Boardwalk Progress

Visible progress on the Boardwalk with additions of railings and over-water surface. [Click here](#) to see the full set of up-to-date construction images.

Sincere Appreciation
At a reception at the home of Luci Johnson and Ian Turpin, the major donors to the Boardwalk Capital Campaign were personally thanked by TTF Executive Director Susan Plettman Rankin, Mayor Lee Leffingwell, Campaign Honorary Co-Chair Luci Johnson, Campaign Chair Griffin Davis, and Campaign Honorary Co-Chair Mrs. Ann S. Butler.

### Trick-or-Treat Trees

Seventy Jones Energy employees spent their Halloween morning planting 107 native flowering trees on the northern, bare, steep slope along the Butler Trail between S. 1st and Congress. As part of the Healthy Trees for the Trail program, the Mexican olive, Anacacho orchid, flameleaf sumac, kidneywood, goldenball leadtree, Texas mountain laurel, Mexican buckeye and evergreen sumac trees will create flowering spring beauty, give us all some sweet scents and attract birds and butterflies.

Thank you, Jones Energy planting team!

### Have You Seen These?
The Butler Trail at Lady Bird Lake is host to a myriad of public art works and events that you might be familiar with and others that you may not. The Trail faces increasing pressures to site more public art, both permanent and temporary, along its route than it currently has.

In collaboration with Women and Their Works, creators of the current "THIRST" temporary installation, in our November newsletter we will be sharing an art survey with you, the Trail users, to get your perspective on the art-works around you when you walk, bike, jog, row, etc. around the Trail. Hone your senses now by taking note of these images - have you seen all of these while on the Trail? Have you seen other public art around Austin that you like? Works that you don't like? Do you think public art enhances your Trail experience? Do you prefer to go to the Trail for its natural setting?

Please be thinking about these issues throughout the month of November as you use the Trail and keep an eye out for Trail Public Art Survey in the next edition of our newsletter! We can't wait to learn what you think about the Trail experience that you love!

Conservation at Lady Bird Lake

The City's Watershed Protection and Parks and Recreation Departments began removing non-native invasive giant reed along Lady Bird Lake and lower Barton Creek in 2011.

Arundo donax (common name, giant reed) is a grass that grows up to 20 feet tall, with dense compact roots that penetrate deeply into the soil. It creates dense monoculture stands that choke lake shorelines and stream channels, limit human access, displace diverse species of native plants that support birds and other wildlife, can interfere with flood control and increase fire potential. It uses up to three times the water as native plants.

As it continues to spread along the shoreline, it has become as much of a threat to the riparian areas of Lady Bird Lake as hydrilla is to Lake Austin.

Arundo covers approximately 3.5 acres or 7900 linear feet at the lake. Patches range from single plants to 150 feet of dense growth. The plants grow between the water's edge and the Trail, usually on fairly steep slopes. The vast majority of it at Lady Bird Lake is located close to Longhorn Dam. See the distribution map here.

See Volunteer Opportunities below for how your group can help.
Volunteer Opportunities

Conservation; group project:
Weekday volunteer group of 15 to 30 people to be scheduled between December 2 and 5. Ideal for corporate team-building work. Work with TTF and the Watershed Protection Department in areas along Lady Bird Lake near Longhorn Dam where removal of invasive non-native giant reed grass has been done. The volunteer work will include laying down mulch socks and blankets, and planting native seeds. See article above for background on this project. Email us to volunteer your group!

Decker Challenge Water Stop: Sunday, December 8 from 6:45 a.m - 10 a.m. Come help TTF cheer on the Decker Half marathoners and help keep runners hydrated! All volunteers will receive a goody bag and a FREE TTF membership! E-mail us for more information.

Southeast Shore master planning

At a recent public meeting, Trail users placed notes on a map to show desired amenities for the areas from the eastern terminus of the Boardwalk to Longhorn Dam. Please click here if you have not yet had a chance to fill out a Southeast Shore survey.

Trail Tale from the Memory Board

Following is another memory left on the Trail Memory board this past February. Thanks to all of you who shared your memories and stories.

This is my Austin lifeline. A place where all of the threads of a beautiful sunny ATX life intersect. It really all comes together, right here. Sacred open community.