

# Restoration of Native Vegetation in South Zilker Park 2014-2018

Map created under a 2017 grant from the Austin Parks Foundation



# The GREENING of SOUTH ZILKER PARK, 2012 – 2018

## BENEFITS

- Increase shade, flower meadows & greenspace
- Provide habitat for birds & butterflies
- Absorb & clean stormwater
- Prevent erosion that damages infrastructure

## ACTIONS

- Preserve & protect heritage trees
- Remove invasive non-native species to allow native species to flourish
- Plant & seed native trees, shrubs, grasses & flowers
- Remove urban trash

## ACTORS

- City of Austin Parks & Recreation (PARD) & Watershed Protection (WPD) Depts.
- Texas Conservation Corps (TCC)
- Austin Parks Foundation (APF), Keep Austin Beautiful (KAB), & TreeFolks
- Friends of "South" Zilker Park & the Zilker Neighborhood Association.

## KEY PROJECTS

- PARD and WPD designate Robert E Lee Tributary ① as a "Grow Zone." The Friends Group adopts the tributary (now called Little Zilker Creek) and Old Little Zilker Channel ② and develops Grow Zone Restoration Plans under WPD guidance, in order to mitigate the effect of stormwater carrying pollutants from neighborhood streets ⑪⑫⑬⑭ into the Park, Barton Creek, and Lady Bird Lake.
- The City plants dozens of native trees around the newly improved parking lot ③ and seeds the adjacent meadow ④ with native flowers and grasses.
- The City, Treefolks, and the Friends Group plant hundreds of tree seedlings along Little Zilker Creek ① and in the meadow ④.
- Fifteen large, invasive chinaberry and tallow trees ⑤ are removed under a grant from APF. The Friends Group plants native trees and shrubs in the same area.
- ①② The Friends Group collects countless bags of trash and other debris during numerous events, including KAB's Clean Sweep Days. The Group removes thousands of individual of non-native, invasive plants (especially Brazilian vervain, bastard cabbage, and nandina), and plants a wide variety of native plants.
- The TCC, the Friends Group, and PARD transform the unsightly stormwater pond ⑥ by removing ragweed and planting Eastern gamma grass. Surrounding the pond and along the sidewalk over 600 native trees, shrubs, grasses and flowers were planted under a 2016 APF grant and with donations from volunteers. These plantings close off an informal trail threatening erosion of the stream bank.
- The Friends Group mulches large heritage pecan trees ⑦ during "It's My Park Day" in fall 2017 and spring 2018.
- PARD installs fencing ⑧ to protect Little Zilker Creek riparian zone and nearby heritage trees, and add trash and recycling cans in the area.
- The TCC and the Friends Group remove invasive non-native plants ⑨ inside the south gate to Barton Springs Pool, replant the area, and add erosion control measures.
- APF and the City clear the first tier of Old Mill/Sunken Gardens ⑩ of ragweed and trash and plant a variety of native grasses and wildflowers.



Mexican buckeye



eastern gamagrass



Carolina snailseed



Texas creeping oxeye



rough leafed dogwood



purple leather flower