What is Amplify Austin?

One Day = One Million Dollars.
Amplify Austin is an initiative to raise 1 million dollars for Austin area non-profits in 24 hours.

At 7 p.m. on Monday, March 4 until 7 p.m. on Tuesday March 5 the website AmplifyATX.org will be transformed into an on-line giving platform. On the site, search for The Trail Foundation and you will be directed to our Amplify Austin giving page where you can donate to TTF. Your gift will be "amplified" by contributing through this website on Amplify Austin Day because local sponsors are matching your donations and prizes of $1,000 will be given hourly to the nonprofits that garner the most dollars or donors.

TTF was founded in 2003; in honor of ten years of Trail stewardship we are asking you to give your gift to TTF via Amplify Austin from 10:00 - 10:59 a.m. on Tuesday, March 5. Our goal is to receive the $1,000 prize for most donors or most dollars during the 10 a.m. time slot on March 5. Please contact Jenny if you have any questions or would like additional information. If you don't already, you can follow us on Twitter and/or like us on Facebook for updates. Thank you!

Thanks for the Memories;
Now Take our SURVEY and Shape This Restroom...
For those of you who may not know, the next TTF renovation at the Butler Trail will be a new restroom on the north side of the lake across from the YMCA, just west of Lamar, near Heron Creek. In anticipation of this project, we installed a Trail Memories public engagement board on site to build awareness of the upcoming project for which we have engaged Mell Lawrence Architects. The on-Trail input featured a temporary board, 35 feet long, erected in an elevated arc. The one-week installation (2/15 - 2/22) featured a timeline, history photos of the Trail, TTF projects and a map of the Butler Trail itself. Trail users were invited to write down their own history as it intersects with the Trail and identify spots on the map of particular memories. An orange picnic bench drew the attention of passers-by and served as a place to engage users in longer conversations.

Check out photos of the Trail Memory Board and news coverage of passionate Trail users sharing their stories. Thank you to all who participated!

We loved hearing from all of you and are eager for more. Please visit www.trailsurvey.com to share your thoughts about the Heron Creek restroom site and how you use the Trail. The Trail survey will be open from Wednesday, February 27th to Friday, March 8th. At times of peak Trail usage, we will be conducting in-person surveys at the Heron Creek Restroom and Johnson Creek Trailhead. Those who complete the survey will receive a 10% off e-coupon from Luke’s Locker and Rogue Running.

Thank You 3M!
TTF was honored to receive a $50,000 grant from 3M for an ecological restoration project at the confluence of Blunn Creek and Lady Bird Lake. At the mouth of Blunn Creek, sedimentary deposits have created a small island and wide shallow areas where vegetation is becoming established. This is an early successional area that is unique along the lakeshore. This dynamic, transitional habitat represents an opportunity for habitat restoration and management, as well as a valuable education opportunity about the ecological processes in this special area and similar urban transitional habitats - a key issue for rapidly growing cities. Thank you, 3M! We look forward to working with Environmental Survey Consulting and in collaboration with Watershed Protection and the Parks and Recreation Department.

Texas Mountain Laurels at the Trail

Texas mountain laurels often steal the show during a hill country spring. They have gorgeous, wonderfully fragrant, lavender blooms that droop in clusters from dark green leaves each spring. You may have noticed that the mountain laurels are now in bloom. Neal Foley generously grew and donated to TTF 30 mountain laurel seedlings so they can be enjoyed along a natural woodland area of the Trail for many years to come. These replace seedlings planted during
the 2011 drought. The enhanced beauty and tree diversity of the woodlands will benefit Trail users, birds, and other wildlife. Volunteers water the seedlings using buckets during planting; then Mother Nature does the rest, or she doesn't. Winter planting enables tree roots to grow into the soil to supply water to the leaves during the hot season to come. Both small and large-scale reforestation efforts use similar methods. A group of 14 volunteers from the Young Men's Service League recently planted these near Lou Neff Point; thank you all for making our great Trail even better!

Gardens Available for Adoption

What a great time of year to play in the dirt! We currently have three gardens available for adoption as part of our Lady Bird Johnson Adopt-a-Garden program. This is a fantastic way for family, friends or companies to give back to the Trail and have a lot of fun! Please click here to inquire about the gardens currently available.

Upcoming Events

**Saturday, March 2: It's My Park Day!** We have space for 15 volunteers to help mulch trees at Longhorn Shores along Lady Bird Lake this Saturday. E-mail for additional information. A great way to spend a beautiful Saturday morning giving back to the Trail you love.

**Monday/Tuesday, March 4-5: Amplify Austin!** Please donate between 10:00 - 10:50 a.m. on Tuesday, March 5 and help us win an additional $1,000! E-mail Jenny with any questions.

**Saturday, April 13: Clean Sweep!** Join TTF and Keep Austin Beautiful for a city-wide clean-up. E-mail Jenny to volunteer with TTF.

**April: First Flush!** Join us for a fun, festive celebration of the new restrooms at Johnson Creek trailhead. Details coming in March newsletter...

**Thursday, June 13: 9th Annual Maudie's Moonlight Margarita Run & Gala!** This is one of Austin's hottest parties...literally! Save the date because you don't want to miss out on the race, the music, the margaritas or the fun! Details to come - please e-mail us if you are interested in becoming a sponsor of this Austin tradition. All proceeds benefit TTF.

Vehicle Donation

Do you have an old clunker cluttering your garage or driveway? We'll be happy to take care of that for you! Click here to find out more about our vehicle donation program. It's a great way to take care of a nagging task and give back to your Trail.

Boardwalk Construction
Boardwalk construction continues! Additional photos can be seen [here](http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs121/1101789453035/archive/1112599400234.html).