



Pease Park Conservancy Phase Plan

Austin Parks and Recreation | October 26, 2026

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History of PPC partnership

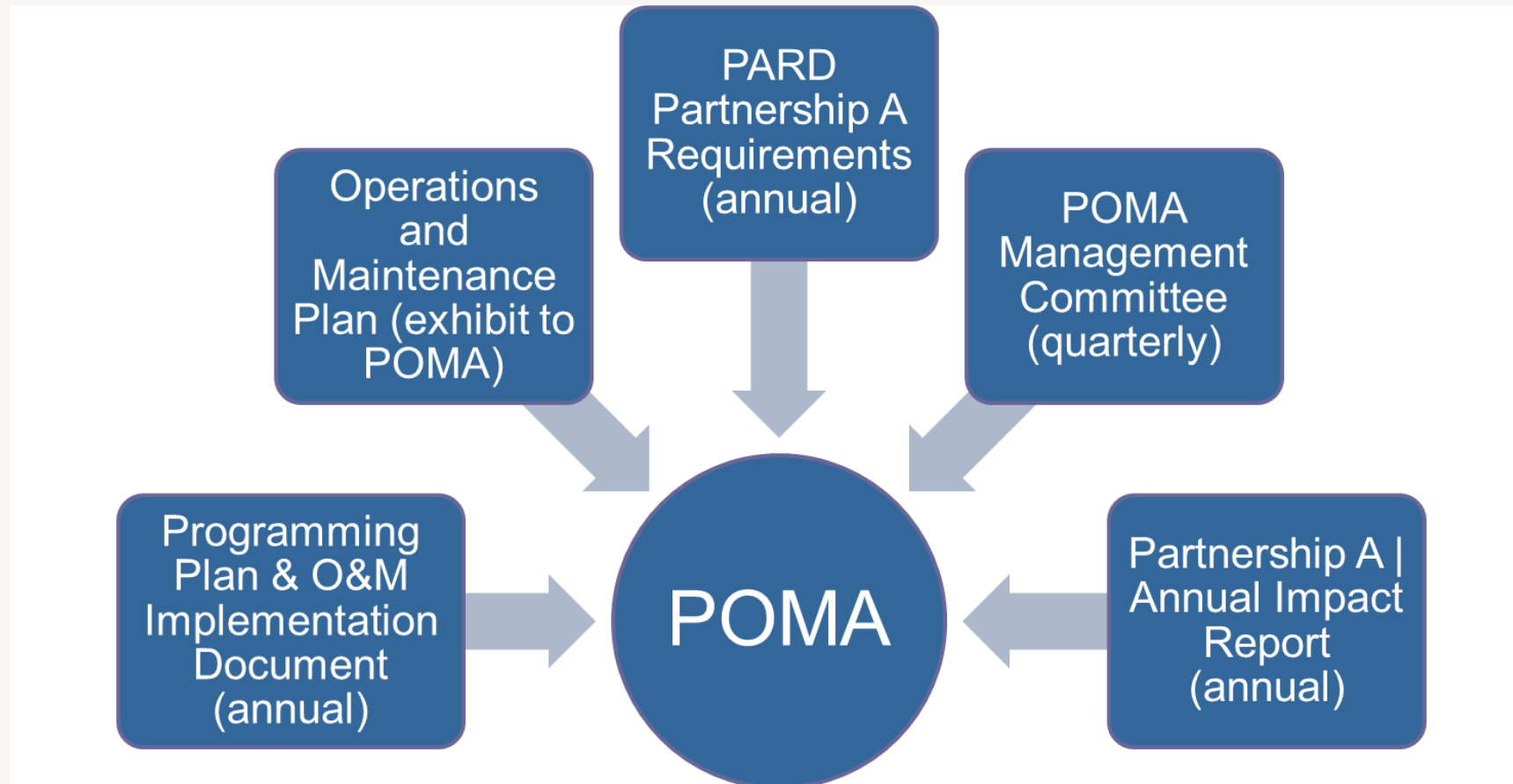
- **2008** - Community initiative Trees for Pease began planting and caring for trees and natural areas.
- **2013** - PPC became a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.
- **2014** - The Pease Park Vision Plan was approved by Council.
- **2021** - Kingsbury Commons reopened with a new splash pad, playground, restrooms, Treehouse, and more. The City partnered with PPC on this redevelopment, made possible with \$10 million in private dollars.
- **2023** – The City of Austin entered into a Park Operations and Maintenance Agreement (POMA) with PPC.



