

## Select Shoal Creek Conservancy Projects

*April 2014*

**6<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Restoration Project:** Built in 1887, the [6<sup>th</sup> Street bridge over Shoal Creek](#) is one of Texas' oldest masonry arches and located at the site of the first bridge in Austin, which opened up the area west of the city to development. Now a major east-west transportation artery, this bridge was constructed prior to the State Capitol Building. The Shoal Creek Conservancy is committed to restoring this significant landmark by registering it with the [National Register of Historic Places](#) and the City of Austin, raising funds for restoration and period-appropriate lighting and addressing ongoing graffiti abatement and other maintenance needs. This project is guided by the Conservancy's Historic Bridges Committee, which consists of historic preservation specialists in the Austin area. To learn more about this project and Shoal Creek's historic bridges, please [contact us](#) or visit Conservancy Board Member Ted Eubanks' [online gallery](#).

**Bamboo Removal and Restoration Project:** The Shoal Creek Conservancy is partnering with American YouthWorks [Texas Conservation Corps](#), the City of Austin Watershed Protection and Parks and Recreation departments, and local neighborhood residents to remove invasive [Golden Bamboo](#), *Phyllostachys aurea*, and restore native habitat in an approximately 47,500 square-foot area along the Shoal Creek Greenbelt located between [Gaston Avenue and 29<sup>th</sup> Street](#). Golden Bamboo is on the City of Austin's most wanted list of [Top 24 Invasive Species](#). Native to Southeast China, this species is grown for its ability to provide a visual and noise barrier. However, it spreads rapidly when not contained and aggressively replaces native vegetation and habitat. This project includes herbicide treatments to eliminate the bamboo, seedling planting and seed scattering to restore native habitat, and ongoing monitoring and maintenance at the site. To learn more about this project, [contact us](#).

**Giant Reed Removal and Restoration Project:** The Shoal Creek Conservancy is partnering with local residents and the City of Austin Watershed Protection and Parks and Recreation departments to remove invasive [Giant Reed](#), *Arundo Donax*, and restore native habitat along the Shoal Creek trail between [10<sup>th</sup> Street and Lamar Boulevard](#). Giant Cane is on the City of Austin's [Top 24](#) most wanted of invasive species list. According to the [Texas Invasives Database](#), Giant Reed "chokes riversides and stream channels, crowds out native plants, interferes with flood control, increases fire potential, and reduces habitat for wildlife...It ignites easily and can create intense fires." To learn about volunteer opportunities at this site, please [sign up](#) for our newsletter.

**Volunteer Workdays:** The Shoal Creek Conservancy hosts volunteer workdays throughout the year to address improve the Shoal Creek trail, parks and creek. We organize major Saturday workdays with over 100 volunteers as part of [It's My Park Day](#) in March, [Clean Sweep](#) in April, National Trails Day in June, and National Public Lands Day in October. We also bring together Shoal Creek community members for a regular workday and happy hour on the third Friday of every month from 2 to 5 p.m. as well as organize special workdays with local businesses and groups. To learn more about these volunteer opportunities, please [sign up](#) for our newsletter or [contact us](#) directly.

**Pilot Shoal Creek Mural Series:** The Shoal Creek Conservancy's pilot Shoal Creek Mural Series seeks to reduce graffiti and tagging, create attractive destinations along the trail and bring together the community through mural arts. Through this project, we partner with local artists and businesses to install murals on privately owned surfaces facing Shoal Creek from Lady Bird Lake to 15<sup>th</sup> Street. This project is modeled on the successful mural programs in other cities throughout the country, such as [Philadelphia](#), and is envisioned as the first phase in a larger program to incorporate visual arts along the urban portion of the trail. If you are interested in participating in this program, please [contact us](#).

**Lighting the Trail:** The Shoal Creek Conservancy is partnering with the City of Austin to secure lighting on the urban stretch of the trail from Pease Park to Lady Bird Lake to address public safety concerns and improve the trail for recreation and transportation uses. The first phase of this project includes the installation of lighting between Lady Bird Lake and the 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Both City's [New Central Library](#) construction project at 710 West Cesar Chavez and Shoal Creek as well as the City's project to complete the gap in the trail between 5<sup>th</sup> Street and West Avenue include a lighting component. The Conservancy is working to secure continuous lighting along the trail as well as below and above the bridges between these two projects and up to and include the historic 6<sup>th</sup> Street bridge over Shoal Creek.