Back in October, ground was broken on the Boardwalk - and the project is definitely taking shape. Since then, we have posted several construction photos on our flickr page and we'll continue to add photos as the work ensues. Please click here for important information about boating near the Boardwalk construction site.

When you have a minute - or just over three, to be precise - please check out our Johnson Creek Trailhead video:
New Johnson Creek Trailhead @ Lady Bird Lake!

Next up at that location...four new restrooms being built across the street!

Trees Find New Home on the Trail
Volunteers from Gamma Beta Phi.

David Stauch is a good friend of the Butler Trail and grows trees as a hobby. When he offered red oaks to be planted at the Trail because he was moving his residence, TTF and 10 volunteers from the UT Honor Society, Gamma Beta Phi, sprang into action. David, who had 100 healthy seedlings from last year’s red oak class, expressed his desire that these trees have ample room to grow, and we were eager to accommodate the request. Forestry agreed these would be perfect to plant in the woodlands near Austin High to replace some previous seedlings that had not survived. Thanks David and Gamma Beta Phi!

Update on RunTex Jugs

We all applaud RunTex for 20 years of providing ice-cold water and electrolytes for Trail users! The jugs will be back out at Auditorium Shores in January with new tamper-proof lids. And RunTex plans to have both ice water and electrolyte fluids again at Auditorium Shores and the Johnson Creek Trailhead once the hot weather returns.

We hope to get updates on the Rogue and Luke’s Locker water jugs and include in our next e-newsletter.

Help Us Protect Your Trail

Some of you have complained, and rightly so, about a range of unauthorized vending and marketing at the Butler Trail at places such as the Johnson Creek Trailhead. We know that many people go to the Trail to find peace
and quiet- the Trail is Austin's beloved premier natural public space and not a flea market. The Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) is not approving any marketing or vending permits on the Trail. Of course, political free speech is fully allowed.

Although maintenance staff and Parks rangers from PARD are on the Trail every day, they cannot be aware of all activities taking place along the entire Trail. It goes without saying that TTF will continue to protect the Trail. If you see any such activity or have concerns, please call 311. PARD has an after hours pager - their people will be promptly notified and conduct follow-ups accordingly.

If you are willing to share your information and photos, please email info@thetrailfoundation.org.

And the Winner Is...

In December we were honored to receive the "Best of the Best" award from Keep Austin Beautiful (KAB) for the Johnson Creek Trailhead renovation - an improvement which enriches the Trail experience for thousands of annual visitors. The award recognized the environmentally sensitive design of the project and the beauty and tranquility it lends to this popular community gathering spot.

Mayor Lee Leffingwell; Brian Ott, TTF Board President; Stefan Pharis, TTF Board Member; Susan Plettman Rankin, TTF Executive Director and Rodney Ahart, KAB Executive Director.

TTF Volunteers In Action
A BIG TTF thanks goes out to this crew that volunteered for the Decker Challenge! They woke up very early on a Sunday morning to "water" the runners and cheer them through the halfway point of the Decker Challenge Half Marathon. Great job, everyone!

These Trail stewards spent their entire Saturday morning in canoes picking up litter from Lady Bird Lake. We were especially impressed by their ability to fish this entire trash can from the water without tipping over their canoe. Well done!!
Trail of Lights

Austinites love the Trail of Lights, and appreciate it even more now that this holiday tradition has been restored after a brief hiatus.

Through our partnership with this year's Trail of Lights, we were featured in Forefront Austin's December issue focusing on community engagement. You can read the full article here: http://bit.ly/Sy6baC

We hope you and your family had a chance to stroll through the lights and maybe even twirl under the Zilker tree. Judging by the amount of visitors this year, this holiday event was a favorite!

Upcoming Distance Challenge Races

Just a reminder, about the next few races in the Austin Distance Challenge:

- **3M Half Marathon:** Sunday, January 13
- **Rogue 30/10K:** Sunday, January 27

What a great way to start the New Year!

Happy Holidays from TTF!

We wish you and your families all the best during this holiday season. We are thankful for your support and hope the New Year brings peace, joy and good health to all! See you on the Trail.