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9 PLACES TO EXPERIENCE THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF ZILKER PARK

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Published: 2/24/2017

Zilker Park is known as the "jewel in the heart of Austin," and it's easy to see why. It features an enormous, natural spring-fed swimming pool, sculpture garden, stand-up paddle boarding, dinosaurs (at the prehistoric gardens in the botanical garden), and unbeatable views of the Austin skyline. What more could you want?





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BARTON SPRINGS POOL

2101 Barton Springs Rd.

Austin, TX 78704

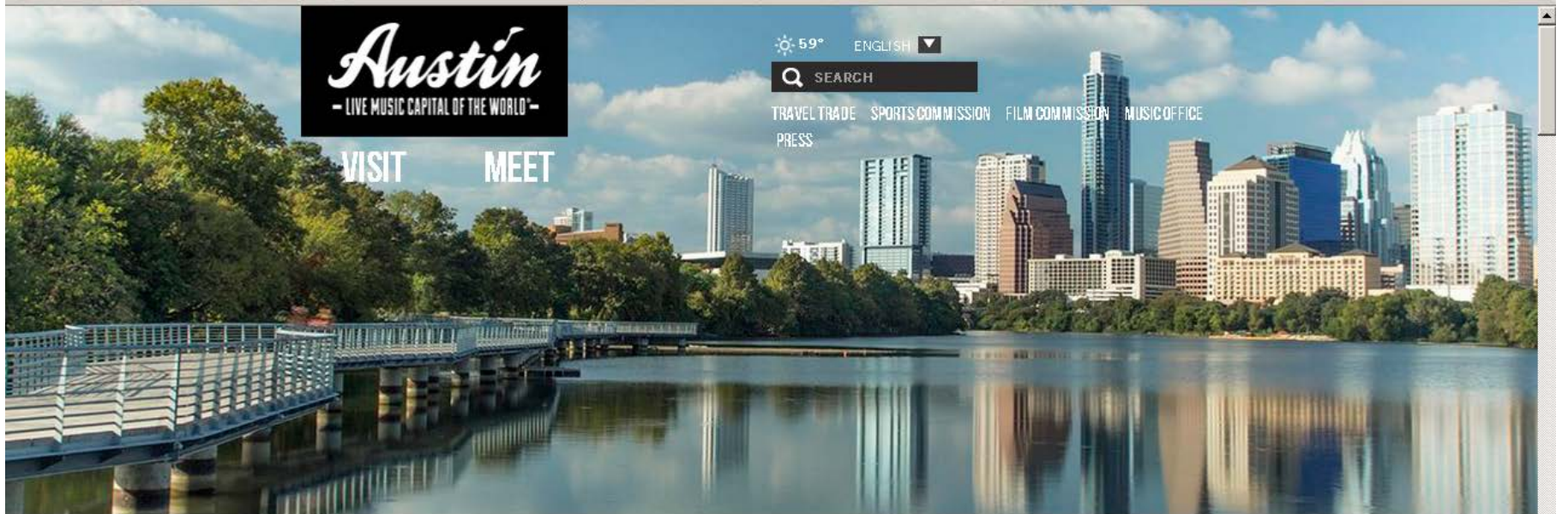
Tel: (512) 476-9044

[Website](#)



DETAILS

Within Zilker Park's 358 acres lies one of the crown jewels of Austin - Barton



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This blog, written and curated by the Austin CVB, shares the things that visitors love and locals can't get enough of.

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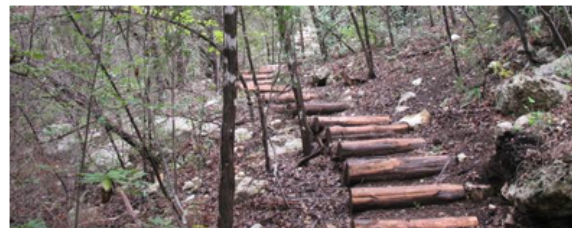
Looking for a spot to sweat out your Saturday night? Or just squeeze in some quick cardio after work? Austin is sprinkled with plenty of trails where you can run, walk, hike, or bike—without even traveling outside the city limits. Take advantage and enjoy Mother Nature's good vibes!



