First Flush!

If you will be on the Trail this Saturday morning, please stop by to celebrate the opening of the new Johnson Creek restrooms near the tennis courts by Austin High. From 8 a.m. until noon we’ll be handing out free goodies including Elixir coffee, GoopPops popsicles, Longhorn Bars, TTF temporary tattoos and TTF tags for Trail dogs.

A few remarks will be made at 10 a.m. followed by the official "first flush." If you would like a chance at the "first flush," head over to our Facebook page and submit your best potty humor! The top two (clean) jokes that get the most likes will get to have the first flush of one of the four new toilets at the celebration. Like our page, comment on the top contest post, and share with your friends to like our page and vote on your joke!

As one TTF member commented, "I can't wait to go!"

Boardwalk construction continues...
TTF volunteer Tom Athey continues to share his time and talent by documenting this iconic enhancement to the Trail with construction photographs - thanks, Tom! Our Flickr page has been updated with his latest photos showing recent construction; it's exciting to see the progress...even the wildlife agrees!

Plant Walk

This spring was the perfect opportunity for a Trail walk to learn about the Trail's native plants. TTF Trail Ambassadors and Garden Adopters were invited to a Trail walk with Matt Turner, the author of the UT Press book, The Remarkable Plants of Texas. He is also one of TTF's fabulous garden adopters; you may have seen his constantly flowering garden on the west side of the Pfluger Bridge. Matt offered some fascinating information about the

Trail opossum trying to get a better look at Boardwalk.

Matt Turner describing uses of Trail plants to TTF members.
medicinal, culinary, wildlife, and historical uses of the plants we often see at the Trail.

Visit our website to learn more about becoming TTF member at the Trail Ambassador level. Our gardens are all currently adopted, but you can learn more about the program here and future newsletters give additional information when gardens become available.

Running for Margaritas

We are excited to announce registration is open for our 9th annual Maudie's Moonlight Margarita Run & Party! We hope you will join us on Thursday, June 13 for a fast and flat 5K race followed by the best party of the summer. Maudie's Tex-Mex will be catering the party so there is sure to be plenty of delicious food and frosty cold drinks - see you there!

Sponsorships available, contact Jenny for details.

Volunteers in Action
Volunteers helped TTF in Clean Sweep on Saturday April 13 where they collected trash from the Trail and Lady Bird Lake. Clean Sweep is an annual city-wide clean-up event organized by Keep Austin Beautiful; this year the event had over 4,350 volunteers collect over 2 tons of trash in two hours...whew! A BIG "thank you" to all of the volunteers who spent their Saturday morning cleaning up our community.

Employees from Green Mountain Energy have adopted one of our Trail gardens in memory of a co-worker. They recently spent several hours weeding the garden and filling it with a wonderful variety of native plants including: heartleaf skullcap, Turk's cap, American beautyberry and blackfoot daisy. We truly appreciate the time and love this crew is giving to the Trail.
Your ideas are sought regarding the adaptive re-use of the Seaholm Intake Facility and the surrounding parkland. Give your comments and ideas on Speak Up Austin or go to the Open House events to see inside the wonderful lakeside structure. The Open Houses and Design Idea Competition are sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department, Austin Parks Foundation, The Trail Foundation, and AIA Austin.

Open House Dates:
Wednesday, April 24, 11AM - 1PM
Friday, April 26, 5PM - 7PM
Saturday, April 27, 11AM - 2PM

Open Houses are at 787 Cesar Chavez Street, Austin TX. Park at City Hall and ride the free accessible shuttle to the event or walk or bike. No parking or drop off on site except for shuttle.

Leave a Legacy

Planned giving is available to most everyone; we just don't think about it. You can easily give back to the Trail by creating a planned gift through your will, life insurance, stock or retirement plans. Please think about visiting with your attorney or financial planner about ways you can give to the Trail and gain significant tax-savings without affecting your current finances. All of us can leave a legacy to something we love. For more information, contact Jenny.

Trail Tale from Memory Board

Following is a quote left on the Trail Memory board from February. Thanks to all of you that shared your memories and stories.

"I was born here. I toddled to the ducks here. I went on a second date here. I was proposed to here. This trail has been the scene for some of my life's most important + most private moments. It is the epicenter of Austin. It's life. Our life."