



## REGIONAL HUB

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## INSIDE TRADER JOE'S

# TRADER JOE'S PLANS NEW HOUSTON-AREA STORE



PHOTO BY MICHAEL BROCHSTEIN/SOPA IMAGES/LIGHTROCKET VIA GETTY IMAGES

Trader Joe's store in North Brunswick Township, New Jersey.

**The popular grocery chain will open a store in Sugar Land's University Commons.**

Trader Joe's is opening a sixth store in the Houston area.

The Monrovia, California-based grocery chain confirmed to the Houston Business Journal that it plans to open Trader Joe's #430 in the University Commons shopping center at 13550 University Blvd.

The company did not provide other details or a timeline, saying it

will share more as things develop. However, an announcement indicated the company aims to open the store in 2024.

An entry in the Daily Court Review on March 6 showed Trader Joe's applied for a Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code permit for a store at that address.

The new store is now also listed as "coming soon" on Trader Joe's website.

It appears it will open in the 30,000-square-foot space formerly occupied by a Sprouts Farmers Market, which opened in January 2019.

That store closed last April along with two additional Houston-ar-

**"There's strong support for Trader Joe's in our community, and we'd love to have them."**

**DOUG ADOLPH,**  
communications  
director, city of  
Sugar Land

ea stores and others across the country.

Dana Garnett, senior vice president of development at The Vista Cos., the owner of University Commons, said she could not comment on anything regarding the retail center "at this time."

The 24-acre shopping center is located off Interstate 69 on both sides of University Boulevard.

Doug Adolph, communications director at the city of Sugar Land, said as of March 11, Trader Joe's had not filed a permit application for renovating the former Sprouts space.

"There's strong support for Trader Joe's in our community, and we'd love to have them," he said in an email.

Trader Joe's routinely ranks among the most popular grocery stores in the United States, taking first place in customer data science company dunnhumby's Retailer Preference Index in 2018 and 2019. This year, however, it slipped to 16th place, behind H-E-B, Amazon, Walmart and others.

The last time a Trader Joe's opened in Greater Houston was in summer 2016, at 11683 Westheimer Road.

The company first entered the Houston market with the opening of its Woodlands store in 2012, followed quickly by its Montrose store in the old Alabama Theater on Shepherd Drive and its Memorial-area location at 1440 S. Voss Road. Trader Joe's then opened a store in Katy's Cinco Ranch in February 2015.