The Boardwalk at Lady Bird Lake

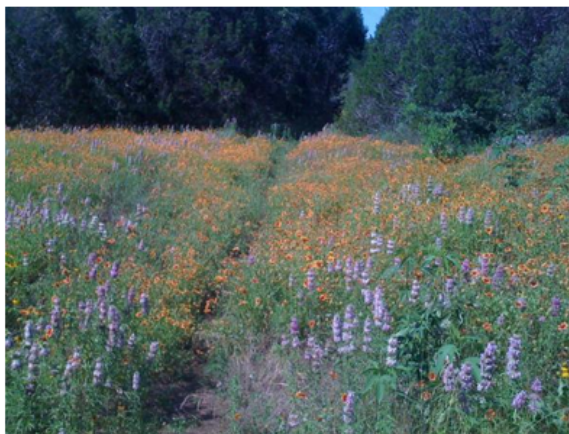
Ann and Roy Butler Hike-and-Bike Trail **Lady Bird Lake**

This 10 mile loop around Lady Bird Lake is an Austin staple and includes a sampling of several centrally-located parks along the way. You can hop on this trail at virtually any point and cut across the water via any bridge to create your own route. If you love people watching, sunsets, and badass views of the Austin skyline, then walk to the edge of the lake and have yourself an adventure.



River Place Nature Trail 8820 Big View Dr

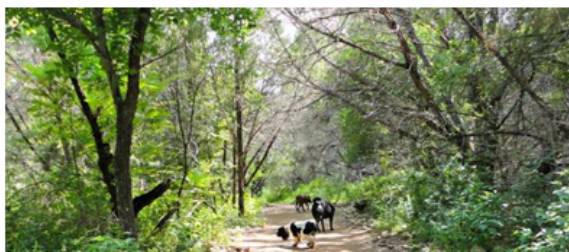
Get ready to sweat. These 5-6 miles of hill country woods have infamous stretches of inclines and stairs that will make you feel the burn—even a day or two (or three) later. You aren't likely to get a better workout in a more scenic spot in Austin-proper. Be prepared to get muddy and a little wet if you're hiking after a rainstorm. This is also a dog-friendly park, so consider bringing a canine companion just in case you need to be pulled up the stairs in a moment of weakness.



Violet Crown Trail

Violet Crown Trail 5524 Bee Caves Rd

The Violet Crown Trail began as a vision in 1999 to create the first regional trail system in Central Texas. After over 15 years of strategic land acquisition and planning, the first six-mile segment is now open and the VCT is on its way to becoming the longest trail of its kind in Central Texas. Passing near the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, the Violet Crown Trail will head south, winding through the rolling countryside of the City of Austin's Water Quality Protection Lands in a uniquely natural setting.

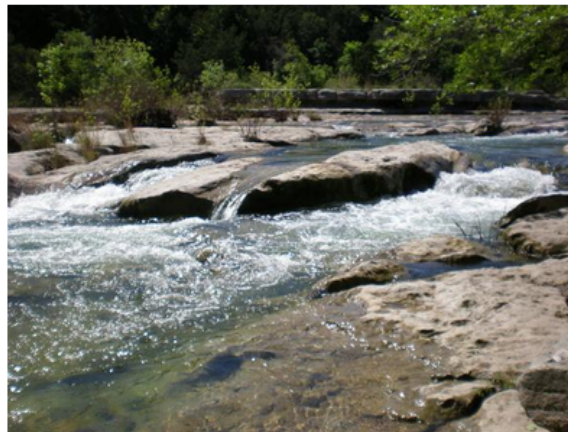




Shoal Creek Trail

Shoal Creek Trail 2600 N Lamar Blvd

A centrally located trail that's great for a quick run before or after work is in the Shoal Creek Greenbelt. If you're northwest of downtown but don't want to the hassle of finding parking around Town Lake, hop on around 38th Street and enjoy a great mix of urban and natural scenery. This shady trail passes by the amenities of Duncan Park and Pease Park, so if you're walking your pup and forgot doggie bags, you'll be covered. Eventually, this 3.7 mile trail will connect to the Lady Bird Lake Trail at Shoal Beach so long distance runners can go ham.



*The Greenbelt via **Wikipedia***



The Greenbelt via [Wikipedia](#)

Barton Creek Greenbelt 2100 Barton Springs Rd

Another Austin staple is the Barton Creek Greenbelt, one of the top rated hikes in Texas. This 7.8 mile trail will entertain virtually any outdoor enthusiast. Not only can you hike and bike, but you can climb, swim, kayak, float, and party responsibly. The scenery speaks for itself, so go out and explore!

Contributed by Emma Galdo for [Do512](#).

