



2025 Woodland Faerie Trail Guidelines, Terms, and Conditions


Important Dates and Times


Please ensure you can commit to the installation and breakdown dates before registering. Be sure to read the entire document for details on installation, maintenance, and breakdown.

Installation Dates: May 1 – May 9 (Special late entry available on Fridays, May 2 & May 9)

- **Thursday, May 1** – Entry: 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM | Cleanup: by 5:00 PM
- **Friday, May 2** – Entry: 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM | Cleanup: by 8:00 PM
- **May 3 – May 8** – Entry: 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM | Cleanup: by 5:00 PM
- **Friday, May 9** – Entry: 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM | Cleanup: by 8:00 PM

 **Trail Opens:** Saturday, May 10, with a celebration from 10 AM – 2 PM

 **Trail Closes:** Saturday, July 12, with a farewell celebration from 10 AM – 2 PM

 **Reclaim/Breakdown:** Saturday, July 12; Monday, July 14 – Sunday, July 20 (Leave no trace!)


Faerie Home Contest

The contest features three categories for our magical architects, with voting from May 10 – July 11. Winners will be announced at the Closing Celebration on July 12 and will receive a free faerie home plot for next year and a Zilker Botanical Garden Family Membership for one year!

Categories:

 **Best Use of Natural Materials** – For homes that harmoniously blend with nature

 **Most Whimsical Design** – Celebrating creativity, magic, and playfulness

 **People’s Choice Award** – Listen to your heart and vote for your favorite!

Building Your Faerie Home

Faerie homes should embody magic, romance, playfulness, and surprise! The Fae adore:

- ✓ Creativity & Unique Designs using local and found materials



- ✓ Any shape or size up to 4'x4'
- ✓ Durability to withstand wind, rain, and Texas summer heat
- ✓ Respect for flora & fauna – No harming plants or wildlife!
- ✓ A stable base (wood, tree cookies, etc.), well-hidden or blended into the surroundings
- ⊘ Avoid: Political or offensive messages/themes
- ⚠ The Fae reserves the right to decline or remove homes that don't meet these standards

Ideal Materials for Building

- 👍 General rule of thumb: if it's biodegradable, it's ok!
- 🌿 Wood & Bark: Driftwood, cedar, redwood, thick bark, sticks, plywood
- 🏠 Stone & Rock: Flat stones, pebbles, river rocks, slate, collected rocks
- 👉 Moss & Natural Fibers: Dried moss, coconut husk, twine, vines
- 📖 Clay & Sand-Based Materials: Air-dried clay, cob (mud & straw)
- 🐚 Shells & Natural Accents: Seashells, pinecones, acorns, pressed leaves, dry grasses, nuts
- 🔍 To increase durability: Seal wood and fibers with beeswax, linseed oil, or resin. Avoid adhesives that degrade in heat or rain.



Forbidden Materials

(These upset the Fae, who may whisk away parts of your home!)

- ✗ Craft foam, Styrofoam
- ✗ Astroturf
- ✗ Glitter
- ✗ Boa feathers
- ✗ Nylon or polyester fabric

- ✘ Glass or mirrors (Consider polished stones, smooth ceramic, or other wildlife-friendly alternatives!)
- ✘ Faerie lights or electric lighting (Solar-powered only!)
- ✘ Sharp edges
- ✘ Live plants (The Fae are notoriously bad at housekeeping and forget to water them!)

Installation Details

(Please refer to installation dates section for dates)

- 📌 Plan at least 1.5 hours for setup
- 📌 Arrive no later than 2:30 PM (6 PM on Fridays) to allow enough time to install and blend your home into the surroundings
- 📌 Email info@zbgconservancy.org if you need to reschedule

Housekeeping: Maintenance & Reassignment

🧹 Faerie homes may be affected by weather or mischievous visitors (both human and magical). You are encouraged to maintain your home throughout the summer.

🏠 To ensure the Woodland Faerie Trail remains vibrant and well-cared for, we ask that participants maintain their plots regularly. If a plot is left unattended and requires significant maintenance, it may be subject to reassignment. In such cases, previously donated plot fees are nonrefundable.

🌿 Free Garden Entry for Maintenance throughout the summer – Email info@zbgconservancy.org

Last Day Celebration & Cleanup

🎉 **Final Celebration: Saturday, July 12, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM:** Wings & dress-up encouraged! Winners announced! Breakdown your faerie home and take it with you!

🧹 **Breakdown & Reclaim: July 12 – July 20**

▶ **All homes left behind as of July 21 will be reclaimed by the Fae.**

🦋 **Reuse Idea:** Convert your structure into a permanent insect hotel for pollinators like butterflies & bees!

"The world is full of magic things, patiently waiting for our senses to grow sharper." – W.B. Yeats

For questions, contact info@zbgconservancy.org

The 2025 Faerie Trail is brought to you by the Zilker Botanical Garden Conservancy in partnership with the Austin Parks & Recreation Department.