



GRANT APPLICATION

Austin Convention and Visitors Bureau
Attn: Steve Genovesi, Senior Vice President, Sales
111 Congress Avenue, Suite 700
Austin, Texas 78701
Phone: 512-583-7259 Email: sgenovesi@austintexas.org

DATE: July 31, 2017

HISTORIC PROPERTY AND ADDRESS: Shoal Creek Greenbelt

Shoal Creek Hike & Bike Trail @ West 31st and Lamar Boulevard

APPLICANT'S NAME: Pease Park Conservancy

APPLICANT'S ADDRESS: PO Box 50065, Austin, TX 78763

NAME AND ADDRESS OF OWNER, IF DIFFERENT FROM APPLICANT: City of Austin Parks & Recreation

200 South Lamar, Austin, TX 78704

TAX I.D. NUMBER/TAX STATUS: 46-2388316

PERSON PRESENTING REQUEST/CONTACT PERSON: Andrew Gill, Executive Director

ADDRESS: PO Box 50065, Austin, TX 78763 TELEPHONE NO. 512-777-1632

E-MAIL: [REDACTED] FAX NUMBER: N/A

PROJECT NAME: 31st Street Gateway

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT – PLEASE SUMMARIZE THE PROPOSED PROJECT. (IF DESIRED, APPLICANT MAY ALSO ATTACH AN ADDITIONAL SHEET MORE FULLY EXPLAINING THE PROJECT AND THE REASON FOR THE GRANT REQUEST.)

PPC seeks funding to enhance the gateway to the Shoal Creek Trail located at West 31st and Lamar. This critical entryway to the Shoal Creek Trail has fallen into disrepair, leaving patrons confused about where to enter the space.

Work performed with this grant funding will restore and enhance the existing drystack stonewall to create a more welcoming, accessible, and safe gateway to the hike & bike trail.

PLEASE LIST HISTORIC DESIGNATIONS OF THE PROPERTY, AND IF LOCATED WITHIN A NATIONAL REGISTER OR LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT (PLEASE SPECIFY WHICH DISTRICT), AND IF THE PROPERTY IS CONTRIBUTING:

Cultral landscape identified in the Old West Austin Historic Distric.

A part of the nation's first hike-and-bike trail, constructed by Janet Fish in the 1960's.

AMOUNT OF FUNDING REQUESTED: \$20,000

AMOUNT OF MATCH OR VALUE OF IN-KIND MATCH: \$6,700 and the Conservancy will fund additional landscaping.

DO LIENS EXIST AGAINST THE HISTORIC PROPERTY? () YES (x) NO

IF YES, DESCRIBE THE LIENS AND AMOUNTS: _____

There are no liens against the property.

Jan R. Zs. PPC
(OWNER OR AUTHORIZED AGENT, AND TENANT IF APPLICABLE)

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS:

- 1) TOURISM JUSTIFICATION: Include substantiation of contribution to the tourism industry in Austin (i.e., annual summary of out of town visitation, copies of promotional material, list of promotional activities, hours of operations, tours provided, etc.).
- 2) HISTORIC DOCUMENTATION: Historic photograph(s) or other documentation (especially those showing the elevation(s) of the historic property where restoration, alterations, changes, and/or improvements are planned).
- 3) CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS FOR CITY DESIGNATED LANDMARKS AND LETTER OF APPROVAL FOR STATE DESIGNATED LANDMARKS: Proof of approval for historic property alterations, if required. NOTE: If an approval is required, the Preservation Agreement with ACVB will not be executed until such documentation has been issued and provided to ACVB.
- 4) PROJECT BUDGET: Applicant must include a budget, specifying the major components of the restoration/preservation project with associated costs. Also include evidence of other sources of funding, i.e. your own or others' match, and the corresponding work to be performed with these funds.
- 5) THREE COMPETITIVE BIDS for the proposed work (in excess of \$5,000) must accompany the application.
- 6) PROJECT SCHEDULE: Phasing schedule and amount of funding required for each phase, if applicable.
- 7) PROOF OF OWNERSHIP/LEASE/AUTHORIZATION: Copy of the Deed or Will (if applicant is the owner) or documentation showing authorization from owner and any existing lease between owner and applicant.
- 8) INSURANCE: Proof of casualty, fire and federal flood insurance, if applicable.
- 9) PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS OF PROPOSED WORK.
- 10) INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.



July 31, 2017

Mr. Steve Genovesi
Senior Vice President, Sales
Austin Convention & Visitors Bureau
111 Congress Avenue, Suite 700
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Mr. Genovesi,

Please find enclosed the heritage grant application respectfully submitted by Pease Park Conservancy (PPC). The Conservancy seeks funding for the repair and restoration of the stone wall located near West 31st and Lamar Boulevard. This area serves as a critical gateway to the Shoal Creek Trail and its enhancement will amount to increased safety and accessibility. *The Conservancy respectfully requests \$20,000 for this important work.*

Pease Park and the Shoal Creek Greenbelt are critical green spaces in central Austin. Both historical landscapes provide access to nature, recreation, fitness, and respite from everyday stresses. They have also been cornerstones to our community, with Pease Park dating back to 1875 and the Shoal Creek Greenbelt being the nation's first hike-and-bike trail.

These areas are at the very heart of Austin's urban core, next to downtown and the University of Texas, as well as close proximity to many hotels and bed & breakfasts. Visitors to our city regularly frequent these spaces. One of the things that make Austin such a destination is our unique and beautiful green space. Folks enjoy the lush scenery, hike and bike trails, picnic facilities, playscapes, splash pads, and our trail system serves as a critical transportation route. Pease is also home to one of Austin's most unique and celebrated events, Eeyore's Birthday Party.

The Conservancy was founded 2008 to reverse the dramatic decline in the park's ecosystem and infrastructure. Since that time we have made incredible strides in restoring the park, primarily through implementation of the Pease Park Master Plan. The Plan identifies strategies for preserving and enhancing the historical, cultural, and natural environments of Pease Park and the Shoal Creek Greenbelt to West 31st. The project further achieves that mission.

Enhancing the northern gateway to the historic Shoal Creek Trail at West 31st will make dramatic safety and accessibility improvements for this critical entrance. Please join us in making this necessary improvement. Please let me know if you have any questions, concerns, or comments.

Sincerely,

Andrew Gill
Executive Director

Pease Park Conservancy
ACVB Heritage Grant - 31st Street Gateway
Project Description

Introduction & Description: Pease Park Conservancy was founded in 2008 by a group of local neighbors of the park to reverse the steady decline of this historic central Austin green space. Since then, the nonprofit has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars from private donors and foundations for a long list of projects and improvements to the space. Over 3,500 native trees have been planted, irrigation systems have been installed, historic features have been restored, and thousands of volunteers have breathed new life into the ecosystem.

Our work culminated in 2014 when the Austin City Council approved the Pease Park Master Plan unanimously. The quarter of a million plan is a comprehensive outline for the preservation and enhancement of the park's cultural, historical, and natural features. The City and Conservancy are now actively engaged in implementing the Plan.

One of the feature tenants of the Plan was created safe and accessible gateways to the space. In order for an open space to feel welcome, there must be clear and open entries. We've created such a gateway at the south end of the park by constructing a new sidewalk along Parkway. In order to create an enhanced gateway to the beloved Shoal Creek Trail, we are requesting funds to restore the gateway at West 31st and Lamar. This critical gateway is the entrance to the northern section of our Master Plan and leads patrons to arguably the most beautiful portion of the Shoal Creek Greenbelt, the Bluffs.

During the 1960's Austin heroine Janet Fish decided the City needed a hike-and-bike trail. She decided on Shoal Creek for her vision, given its lack of development and connectivity between neighborhoods, the University of Texas, and downtown Austin. The Shoal Creek Hike & Bike Trail is the first of its kind and paved the way for such trails in other major US cities.

The Shoal Creek Trail detours onto West 31st after traversing the magnificent bluffs section. This portion of the trail is often overlooked because it lacks signage, wayfinding, and the connections don't become abundantly obvious. This is compounded for tourists to our city.

By restoring the stone wall along the Shoal Creek Trail and Lamar sidewalk, we will be creating a magnificent gateway that will not only increase accessibility it will promote safety enhancements through increase sight lines and removal of overgrown vegetation.

Scope of Work: The wall along the hillside will be removed and reconstructed using PARD-approved standards and techniques. The work will be done in closer

coordination with PARD to assure the utmost product is delivered and the site stays open and safe during restoration.

The mason performing the work will first remove the existing stones, before putting in a concrete footing reinforced with rebar. The new footing will serve as a solid foundation that will last longer and hold stronger.

Bids: We received three bids in total. We have decided to contract with PSP Landscapes. PSP has done multiple stone wall restoration projects in Pease Park.

Budget: We anticipate a project budget of \$26,700; this number is outlined in their proposal. PPC has agreed to fund \$6,700 of the project, in turn *requesting \$20,000* in ACVB funds. The Conservancy has also agreed to hire a landscape firm to remove invasive species and replant the area with native plants and trees.

PEASE PARK CONSERVANCY'S GRANT APPLICATION TO
AUSTIN CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU HERITAGE GRANTS
TOURISM JUSTIFICATION

Introduction: Pease District Park and the Shoal Creek Greenbelt are destinations for thousands of tourists coming to Austin annually. Although, they are perhaps not the "first stop" destination for most out-of-town visitors, they are clearly popular spots for people to visit while in our community. The park and Greenbelt are an 88-acre wooded expanse in the middle of the urban core of the city, immediately adjacent to the dense high-rise student population of West Campus and the Downtown hotel and entertainment district. Given the park's strategic central location along heavily traveled Lamar Blvd., a major civic gateway, visitors can hardly avoid encountering it. Both are featured in many Austin visitor guides and for many tourists it is a destination that is sought out to enjoy a variety of recreational activities.

The Austin City Council unanimously adopted a comprehensive Master plan for Pease Park in 2014. The planning process was spearheaded by the nationally known landscape design firm of WRT of Philadelphia and funded with private dollars raised by the Pease Park Conservancy. It envisions an exciting revitalization of the park and Greenbelt for the benefit of visitors and residents alike. It entails state of the art playscapes, a restored Tudor Cottage, new restrooms and picnic facilities and additional inter-modal trails and creek crossings. The Conservancy invites the Austin Convention and Visitors Bureau to be a part of this larger revitalization effort at Pease by restoring some of the park's and Greenbelt's Depression era infrastructure: specifically certain picnic tables and decorative stone walls.