Want to talk trails? Holler at Do512@Do512.com



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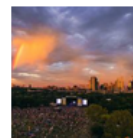
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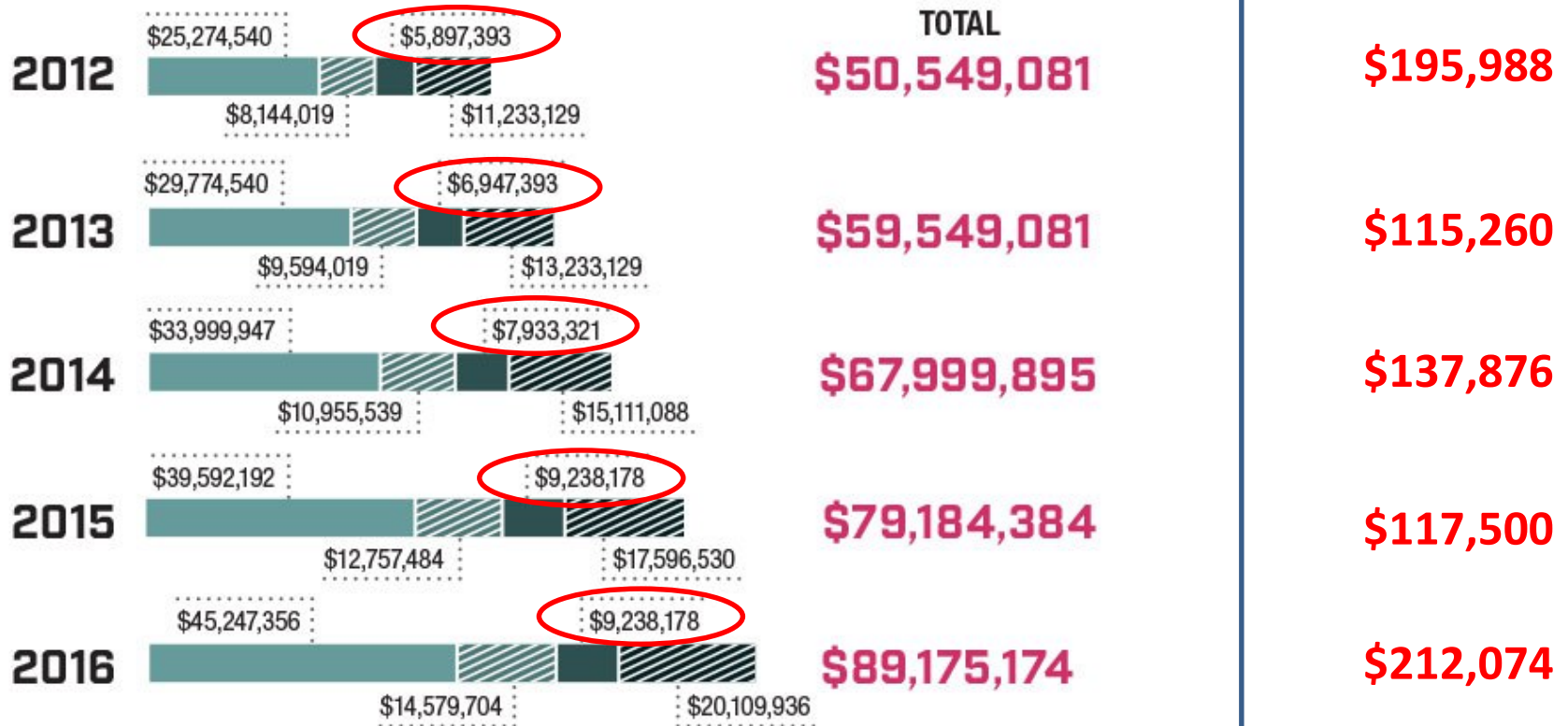
Top 5 Places to

"HISTORY" OF HERITAGE GRANT FUNDING

HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX REVENUE OVER THE PAST 5 YEARS

This graph shows the distribution of hotel tax revenue among tourism entities, the 2 percent venue tax—approved in 1998 to defray convention center and Waller Creek project costs—revenue distribution and yearly hotel tax revenue growth.

KEY ■ Convention center ■ Austin Convention and Visitor's Bureau ■ Cultural Arts Program ■ Venue tax



<https://communityimpact.com/austin/city-county/2016/09/21/hotel-tax-reviewed/>

ACVB Heritage Grants
Presentation to VITF
(Jan. 17, 2017)