More Trees for the Trail

Each year the Urban Forestry Program of the Austin Parks and Recreation Department celebrates Arbor Day by planting native trees in Austin's urban forest. This year, as part of our Healthy Trees for the Trail program, TTF and TreeFolks will partner with Urban Forestry to plant 150 native trees just west of Lamar on Saturday, October 20. The Austin Arbor Day ceremony is at 9 a.m. and will include remarks by the Mayor. Planting will begin at 9:30; Arbor Day festivities will be from 11:30 until 1:30 p.m.

What exactly is an urban forest? Well, Urban Forestry describes it this way, "Austin's urban forest is a healthy and sustainable mix of trees, vegetation, and other components that comprise a contiguous and thriving ecosystem valued, protected, and cared for by the City and all of its citizens as an essential environmental, economic, and community asset."
Next time you enjoy a scenic spot for a picnic, hit a shady patch along the Trail or smile as you hear the fall leaves rustling in the breeze, remember that many are working together to carefully tend our urban forest. Click here if you’d like to volunteer at the 2012 Arbor Day planting.

Six Races, One Trail

Tempted by the Halloween candy aisle? Dreaming of all those Thanksgiving pies? Concerned about how to keep those pounds from creeping up on you over the winter? We’ve got an idea….sign up for the Austin Distance Challenge!

We are honored to be the beneficiary of the 2012-2013 Austin Fit Distance Challenge. All runners in the series receive running gear, get special treatment at each race, enjoy a series-end celebration party and have a lot of fun!

Six races comprise the 2012-2013 Austin Fit Magazine Distance Challenge:

- **IBM Uptown Classic 10k** - October 7, 2012
- **Run for the Water 10 Miler** - October 28, 2012
- **ARC Decker Challenge Half Marathon** - December 9, 2012
- **3M Half Marathon** - January 13, 2013
- **Rogue 30k/10k** - January 27, 2013
- **LIVESTRONG Austin Marathon & Half Marathon** - February 17, 2013

Hope to see you at the Finish!

ACL Ticket Giveaway

AMD has generously donated two 3-day passes and access to AMD's hospitality tent for the 2012 Austin City Limits Music Festival - thank you AMD!

We are giving this fantastic prize to a true Trail lover…is it YOU?

To enter, simply "Like" The Trail Foundation on Facebook (if you have not already) and post a picture of the Butler Trail at Lady Bird Lake or anything with a TTF logo (shirt, hat, bumper sticker, etc.) to the TTF Facebook page.

The sweepstakes runs today through
Trail Safety Tips

Recently, a TTF member reported to us several vehicle burglaries near Austin High. We contacted "Park Police," now called Specialized Patrol, which is a unit of the Austin Police Department (APD) to alert them of the problem. We have been assured that in addition to the safety of people using a park or greenbelt, Specialized Patrol is now responsible for the safety of their "customers" including their parking areas. APD reports that their officers have become experts at catching car burglary suspects. They have done stakeouts and have had huge success at Austin High and other areas such as the Loop 360 access to the Barton Creek Greenbelt.

Here are few tips from APD:

- Do not pretend to tie your shoes and put your car key in the wheel well. Thieves are watching you and can see what you are doing.
- Do not hide your purse or laptop after you get to your parking spot.
- Report all crimes to APD so they can identify problem areas.

APD is staffed with 28 officers to patrol 300+ parks so they depend on citizens like you to bring issues to their attention. If you see a disturbing trend, please email Senior Patrol Officer Brian Robinson: brian.robinson@austintexas.gov

Of course, if you see a crime in progress, call 911.

Bourbon Tasting for the Trail

Most people know Dan Garrison as a modern-day Whiskey Peddler making fine straight bourbon from his small farm and ranch in Hye, Texas. But what many don't now is that before he got Whiskey Bent, Garrison was a Trail runner and his favorite place to run was the Ann and Roy Butler Hike and Bike Trail at Lady Bird Lake.
Garrison founded the Town Lake Trail Foundation in 2003, which became The Trail Foundation we know and love today. In the early days, Garrison could often be found sitting at the Johnson Creek Trailhead pitching Trail improvement ideas and raising money. The money raised became substantial and resulted in many of the Trail improvements that we love today including the restoration of Lou Neff Point, the architectural marvel Miro Rivera restroom, and the Overlook east of the Rowing Center.

Garrison retired from The Trail Foundation's board of directors in 2005 but still runs on the Trail and is eager to share his bourbon with friends if it means more money can be raised for 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, delicious appetizers and stories about the Trail. Register here to reserve your spot.

Volunteer Opportunities

Help plant trees: Sign up here to help plant 150 trees on Saturday, October 20.

Support a runner + 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 25 volunteers for two nights during the Trail of Lights. Please contact Jenny for more information. This is a great volunteer opportunity for groups including high school or college students wanting a fun way to get service hours

Parks Bonds

The City of Austin has approved $385 million in bond propositions for a November 6, 2012 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.

The Boardwalk

TTF members Francis and Robin Thompson took a kayak tour with their family on Lady Bird Lake to see exactly where the new Boardwalk will be built.

The City expects the Notice to Proceed will be issued shortly so construction can begin. Boardwalk construction will take approximately 18 months.

We will keep you updated on the progress...stay tuned!

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.

Trail Detour

There will soon be a detour on the north side of the Trail while work is done on the Shoal Creek peninsula. The detour will direct Trail users to use an alternate route east of the Seaholm Intake Facility - click here to see a map. According to the City, the project will "armor" the peninsula where the water is currently eroding the banks, restore the shoreline and remove the current craters caused by water over topping the peninsula. The peninsula will be raised in the middle to help shed water off of the Trail. In addition, the City will be widening the path and adding native plants.

Construction is expected to last six months or less.