Toast the Trail!

Please join us on Thursday, November 15 at the legendary TenOak Bourbon House and Lounge from 5 - 7 p.m. for an evening of fine bourbon and delicious appetizers. Tickets are $25 but seating is limited so reserve your spot soon!

We'll sample a variety of bourbon from Garrison Brothers Distillery. Dan Garrison, the proprietor (and also the founder of The Trail Foundation) will talk about:

- whiskey 101 (brown vodkas, blends, scotch, Irish, bourbon)
- bourbon in American history
- how bourbon is made
- proper nosing and tasting techniques

Come have a drink, enjoy a few hor d'oeuvres and support The Trail Foundation!

Tree Time

When you run, walk or bike the western loops of the Butler Trail, please take a moment to look at the 150 new trees on the north side between Lamar and Austin High. The native trees will grow to shade, beautify and
diversify the Trail.

On October 20th, 125 TTF volunteers planted and mulched the native Texas trees as part of Healthy Trees for the Trail in celebration of Arbor Day. In Austin, Arbor Day is celebrated in October, an optimal time for tree planting in Texas. Mayor Leffingwell spoke about the importance of planting trees in public spaces and at our own homes and neighborhoods.

TTF hired Greater Texas Landscapes to install irrigation so the trees will survive the first few summers. And our hard-working partners, the Urban Forestry Program of the Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) and TreeFolks, delivered the trees, brought the wheelbarrows and helped lead the groups of volunteers.

Volunteers included groups from: Anderson High School IB program, Grant Thornton, Hill + Knowlton Strategies, the Tulane Club of Austin and a UT service fraternity.

But it wasn't ALL work....in addition to planting trees, volunteers were treated to breakfast tacos from Maudie's Tex-Mex, bucket rides by the Forestry Program, and lunch from Thundercloud Subs. Not a bad way to spend a beautiful Saturday...thanks everyone!

Christmas in October

Each year, the Real Estate Council of Austin (RECA) holds an annual community service work day and chooses a different non-profit organization to be the beneficiary of an early Christmas gift of assorted renovations. This year TTF was fortunate to be the recipient of their generous gift. Zach Hunter, Bury+Partners and RECA committee co-chair commented: "We all love the Trail so this was our opportunity to give back."

This past Saturday, 90 RECA volunteers worked with TTF and the Parks Department to do yeoman's work on the Trail's eastside. RECA installed irrigation and landscaping at Fiesta Gardens, re-striped ten parking lots, power washed and painted three restrooms, cleared invasive plants, and repaired a Fiesta Gardens dock. Whew, those were some busy elves!

Great Energy at the Trail!
Jones Energy employees literally rolled up their sleeves and dug in at the Butler Trail earlier this month to make our Trail even better! This enthusiastic group of 60 planted 500 native flowers along the berms at the Zilker Bluffs Tree Grove & spread mulch to prepare the grove for winter. They also trimmed trees & bushes along the North Shore Overlook, weeded several gardens, planted native plants at the Johnson Creek Trailhead, cut back invasive grapevines along the north side of the Trail, and painted the columns under MoPac. Thank you all for giving the Trail some positive energy and TLC!

Vote for Parks!

The City of Austin has approved $385 million in bond propositions for a November 6 vote. By limiting the total amount of the bond package to $385 million, the bonds would not require a tax increase.

Proposition 14 would provide $77.6 million for Parks and Recreation. TTF has endorsed Proposition 14 which includes $1.25 million for Trail enhancements/repairs and $2.5 million for Holly Plan phase 1 implementation. Please join us and vote yes to provide public money to improve Austin parks.

Trail Stewards in Action
Watershed Protection responding to TTF request to remove unsightly concrete from Johnson Creek. We thank y'all!

Young Men's Service League during the lake clean-up on Saturday, October 20. Thanks, everyone!

Jim Lemos (R) and his son, Jesse, working in the garden adopted by Texas Realty Capital on the Pfluger Bridge.

Littlest Philanthropist

In mid-September we began receiving donations in honor of Lucas Peterson and found out he was TTF's youngest philanthropist to date! To celebrate his 1st Birthday, his parents, Deb & Josh Peterson, asked that friends donate to TTF in honor of Lucas.
Deb explained, "We live close by in Bouldin Creek and use the Trail almost daily. Our son, Lucas loves going for runs and taking his dog to Auditorium Shores. It is a very special place for us. We look forward to watching him grow up around the lake. Thanks for taking such good care of the area. I hope our small contribution will be of some help."

Thanks so much Deb, Josh & Lucas, we appreciate your willingness to give back to the Trail you love. And thanks for sharing your story!

Up for the Challenge?

We are honored to be the beneficiary of the 2012 Decker Challenge and invite you to join us! Registration is open for the 34th annual Decker Half Marathon and Brown Santa 5K/Kids K taking place on Sunday, December 9 at the Travis County Expo Center.

Don't want to run but still want to join in the fun? Great! Sign-up to volunteer at the TTF water stop at Mile 6 and help cheer on the runners! It's a great way to give back, have fun and get some cool TTF swag too. Contact Jenny for more information.

Volunteer Opportunities

Support runners + get a cool tech shirt: Help cheer on the Decker Challenge runners and offer them race support at the TTF water stop at Mile 6 on December 9. E-mail Jenny for more information.

December: We will need 10 volunteers for two nights during the Trail of Lights. This is a great volunteer opportunity for groups including high school or college students wanting a fun way to get service hours.

- Sunday, December 16 from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. OR 7:30 - 10:30 p.m.
- Sunday, December 23 from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. OR 7:30 - 10:30 p.m.

Click here to register and be sure to sign up for one of the nights listed above - fill in The Trail Foundation under organization. E-mail Jenny if you have any questions.

Trail of Lights!

The party is officially on! Mayor Lee Leffingwell, Forefront Austin and the RunTex Carrozza Foundation officially kicked off the 2012 Trail of Lights, Powered by H-E-B. Local nonprofits, including The Trail Foundation, will be part of the Dell Powering the Possible tent and will be beneficiaries of the Trail of Lights Giving Fund.