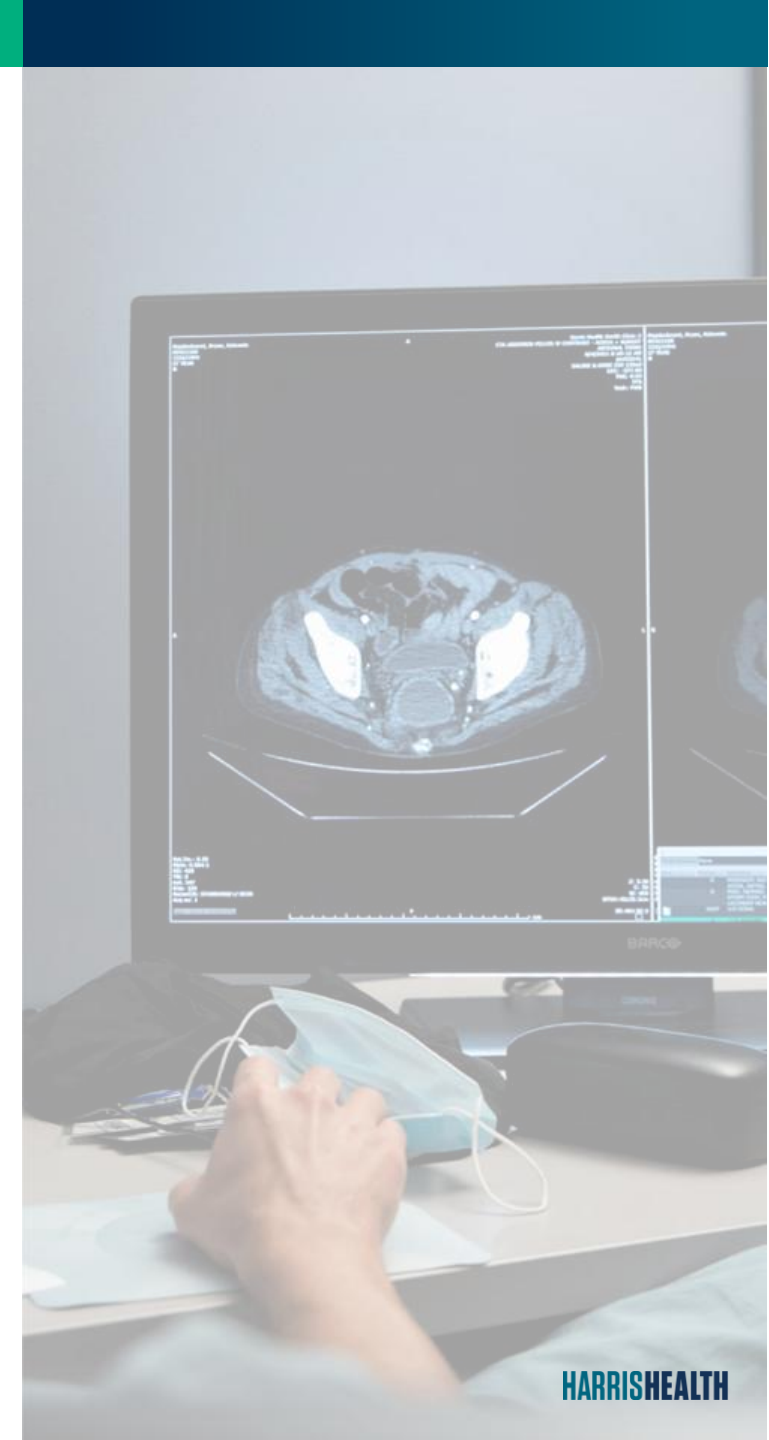
# FINDINGS

**Building On Top Is Not An Option**

**Building On Existing