Park Recreational Activities: This much loved green space hosts a wide variety of activities. This includes innumerable picnics, family reunions and children's birthday parties. Joggers, bicyclists, walkers, mothers with small children, petanque and bocce ball enthusiasts, dog lovers and youth soccer and basketball players all frequent it daily. It also is the location of various educational walks organized by groups like Tree Folks, Travis Audubon Society, Pease Park Conservancy, Shoal Creek Conservancy, Austin Society of Landscape Architects and Watershed Protection. These informative "walk and talk" events have proven very popular with tree huggers, bird watchers, history buffs and ghost hunters. In November 2015, the park also was the host to the "*What's Out There Tour*" by the Cultural Landscape Foundation, a national organization that has recognized the park's unique history and landscape. But, the park and Shoal Creek Greenbelt are perhaps best known for the one large annual festival held there: Eeyore's Birthday Celebration.

Eeyore's Birthday Party: Pease Park has been the site of Eeyore's on the last Saturday of every April since 1974. This event is Austin's special ode to Spring and "Flower Power" and it is ground zero for keeping our city "weird." The event was started in 1968 by a University of Texas English professor whose class was studying the work of the children's author A.A. Milne's "*Winnie the Pooh*" stories. The restless students were having trouble concentrating so the professor adjourned the class to

nearby Eastwoods Park where their scholarly insights into children's literature were further augmented by a keg of beer.

The celebration proved so popular that it became an annual one. It quickly outgrew tiny Eastwoods and was moved to Pease District Park, which proved a much better substitute for Christopher Robin's "100 acre wood." The park hosts over 15,000 revelers during the roughly nine-hours of Eeyore's. The event has a nation-wide reputation and draws people from all over Texas and many other states. Travis County Constable Stacy Suits, Friends of the Forest Board Trustee and long-time Eeyore's organizer, estimates that roughly 20% of these celebrants come from out of town. This means 3,000 people filling hotel rooms in Austin. (See Mr. Suits' letter of June 29, 2016 attached).

Eeyore's is clearly a children's affair during the morning and early afternoon hours with face painting, petting zoo, May-poles and sack races. The latter part of the afternoon takes on a more adult character as university students mingle with old hippies around the ubiquitous drum circles and rock bands. The party ends at dusk and the park is cleared by curfew, none the worse for the wear.

Proximity to Austin Hotels: Many major Austin hotels and bed and breakfasts are located in very close proximity to Pease Park and the Shoal Creek Greenbelt. These hotels include the Doubletree Hotel on 303 West 15th Street, Hotel Ella, 1900 Rio Grande, Hampton Inn at 1701 Lavaca and the AT&T Conference Center at 1900 University Avenue. Austin Bed and Breakfasts close to the park include the Inn at Pearl Street, 1809 Pearl, Brava House B&B, 1108 Blanco, Austin Folk House, 506 West 22nd Street and the Star of Texas Inn, 611 West 22nd Street.

If visitors and tourists at these popular accommodations want some exercise in a nearby green space, it will inevitably have to take place at Pease Park and the Shoal Creek Hike & Bike Trail. Austin's horrendous traffic simply does not allow easy or ready access to the Butler Trail around Lady Bird Lake or other parks or greenbelts during either the morning or evening rush hours for visitors staying in these hotels. Their only option is Pease.

An email from Hotel Ella's Assistant Manager Mickey Farmer and a letter from the Pearl Vintage Hotel's owner Jill Bickford both verify that the guests of both hotels use the park and trail and are directed there by their concierge often. Mickey Farmer states that he has used the Shoal Creek Hike and Bike Trail alongside some guests to show them "how great of an area it is." (See Attachments B #5 & B #6).

Data from Master Plan: Clipboard survey data collected by the Pease Park Conservancy during the year-long Pease Park Master Plan planning process in 2013-2014 showed that a surprisingly large number of park and Shoal Creek Trail patrons did not reside within the Austin city limits. Approximately fifteen (15%) percent of the individuals randomly questioned by volunteers in the park (out of a 150 person sample size) did not live in Austin.

Most of these out-of-town visitors said that they sought out these conveniently located central green spaces for bike rides, walks, runs or picnics with family and friends who either lived, worked or attended school nearby. Others had been directed there by hotel concierges as a good place to jog or get some exercise. A few others had simply stumbled upon it and decided to explore.

Tourism Guidebooks: Pease Park and the Shoal Creek Greenbelt are also prominently featured as major attractions in many Austin tourist guidebooks or other publications aimed at visitors. Both merit separate paragraphs in *Insiders' Guide to Austin* (2004). Other local guidebooks featuring these very special green spaces include *Explorer's Guide to Austin, San Antonio & Hill Country* (2013) by Amy K. Brown, *60 Hikes within 60 Miles of Austin & San Antonio* (2013), published by the American Hiking Society and *Cheap Bastard's Austin* (2015) by Kristen Finan. These books generally highlight the park's convenience and hiking and biking potential.

The park and Greenbelt are also featured at great length in the book *Ghosts of Austin; Who They are and Where to Find Them* (2007). This book showcases a number of dark stories centered on the creek, park and the Pease Mansion, Woodlawn, including the Comanche Indian massacre of early settler Gideon White on Shoal Creek in 1836 and the cholera epidemic that killed a number of General Custer's cavalry troopers camped on the creek in the winter of 1865-1866.

The park is also featured on a number of on line websites that are aimed at visitors and tourists in the Austin area. These include:

365 Things to Do in Austin (<http://365thingsaustin/?s=pease+park>)
Trip Advisor: (https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g30196-d560362)
10BEST: (<http://10best.com/destinations/texas/austin/north-austin/attractions>)
Yelp: (<http://www.yelp.com/biz/pease-park-austin>)
Gogobot: (<http://www.gogobot.com/pease-park-austin-attractions>)
Texas Outside: (<http://www.texasoutside.com/peaseparkframes.htm>)
Do 512: (<http://www.do512.com/venues/pease-park>)
City of Austin: (<http://austintexas.gov/blog/pease-park>)

Educational Trail Markers: The Shoal Creek Hike & Bike Trail has a number of educational markers along its length that tell the story of the area's history. These include markers about General Custer's post-Civil War encampment, the "gold rush fever" that swept Austin in the late 19th Century, the massacre of Gideon White and abducted settler Sara Hibbens' miraculous escape from the Comanches. She waded down the middle of the creek to avoid being tracked and reached safety at the little settlement of Waterloo, the village that preceded the 1839 founding of Austin. The Austin Junior League installed these markers along the trail in 1992 and they have proven to be a big draw that enriches visitors' jogs or walks. (Photos attached).

B-Cycle Station at Pease: It should also be noted that Pease Park now has a heavily used B-Cycle station at 1100 Kingsbury. This is just one of several dozen such stations located all around central Austin and Lady Bird Lake. People can rent bicycles for short-term use at one of these convenient kiosks. B-Cycle is a nationwide phenomena designed to give visitors and residents a readily available alternative means of transportation.

The B-Cycle station at Pease is an important one because it allows visitors easy access north and south along the Shoal Creek Hike & Bike Trail. That trail is a major component of the City's Bicycle Master Plan and will assume ever greater importance as Austin grows and motor vehicle traffic worsens even more. The B-Cycle station at Pease is already a very popular amenity and will draw even more tourists and visitors to the park over time. (See Austin B-Cycle stations map and photo attached, B#16 & 17).

Conclusion: Hard statistics for the origin of people patronizing a free public park are obviously difficult to come by. Since tickets are not required, there is no interaction between park users and Parks Department personnel and no opportunity to gather data. But, there is simply no question that they are coming. Stacy Suits' letter concerning the origins of Eeyore's patrons and the clipboard survey data collected during the Pease Park Master Planning process in 2013-2014 validate this. The email from Hotel Ella's assistant manager and the letter from the Pearl Hotel's owner further confirm this fact. All this evidence taken together amply demonstrates that Pease Park and Shoal Creek Hike & Bike Trail are clearly "on the map" when it comes to tourism in Austin. We feel this visitor interest and active presence in these green spaces make it quite reasonable to justify the expenditure of some of our city's hotel occupancy taxes on the restoration and repair of historically important improvements there.

We certainly want tourists to have a favorable impression of our City and keeping the historic built infrastructure in Pease Park and the Shoal Creek Greenbelt in good condition is imperative in that regard. Well-maintained facilities enhance the visitors' experience and demonstrate civic pride. This helps us "put our best foot forward" as a community.

We feel quite strongly that the beautiful limestone walls built by the CCC and Janet Fish at Pease Park and the Shoal Creek Hike & Bike Trail and the CCC built Depression era "New Deal rustic" picnic tables and benches at Pease Park qualify as worthy projects that will promote tourism in our community. Their restored appearance and function will contribute to a favorable impression of Austin and indisputably help put "heads in beds," as required under the Austin Convention and Visitors Bureau's heritage grant program. Therefore, the Pease Park Conservancy respectfully urges the Committee to approve this grant application.

**LIST OF ADDITIONAL WEBSITES FEATURING PEASE PARK AND THE
SHOAL CREEK HIKE AND BIKE TRAIL AS
AN AUSTIN TOURIST ATTRACTION OR DESTINATION**

www.texasoutside.com/peasepark.frames.htm

www.gogobot.com/pease-park-austin-attraction

www.foursquare.com/v/pease-district-park/4

www.do512.com/venues/pease-park

www.eeyores.org

www.austin.com/six-pefect-austin-parks-where-dogs0can-run-free/

www.austinhikeandbike.com/

www.mountainbiketx.com/downloads/texas/maps/shoal_creek.pdf

www.austinbike.com/index.php/austin/134-shoal-creek

www.yelp.com/biz/shoal-creek-parks-austin

www.bartonspringsbikerental.com/where-to-ride.htm

www.traillink.com/trail.shoal-creek-trail.aspx

www.rootrated.com/austin-tx/road-running/shoal-creek-greenbelt

PEASE PARK CONSERVANCY'S GRANT APPLICATION TO THE
AUSTIN CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU HERITAGE GRANT PROGRAM
HISTORIC JUSTIFICATION

Introduction: Pease District Park is an iconic green space that is widely recognized as a major civic, historic and cultural landmark in Austin, Texas. The park and the adjacent Shoal Creek Greenbelt constitute an 88 acre wooded oasis in the middle of the booming central city. It is possible to forget you are in the heart of the 11th largest city of the nation and completely lose yourself in nature along spring-fed Shoal Creek. Yet, the park has great significance beyond its natural beauty. It has figured prominently in Austin history since before the days of the Republic of Texas. Many chapters of this rich history are literally written in stone and concrete improvements that help give the space its unique character and are in desperate need of restoration. They are deserving of such attention for the sake of today's and tomorrow's park visitors. This Austin Convention and Visitors Bureau heritage grant will greatly assist us in making that restoration a reality.

