FREE Registration!!

Come join the fun this Sunday, October 2, by taking a leisurely stroll around the east side of the Trail with your fellow Austinites. The weather outlook calls for much cooler weather - a walk around the lake will be great way to cap off this fall weekend.

Click here to register for FREE as part of The Trail Foundation Team!

The Walk begins at 4 p.m. at Longhorn Shores. The route makes a 3.6-mile loop around the Trail's east side. There will be a fun, family-friendly Expo along Longhorn Shores that starts at 2 p.m. Come on out and join in the fun! Each finisher will receive a T-shirt and water bottle and Whole Foods Market will provide yummy snacks at the finish.

Contact Jenny if you have additional questions - we'll see you there!

Amid the Drought, Signs of Fall Beauty & Planning to Plant Trees
Good news; despite the seemingly endless Texas drought and heat, the wonderful ribbon of green along Lady Bird Lake has mostly survived this relentless test of our Lone Star mettle.

Many Trail trees, including the stately bald cypresses, have endured the extremes because their roots reach into wet soils along the water’s edge. The big old pecans are, for the most part, surviving since this species naturally occurs in the deep soils along rivers across Texas. On a less encouraging note, several of the Trail's colorful and tough-as-nails crape myrtles, planted by the Town Lake Beautification Committee in the 1970's, are clearly declining.

One look at the flourishing desert willows in the Pfluger Circle confirms that TTF's practice of selecting the hardiest native plants is definitely serving the needs of the Trail well. Throughout the season's brutal streak of 100-degree days, these trees have remained in full flower. Similarly, a recent quick shower triggered flowering of the circle of Texas sage. And with minimal watering and some TLC, Lou Neff Point has continued to bloom with tubular flowers, attracting hummingbirds.

As you visit, be on the lookout for the Fall warblers and other migratory birds that rely on the Trail's valuable urban habitat. A flash of bright orange in the woodlands along the river recently revealed a pair of migrating Baltimore Orioles.

We're playing it safe and smart; TTF delayed planting the trees and perennial flowers at the Johnson Creek Trailhead project, now under construction under MoPac.

Neither are we hiding from the brutal truth that relentless sunshine and scorching heat this summer have prematurely
killed off many trees and will lead to the death of many others in the coming years. As a result, TTF will be replacing trees we have lost. As you may have seen through our Healthy Trees for the Trail program, The Trail Foundation has planted tree groves in recent years, including the 2006 westside Zilker Bluffs grove and the 2010 eastside Longhorn Shores grove. Given the water limitations, we may defer the planned February 2012 planting of 200 to 300 native trees that will shade, diversify, and beautify the mostly barren section of the Trail along the north side of the lake, west of Lamar. Stay tuned, and please consider sponsoring this highly visible planting.

The tree selection, planting, and irrigation methods used by TTF model and promote the best in native tree selection and care. Establishing new trees is one of the most important things TTF does to protect our Trail and our Austin quality of life. We’ll continue to do our part, and we certainly hope you’ll join us in this critical effort.

Say What?

Read what they're saying about us!

Congratulations to UT student Krishna Venkatararaman who won the two three-day ACL Festival passes, courtesy of our friends at AMD! Krishna says he loves the Trail because it "embodies the outdoorsy, environmental side of the Austin community that makes this city so amazing!"

Here are what a few other TTF Facebook friends had to say:
"The Trail is a beautiful landmark representing what Austin is all about...nature, diversity, community, health and fun!"  - Patti Justice

"Running with my dog Moose on the Trail is my Zen. His tail never stops wagging and if I had one, it'd be doing the same."  - Mike Braunscheidel

"The Trail intertwines between the old Austin and the Austin of today. It’s as much an asset and a way of life for us as it will be for our children. Around one corner, it’s memories of a sleepy cool town in the Texas hill country and around the other, it’s the funky, hip and progressive town of today. Pure and simple, it’s Austin."  - Mooney Monteilh

"I love how you see famous people there and friends, babies in strollers, kids learning to ride their bikes, dogs swimming in the water, people in every kind of clothes, and everyone in a good mood. It's one of the best things in Austin."  - Jan K. Wilson