Campus Is Not An Option**

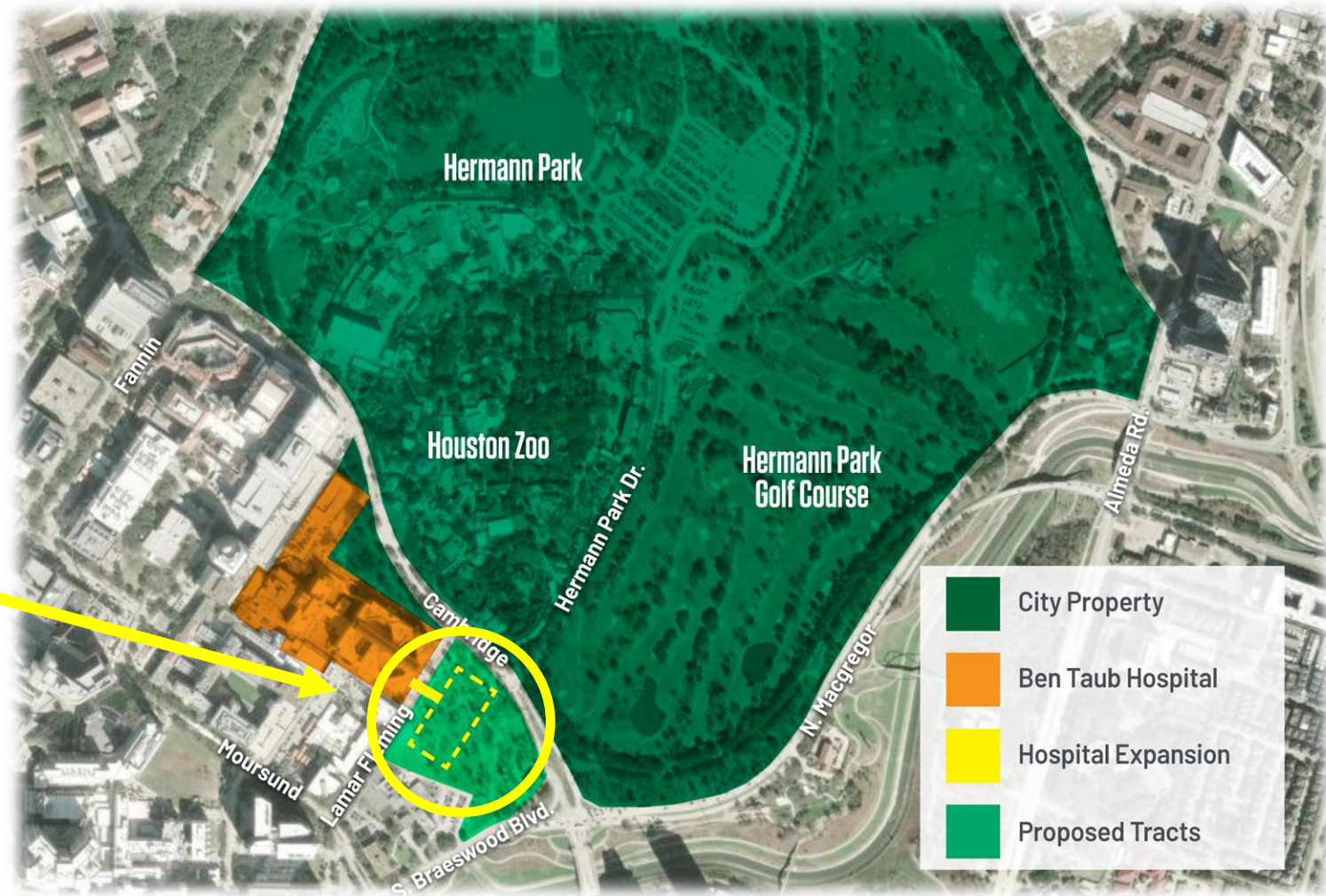
**Building On A Distant Location Is Not An Option**