The Legacy of Governor Pease: Governor & Mrs. E.M. Pease were the owners of this area in the mid-19th Century, living nearby in their grand antebellum mansion "Woodlawn." This gracious "Old South" structure was built in 1853 by well-known Austin architect Abner Cook, who also designed the Texas Governor's Mansion. Pease served as governor of Texas twice, both before and after the Civil War. He was known as a progressive and promoted numerous civic improvements in the young state during his tenure. He is also generally regarded as the father of public education in Texas. He and his wife were from Connecticut originally and had come to Texas to make their fortune before the Texas Revolution. Although they were slave owners, they remained staunch Unionists during the Civil War.

Governor Pease gave the land that became the park to the City of Austin in 1875. (The Austin City Council resolution accepting the gift on August 25, 1875 is attached). The Pease family had long regarded their acreage along Shoal Creek as the "prettiest part" of their plantation and wanted to share it with the rest of Austin's citizens. They personally knew the family of Frederick Law Olmsted, the famous designer of Central Park in New York City who was also from Hartford, Connecticut, and were very aware of his work on that park in New York City. They wanted Austin to have a similar public pleasure ground and gathering space. They expressed the hope that the park would help Austin be "as up to date" as Eastern cities. The Pease family's generous civic spirit in establishing the park qualifies Austin an "early adopter" of the late 19th Century's "City Beautiful" movement.

General Custer's Post-Civil War Encampment: The land that would become Pease Park was briefly the site of Union General George Armstrong Custer's cavalry encampment in the winter of 1865-1866, following the Civil War. All of the Confederate state officials in Texas had fled to Mexico after Lee's surrender at Appomattox and a gang of armed men had brazenly robbed the treasury at the State Capitol building in Austin in June. There was a general lawlessness in this chaotic

post-war vacuum that the Federal authorities wanted to fill. General Custer, his wife and brother arrived in Austin in November 1865 with three troops of Union cavalrymen to assist in re-establishing public order. The troops camped on the banks of Shoal Creek in the north end of the future park in an area now known as "Custer's Meadow."

This Reconstruction-era visit by Custer and his wife proved to be a happy one for the young couple. They were very well received by most Austin residents who were happy to have law and order restored. General & Mrs. Custer moved into comfortable quarters at the Texas School for the Deaf near the present day Frank Erwin Center. The couple enjoyed dances and regimental band concerts on Mount Bonnell featuring the "Anvil Chorus." Libby Custer remembered Austin fondly in her memoir *Tenting on the Plains* years later, writing that it was one of the happiest times of their marriage.

However, it was certainly not a pleasant stay for some of Custer's troops. A cholera epidemic swept through the Federal encampment on Shoal Creek that winter with many soldiers hospitalized at the nearby Neil-Cochran Mansion (located at 2300 San Gabriel Street). The disease ultimately killed a number of these Federal troopers who were then buried hastily along Shoal Creek. A severe flood in 1900 disinterred them and they were subsequently reburied at Oakwood Cemetery. (See the Austin Parks Department's interpretive signage on Custer attached).

The Kiwanis Club & the Great Depression Era Improvements: Pease Park was not fully developed as parkland until 1926. The City simply had no funds to do so. So, the Austin Kiwanis Club stepped in and raised private dollars to construct a restroom, children's wading pool and other improvements and to hire a groundskeeper for its maintenance. The much-improved park immediately proved to be immensely popular with young and old alike. It can be said that its development (along with Zilker Park and Deep Eddy in the same period) served as the genesis of the Austin Parks Department that was formally organized in 1929.

During the Great Depression in the 1930's tens of millions of American men were out of work. The Federal government established programs like the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and Works Progress Administration (WPA) to alleviate this crippling epidemic of unemployment (that peaked at 25% of the workforce in 1934). The CCC and WPA were quite active in Austin during this period, building a number of bridges, public buildings and other improvements that still define our city today. The Austin parks' system was a major beneficiary of their good work. *Texas Highways Magazine* edition in July 2016 recognized the CCC's important legacy in Texas in an article called "*Hail to the Boys of the CCC.*" (See copy attached).

These organizations' craftsmanship can still be seen at Pease Park where they built low limestone perimeter seating walls and concrete picnic tables. These decorative walls define the space as parkland, corralled wandering small children and contributed to a sense of arrival. An article in the *Austin Statesman* on January 17,

1934, highlighted the work of these men in making improvements in the park and further north between West 24th and West 29th Streets along "Shoal Drive." These limestone walls show a very high degree of workmanship and reflect the pride of craft by these young masons. But, time, the elements and encounters with motor vehicles have taken a toll on some parts of these walls making immediate repairs necessary to preserve this legacy of the CCC in Austin.

The picnic tables at Pease Park were built in the "New Deal Rustic" style and have served the test of time, surviving constant use, flash flooding and assaults by heavy tree limbs broken loose by windstorms. Constructed with steel rebar support, they were meant to last and have generally done so in good fashion. But, some of them are in need of immediate repair as seen from the photographs attached. Chipped concrete and exposed rebar make them dangerous for park patrons and visitors.

The Pease Park Master Plan that was approved by the Austin City Council in October 2014 calls for the adding additional interpretive signage in the park that will inform visitors of its rich history. The story of the park's rich 19th Century history needs to be supplemented with a description of the story of the New Deal in Austin and the CCC's contributions to the park's built environment. The Pease Park Conservancy plans to work closely with the Austin Parks Department to develop new permanent signs that will tell this important story.

Janet Fish & the Shoal Creek Trail: The Shoal Creek Hike & Bike Trail and the story of its birth are of historical importance in their own right. It was built through the single-handed determination of Janet and Russell Fish, a socially prominent Pemberton Heights couple. Janet Fish had grown up above the creek on West 24th Street and had ridden horses on a bridle path that had been first laid out by the CCC. She wanted the rest of the community to be able to enjoy the pastoral pleasures of Shoal Creek just as she had as a young girl. Ms. Fish had seen similar hike and bike trails in the eastern United States but it was a new concept in Texas. She got the Austin Parks Department to agree to the concept in theory but, the City had no funding for such a luxury. So, Ms. Fish took a \$5,000 check her husband had given her for a new car to the Parks Department and signed it over with instructions that their bulldozer operator meet her on the creek bank the next Monday morning. They did. You did not say "no" to Mrs. Fish.

The Fish's personally cajoled, pleaded and pressured neighbors owning property along the new trail to sign over the right-of-way or give easements allowing its passage. "Do this for Austin," they would say and the neighbors invariably did. With City money still largely absent, Mrs. Fish enlisted local Boy Scout troops to help with clearing brush and planting and caring for new trees and shrubs along the route of the new trail. The trail proved a huge success from the start, particularly with University of Texas students. It was big news all over the state, including the Dallas and Houston papers. *Life* magazine even featured it in an article.

One of Janet Fish's close friends was Liz Carpenter, Lady Bird Johnson's private secretary. Liz shared the story of Janet's work in creating the Shoal Creek Trail with Mrs. Johnson. Lady Bird was so impressed that when she became first lady and began her famous beautification program, she carried clippings about Mrs. Fish and the Shoal Creek Hike & Bike Trail with her around the country. She would pull them out and show them to mayors and city and county officials and show them what one lady accomplished almost singlehandedly in Austin, Texas. "See what you can do" she would say, "one determined persistent person can accomplish great things."

The Shoal Creek Trail planted the seed in Lady Bird's mind that later germinated and came to fruition as the Town Lake Hike & Bike Trail. When the Johnson's returned to Austin after leaving the presidency in 1969, Lady Bird remembered what Janet Fish had done with Shoal Creek and determined to recreate her success on the larger canvass of the Colorado River in Downtown Austin. Kicking off that effort in 1970, Lady Bird did. The story of the Shoal Creek trail, Mrs. Fish and Mrs. Johnson is recounted in detail in the book *Environmental City, People, Places, Politics and the Meaning of Modern Austin* by William Scott Swearingen, Jr. (2010).

Recognitions and Awards for Pease Park's Historic Character: Pease Park was listed as a "contributing landscape element" of the Old West Austin Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places in 2003. It also has a Texas State Historical Survey Committee Marker that was dedicated on April 11, 1971. Several great-great grandchildren of Governor & Mrs. Pease attended the ceremony and unveiled the plaque. The State Historic marker details the story of the park's founding by the Pease's and the encampment of General Custer's cavalry troops along Shoal Creek. (See photograph of the marker and 1971 newspaper article attached).

Pease District Park has also been given the very high honor of being formally designated as a "*Lone Star Legacy Park*" by the Texas Recreation and Parks Society (TRAPS) in March 2015 at its Abilene convention. The only other Austin park to be so honored is Zilker Park. These park professionals recognized the iconic nature of Pease given its rich history that is so closely associated with the story of the City of Austin itself. Much of the park remains in a natural state with steep wooded hillsides and open meadows so it makes it very easy to imagine that the Comanche Indians, General Custer and Governor Pease just left yesterday.

A "Cultural Resources Survey of Pease Park" was conducted on behalf of the City of Austin in April 2013 by the firm AmaTerra. They conducted several test digs at various locations in the park under Antiquities Permit No. 6358 and found considerable deposits of household articles and trash from the 19th Century, confirming that the area was used as a dumping ground in its early history.

The Conservancy plans to seek designation of Pease Park as a State Antiquities Landmark (SAL) in the near future based on its significant role in Texas and Austin's history. Brackenridge Park in San Antonio has qualified for similar recognition from the Texas Historical Commission.

Conclusion: The historical significance of Pease Park speaks for itself, validated by the Texas Historical Survey Marker, as well as recognized in the heart of every Austin native. It has witnessed our community's maturation from a dusty frontier outpost to the darling of 21st Century tech start-ups and hipster hype. It has seen the march of history from Comanche depredations to old hippies hanging onto their tie-dye and "Flower Power" at Eeyore's Birthday held in the park each April.

There is also an important recurrent theme in the park and Greenbelt's history of individual and collective philanthropy for the betterment of the larger community. It is a straight line that connects the Pease family's generous gift of the land to the City in 1875 to the Kiwanis Club's raising private funds to develop and improve the green space in 1926 and on to Janet & Russell Fish's selfless activism on the Shoal Creek Hike & Bike Trail in 1960-1961.

