



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 16, 2016

CONTACT: Kelly Eby, Urban Forester
110 Golf Course Road
New Braunfels, TX 78130
830-221-4359
keby@nbtexas.org

Improvements to the Dry Comal Trail

New Braunfels, TX - The City of New Braunfels is in partnership with the Comal Trails Alliance, a non-profit group dedicated to creating a system of trails connecting communities and providing opportunities for education, health, and enjoyment of the natural resources located in Comal County. In 2015 the Comal Trails Alliance obtained grant funding from the McKenna Foundation to make improvements to the Dry Comal Nature Trail. Some of those improvements will include enhanced signage, invasive species removal, and trail building.

The Dry Comal Nature Trail will undergo a habitat restoration project during the week of March 21st to March 25th. For several years efforts have been made to improve the quality of wildlife habitat and conservation of the natural area through the sweat equity of volunteers, contractors, and City staff to remove non-native trees.

Targeted species for the removal include Chinese tallow, Chinaberry, and ligustrum. Many birds and wildlife eat the berries of these non-natives and then deposit the fertilized seeds along local creeks and rivers. The trees have no natural predators here and they are fast growing trees that shade out native trees and plants. Those species can quickly dominate an area stealing sunlight, water, and the biodiversity of plants and wildlife in an area.

In the upcoming project, the Comal Trail Alliance and the City will work with the Texas Conservation Corps (TxCC). This organization provides young people with opportunities to build careers, strengthen communities, and improve the environment through education, on-the-job training, and service to others. TxCC is an AmeriCorps service program, which, for nearly 20 years, has focused on developing leaders in conservation and emergency management and provided critical support to improve parks and preserves. Each year, the program engages over 100 diverse youth and young adults in critical, hands-on conservation and disaster service projects, giving participants the skills and opportunities to solve real life community and environmental problems.

There is opportunity for the public to continue to assist community parks with conservation efforts through the Comal Trails Alliance, Parks Foundation or hands-on volunteering. Volunteers can assist on Monday, March 21st and Thursday March 24th, from 10 a.m. to noon and should wear close-toed shoes, bring gloves, water, handsaws, loppers, hoes, or sharpshooter shovels and meet at the second trail head.

Those interested in volunteering to help that week should contact Kelly Eby, the City's Urban Forester, at keby@nbtexas.org or check out the park volunteer calendar at <http://nbtexas.org/calendar.aspx?CID=51> for more information.

#