**The Only Option Is To  
Acquire The Adjacent Land Through Purchase**



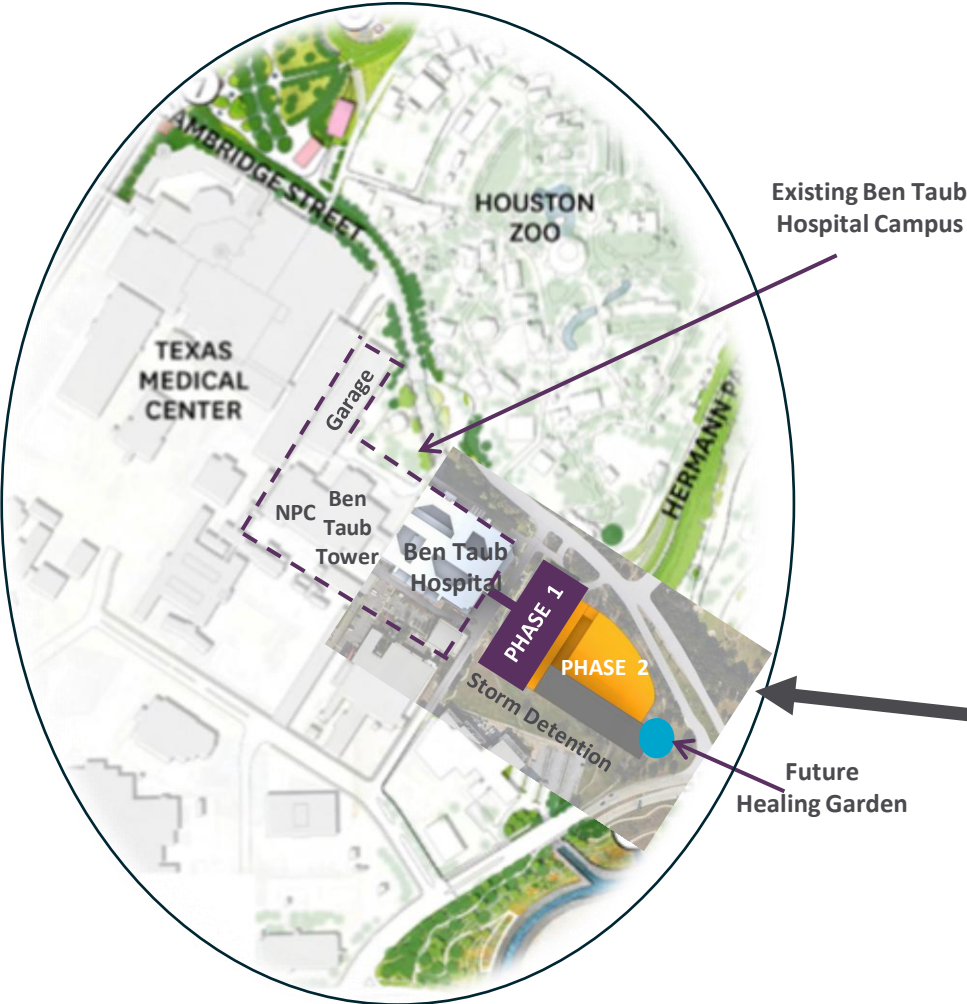
# THE ONLY OPTION FOR EXPANSION

Proposed  
Land Acquisition  
for Ben Taub  
Expansion Project





# BEN TAUB LAND UTILIZATION





# EMINENT DOMAIN

**Eminent Domain** – the legal process that enables a governmental entity to acquire property for a **public purpose**, provided the owner is compensated.

**Purpose** – only use when necessary to meet a **public purpose**.

**Compensation** – all individuals with a property interest will receive **fair market value** for their ownership interest.



A healthcare worker in a blue scrubs and a face mask is working at a computer in a clinical setting. The worker is in the foreground, looking at the screen. In the background, another person in a light blue shirt and face mask is also working at a computer. The scene is brightly lit with large windows in the background.

# HARRIS HEALTH'S COMMITMENT



# HARRIS HEALTH COMMITS TO

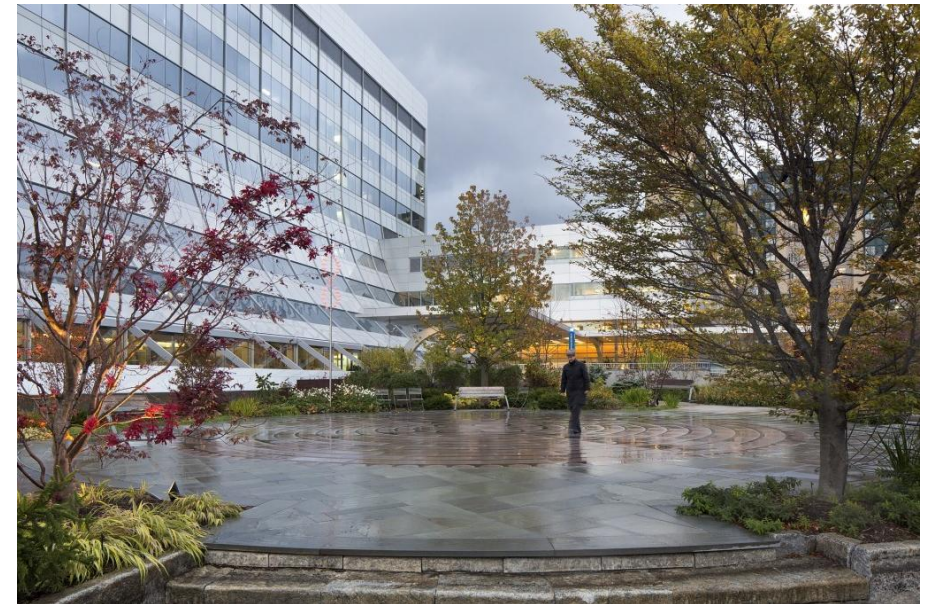
Taking all the necessary steps to mitigate any negative impact to Hermann Park and the surrounding environment during and after the construction.

Beautifying the land by developing a **healing garden** and enhancing public areas in consultation with Hermann Park Conservancy.

Improving **walking paths for** safe and convenient pedestrian access to Hermann Park.

Working with the City of Houston and Hermann Park Conservancy to help address near and long-term **parking needs** for Hermann Park.

# HEALING GARDEN EXAMPLE



Mary & Al Schneider Healing Garden  
Seidman Cancer Center, Cleveland, OH

# BENEFITS OF THIS PLAN

The expansion facility connected to Ben Taub Hospital via a skybridge will:

- Operate under Ben Taub's current license eliminating unnecessary and cost prohibitive duplication of services/staff if the project were moved elsewhere
- Allow Ben Taub to continue to provide uninterrupted service while the expansion facility is being built
- Allow Ben Taub to remain in the TMC so that it can continue to take advantage of the education, training and research opportunities that the TMC has to offer
- Serve as the first phase of the future Ben Taub Hospital replacement to better serve the adult Level I Trauma needs of Harris County

# MAIN POINTS

- The proposed Ben Taub expansion will address the **urgent public health necessity** of the desperately needed additional capacity to Ben Taub Hospital.
- Acquisition of land adjacent to Ben Taub Hospital and directly in front of the entrance to Ben Taub Hospital emergency center is the **only fiscally responsible and operationally viable option.**

**\$400M vs ~\$2.4B**





# THANK YOU

More Information: [harrishealth.org](https://harrishealth.org)  
Comments: [bentaubexpansion@harrishealth.org](mailto:bentaubexpansion@harrishealth.org)