"The Trail is always a good listener."  - Craig Collinsworth

"I love the Trail because I get to see young and old, fast and slow, newbies and crusty trail veterans all striving to better themselves."  - Andrew Smith

"The Trail is like going on vacation without leaving home."  - Anne Fertitta

"The Trail is a gateway to good feeling - leave behind the clutter and set out on its paths - clearing, cleansing and stimulating the mind and body."  - Frances Thompson

"There's no better way to start the day than with a sunrise run on the Trail - it's true soul food!"  -Teresa Recar

"I love the Trail because it's the only place I find solitude in the chaos of my daily grind. It reenergizes me and gives me the strength to face tomorrow...Tyson would agree with me if he know how to type."  - Ryan Dierk

"I love the Trail because I have so many lovely memories there along the way. I am always thankful for Lady Bird Johnson's wonderful vision, and how I see the work of The Trail Foundation continuing in her legacy. Thank you Trail Foundation!!!"  - Leonard Hebert
We want to hear from you - "Like" us on Facebook and tell us why you love The Trail! If you have a favorite Trail tale, and would like to share it in our e-newsletter, please e-mail Jenny...and please include a photo if you're able.

Labor of Love

![Image ofGamma Beta Phi Honor Fraternity volunteers]

We would like to extend a great big Trail Foundation "THANK YOU!" to The Gamma Beta Phi Honor Fraternity from UT for beautifying the Roberta Crenshaw pedestrian bridge underneath MoPac on Tuesday, September 13.

This group of volunteers worked selflessly for several hours sweeping the bridge and scrubbing the railings to make the trek to Austin City Limits Music Festival for thousands of music lovers all the more scenic and memorable...Great job, Gamma Phi's!

Would You Like to Lend a Hand?

Clean Heroes Wanted: Several spots are still available for the October 8 Lady Bird Lake cleanup scheduled from 9 to 11 a.m. We'd love to see you there! Follow this link to reserve your spot, or to learn more.

Walk Right In: The Be Well Walk (Sunday, Oct. 2) also has a variety of volunteer needs; click here to help.

Staff The Be Well Expo: We have open spots and a need for several more volunteers at our Expo booth for the Be Well Walk (Sunday, Oct. 2). Volunteer shifts will be as follows: 12:30-2:30 p.m, 2:30-4:30, and 4:30-6:30. Please contact Jenny if you would like to volunteer.

Garden Adoption: Trail garden plots offer gardeners a great
way to enjoy their love for gardening, while helping to beautify the Trail. Several gardens remain available for adoption around the lake through our Lady Bird Johnson Adopt-a-Garden Program. Put your green thumb to work and lend your personal touch to the Trail while helping support The Trail Foundation. Please email us if you would like to adopt.

Did You Know?

A recent survey of close to 700 Trail users showed that 60% of Trail visitors drive to the Trail. This same study revealed that most Trail visitors live and work an average of 6.75 miles from the Trail.

The study was conducted over the summer by students from the Texas Evening Master of Business Administration (TEMBA) Enhance program at the University of Texas at Austin. We will highlight additional statistics in future e-newsletters but if you can't wait and want to see study results now, click here.

Note from the President

Dear Friends of the Trail Foundation,
The days are getting shorter and the temperatures (so they tell me) are getting cooler. Now is my favorite time of year to be on the Trail. Whether it is an early morning run, commuting to work, or walking to the park, the Trail just somehow seems more beautiful this time of year. Every day I am reminded just how fortunate we all are to have this treasure in the heart of our city.

Thanks to all of YOU, the Trail is looking better than ever! Projects such as the Lou Neff Point restoration, the trees at Zilker Bluffs, the new bathrooms, and the soon-to-be finished Johnson Creek Trailhead restoration are happening because of YOU! Additionally, thanks to overwhelming voter support of Proposition 1 last November, we will soon see the beginning of a collaborative effort to complete the Trail.

I truly hope you are taking the opportunity to spend time on the Trail. On behalf of the volunteers, staff, and board of directors of The Trail Foundation, I would like to thank you for your continued support! Together we are making an impact on Austin that will last a lifetime. THANK YOU!

Colin Wallis
TTF Board Chair 2011-12