The Pease Park Conservancy formed in 2008 likes to think it is latest iteration of this selfless philanthropy focused on this unique and very special green space. The Conservancy is carrying on this tradition with its many volunteer events and work-days aimed at supplementing the public maintenance of the park, as well as its fundraising for further improvements and restoration. We are very proud of our organization's stewardship and advocacy for Pease since 2008 and look forward to continuing our active private partnership on the park's behalf with the Austin Parks Department.

The park professionals at TRAPS had it right. Pease is a "Lone Star Legacy" indeed.

Just as we honor the park's role in Austin's early history, it is important that we remember the tumultuous history of the 20th Century's Great Depression that is literally "writ in stone" at Pease Park and the Shoal Creek Greenbelt. We need to preserve the legacy bequeathed to us by the talented CCC stone masons and Janet Fish and take steps to ensure that their remarkable stories can be told by careful restoration of their beautiful limestone walls and classic "New Deal Rustic" concrete picnic tables. In doing so, we can assure that future generations of visitors and residents can remember both the hard times of the Great Depression and Mrs. Fish's singular philanthropic leadership through these remarkable physical park improvements that they have left us. Funding from this Austin Convention and Visitors Bureau heritage grant will assure that this happens.

Estimated West 31st Street Gateway Budget

DESCRIPTION	COST ESTIMATE
LABOR	
Removal of existing stone wall	
12" by 4" trench for footing	
1/2" rebar footing	
Pour concrete for footing	
Rebuild 75' wall with existing and new stone	
	\$ 18,000.00
MATERIALS	
Concrete	\$ 1,500.00
Rebar	\$ 400.00
Sand	\$ 700.00
Cement	\$ 1,100.00
Weathered limestone	\$ 4,200.00
Decomposed Granite	\$ 600.00
Dump Fee	\$ 200.00
	\$ 8,700.00
PROJECT TOTAL	\$ 26,700.00

MY ACCOUNTS

▼ DEPOSITS (4)

425,078.46

Account	Description	Available	Current
*****1079	BUSINESS CKG	107,534.31	107,534.31
*****2093	BENCHMARK COMMERCIAL ACCOUNT	289,884.22	289,884.22

Current deposited funds available
to PPC and not obligated
to other projects

PSP Landscape
12403 Twin Creek Dr.
Manchaca, TX 78652
PSPlandscape@hotmail.com

Shoal Creek Trail – 3018 N. Lamar

Stone Wall Proposal

Scope of Labor Work

1. Remove old stone wall
2. Dig 12" wide by 4" dip trench for footing
3. Install 1/2" rebar inside trench
4. Pour concrete mix for footing
5. Use existing stones from site and purchased stones to restore retaining wall
6. Build 75' stone retaining wall. Wall will maintain a height under the sidewalk and take on the grade of the hillside.

Total cost of labor: \$18,000

Materials Used:

Concrete \$1,500
Rebar \$400
Sand \$700
Cement \$1,100
Natural weathered limestone \$4,200
Granite \$600
Dump Fee \$200

Total cost of materials: \$8,700

Total Project Cost (labor and materials): \$26,700

If you have any questions please let me know (512) 825-6806.

Thank you,
Pedro Sanchez

**CELEDONIO PINA MASONRY BID FOR PEASE PARK
WALL RESTORATION - SHOAL CREEK TRAIL**

Proposal:

Work:

Haul off old damaged stone
Clean salvageable stone from existing wall
Dig new footings for wall
Pour concrete footing
Rebuild wall using rebar and concrete
Add additional granite at Trail Entrance

Cost of Labor: \$25,000

Materials:

New stone \$4,100
Concrete: \$2,900
Rebar \$750
Sand \$1,000
Haul off: \$300

Cost of Materials: \$9,050

Total: \$34,050

Thank you for allowing us to bid on this project on the Shoal Creek Trail.

Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Celedonio Pina
9800 Cheryl Lynn Road
Austin, Texas 78747

June 10, 2017

RAMOS MASONRY BID FOR PEASE PARK CONSERVANCY
SHOAL CREEK TRAILHEAD PROJECT-WEST 31ST STREET
JUNE 27, 2017

Janet Fish Stone Wall Restoration:

Work to be performed:

Remove existing stone

Dig trench for footing

Install Concrete footing

Construct wall utilizing old stone & new stone as appropriate

Add granite sand to eroded trail surface

Estimated cost of Labor: **\$22,000**

Materials:

Weathered limestone \$4,500

Concrete \$1,600

Sand \$900

Cement \$1,100

Rebar \$600

Granite Sand \$900

Dump Fee \$200

Estimated Cost of Materials: **\$9,800**

Total Cost of Project: \$31,800

Bid Accepted:_____

Pease Park Conservancy

Date: _____

Froylan Ramos
6600 Elm Creek Drive #232
Austin, Texas 78744
(512) 538-6837

Pease Park Conservancy
ACVB Heritage Grant - 31st Street Gateway
Project Schedule

This project will be available to begin as soon as funding is secured. We will immediately begin the planning and preparation process with PARD.

Given its unique location, this project will not be interrupted by other projects in the area, including phase one implementation, Watershed Protection Departments restoration work, or new art installations near 29th and Lamar.

This project will nicely complement pending announcements and new from the Conservancy regarding further implementation of the Master Plan. It is anticipated that all of the work outlined in this proposal will be completed within ninety days of funding being made available to the Conservancy under the heritage grant program.

PEASE PARK CONSERVANCY'S GRANT APPLICATION TO THE
AUSTIN CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU HERITAGE GRANT PROGRAM
PROOF OF OWNERSHIP/ AUTHORIZATION

Pease District Park and the Shoal Creek Greenbelt are owned by the City of Austin. A copy of the Austin City Council resolution accepting the gift of this land from Governor & Mrs. E.M. Pease on August 25, 1875 is attached.

The park and Greenbelt now total 88 acres (north to the West 31st Street Trailhead). The original grant by the Pease family was for 23 acres. The City acquired the additional acreage making up the park and Shoal Creek Greenbelt on various subsequent dates.

The Pease Park Conservancy is the "park adopter group" for Pease Park and the Shoal Creek Greenbelt north of the park to West 31st Street. This relationship has existed since the formation of the Conservancy in 2008. A copy of the Austin Parks Department's list of "park adopter groups" is attached for your information.

Please also find attached an email from Ms. Kim McKnight of the Austin Parks Department dated July 1, 2016, stating that the Pease Park Conservancy is authorized to file this application under the Austin Convention and Visitors Bureau Heritage Grant Program. (See attached email).

PEASE PARK CONSERVANCY'S GRANT APPLICATION TO THE
AUSTIN CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU HERITAGE GRANT PROGRAM
PROOF OF INSURANCE

The City of Austin is the owner of all of the parkland properties in question. The City carries a property insurance policy.

The Pease Park Conservancy carries an "Errors and Omissions" policy for its Board of Directors and a General Liability policy covering its volunteers through the Wortham Agency, 221 West 6th Street, Suite 1400, Austin, Texas 78701.

All contractors under this project will carry Worker's Compensation insurance as required by the City of Austin. Proof of coverage can be presented upon request.

Pease Park Conservancy
ACVB Heritage Grant - 31st Street Gateway
Plans and Specifications

The Conservancy proposes to perform this restoration and repair work to the historic Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) stonewalls throughout the space. In order to maintain a consistent quality and visual, these walls will be constructed identically to others in the immediate area. The propose plan for restoration:

1. Remove existing stonewall, but keep stone for reuse
2. Dig trench for new concrete footing to reinforce stability
3. Place ½" rebar in trench and pour concrete
4. Rebuild wall along grade of hillside
5. Mortar between stacks to assure long-term sustainability of the wall
6. Remove invasive species
7. Replant with native grasses, flowers, and trees

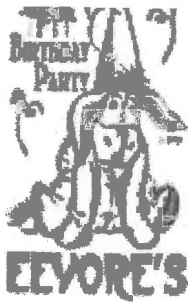
Restoration work will follow Secretary of Interior Standards for Rehabilitation and will reference National Park Service brief:

NPS Brief 15: Preservation of Historic Concrete

ATTACHMENT "B" TOURISM JUSTIFICATION

INDEX TO ATTACHMENTS

1. Letter from Stacy Suits, Trustee of Eeyore's Birthday Celebration, Friends of the Forest Foundation, June 29, 2016.
2. Eeyore's Birthday Party, Austin Texas (Wikipedia)
3. Lady Bird & Lynda Bird Johnson at Eeyore's Birthday Party circa 1972.
4. Three photographs of Eeyore's Birthday Celebration at Pease, April 2012.
5. Letter from Jill Bickford, the Pearl Vintage Hotel, August 16, 2016, verifying its guests use Pease Park & the Shoal Creek Greenbelt.
6. Email from Mickey Farmer, Hotel Ella Assistant Manager, verifying that the hotel's guests use Pease Park and Shoal Creek Hike & Bike Trail.
7. Austin Parks Dept. blog: "Pease Park: So Much More than Meets the Eye"
8. Trip Advisor: "Pease Park" (<http://www.tripadvisor.com>)
9. 365 Things Austin, Pease Park, (<http://365thingsaustin.com?s=pease+park>)
10. Yelp reviews: Pease Park, <http://www.yelp.com/biz/pease-park-austin>
11. List of Other Websites referencing Pease Park as a tourist destination.
12. 10 Best, Travel & Lifestyle Advice, Pease Park Austin
13. "What's Out There Austin," Pease Park Tour, November 21, 2015 sponsored by the Cultural Landscape Foundation
14. *Ghosts of Austin* by Fiona Broome, "The Shoal Creek Curse"
15. *Insiders Guide to Austin* by Cam Rossie
16. Photo of B-Cycle Station, Pease Park, 1100 Kingsbury
17. Map of Austin B-Cycle Station locations.
18. Interpretive, Way-finding and Historical Markers on the Shoal Creek Hike & Bike Trail erected with funding from the Austin Junior League in 1992.
 - (a) Shoal Creek: Shallow Waters-Way-finding sign at West 24th Street Bridge
 - (b) The Native Americans-Sara Hibbens' escape from the Comanches by wading down Shoal Creek to the village of Waterloo (Austin) in 1835.
 - (c) Shoal Creek Landmarks: Cat Hole, Blue Hole & Spilt Rock.
 - (d) Gold Fever: The Myth of the Buried Mexican Gold along Shoal Creek.
 - (e) Austin Daily Statesman article "*Hidden Treasure said to exist in Pease Park, The Wild Search Goes on,*" January 3, 1897.



