



## 2019 Lady Bird Johnson Adopt-A-Garden Program Information

1. Individuals, families, organizations or clubs (examples: Boy and Girl Scouts, fraternities, sororities, nonprofits) may adopt gardens. Companies are not eligible to adopt gardens.
  - a. TTF Staff will meet with you only once on-site after initial first-time adoption to help locate your garden.
2. The adoption fee for these gardens is \$200 annually per bed. Gardens will be up for adoption as they become available and offered to those on the adoption waiting list first. Notice of any garden availability will be posted in the TTF Newsletter. If gardens are adopted mid-year, a pro-rated fee will be assessed.
  - a. We can offer discounts for non-profits, please contact us for more information.
  - b. Additional fees apply for mulch or compost delivery, contact us for more information.
3. The adoption period is one year. Once all of the gardens are adopted, any additional interested gardeners will be placed on a waitlist for any gardens that may become available during the course of the year. A successful adopter may renew an adoption for successive years of the program but adoption fees are subject to change.
  - a. Each year requires a signature on receipt of the new year's updated rules.
  - b. You will receive garden renewal information after the End of Year Garden Evaluation performed by TTF Staff
    - i. First notice: mid-December by mail and e-mail
    - ii. Second notice: early January by mail and e-mail
    - iii. Third notice: mid February by mail and e-mail - last chance before garden is re-entered into adoption pool if no response is received by March 1.
4. Those who adopt a garden must keep it maintained. If a garden is not maintained to TTF's standards, or we receive complaints from the Parks and Recreation Department, the Foundation will notify the garden adopter and allow 2 weeks for the maintenance to be performed. If the adopter does not bring the garden up to the required maintenance standards, they will be notified and the garden will re-enter the adoption pool and be offered to those on the waitlist. If this occurs 3 times within a year, the gardener will be notified of 'third strike' on maintenance standards and the garden will be re-entered into the adoption pool.
  - a. Expectations of a well maintained garden:
    - i. Thoroughly weeded
    - ii. Dead plants removed
    - iii. Watered
    - iv. Mulched
  - b. The Foundation can connect you with a landscape maintenance company that can help with upkeep of your garden if you are unable to do so on your own.
5. Adopters must preserve any preexisting honorary plaques and benches.
6. Outstanding adopters will be occasionally recognized on the website, social media or newsletter.
7. Neither The Trail Foundation nor the Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) is responsible for theft. Theft of plants, signage is common. We recommend against using plants that are expensive or difficult to replace.
8. TTF will send a new sign with outdoor adhesive tape to each adopter at the beginning of each year upon receipt of signed garden rules and adoption fee, no later than Mid-March. The sign will be 9 inches by 4 inches. The sign will include the name of the adopter, the Lady Bird Johnson



Adopt-a-Garden Program name, and TTF logo. Adopters can contact the Foundation throughout the year for replacement signs if it is damaged or goes missing.

**Program Calendar**

- Garden installation deadline: Within 30 days of design approval
- Maintenance: Ongoing; The Foundation can connect you with a landscape maintenance company that can help with upkeep of your garden if you are unable to do so on your own.
- We will recognize outstanding gardens after our quarterly evaluations:



## Design and Horticultural Guidelines for Garden Adopters

### **Preliminary Design Review:**

Once you have developed a scaled design drawing and a plant list for your garden, please send to Leslie Lilly (leslie@thetrailfoundation.org) for review. The Foundation will strive to respond within ten days of submission.

### **Hardscape:**

- Pre-existing benches and plaques must remain in place and be visible.
- Permissible new materials are rock, crushed stone and wood. Metal or plastic edging is prohibited.
- Large stone gravel, stone edging or boulders are prohibited on the Pfluger Bridge gardens to ensure the safety of those using the water below.
- Installation of statues, sundials, benches or other art is prohibited because of theft and vandalism.

