

Hill Country Conservancy Opens New Section of Violet Crown Trail

May 22, 2019 - Hill Country Conservancy (HCC) invites the entire community to celebrate the opening of the Violet Crown Trail (VCT) in Sendera Neighborhood at Slaughter Lane on National Trails Day, Saturday, June 1. The opening of the Slaughter Lane segment of the trail marks a milestone for HCC, the VCT's partners, and the entire community as it completes HCC's Phase One of the trail.

This momentous occasion will be recognized with a ribbon cutting ceremony at 8 am kicking off an inaugural 5k run and a 1k informative walk-and-talk, both of which are open to the public. The festivities will commence at the Slaughter Lane trailhead, located at 5011 West Slaughter Lane, and will feature remarks by District 8 Council Member Paige Ellis, George Cofer, Chief Executive Officer of Hill Country Conservancy, and Angie Flores, Sendera Mesa Neighborhood HOA President. Immediately following the comments, runners and walkers will break the ribbon to officially open the trail. The event will then move to Sendera Mesa Park located at 8806 Sendera Mesa Drive. REI Coop is providing tacos and coffee to community members, runners and walkers.

Butch Smith, HCC's Trail Project Manager, said, "The Violet Crown Trail is more than a path in the woods. It can be many things for many people: recreation, exercise, transportation, nature observation, community gathering place, socializing, dog walking, baby strolling, biking, running, and more. It is a place for education, understanding, and appreciation of the Texas landscape. It is a place for community service. It is a place by and for the people."

The Violet Crown Trail began as a vision to create the first regional trail system in Central Texas. Since then, Hill Country Conservancy (HCC) has spearheaded the trail-building effort, utilizing both public and private partnerships and working with multiple municipalities to turn their vision into a reality. Once both phases are realized, the Violet Crown Trail will be the longest trail of its kind in Central Texas, stretching 30-miles from a gateway trailhead in Zilker Park into publicly-owned Water Quality Protection Lands in Hays County.

Violet Crown Trail Partners: Austin Parks Foundation, Austin Ridge Riders, City of Austin, City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department, City of Austin Public Works Department, City of Sunset Valley, Hill Country Conservancy, Save Barton Creek Association, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, The Real Estate Council of Austin, Texas Conservation Corps, Texas Parks & Wildlife, Texas Department of Transportation, and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Visit: VCTRibbonRun.com to register for the run or walk-and-talk.

What: Violet Crown Trail Ribbon Run

When: Saturday, June 1 @ 7:30 am

Where: VCT Trailhead at 5011 Slaughter Lane. *Media parking available at Walgreens also at 5011 Slaughter Lane. Runners and Walkers are encouraged to park in Sendera Mesa Neighborhood.*