2023 Park Operations and Maintenance Agreement (POMA)



2023 Park Operations and Maintenance Agreement (POMA) Oversight & Monitoring



Pease Park Conservancy – Partnership Successes and Community Impact



- **Consistent POMA compliance:** PPC has met its POMA obligations annually since 2023.
- **Investments beyond agreement requirements:** PPC has undertaken additional projects as needs and opportunities have emerged, including *Malin's Fountain*, additional water fountains and benches, and restoration of historic picnic tables and stone walls.
- **Park safety:** PPC has worked collaboratively across City departments to support park safety measures, increase awareness, and help address vehicle break-ins and other safety concerns.
- **A vibrant public space:** Pease Park is a welcoming third space for recreation, gatherings, cultural experiences, and connection with nature.
- **Public recognition:** Pease Park has received multiple local and statewide recognitions, including a Texas Travel Award for Best Park and multiple *Austin Chronicle* "Best of Austin" recognitions.



Photo credit: Pease Park Conservancy

Value of the PARKnership

- "Three-legged stool"—Community, City, Conservancy
- Enhanced park service 365-days a year
- An activated park is a safe park
 - High marks for crime prevention through environmental design in APR audit; PPC hires additional overnight security.
 - Activation through free community programs, volunteer activities, Peasecology school
- Visitation from every Austin zip code, not just our neighbors.



PPC capacity for the Phase Plan

- Organizational strategic planning in FY27—visioning and revenue-planning for the next five years
- Scaling PPC staff: +1 FT Ops Tech in FY27, budget for +1 Ops/Horticulture in FY28
- Scaling volunteer opportunities: leveraging support and community relationships further north the park
- Continued focus on sustainable fundraising for operations and maintenance, growing our endowment

Photo credit: Pease Park Conservancy



What the Phase Plan will change

- PPC will take on **primary responsibility** for the following **operations and maintenance** in the whole park:
 - Trash, recycling, and pet waste receptacle collection
 - Graffiti mitigation (except on historic bridges)
 - Maintenance of certain existing features like picnic tables, volleyball courts, and the split-rail fence at the Kissing Tree in Live Oak Meadow
- These **rights for PPC will extend** from Kingsbury Commons to the whole park:
 - Coordination of all volunteering, programming, rentals, and concessions
 - Exclusive use of the park for marketing and fundraising purposes
- PPC will extend **community engagement** to get public input on the whole park.
- In the coming years, PPC will **propose new improvements** for the park in alignment with the Council-approved Vision Plan.
- PPC will **increase land management** , or **ecological restoration** , in the park.



Photo credits: Pease Park Conservancy

What the Phase Plan will NOT change



- **Rights and responsibilities for Kingsbury Commons** will stay the same. PPC is responsible for most new and renovated features in the area. The City of Austin maintains the urban forest, built trails, Shoal Creek, and the surrounding park roads infrastructure.
- The **City of Austin will continue to manage, oversee, and collaborate with PPC** in their work at the park.
- The **City of Austin will continue base-level maintenance work** outside Kingsbury Commons including tree care, trail upkeep, and mowing.
- PPC will still follow all **City review processes** and **maintain any new built environment**.
- The park will always be **public City of Austin parkland**.
- The **management fee that the City of Austin pays PPC** will stay the same. Under the POMA, each year the City reimburses PPC for up to \$36,000 of the previous year's utilities. There is no City funding tied to the Phase Plan.



Photo credits: Pease Park Conservancy

Community benefit of the Phase Plan



- PPC will **reduce Austin Parks and Recreation's workload** for operations and maintenance at Pease Park.
- Park visitors will **enjoy a higher level of service** and **daily staff presence** in the park.
- PPC will add **park improvements** based on community feedback.
- PPC will do **more ecological work** to improve habitat, add shade, and make the park more biodiverse and beautiful.
- There is **no additional cost to the City of Austin.**



Photo credit: Pease Park Conservancy

Request for Action:

Recommend to City Council approval of Pease Park Conservancy's Phase Plan under the existing Park Operations and Maintenance Agreement for Pease District Park, expanding the Conservancy's operations, maintenance, land management, programming, event coordination, and volunteer management responsibilities beyond Kingsbury Commons to additional areas of Pease District Park.

