



# The Trail Foundation

## 2022 Fact Sheet

### About

*Our Mission:* To protect, enhance, and connect the Ann and Roy Butler Hike-and-Bike Trail at Lady Bird Lake for the benefit of all.

The Butler Hike-and-Bike Trail is a 10-mile urban path in the heart of Austin. Since its founding in 2003, The Trail Foundation has completed restoration and beautification projects on the Trail while honoring the founders' vision and ensuring its vibrancy for generations to come. TTF works in cooperation with the Austin Parks and Recreation Department to close the gap between what the City can provide and what the Trail deserves. [TheTrailFoundation.org](https://www.thetrailfoundation.org)

### Fast Facts

- The Trail sees more than 4.9 million visits by citizens and tourists each year.
- The Trail encompasses 10 miles and 200 acres of green space in the heart of Austin.
- The Trail Foundation is privately funded through individual and corporate donations, grants, and sponsorships.

### Major Achievements

- Since its founding, TTF has raised and allocated more than **\$16.7 million** for Trail improvements.
- In honor of its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2018, TTF announced [15 new projects](#) to be completed on the Trail over the next five years and launched the Corgan Canopy Fund to support early stage project development.
  - o [Brazos Bluff](#) added a much-needed stopping point in 2020 along the Trail for people to take a quick stretch, meet for a lunch picnic, contemplate and more.
  - o In 2018, The Trail Foundation completed [The Trail Bridge at Congress Avenue](#), a \$2.5 million project to update a decades-old wooden bridge, add safety enhancements, and create a scenic area to view the bats under Congress Ave.

- o In partnership with the City of Austin, TTF completed construction on the [Boardwalk](#) in 2014, closing a 1.1-mile gap east and west of I-35 and providing an alternative transportation route for the city's growing urban core, while at the same time enhancing the city's beauty and quality of life.
- o In 2021, over 1,000 volunteers helped TTF plant 3,100 trees and remove over 12,000 pounds of trash along the Trail.

### **Current Projects**

- [Butler Shores Exercise Equipment Enhancement](#): TTF has partnered with the Austin Parks & Recreation Department (PARC) to replace and enhance the existing exercise equipment that sits adjacent to the Trail near the PARC headquarters on West Riverside Drive. This project will replace existing items on the site including the exercise equipment, seating, and drinking fountain and will increase fitness opportunities in the area.
- [Rainey Street Trailhead](#): With the growth of the Rainey Street District, the connection between the Trail and Rainey Street is becoming more vital for transportation and access to nature. This gateway to the Trail is an important entry point that we envision improving the ecological function, providing expanded recreational benefit, and increasing amenities for the neighborhood and Trail-users.
- [Holly Project](#): Working with the community and the City of Austin's Parks and Recreation Department, TTF is anticipating the transition of the decommissioned Holly Power Plant into parkland and its impact on the realignment of the Butler Hike-and-Bike Trail. In addition to providing an ADA-accessible realignment of the Trail along the waterfront, the project will support the ecological restoration of the urban forest, natural areas and protection of the shoreline for wildlife habitat.
- [Arts+Culture on the Trail](#): The Trail Foundation (TTF) is partnering with the Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) and the City of Austin Art in Public Places (AIPP) program to prepare an Arts and Culture plan for the Butler Trail to contribute to the space and elevate the user experience, while not overwhelming, distracting, or complicating the environment.