At The Trail Foundation (TTF) we feel tremendously honored to have been the beneficiaries of both the Austin Runners Club 2011 Decker Challenge, as well as the 2011-2012 Austin Fit Magazine Distance Challenge. Over several months leading up to these events, hundreds of running enthusiasts of every stripe logged thousands of miles through heat, humidity, wind and cold.

TTF applauds each and every one of you for your courage, strength, determination and downright grit. We know getting up at Dark Thirty to get in all those training miles isn't easy - and we admire your tenacity. We are also thankful for your generosity. The hard work and tireless efforts of these runners culminated in a $15,000 gift to The Trail Foundation - THANK YOU!

This gift will help TTF continue to deepen relationships between you and the Trail and drive our mission of enhancing and protecting the Trail at Lady Bird Lake. With your help, we can help sweeten the reward for all those long runs you've made around the lakefront. Recent improvements we have made include a complete renovation of Johnson Creek Trailhead (under MoPac) with a bank of 12 drinking water fountains that are geo-
thermally cooled, a rainwater garden (plants to added soon), beautifully-crafted retaining walls with steps leading down to the lake, and much-needed, new restrooms across the street. Construction on the restrooms should begin in early summer.

A Minute Of Your Time, Please!

Would you mind taking a quick survey that is critically important for the Trail? All we need you to do is take this survey, and express your strong support for needed improvements for the Trail's basic infrastructure. The Bond Election Advisory Task Force and the City Council will rely on this Public Input Survey when they develop the bond package for November.

How you can help:

- Tell the City how you would allocate bond funding among the set of four bond categories including Parks and Open Space which includes Trail infrastructure. To help the Trail, please support the Parks and Open Space category.
- List in the project comment boxes specific high-priority Trail projects such as Trail Enhancement and Repairs which include restrooms, retaining walls, etc. and Holly-Festival Beach shoreline trail and park improvements to close the gap in the shoreline Trail. This document gives you a summary of the Trail-related projects and the City's cost estimates.

This is your chance to voice support for the Trail and your input will make a real difference to the Trail that sustains us all.

But hurry! The survey closes April 1. Filling it out takes less than a minute - please go now. THANK YOU!

http://www.austintexas.gov/online-form/bond-development-survey

Come Join TTF at a Spring Festival, April 28
Mark your calendar and join Trail lovers and TTF friends and neighbors Saturday, April 28 (noon - 6 p.m.) at Hops & Grain Brewery for an afternoon of great music, good food and cold beer! A $10 donation at the door lets you sample incredibly fresh, sustainable beers from Austin's own Hops & Grain Brewery, and listen to six different bands all while supporting EcoAustin and TTF. Text your friends, slather on some sunscreen and head on over to H & G for a fun-filled afternoon.

2012 Spring Festival - featuring live music and... Free Beer!

Who: EcoAustin, TTF & You  
When: Saturday, April 28 - Stop in any time from noon - 6 p.m.  
Where: Hops & Grain Brewery, 507 Calles St., St. 101, 78702 (located where 6th Street ends on the east side of I-35)  
Why: Easy...To enjoy good company and a gorgeous spring afternoon while supporting TTF + EcoAustin

Several food trailers will be on site to alleviate any afternoon hunger pains. We’ll see you there!
You may have noticed the Trail detour this week near Lou Neff Point. The Urban Forestry Program with PARD removed a large, hazardous cottonwood tree from the section of the Trail between Lou Neff Point and the Barton Creek bridge. Click here to view the Tree Risk Assessment.

TTF is committed to protecting and diversifying the woodlands along the Trail. Our Healthy Trees for the Trail program ensures new trees are added each year.

March Trail Work

A few LASA students hard at work
Several Dell volunteers gathered March 2 to plant 720 native bare root seedlings, including hill country chinquapin oak, Texas redbud, Texas mountain laurel, and beautyberry.

TTF would like to express a special "Thank You!" to the LASA students and Dell employees who rolled up their sleeves, got their hands dirty and made these improvements possible.

Between the Bridges (the section of Trail located on the south side of the lake between the railroad bridge and Pfluger Pedestrian bridge) was tended to by local students earlier this month. Some 25 volunteers from the Language Arts and Science Academy (LASA) planted perennials to replace plants that did not survive the brutal summer of 2011. We selected plants that are highly drought tolerant, including Mexican honeysuckle bush, Lindheimer muhly grass, blackfoot daisies, and Mexican bush sage.

Trail Tales
On March 22, we installed the latest round of Commemorative Bricks at Lou Neff Point. There is often a story behind a brick that has been given and many involve love. Love for the lake, love for the Trail and love for one another. It’s part of what makes that particular spot on the Trail so special.

Sidhya Jayakumar happened to be walking on the Trail just after the brick pictured above was installed. Click here to read her story.

Have a Trail Tale you’d like to share? Just send us your story along with a picture and we’ll try to include it in a future TTF newsletter.

Volunteer Opportunities

Saturday, April 14
We need a volunteer to lead one of our Clean Sweep groups at Lady Bird Lake from 8:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Please contact Jenny if you are interested.

Saturday, April 28
We need several folks to volunteer at our TTF table at the Spring Festival at Hops & Grain Brewery. Each shift will be for 1 hour between noon - 6 p.m. You must be at least 21 years of age to volunteer. Please contact Jenny if you are interested and would like additional information.

Garden Adoptions
We have a few gardens open for adoption along the Trail. Visit our website for more information on our Lady Bird Johnson Adopt-a-Garden program.

Thank you!