Pease Park CONSERVANCY










Pease Park Conservancy partnership briefing

Climate, Water, Environment and Parks
November 10, 2026

PPC History of Our Partnership with the City of Austin

2008 - Community initiative Trees for Pease began caring for trees and natural areas.

2013 - PPC became a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization.

2014 - Pease Park Vision Plan approved by Council.

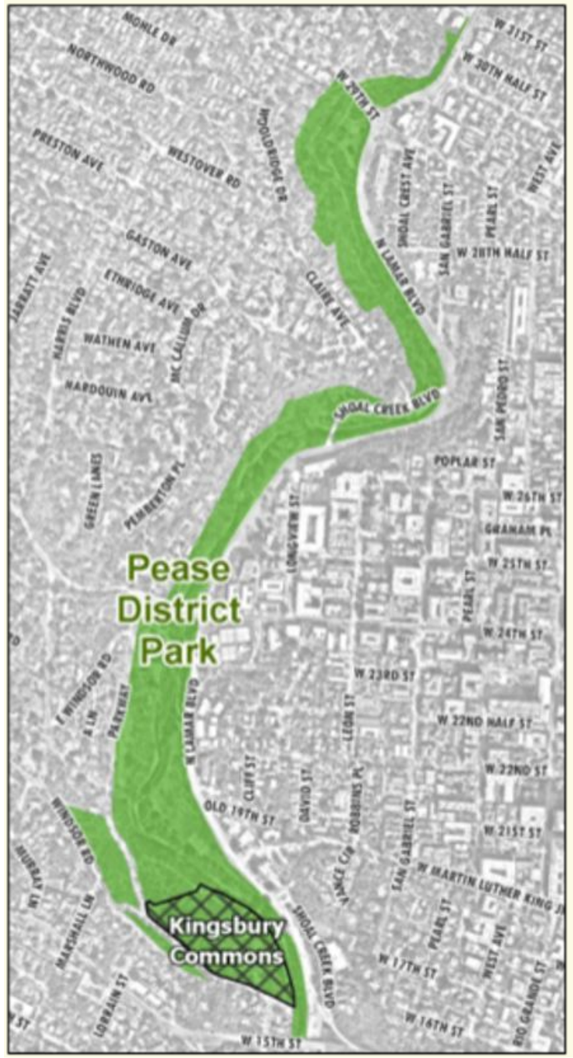
2021 - Kingsbury Commons reopened with a new splash pad, playground, restrooms, Treehouse and more. The City partnered with PPC on this redevelopment, made possible with $10 million in private dollars.

2023 - City of Austin and PPC entered into a Park Operations and Maintenance Agreement (POMA).



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2023 Park Operations and Maintenance Agreement