Friends of the Forest Foundation

PO Box 12902

Austin, TX 78711

June 29, 2016

Mr. Steve Genovisi
Senior Vice President for Sales
Austin Convention & Visitors Bureau
111 Congress Avenue, Suite 700
Austin, Texas 78701

Re: Pease District Park/ Eeyore's Birthday Celebration

Dear Mr. Genovisi:

I have been involved with Eeyore's Birthday Celebration in Austin in numerous capacities since 1983. Much of this time I have been an officer on the board of directors of Friends of the Forest, the organization that stages the event. One of my functions is handling security for it and working with law enforcement to assure everyone's safety. This lengthy experience has given me significant insights into the size of the crowd attending Eeyore's and knowledge of where these celebrants are from.

I have watched Eeyore's grow into a major festival over the last forty years, attracting more and more visitors every year. The park's capacity is 7,800 people and we have about 5,000 people in the park at any one time during the day. However, most people come and go throughout the day. So, the total number of people who attend the celebration over the nine or ten hours of the event is closer to 15,000.

It is my best estimate that approximately 20% of the people who attend it annually are from communities outside of Austin and in a surprising number of cases from outside of Texas. The festival has a nationwide reputation for its uniqueness. There is nothing like it anywhere. Quite a number of former Austin residents remember Eeyore's as a highlight of their year and return to the city each year to participate in it. Additionally, a number of tourists are drawn to it by word of mouth recommendations from friends and family who currently reside in Austin. It should be noted that Eeyore's has no paid advertising for this event.

I know this through personal conversations I have had with many of these out of town visitors over the decades. Also, at our Board of Directors meeting last Tuesday night, the group

People enjoy themselves immensely at this event and wish that there was something like Eeyore's in their own hometowns. There is no doubt in my mind that Eeyore's Birthday Celebration fills a lot of hotel rooms in this city every year.

If you have any questions about the direct connection between Eeyore's and tourism in Austin, please feel free to contact me. I can be reached by telephone at 512-554-2710 .

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stacy Suits".

Stacy Suits
Board Trustee
Friends of the Forest

Eeyore's Birthday Party

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Eeyore's Birthday Party is an annual festival in Austin, Texas since 1963. It is held at Austin's Pease District Park, featuring food vending which benefit local charities, costume contests, and very large drums. The event is organized by a group of volunteers, with specific roles for each organizer. The festival is named after the character Eeyore from Milne's *Winnie-the-Pooh* stories.

Contents

- 1 History
- 2 Contemporary
- 3 References
- 4 External links

History

Eeyore's Birthday Party began in 1963, organized by a group of University of Texas at Austin Department of English students. The first event was organized by Lloyd W. Birdwell, Jr. and other students. The event is a chronically depressed donkey in a field, who, in one story, believes his friends are going to discover they have planned a surprise party for him. The event does not fall on the official date of Eeyore's Birthday. The original event featured a trashcan, a live, flower-draped donkey, and a large drum (in the proximity to May Day).^[5] For many years, it was a hippie subculture.^[2]

When the festival moved from East Austin in 1974, Austin-area non-profit Friends of the Earth charities, began arranging for food and other services. The event is still known for its large drums and contests. The event is still known for its large annual attendance in the thousands.

Over time, the festival has outgrown its original hippie Foundation.^[6]

Contemporary

Eeyore's Birthday Party

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Eeyore's Birthday Party is a day-long festival taking place annually in Austin, Texas since 1963. It typically occurs on the last Saturday of April in Austin's Pease District Park.^[1] It includes live music, food and drink vending which benefit local non-profit organizations, attendees in colorful costumes, and very large drum circles. The event is frequented by children and families, with specific events presented for them by the event organizers. The festival is named in honor of Eeyore, a character in A. A. Milne's Winnie-the-Pooh stories.^[2]

Contents

- 1 History
- 2 Contemporary
- 3 References
- 4 External links

History

Eeyore's Birthday Party began in 1963 as a spring party and picnic for Department of English students at the University of Texas at Austin by Lloyd W. Birdwell, Jr. and other UT students.^[2] It was named for Eeyore, a chronically depressed donkey in A. A. Milne's Winnie-the-Pooh stories who, in one story, believes his friends have forgotten his birthday only to discover they have planned a surprise party for him.^[3] Despite its name, the event does not fall on the official birthday of the fictional character.^[4] The original event featured a trashcan full of lemonade, beer, honey sandwiches, a live, flower-draped donkey, and a may pole (in keeping with the event's proximity to May Day).^[5] For many years the party was a UT tradition, but subsequently the annual Birthday Party became a tradition in Austin's hippie subculture.^[2]

When the festival moved from Eastwoods Park to Pease District Park in 1974, Austin-area non-profit Friends of the Forest Foundation, an organization which distributes funds to other area charities, began arranging for food and drink vendors at the festival. They continue this task today along with arranging public services (toilets, buses, security, medics) and scheduling live music and family-oriented games and contests. The event is still known to most as a festival oriented towards modern hippies. It now boasts an annual attendance in the thousands.^[2]

Over time, the festival has outgrown its original founders. It is now sponsored by the Friends of the Forest Foundation.^[6]

Contemporary



Eeyore's Birthday Party, 2010



The Eeyore of Liberty, a statue which combines The Statue of Liberty with Eeyore, frequently appears near the drum circles at this annual event.

-
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August 16, 2016

Mr. Steve Genovisi
Senior Vice President, Sales
Austin Convention & Visitors Bureau
111 Congress Avenue
Suite 700
Austin, Texas 78701

RE: Pease District Park & Shoal Creek Greenbelt

Dear Mr. Genovisi:

This letter is written to you with regard to a heritage grant application filed with your office by the Pease Park Conservancy.

We support the Conservancy in their request to improve the Pease District Park & Shoal Creek Greenbelt and Hike & Bick Trail. The Pearl has many guests visiting us from all over the world, and one of the primary reasons they visit Austin is for the wonderful parks and trails contained within the city's borders.

Many of our visitors are familiar with Town Lake and the related hike and bike trails. We are approximately 19 blocks from that area. The Pearl, however, is only 3-4 blocks from Peace Park. It would be beneficial to the City of Austin and to the adjoining property owners to have an improved Pease District Park and Shoal Creek Greenbelt for the many guests that stay with us visiting local governments, UT-Austin or to attend the various music venues and festivals in the area.

The Pearl is a small boutique hotel whose clients would use and love just as unique a park in the area. We sit within Judge's Hill and support all efforts that can be made to better the overall experience of coming to Austin.

Best regards,


Jill Bickford
Owner



richard craig <[REDACTED]>

Hotel Ella/Peace Park & Shoal Creek

1 message

Mickey Farmer <[REDACTED]>

Wed, Aug 17, 2016 at 5:40 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Good evening Richard,

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me. As discussed, the nearby Peace Park & Shoal Creek areas are quite important to the guests of Hotel Ella. Our concierge refers many guests to Shoal Creek, and I personally have utilized the trails around the park alongside some guests to show how great of an area it is.

With our busy season coming, and all of the UT functions, we expect the use of these areas to increase greatly due to the parents of UT students frequently visiting Hotel Ella.

Thank you again for your time.

All the best,

Mickey Farmer | Asst. General Manager

Hotel Ella

p 512.495.1800

1900 Rio Grande, Austin, TX 78705

www.hotelella.com

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August 19, 2016

Mr. Steve Genovisi
Senior Vice President, Sales
Austin Convention & Visitors Bureau
111 Congress Avenue, Suite 700
Austin, Texas 78701

Re: Austin Convention & Visitors Bureau Heritage Grant Program: Pease Park Conservancy's Application

Dear Mr. Genovisi:

I am writing to you on behalf of Preservation Austin in support of the Pease Park Conservancy's grant application under the Austin Convention & Visitors Bureau Heritage Grant program. The park has been at the center of much of Austin's rich history since its founding. The iconic park's beautiful scenery, hike and bike trails and playscapes make it an important destination for visitors and residents alike.

The Conservancy's grant application seeks funding for the restoration of concrete picnic tables and perimeter limestone walls built in the 1930's by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and certain other limestone walls built in the early 1960's by Janet Fish, the founder of the Shoal Creek Hike & Bike Trail. Both of these projects tell important stories in Austin history.

The CCC built a great deal of the Austin parks system's physical infrastructure during the Great Depression. The picnic tables and rock walls at Pease Park and the Shoal Creek Greenbelt exemplify the "New Deal Rustic" style. The limestone walls at the Dog Park at Gaston Avenue and Shoal Creek Blvd. are an important legacy of Janet Fish, the founder of the Shoal Creek Hike & Bike Trail built in 1960 and a civic activist whose example is said to have inspired Lady Bird Johnson's national beautification program.

These great stories "written in concrete and stone" need to be carefully preserved for posterity so they can continue to attract tourists and other visitors to these open spaces located close to Austin's Downtown core and its many hotels. We feel these are just the type of worthy projects that the Austin Visitor and Convention Bureau's Heritage Grant Program was meant to help fund and Preservation Austin is in full support of this application.

Sincerely,

Alyson McGee
President, Preservation Austin

CITY OF AUSTIN

Hon. E. M. Pease and Lady.

*The following resolution was unanimously adopted
at a meeting of the City Council
held August 25th 1875:*

*Be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Austin,
That the City of Austin, through its Council, hereby ac-
cept the donation of twenty-three acres of land within the
corporate limits of said city, granted to it by Gov. E. M.
Pease and wife for a public park.*

*That the thanks of the citizens of said city are hereby ex-
tended to said donors, through their representatives in coun-
cil assembled.*

ATTEST.

*Paul Steyer
Recorder.*

S. B. Wheeler.

Mayor.

Austin History Center



Pease Park.

In their circular addressed to the city council and board of trade, the Austin printers, in suggesting the donation of "Pease Park" as a site for the aged printers' home, were misinformed as to the form of the deed in the city of that very desirable tract of land. Mrs. Pease gave it to the city to be used only as a "public city park." The printers will fall back on the right acres of land in the Swisher addition, North Austin, donated, conditionally, by the city in 1877, and will just as easily work for the location of the home on that tract of land as they would "pull out" to have it in the "Pease Park." The typographers of Austin must have the printers' home.

A TRUE MASCOTTE.

Three Young People Invest 35 Cents Each and Receive \$15,000.

