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Building the Boardwalk

We are thrilled to see continuing progress on Boardwalk construction! TTF volunteer, Tom Athey, has been generously been donating his time and talent by photographing the construction progress since it began in October 2012. A collection of photos can be seen here. Anticipated project completion is late spring 2014.

Runners go the Distance for the Trail!
Our congratulations to all runners who completed the Austin Fit Magazine Distance Challenge! We were tremendously honored to be the beneficiary of both the ARC Decker Challenge Half Marathon and the Austin Fit Distance Challenge that resulted in a $15,000 gift to the Trail - thank you! Whether you ran 13.1, 61.7 or 87.2 miles...we appreciate each and every step you took to make a great Trail even better. Well done, runners!

More Trail Memories...

We mentioned in the last newsletter the success of the Trail Memory Boards created by GO Collaborative. The boards were at the Trail in February near Heron Creek, across from the YMCA. Goals of the memory boards were to celebrate the
Trail, excite Trail users about this project, gather Trail user feedback to guide and inspire Mell Lawrence Architects (project architect) and gather information for future TTF design efforts.

Lynn Osgood and Sarah Gamble, with GO Collaborative, analyzed the comments and reported:

"The responses to the Trail Memory Boards were phenomenal. In less than a week over 1700 comments were gathered. Responses ranged from the whimsical to the sacred. Through Trail user's answers it became overwhelmingly clear how deeply the Trail affects people's lives and how much the people of Austin identify with the Trail and feel it is their home."

You can read more about the project here. Following are a few of the comments left by Trail users; additional quotes will be included in future newsletters:

One of my favorite stories, I tell it to this day happened when I was out on the trail for a healthy trot and as I rounded a corner a man, who I would guess was in his 60's, came skipping around the corner. This brought me so much joy and still brings a smile to my face! Stayin' young at heart

I love the culture differences seen on the trail...I always tell visitors to go to trail to see what Austin is about.

Rain or shine. Happy or sad. Excited or tired. As often as is humanly possible, I run this trail. And I'm never more ME, never more INSPIRED than when I'm here.

When I use the trail, I am always on the lookout for my favorite tree of the day. I love seeing how the trees change with the seasons and the different wildlife in the trees. I also like to ponder everything that the trees have "seen" during their lives at the trail.

Thank you to all who stopped and shared your stories; we were delighted to learn how precious the Trail is to our community and are honored to be its steward.

Survey Informs Next Restroom

We also worked with GO Collaborative to create a survey to allow Trail users to give specific input for the upcoming Heron Creek restroom replacement. Over 500 Trail users responded to the survey.

- We learned that 61% of respondents want separate male and female facilities.
- We gathered information about the features people want to see integrated into future restrooms and general ideas about the Trail.
- Respondents' suggestions included adequate restroom lighting, shade, bike racks, coat/bag hook, etc.

Click here to see the data and graphs revealing users' interests in maintenance, usage patterns, safety needs, and more!

First Flush!
New Johnson Creek trailhead restroom under construction.

Speaking of restrooms...we are about to have a new one! Join us on Saturday, April 27 as we celebrate the completion of a new restroom at Johnson Creek trailhead.

Studio 8 architects designed these facilities specifically with Trail users in mind. The restroom will have four stalls; two female and two male. They are constructed of steel and artisanal concrete which is made to look much like the exposed limestone along the creek bed. Safety and privacy were carefully balanced in the design; ambient noise from the freeway overhead was also considered. The sink area is a common, open space with a see-and-be-seen feel similar to the Trail itself.

We hope you can stop by on Saturday, April 27 to celebrate the opening of the Trail's newest amenity. We will have TTF dog tags for your Trail-loving dogs, some free First Flush shirts, GoodPops, and more!

Margarita, Anyone?
The 9th annual Maudie's Moonlight Margarita Run & Gala is right around the corner on Thursday, June 13 - Save the Date! Early registration will open in April, check our events page for updates. Sponsorships are still available; contact Jenny for more information.

Volunteers in Action

Q1 Media employees working in their adopted garden - thanks, everyone!
A hard working crew mulching at Longhorn Shores during It's My Park Day. Great job!

Seaholm Intake - Ideas Sought

For years, many of us have thought about the possible uses of the Seaholm Intake facility along the banks of Lady Bird Lake and the Butler Trail. The building has an art deco design and once was the pump house for the Seaholm Power Plant. The power plant was decommissioned and all of the buildings, including the lakeside Intake, will have an adaptive re-use. Any uses must include a function that supports public use of this parkland building.

The Austin Parks and Recreation Department, in collaboration with The Trail Foundation, the American Institute of Architects Austin, and the Austin Parks Foundation, is seeking ideas for the Intake. There will be extensive public engagement, including on-site open houses, followed by a design idea competition which will inform a later request for public-private partnership proposals. The idea competition is open to all design professionals and students.

Click here for the detailed idea competition handbook.

Volunteer Opportunities

**Saturday, April 7: 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.:** Clean Sweep! All TTF spots are full, but there are still places to volunteer, click here to view the list of all volunteer opportunities.

**Garden Adoptions:** We have just a few gardens left open for adoption along the Trail. E-mail us if you are interested in taking care of one of these great gardens this year.