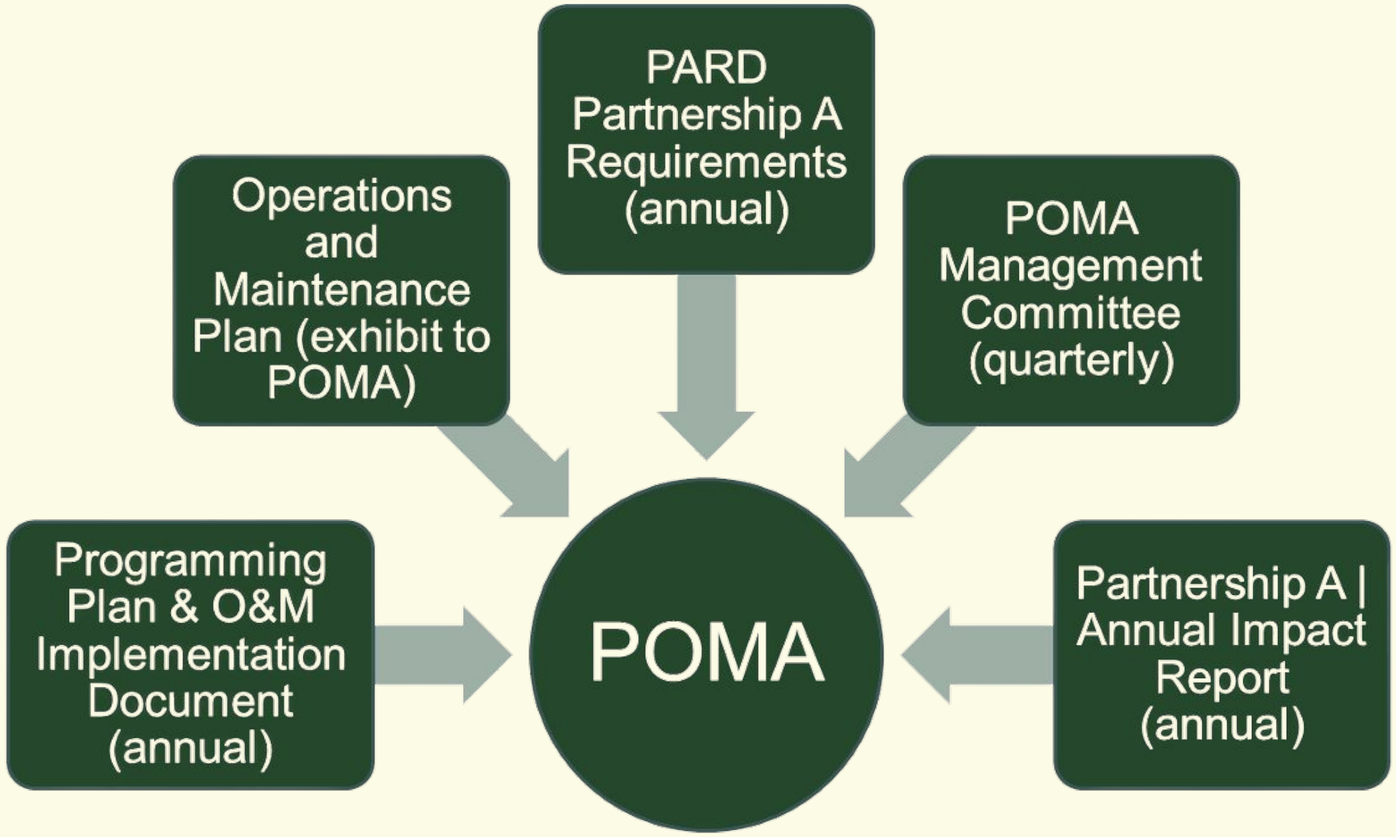


Park Operations and Maintenance Agreement (POMA) executed in January of 2023 formalized shared responsibilities for the operations, maintenance, and programming of Pease District Park between Pease Park Conservancy and the City of Austin.

- POMA area approximately 75 acres of parkland
  - PPC cares for native plantings and land management
- Kingsbury Commons
  - Operate and maintain water feature
  - Daily and enhanced park servicing
  - Maintain park amenities
  - Programming events

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Park Operations and Maintenance Agreement (POMA) Oversight



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Partnership Successes and Community Impact

Consistent POMA Compliance: PPC has met POMA obligations annually since 2023.

Investments Beyond Agreement Requirements: PPC has undertaken additional projects as needs and opportunities have emerged, including Malin's Fountain, new water fountains and benches, 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.



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Value of the PARKnership: Environmental Stewardship

Restoration of the Windsor Hillside: Five-year project started in 2023 to restore a 226,593 square-foot hillside to native habitat. When started, 80% of hillside was covered In invasive plants.

- Partner with TXCC to accomplish the work
- Funded with an Urban Forestry Grant
- Gradual process to not disrupt existing habitats and to stabilize the hillside throughout the project



Consistent Volunteer Management: PPC offers volunteer opportunities nearly every day of the week, amplifying the impact of the Park Ops team on the environment. FY2026 metrics:

- 1,507 volunteers contributed 3,014 hours
- 500 cubic yards of mulch spread
- 203 lbs of litter collected
- 1,036 plants installed
- 55 five-gallon trees installed

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Value of the PARKnership: Community Connections

Staff Presence 365 Days/Year: Park Ops team is onsite everyday, providing rapid response, a clean and well-maintained environment, and a welcoming presence.

Programming Events to Welcome the Community: PPC offers free events throughout the fall and spring.

- 10,143 people attended 341 free public events In FY2026
- Visitation from every Austin zip code
- Diversity of events and partnerships (Art, Learning, Wellness, & Conservation) to appeal to a wide range of interests leads to diversity of park visitors
- Every effort to remove barriers to access:
  - No cost to attend events
  - Field trips are funded for Title I schools
  - Communications/ events in English and Spanish
- An active park is a safe park



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The Pease Park Conservancy Phase Plan

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 some existing features (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 volunteering, programming, rentals, concessions
- Exclusive use of the park for marketing and fundraising

PPC **community engagement** will get public input on 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** and **ecological restoration**.

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PPC Capacity for the Phase Plan

- 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 In the park.
- Continued focus on sustainable fundraising for O&M, growing our endowment.



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What the Phase Plan Will Not Change

Rights and responsibilities for Kingsbury Commons will stay the same. PPC is responsible for new and renovated features. 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. PPC will still follow all **City review processes** and **maintain any new built environment**.

The **City of Austin will continue base-level maintenance work** outside Kingsbury Commons - tree care, trail upkeep, mowing.

The park will always be **public City of Austin parkland**.

The **management fee the City pays PPC** will stay the same. Currently 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.



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Community Benefit of the Phase Plan

PPC will **reduce APR's workload** for O&M 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.



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Looking forward– goals and priorities

- SITES Gold Certification: Continue serving as a model for sustainable park management and implementation of departmental policies

- Green Jobs and Workforce Development: Continuing to expand opportunities for hands-on learning through internships, TXCC crews, and training in ecological restoration and land stewardship.



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Looking forward– goals and priorities

- Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI): Strengthening collaboration with WPD and APR on GSI operations and maintenance in next phase, including opportunities to share lessons learned and inform best practices across City parkland.

- Interpretation: Exploring opportunities for the next phase to further connect visitors with the park's history, ecology, and cultural significance.



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Thank you!
nicole@peasepark.org
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