Fortune seldom arrives at the opportune moment, but Mr. Frank Elliott is one of those who have been smiled upon by that fickle dame in one of her most capricious moments. "In the early part of last month," remarked Mr. Elliott, in speaking of his good luck, "I had just finished a contract with a prominent levee contractor of this city, and found myself with no immediate prospect of other lucrative business. On going to the Kinko Female college, where my brother's wife resides, I found my sister-in-law and a young lady of her acquaintance, while away a rather quiet evening. A social game of cards was proposed to relieve idleness, and I took a hand. Good natured bantering and offers to bet were frequently made, and the young lady finally offered to wager the contents of her purse, and laughingly displayed 35 cents. My sister-in-law remarked, 'just one-third of a dollar; suppose we each contribute 35 cents and get a Louisiana lottery ticket.' This was readily agreed, and I gave 40 cents, the surplus because it was used as a bet by the young lady who was considered the mascot of the trio. A number of ticket No. 23,443 was bought, and on January 10 last the drawing took place."

Mr. Elliott passed a moment to remember the manifestations of the little party when the result of the drawing was published on the following day. "Our ticket," entitled the holders to \$15,000, one tenth of the capital prize of \$150,000. No trouble was experienced in collecting the money. The ticket was deposited in the Memphis National bank and forwarded to New Orleans. A sight draft for \$15,000, was received a few days afterward, and each of the party got \$5,000."

When asked what he intended to do with his newly acquired wealth, Mr. Elliott said: "I have not decided yet, but will doubtless invest it in real estate. This is what my sister-in-law and the young lady are going to do."

Mr. Elliott is a good looking young man of about 23 years of age, and is one of the civil engineers of the corps employed by the Chickasaw land company of Okla., Memphis, Tenn. A. V. Laugh, February 3.

TEXAS STOCK ASSOCIATION.

Two Proposals to Establish Refrigerating Packeries.

Yesterday morning the following call was issued convening the executive committee of the Texas Live Stock association in this city:

Dear Sir—As a member you are urgently requested to meet the executive committee of the Texas Live Stock association at Austin, Texas, March 1, 1888. This committee will then consider propositions of Fort Worth and Galveston to establish a refrigerating pactory. These two propositions have more the ring of business about them than anything yet proposed, and if we can secure a full meeting, at this time, of the committee, we believe that a proposition can be formulated and presented to the association which will lead to a speedy building of a refrigerator, and also be a time for the meeting of the

committee, the work has been started and pushed forward as rapidly as possible, and the place is fast assuming the appearance of a real park. Drives have been cut through in every direction, which even now, will enable any one sufficiently interested to drive through, to behold in wonder and admiration upon the natural beauties of the place, and upon its fitness for a city park. For a very small amount it may be made a most delightful place to drive in any kind of weather and at all times, and a place which above all others, a city needs, where tired, worn-out working people may find a quiet, picturesque resting place.

No one has ever been known to complain of for object to the "Common" or public garden in Boston, which is for the very same purpose; but rather, go to either whenever you will, it is thronged with people of every class and kind deriving in the benefits of nature right in the heart of the city. It is impossible to estimate the benefits derived from such places, and since these facts are universally acknowledged why don't Austin so large a place as she is have such a resort. The natural advantages of Pease Park far exceed those in any city, and with a little work and a little money the people of Austin would soon have a park that would rival Forest Park, of St. Louis, or that of any other city where they would be proud to drive any stranger.

In the resignation of Alderman Geo. A. Brash, chairman of the park committee, on account of having moved out of the ward, the city loses one who is most deeply interested in her welfare and who earnestly solicits public parks and squares. As other cities Austin should have park commissioners who would make it their business to see that the parks and squares are kept in good condition and all necessary improvements made. As chairman of that committee Mr. Brash would be the right man in the right place, being so much interested and having the beauty of the city as well as her interests so much at heart. Captain Sam E. Matthews, city engineer, has devoted his entire time for days past to the improvement of Pease park, which will speak for itself to all who may drive through it.

Petite Park
The Irving Daily, Switzerland (1884-1889), Apr. 3, 1885;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers, The Austin American Statesman
Pg. 3

Petite Park.

No longer a long looked for desire, but a reality. The council last night appropriated \$500 to improve it. This is a lovely place for recreation and games, and no doubt all Sunday school picnics in the future will be given there.

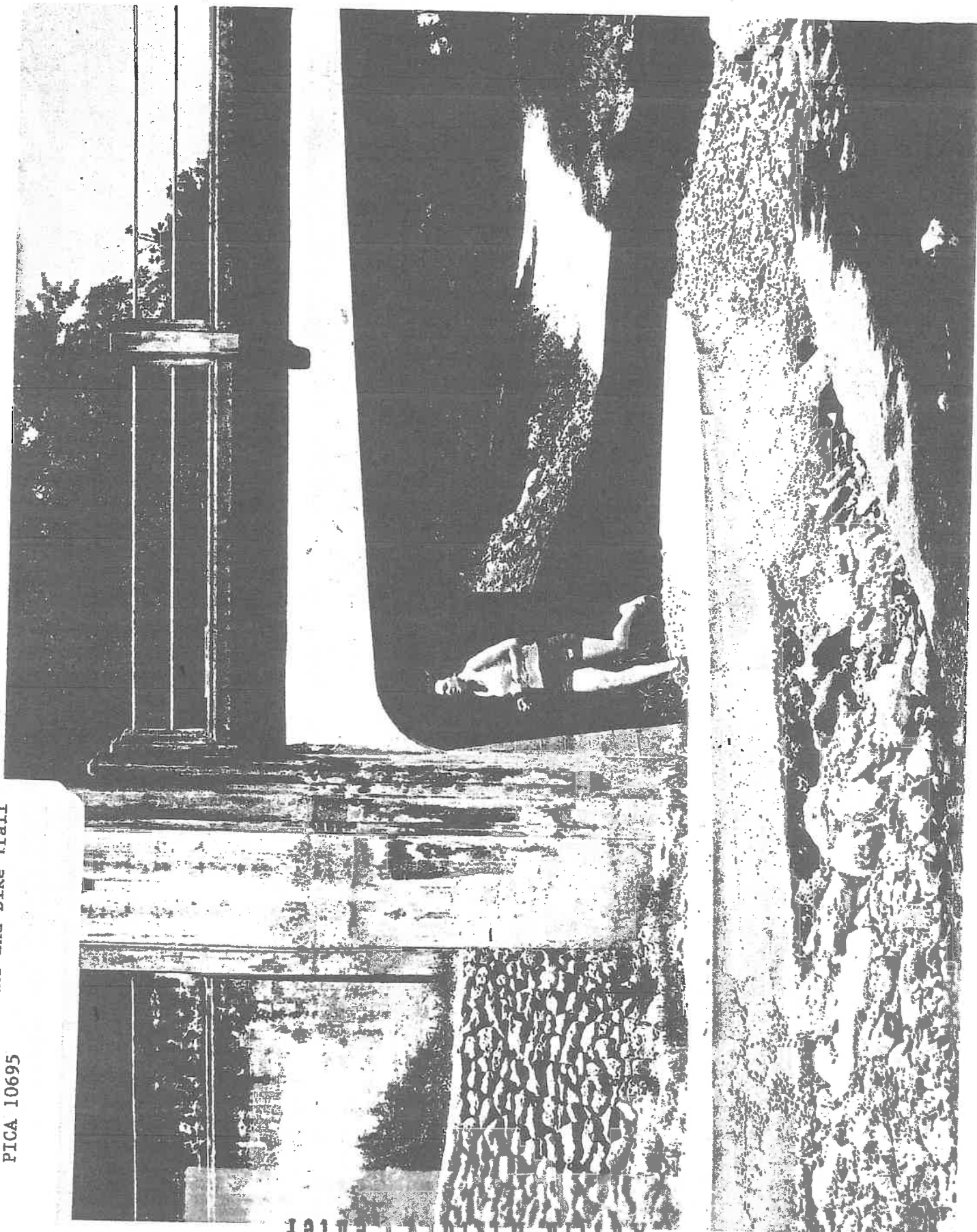
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Austin History Center



AF -- CREEKS
C9060(23) (b)
Shoal Creek -- Hike and Bike Trail
PICA 10687

CREEKS
Shoal Creek - Hike and Bike Trail
C9060(23)(b)
PICA 10695





— TEXT BY JULIA ROBINSON —

HAIL TO THE BOYS
— OF THE —



★
The
CIVILIAN
CONSERVATION
CORPS LEFT
an ENDURING
LEGACY on
the TEXAS
LANDSCAPE



hen I was a child, Texas' state parks were beloved vacation destinations. I became intimately familiar with the ubiquitous brown-and-yellow signs, the stoic stone buildings, rustic cabins, and cement picnic tables that dotted the state.

They were all similar, yet unique to each site. The large limestone foundations of Central Texas gave way to adobe flair in the west, Spanish mission influence in the south, and piney log cabins in the east. I passed the plaques at the interpretive centers and didn't give a second thought to the grainy black-and-white photos of men in rolled-up shirtsleeves posing on rock piles, or smiling from the roof of a dining hall, hammer in hand.

I became interested in these photos again as an adult. As a photojournalist and student of history, I like to comb through old images looking for moments and stories. The men who built the state parks of Texas were part of a program at a watershed in American politics and culture. Progressive politics, early environmentalism, and the biggest financial crisis the world had ever seen opened a window of opportunity for big ideas to take root.

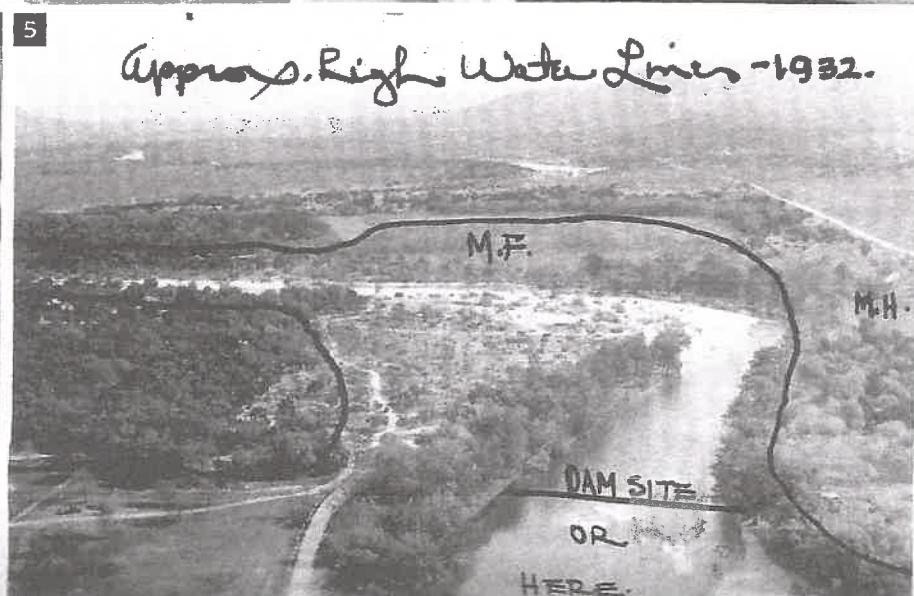
↑ "Fishermen's barrack,"
Lake Brownwood
State Park, 1935

1 "Dam footing,"
Fort Parker State
Park, c. 1935

2 The CCC boys at
Tyler State Park,
c. 1937


3 4 "HQ Activities"

5 Garner State Park
site, 1932



Just weeks after Roosevelt announced the CCC, proposals flooded into Austin from communities all across Texas, each offering sites for new parks and asking for help with erosion, flood control, and farming practices.





