High Energy at The Trail

That old saying is true: Many hands make light work. Volunteer groups like the more than 50 Jones Energy volunteers find that a Trail outing can be the ideal place to strengthen connections.

The Trail Foundation would like to extend a warm, Texas-sized THANK YOU! to the volunteers from Jones Energy who volunteered their time, effort and muscle power on October 20. This energetic crew worked many hours making numerous improvements to our treasured Trail.

To the Trail's west, the volunteers began by cutting back grape vines and hauling brush near the Johnson Creek trailhead, amping the scenery in this area. On the Trail's east side, the group spread over 120 cubic yards of mulch to keep those mature live oaks at Lakeshore Park strong and healthy in spite of the punishing Summer of 2011. They also replanted 20 small cypress trees along the water's edge and painted the Holly outfall footbridge, the Holly fishing platform, the Pleasant Valley tunnel and countless picnic tables and benches...whew!

And let us not forget the electrifying efforts of all the folks from Austin Parks and Recreation - who brought supplies, direction and a seemingly endless supply of mulch to this enthusiastic crew from Jones Energy.

Thanks again, everyone!

November Events
We would like for you, our members and supporters, to have early word of some important news and upcoming dates regarding the Trail.

Today, October 27, Mayor Leffingwell will announce his initiative to rename the Town Lake Hike and Bike Trail for Ann and Roy Butler. As you know, shortly after Lady Bird Johnson's death in 2007, the lake was renamed for her yet the Trail remained officially the Town Lake Hike and Bike Trail. On Thursday, November 3, at it's regularly scheduled meeting, the Austin City Council will vote on the resolution about renaming the Trail. Co-sponsors of the renaming resolution are Mayor Leffingwell, Council Member Cole and Council Member Spelman. If approved, the Trail would be officially renamed the Ann and Roy Butler Hike and Bike Trail.

TTF supports Mayor Leffingwell's initiative to name the Trail for the Butlers. Ann and Roy Butler, along with Lady Bird Johnson, were instrumental in shaping the vision of and raising private funds for the 1970's Town Lake beautification project - and ultimately the hike and bike trail we all enjoy today. Click here to read about the key roles both Ann and Roy Butler played in helping create the Trail and surrounding greenspace that means so much to our city today.

And if you would like to hear why key community leaders, including Luci Baines Johnson, Town Lake Beautification Committee Co-Chairman Les Gage, Hill Country Conservancy's George Cofer, and running leaders Gilbert Tuhabonye and Paul Carrozza, support the Mayor's initiative, please see this video.

The Trail belongs to everyone here in Austin and many people contributed to its creation. But we believe paying tribute to the Butlers with this significant honor is an appropriate way of giving thanks for their hard work and vision 40 years ago. The Trail Foundation's name would remain the same.

And work to finally complete the Trail continues today. As you may know, last year The Trail Foundation and the City of Austin created a public-private partnership to support the cost of closing the last major gap in our lakefront Trail. In 2010, The Trail Foundation committed to raising $3 million for this project. On Thursday, November 17, The Trail Foundation will hold a press conference to publicly launch the "Campaign for the Trail." We will announce some of our lead donors and exciting news about the total amount of donations and firm commitments we have received.

The City of Austin estimates the construction will begin in early 2012 with an estimated completion at the end of 2013.

Please join us at City Hall on November 17 at 2 p.m. We hope to see you there!

I Love The Trail!

Meet Hanna Pak... she loves the Trail and wanted to be a part of taking care of it. This Trinity Episcopal School 5th grader celebrated her 11th birthday on September 17 and encouraged her friends to contribute to The Trail Foundation in lieu of giving her gifts. We met Hanna at the Johnson Creek
trailhead one afternoon to find out what inspired her generosity. Here's her story...

What inspired you to have your friends give to The Trail Foundation?
I run cross-country and we run on the Trail most Monday and Wednesday afternoons. I love to run on the Trail because of the trees, shade, and water - it's so pretty and there are all kinds of people on it.

What are your favorite spots on the Trail?
The water stops and the area by Texas Rowing.

When do you like to run on the Trail?
When it's not blazing hot!

What is one word you would use to describe the Trail?
Diverse.

Thank you, Hanna, for your giving spirit and willingness to support our Trail...you set a wonderful example for us all.

Dig in...Get Dirty!

James Beesley, Cheryl Beesley, and Mitchell McGovern show off their handywork in the Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association adopted garden.

For a small annual donation, you can design, plant and tend a garden on the Trail. Put your green thumb to work and lend your personal touch to the Trail while helping support The Trail Foundation through our Lady Bird Johnson Adopt-a-Garden Program.

What a great way to enjoy this fall weather while giving back to your Trail. Garden adoptions are great for family projects, corporate team building and community gardening. Adoptable Trail garden plots offer gardeners a great way to enjoy their love for gardening, while helping to beautify the Trail.

Four small gardens remain available for adoption, including one on the Pfluger pedestrian bridge - one of the most popular and high profile garden
spots. Please email us for more information.

Challenge Yourself....

Looking for a way to keep in shape during the thick of all the upcoming fall holidays?

Think about running the Austin Runners Club Decker Challenge Half Marathon on December 11! It has become quite an Austin tradition to run this challenging course around Decker Lake.

Not a runner? No problem; come volunteer with The Trail Foundation at the Mile 6 water stop and cheer on the runners - we'll have a blast!

Contact Jenny for more information.