Boardwalk Update

On June 28 the Austin City Council cast the votes required to move the public/private Boardwalk project into the construction phase. The Council authorized the contract with low bidder Jay-Reese Contractors and approved the necessary funding, shoreline modification and floodplain items. The contractor will be allotted 18 months to complete the project.

_The City and TTF plan an August 3 construction launch ceremony._

We all look forward to safely walking, biking, and running along the beautiful southern side of the Butler Trail. A continuous loop along the shores of Lady Bird Lake in the heart of Austin will serve many generations from every corner of the community.

MMMMargaritas...
On behalf of all of us at The Trail Foundation, thanks to all of you who attended our 8th annual Maudie's Moonlight Margarita Run & Gala on June 14.

Some 1,500 of you laced 'em up for the 5K out-and-back course. And along with the support from or our terrific sponsors, it was a special and successful night - everyone had a wonderful time!

The overall male winner was Jody Broccoli-Hickey, finishing in a speedy 16:00 and the overall female winner was Shannon Bixler, coming in at 19:44.

Whew, great job! Final race results can be found [here](http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs015/1101789453035/archive/1110305362897.html) . Race photos can be found [here](http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs015/1101789453035/archive/1110305362897.html).

TTF would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the many sponsors who made the event possible.

- Maudie's Tex-Mex
- Freescale
- Whole Foods Market
- Luke's Locker
- KXAN
- Roger Beasley Mazda
- H-E-B
- Community Impact
- PlainsCapital Bank
- Livestrong
- SWBC Mortgage
- Maxwell, Locke & Ritter
- RunTex
- Culture Map

Plants in the Lake

Have you noticed the increase in water plants in Lady Bird Lake this summer?

Aquatic plants provide the lake with oxygen, food, hiding places, and spawning areas for aquatic organisms including fish, turtles, insects and waterfowl as well as trap sediment to help keep the water clear. Over the past year the aquatic plants in Lady Bird have flourished
primarily because the drought has reduced the flow, and increased the clarity of the water.

Cabomba, or fanwort, is a native plant that increased after large amounts were removed from Barton Springs Pool and then floated down Barton Creek. It grows from the bottom and has beautiful white flowers at the surface. You can also see the native water stargrass and water-willow.

The lake has Eurasian water milfoil at the shallow confluence of Barton and Lady Bird Lake. These plants have been there for several years, and thrive because of the cold water. This plant is not native to North America; it was introduced to the aquarium trade and then escaped into waterways. The milfoil forms mats and can trap trash and debris; for now, the City is not planning on doing any control since that typically has environmental impacts that outweigh the nuisance. While it's becoming more prevalent in both Lake Austin and Lady Bird Lake, unlike hydrilla, also a non-native, the water milfoil is not a safety threat because it doesn't form the tremendously dense mats. It will not last forever- as summer wanes and the daylength shortens, the plants will 'collapse' so the floating canopy will seem to disappear; the plants and roots are still there, just not up at the surface.

Cool your Hot Dog!

Everybody knows it: Trail dogs are cooler. Man's best friends love the Trail as much as we do - in fact, many a loyal canine running partner has his or her name immortalized in the commemorative bricks at Lou Neff Point.

During the dog days of summer, it's important to help your pet avoid overheating, dehydration and sunburn. Heat exhaustion is often caused by over-exercising a dog during hot weather. Both heatstroke and heat exhaustion can result in brain damage, heart failure or even death in a
short time. Here are precautions you can take to help keep your 4-legged Trail enthusiast healthy:

- Run in the cooler early morning or late evening, and avoid the times after your dog has eaten. And you can let them take a dip in the lake!
- Always offer your dog water when walking, running or hiking. If your dog gets overheated, cool her off by offering plenty of water; you can also wet the dog's body and paws and then fan.

### Trail Stewards

Canoe crew- On the morning of June 9, a group of 20 volunteers from The Young Men's Service League set out to pick up trash on Lady Bird Lake in canoes donated by Zilker Boat Rentals. We're so thankful that the litter is out of our lake - thank you!

The Roberta Crenshaw Pedestrian Bridge under MoPac boasts one of the loveliest views in Austin and usually offers breezes as well. It's long been a favorite spot for Trail lovers of every stripe- runners, walkers, cyclists... and pigeons! A BIG TTF THANK YOU!! goes to the St. Catherine's of Siena students who tirelessly removed the evidence of our feathered pals' "lakeview enjoyment" and swept the entire length of the bridge. Bravo!

### TTF Run & Ride

Runners and cyclists met Saturday, June 23 at Jack & Adam's at 7:30 a.m. for a TTF membership drive jointly sponsored the Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf and Jack & Adam's. The cyclists
enjoyed a 20-mile ride, while the runners split into two groups, one completing a 7-mile course and the other covering three miles. Everyone re-convened for a post-workout party on the patio of the South Lamar Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf.

Stay tuned for future membership events!

Volunteer Opportunities

- **Lake Cleanup.** Saturday, August 11, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. Join TTF & Keep Austin Beautiful. [Register here](http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs015/1101789453035/archive/1110305362897.html).

- **Connect to Your Roots.** Are you interested in getting more involved with our [Healthy Trees](http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs015/1101789453035/archive/1110305362897.html) for the Trail program? Healthy Trees includes planting native trees to shade and diversify the woodlands at the Butler Trail as well as special projects such as pruning the established crape myrtles. TTF collaborates with the City [Urban Forestry program](http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs015/1101789453035/archive/1110305362897.html) and TreeFolks. Drought and invasive species constantly take a toll on the Trail and all Austin parks. Consider attending the Urban Forest Steward workshop series and help us rebuild our urban forest. The topics include arboriculture, urban planning, and forest sustainability. To learn more and register log on to [Treefolks](http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs015/1101789453035/archive/1110305362897.html).