Boardwalk Construction Continues...

Excitement continues to build as the Boardwalk gets closer to completion! Pier construction is complete and installation of concrete decking has begun. Pre-fabricated bridges crossing Harper's Branch (just east of Interstate 35) were placed this summer and decomposed granite is being added to the on-land portions. Additional Boardwalk photos by Tom Athey can be seen on our [Flickr](http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs121/1101789453035/archive/1115077901820.html) page.

Dog Races at Lady Bird Lake

**WHAT?!**

Not really, ...but we do want your input on the kinds of improvements you'd like to see, once you step or ride off the eastern end of the soon-
to-be-completed Boardwalk on the Southeast Shore. **Please join us on Thursday, October 17 at 6:30 p.m. to help us create a master plan for this 1½-mile shoreline park:** one that will respond to the needs and interests of Trail and park users, both current and future. Please e-mail Logan for additional information and to RSVP. **No time to go to a meeting? Click here to take a quick survey to tell us what you think about this part of the Trail.**

The master plan will help us prioritize public improvements to enhance the Trail and the park. The needed improvements could be funded through TTF and the City's Parks and Recreation Department and others.

![Image of Butler Trail](image_url)

This part of the Butler Trail is about 1½ miles long, starting at the east end of the Boardwalk, near Lakeshore Blvd. and turns north next to Pleasant Valley Road, and ends near Longhorn Dam at the Pleasant Valley bridge.

The master plan project is sponsored by The Trail Foundation and the City's Parks and Recreation Department, and is being led by Austin-based urban design firm, McCann Adams Studio.

For more information, please contact: Susan or Chris

**Wildflowers...coming soon!**
As part of its Global Kids' Day of Service celebration, Whole Foods Market partnered with us to spread wildflower seeds and plant small wildflower plugs along Lamar Beach. We planted Butterfly Retreat Mix which includes a variety of species to diversify the native flowers in the area. We scratched the ground, spread the seeds, stomped seeds in, and watched the children do a wild rain dance; it worked and we have all seen the September rains come!!! A BIG thanks to all who helped! Additional photos can be seen here.

TTF and Parks Partnerships at SXSW Eco

If you are going to SXSW Eco in Austin from October 7-9, please join TTF Executive Director, Susan Rankin, as she discusses public-private parks partnerships. This panel discussion will bring together national experts from throughout the US to discuss this innovative and collaborative approach to enhancing and managing our public greenways.

The "Private Conservancies and Public Spaces: Nonprofit Models for Enhancing and Managing Urban Greenways" panel is on October 7, at 4:30.

As we all know, well-maintained parks and trails enhance the quality of life in our cities, providing an oasis for relaxation, recreation, exercise, nature, family, friends and cultural events. Throughout the country, nonprofit organizations are increasingly playing a critical role in
restoring, maintaining and improving these important public spaces in partnership with the public sector.

THIRST at Lady Bird Lake

A temporary art installation by Women and Their Work is on display at Lady Bird Lake from September 29 - December 20, 2013. The installation titled, THIRST, memorializes over 300 million trees that were lost in Texas during the 2011 drought. The project acknowledges the devastating impact drought has on our environment and aims to encourage conservation.

Look for a survey on this temporary art installation in our October newsletter so you can share your thoughts.

Last call for Distance Challenge...

Registration for the 2013-14 Austin Fit Magazine Distance Challenge is still open. But hurry, the first race is October 6 so you must register for the Distance Challenge before then!

The challenge includes the following six races:

IBM Uptown Classic - 10/6/13
Run For The Water - 10/7/13
Decker Challenge - 12/8/13
Rogue Distance Festival 30/10k - 1/5/14
3M Half Marathon - 1/19/14
Austin Marathon & Half Marathon - 2/16/14

Click here for additional information about the Austin Distance Challenge including the Full and Half Track options. We are proud to be the beneficiary of this Challenge...thank you runners!

All for One, Run for All
On Saturday, October 19, the Austin Track Club will present the Run for All Festival at Texas School for the Deaf. Run for All will feature an all-comer's 5K, a professional track meet, live music, food trucks and an outdoor screening of the Halloween classic "Beetlejuice." Registration is $30 and is all-inclusive. Proceeds from the Run for All Festival will benefit the Texas School for the Deaf Foundation. For more information, see the website linked above.

Volunteer Opportunities

Lady Bird Lake clean-up: Saturday, October 19 from 9 - 11 a.m. There are plenty of open slots to help pick-up around Lady Bird Lake, click [here](#) for more information and to register.

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

Trail Tale from 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.

Sunshine on my skin, cool breeze from the water, birds chirping, sound of feet running, I love the quiet, loud sense of Lady Bird Lake trails. Austin Awesome!