Pease Park Conservancy Phase Plan

In 2023, the City of Austin entered into a 25-year Park Operations and Maintenance Agreement (POMA) with Pease Park Conservancy (PPC) for Pease District Park. The POMA required that PPC create a Phase Plan to take on additional responsibilities in future. This Phase Plan needs to be approved by City Council.

Parkland in PPC's POMA area

The area covered in PPC's POMA is approximately **75 acres** of parkland between W 15th St and W 31st St, as shown in this **map from the POMA.**



In the first phase of the POMA, PPC's maintenance and programming rights and responsibilities have been limited to Kingsbury Commons, which is approximately 7 acres. However, PPC has done land management, or ecological restoration, in the whole park.

History of PPC partnership

- **2008** - The City of Austin's partnership with PPC began with the community initiative Trees for Pease, planting and caring for trees and natural areas.
- **2013** - PPC became a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization.
- **2014** - The Pease Park Vision Plan is published.
- **2021** - Kingsbury Commons reopened with a new splash pad, playground, 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 POMA with PPC for the long-term operations, maintenance, and programming of Pease Park.

What will the Phase Plan 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 their **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.

What will NOT change with the Phase Plan?

- **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 additional City funding tied to the Phase Plan.

What is the community benefit of the Phase Plan?

- PPC will **reduce Austin Parks and Recreation's workload** for operations and maintenance at the park.
- Park visitors will **enjoy a higher level of service** 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.**

Questions? Reach out to CommunityPARKnerships@austintexas.gov.