Among its many construction achievements, the CCC removed 2.5 tons of silt and guano from Longhorn Cavern, mapped the cave system, and installed two miles of electric lights.

offering sites for new parks and asking for help with erosion, flood control, and farming practices.

Over the next nine years, CCC workers created 56 national, state, and local parks in Texas, growing the total acreage from 800 acres to 60,000 acres. Texas Parks and Wildlife still manages 29 of these state parks today.

All were crafted according to an architectural esthetic influenced by Frederick Law Olmsted, the designer of New York's Central Park, and the Arts & Crafts movement that favored traditional craftsmanship and simple design over industrial production. Architects at the state and national level sought to minimize the silhouettes of buildings and use native materials to blend into the natural surroundings. The style came to be known as "National Park Service Rustic." They built structures using pioneer methods of manual labor and rough-hewn materials. The resulting buildings, roads, and landscape improvements have stood the test of time.

Visitors to Texas state parks will immediately recognize the rustic style.

The scenic lookout of Skyline Drive in Davis Mountains State Park rises from the cliff as a natural extension of local stone. Architects crafted the refectory of Goose Island State Park with a concrete mix of locally available sand and oyster shells. The reconstruction of 18th-Century Spanish Mission Nuestra Señora del Espíritu Santo de Zúñiga in Goliad State Park and Historic Site used quarried local stone and a kiln from the original settlement to fire thousands of floor tiles.

The CCC was tasked with hiring young, often unemployed or otherwise idle young men. To hire as many as possible, the CCC remained an unskilled labor force, utilizing hand tools and the strength of numbers rather than complex machinery. Among its many construction achievements, the CCC removed 2.5 tons of silt and guano from Longhorn Cavern, mapped the cave system, and installed two miles of electric lights. Company 1856 built the world's largest spring-fed pool at San Solomon Springs in Balmorhea, creating a travel destination for

★

More on the CCC

For further reading on the CCC in Texas, look for *Texas State Parks and the CCC: The Legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps*, by Cynthia Brandimarte with Angela Reed (Texas A&M University Press, 2013). The visually rich book covers the corps' formation and building of the parks, along with stories of the CCC camps and ongoing management of the sites.

Another excellent resource is *Parks for Texas: Enduring Landscapes of the New Deal*, by James Wright Steely (University of Texas Press, 1999), a comprehensive history of the creation of Texas' state park system.

early automobile tourists in West Texas.

Some CCC workers learned refined skills from "Local Experienced Men," or LEMs, who supervised more technical aspects of the construction. Electricians, engineers, architects, surveyors, plumbers, foremen, and artisans all contributed to the park sites. Specialized units for furniture and ironworks cropped up out of dedicated CCC camps in White Rock Lake, Bastrop, and Palo Duro Canyon.

Although the CCC's work in state parks is best known to the public, many of the CCC camps in Texas provided help with soil conservation, erosion, and flood control, and worked with 5,000 farmers to update their agricultural practices. Private landowners would pay for materials and the CCC provided the labor. Bill McDonald, who worked at soil conservation camp 3805 in Bartlett, recalled in a 2004 interview for a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department oral history project to commemorate the work of the CCC: "Right off, in very short order, I got my Ph.D.—Post Hole Digger!" CCC workers laid out miles of fencing, terraced farm fields, sodded grass, and built small earthen dams over the eastern and central parts of the state.

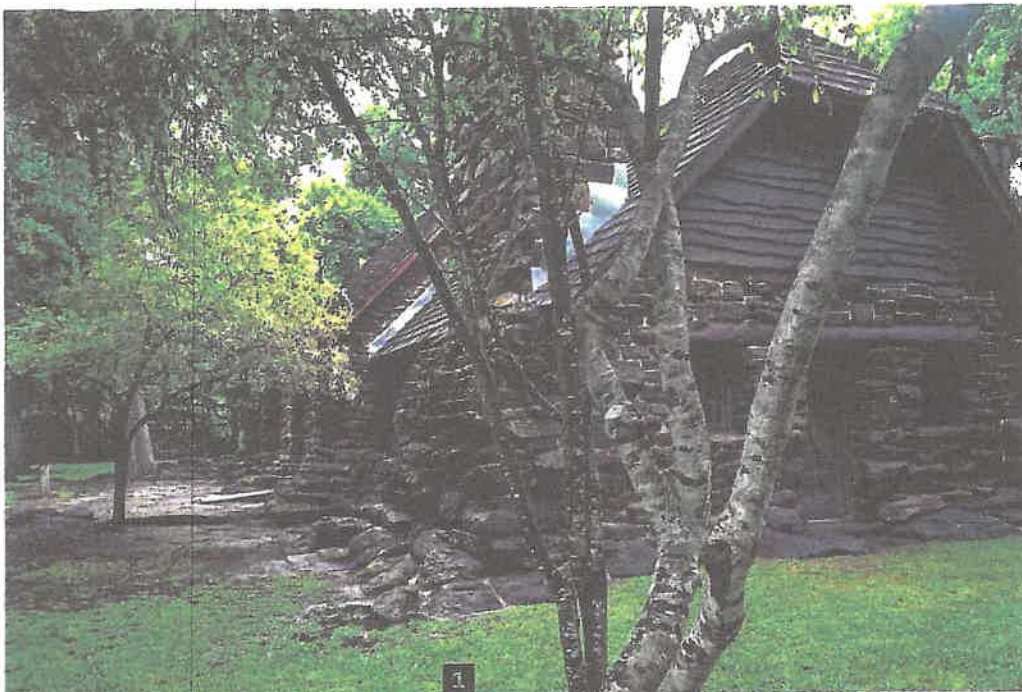
By the 1930s the timber industry had denuded many of East Texas' natural pine forests. Retus Williams worked in Company 880 in an area that became Sabine National Forest.

The CCC conserved the landscapes of Texas, but also conserved the human spirit of Texans.



↑ A picture window frames panoramic views from the stone overlook shelter at the top of Skyline Drive, Davis Mountains State Park.

PHOTO: Brandon Jakobeit



1



2



3

"We planted pine trees by the thousands," he said in a 2003 interview with Texas Parks and Wildlife. "We did that for a long, long time."

All told, the CCC planted 3 million trees on private and public lands in East Texas and developed four national forests with a total of more than 600,000 acres.

The CCC conserved the landscapes of Texas, but also conserved the human spirit of Texans. A high percentage of Texas CCC men came from families on

relief—more than 80 percent— even after the relief requirement for enrollment was lifted in 1937.

Men ages 18 to 25 (later expanded to 17 to 28) enrolled in the program for six-month stints and up to two years of work. The average CCC enrollee had an eighth-grade education and had been unemployed for seven months before joining the Corps. The "CCC boys" earned \$1 a day and were required to send \$22-\$25 home to their families

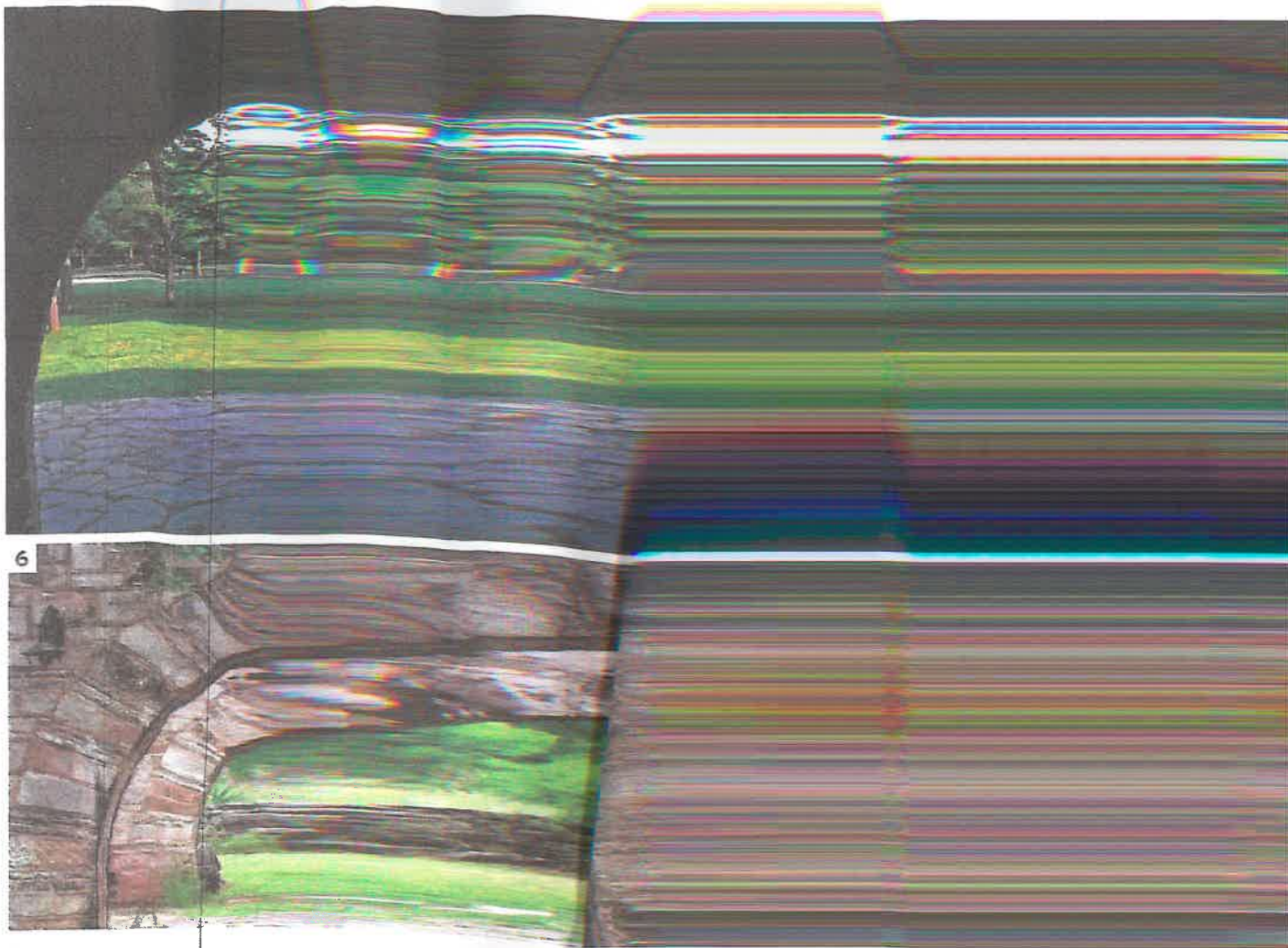
or dependents each month. In this way, the CCC helped redistribute roughly \$2 billion in wages nationwide.