### **Plant Selection:**

Your garden will be subject to several constraints:

- It may have to survive on rainfall and hauled water alone. Not all sites have irrigation or hose bibs and those that do are not always in working order.
- It should be able withstand moderate deer browsing.
- You must retain existing trees and shrubs, although shrubs may be pruned. Please contact us for information about pruning of shade or ornamental trees.
- New plant selections that have a mature height of over 4' will be considered based on location, proximity to the Trail, mature size, existing tree cover.
- New plant selections that are sharp, thorny, prickly or spiny will be considered on a case-by-case basis. These types of plants are strongly discouraged in highly trafficked zones or close proximity to the Trail.

The following invasive shrubs and groundcovers, which are not native to Central Texas, are prohibited:

Chinese photinia ( <i>Photinia serrulata</i> )	Nandina (large, berry-producing varieties of <i>Nandina domestica</i> )
Chinese privet ( <i>Ligustrum sinense</i> )	Pampas grass ( <i>Cortaderia selloana</i> )
Elephant Ear ( <i>Alocasia species</i> )	Pyracantha ( <i>Pyracantha coccinea</i> )
Holly Fern ( <i>Cyrtomium falcatum</i> )	Tamarisk (all <i>Tamarix</i> species)
Japanese honeysuckle ( <i>Lonicera japonica</i> )	Golden Bamboo ( <i>Phyllostachys aurea</i> and related species)
Kudzu ( <i>Pueraria montana</i> )	English Ivy ( <i>Hedera helix</i> )
Ligustrum ( <i>Ligustrum japonicum</i> , <i>L. lucidum</i> , <i>L. sinense</i> )	Periwinkle ( <i>Vinca minor</i> and <i>Vinca major</i> )
Mimosa (nonnative Mimosa species)	
Maiden Grass ( <i>Miscanthus sinensis</i> )	

Native Texas plants are a natural choice because they are adapted to our rainfall, soils and temperatures. However, there are many well-behaved and well-adapted non-native plants.



Neither The Trail Foundation or the Austin Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for the theft of plants, tools or landscaping materials. Theft of garden materials is a risk that must be borne by the adopters. We suggest that you avoid expensive or hard-to-replace plants.

### **Installation and Maintenance:**

The absence of or irregularity of irrigation or a hose bib at some garden sites means you must find a way to water the garden at the time of installation and periodically until the plants develop adequate root systems to withstand dry periods. ***Providing water will be your greatest challenge.*** You may have to resort to dipping water from the lake. *In summer heat, you may have to water as often as every four days for your plants to survive their first season.*

\*If you are out of town during the summer or any other time, please make sure you have someone to assist you with watering and maintaining your garden while you are away. TTF can connect you to a landscape contractor to assist with this process.

Establishing your plants may take at least two growing seasons. Mulch will greatly assist this process. If you use mulch of plant origin, we recommend using a commercial product that is free of weed seeds.

Due to the proximity of Lady Bird Lake, use of chemical fertilizers, and herbicides and pesticides of any sort is strictly forbidden. You may use organic fertilizers and soil amendments. If your site needs fire ant or wasp treatment, contact the Foundation and we will relay your request to the Parks and Recreation Department.

Though driving in the park is strongly discouraged, on your major garden installation days you may drive a vehicle near your site to deliver materials. However, you must have a "grass permit" to do so. To obtain a permit, contact the Parks and Recreation Department headquarters (Joe.Diaz@austintexas.gov). Please submit your grass permit application at least one week in advance.

The Trail Foundation and The City of Austin require that anyone working on a garden must sign a liability waiver. Waivers for all potential helpers can be filled out when the adoption takes place. Anyone who might work on the garden during a year should be listed on the form or they cannot perform any work in the garden. Each adoption team member will be provided a Trail Foundation t-shirt.

Adopters must maintain gardens to a reasonably high standard, e.g. weeded and dead plants removed. If you cannot meet your maintenance obligation, contact the Foundation promptly so that we can help.

**Safety:** Take a first aid kit and mobile phone or other means of communication to all work sessions.

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