



## Houston Toad

Hi there ya'll, I'm *Bufo houstonensis*,  
Another one of them endangered species,  
I no longer can be found in Houston town,  
I now have found much safer ground.

I live in springs and seeps and bogs,  
It's there you find me and my polywogs,  
In counties named Austin, Bastrop, and Fayette,  
We haven't been eradicated from there yet.

When the federal government put me on the list,  
The Fish and Wildlife Service was a bit embarrassed,  
They designated my habitat on Houston's west side,  
Where urban development had committed bufocide.

We once could be found throughout Texas forests,  
We don't need much, our lives are modest,  
But I need private puddles that are wet year round,  
My feet like to be on spongy soaked ground.

You humans seem to like draining wetland areas,  
And requiring a wet home is a bit precarious,  
I'm hopeful you'll accommodate my special need,  
And that I'll not be wiped out by human greed.

Thankfully, the Houston zoo folks took an interest,  
In captive breeding, and they were persistent,  
And now they release thousands of egg strands,  
It's nice being consistent with human plans.

In the spring these days out in Austin county,  
The chorus can be heard singing loudly,  
Today many males join in the competition,  
To see which female prefers which rendition.

And here at Earth Church we smile with affection,  
That *Bufo houstonensis* had a population correction,  
And we thank those that care and help nature along,  
I hope to one day hear *Bufo* burst into song.

So welcome to Earth Church,  
Pull yourself up a pew,  
Here we work for all species  
Including you too.