Roosevelt forbade discrimination based on religious or racial grounds, but in practice many of the local agencies in charge of enlisting men in the program did just that. African Americans were never enrolled in the numbers that FDR envisioned, even though many were in more dire straits than their white counterparts.

1 **2** The CCC's sandstone structures at Palmetto State Park blend with the lush landscape.

2 The log replica of Mission San Francisco de los Tejas, Mission Tejas State Park.

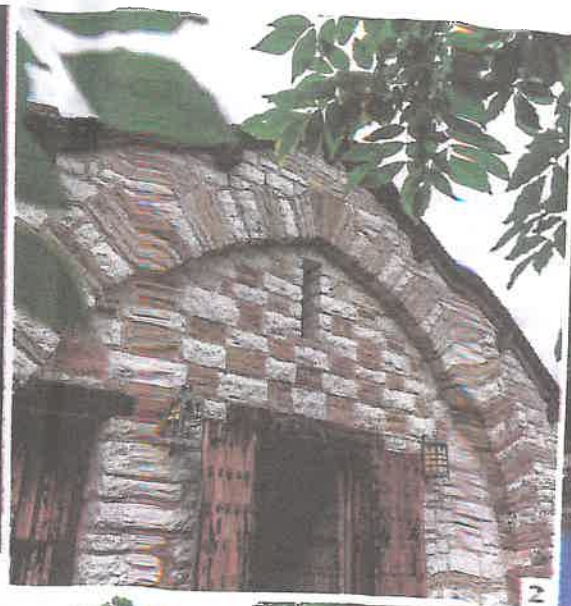
3 Blanco State Park's stone buildings, dams, and other structures were among the CCC's earliest park projects in Texas.



6

- 1 Mother Neff State Park
- 2 Longhorn Cavern State Park
- 3 Meridian State Park
- 4 Indian Lodge, in Davis Mountains State Park
- 5 Old Fort Parker
- 6 Longhorn Cavern State Park
- 7 Balmorhea State Park
- 8 Indian Lodge, in Davis Mountains State Park
- 9 Goose Island State Park
- 10 Abilene State Park

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1 Mother Neff State Park

2 Longhorn Cavern State Park

3 Meridian State Park

4 Indian Lodge, in Davis Mountains State Park

5 Old Fort Parker

6 Longhorn Cavern State Park

7 Balmorea State Park

8 Indian Lodge, in Davis Mountains State Park

9 Goose Island State Park

10 Abilene State Park

Despite that, some CCC camps were integrated in the early years of the program, though the men had segregated mess halls, living quarters, and latrines. Starting in 1935 the camps became fully segregated with all-white, all-African American, and some all-Native American camps distributed around the nation. Other camps were made up of older World War I veterans.

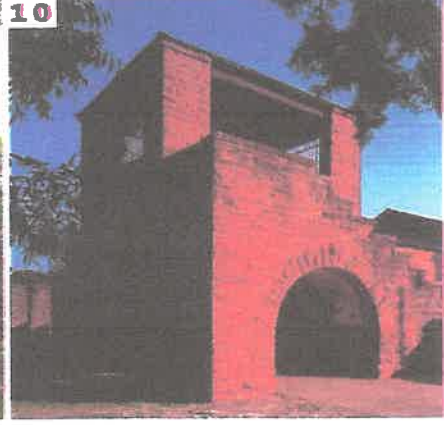
In Texas, one of the first all-African American camps re-created Fort Parker, a historic replica of the place where Comanches captured Cynthia Ann Parker in 1836. The fort was part of the Texas Centennial

celebration in 1936, and the men from Company 3807 rebuilt the stockades and a 423-foot dam across the Navasota River, creating Fort Parker Lake. The lake is now part of Fort Parker State Park, while the replica fort is a privately owned tourist attraction.

For M.F. Rutherford of Mexia, working at Fort Parker was a blessing. In a 2003 Texas Parks and Wildlife interview, Rutherford explained that after the Great Depression hit there was no farm work or paid employment to be found. By 1933, "we didn't have anything, and finally wound up in a soup line."

After joining the CCC

in 1938, Rutherford was stationed eight miles from home at Fort Parker where he worked in the rock quarry and as a tri driver. The workers built the fort on the ruins of Springfield, an African American freedmen's colony from the mid-19th Century. After the park was completed, African Americans were, ironically, barred from entry, a relic of Jim Crow laws, until the 1960s. "Now, mind you, now we're talking about a time of segregation," said Rutherford. "But yet, I didn't have no problem with it because of what the President had did for me and my family. And not only!



my family, but millions and millions of other families."

Over his two years in the CCC, Rutherford sent his wages home to his parents, six siblings, and two cousins in Mexia. "You can just visualize how many people that paycheck reached and helped out," he said.

Another success story, Dolores "Lolo" Baeza grew up on a family ranch just outside of Presidio on the Rio Grande and dreamed of traveling to far-off places when he joined the CCC in 1935. He was instead stationed in Big Bend working on park roads and later helped build Indian Lodge in the Davis Mountains.

His work on those sites

began a two-decade career in carpentry. Later, he opened a chain of grocery stores in Fort Davis, Alpine, and Presidio. Lolo's great granddaughter Berta Duarte works at Indian Lodge today and takes pride in her family's legacy in the area.

Many Texans employed by the CCC went on to enlist in the armed forces during World War II. They credit their time in the CCC as preparation for their time in the military. "When I got that letter that says, Uncle Sam pointing at you, 'We want you in the Army,' I didn't hesitate, because I was ready to go," said Rutherford. Many of America's Greatest Generation got

their start in the CCC.

Collectively, the Texans of the CCC contributed more than 100 million hours of labor to conserving the landscape of Texas. Whether you smile cruising down a curving park road, or admire the arches of a visitor's center or the towering quiet of a mature pine forest, you have to thank the Texans of the Civilian Conservation Corps

for their herculean effort almost a century ago. ★

Austin-based photojournalist Julia Robinson was intrigued by the sheer manpower of the CCC camps and the "unique political and economic circumstances that made their work possible," she says. "I'll never run my hands along a rock wall or a state park cabin in quite the same way."

Essentials CCC in Texas

For an online interactive database and map of the 29 Civilian Conservation Corps state parks in Texas, go to www.texascccparks.org. For a complete list of Texas' state parks, go to www.tpwd.texas.gov. For an interactive database and maps of CCC projects nationwide, go to <https://livingnewdeal.org>.

What's Out There

Austin

THIS WALL A GIFT OF
THE VIOLET CROWN
GARDEN CLUB OF AUSTIN
1939



Pease District Park

Landscape Style:
Naturalistic or Cohesive

Landscape Type:
Public Park
Neighborhood Park

Designers:
Hugo Kuehne
Wallace, Roberts & Todd
Pease Park Conservancy

Related Institutions:
Works Progress Administration

Once inhabited by Native Americans and serving as a Civil War encampment for George Custer's troops, this linear park buffers Shoal Creek bounded by Lamar Boulevard on its east and Kingsbury Street and Parkway on the west. In 1875 on what was then Austin's western limit, Governor Elisha Pease and his wife deeded to the City some 23 acres of land—the first donation of private land for a park in Texas. By 1888, the City had increased the area to about 40 acres and in 1903 a committee was formed to oversee the park's development, naming landscape gardener W. H. Pittsford the park keeper. As the surrounding neighborhood developed, the park was used as dumping grounds until 1926 when the Austin Kiwanis Club funded the installation of irrigation, lighting, and landscape improvements including the construction of a wading pool and limestone arches on Parkway. Architect Hugo Kuehne is credited with the design of Tudor Cottage style restrooms and, in the 1930s, the Works Progress Administration funded the construction of bridges, limestone walls, picnic tables, and improvements to the Shoal Creek Trail. By the 1960s Pease Park was again suffering from neglect. Local resident Janet Fish recalled riding horses along the trail in her youth and funded its rehabilitation, renaming it the "Hike and Bike Trail." Today the 43-acre park comprises meadows, forests, riparian habitat, and steep bluffs. It forms the eastern boundary of the Old West Austin Historic District listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2004. In 2013, a master plan for the park was developed by Pease Park Conservancy and Wallace, Roberts & Todd.

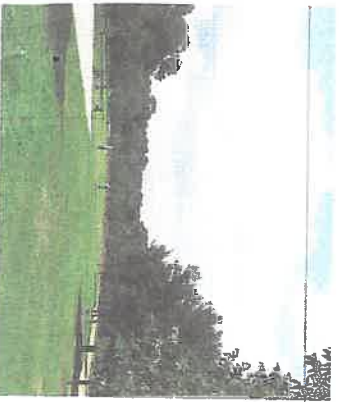


Photo by William Rieboldt

All photos on this page by William Rieboldt

a Civil War encampment for George bounded by Lamar Boulevard on its In 1875 on what was then Austin's ed to the City some 23 acres in Texas. By 1888, the City had committee was formed to oversee the H. Pittsford the park keeper. As the used as dumping grounds until 1926 of irrigation, lighting, and landscape g pool and limestone arches on a design of Tudor Cottage style Administration funded the construction vements to the Shoal Creek Trail. neglect. Local resident Janet Fish d funded its rehabilitation, renaming comprises meadows, forests, riparian ary of the Old West Austin Historic es in 2004. In 2013, a master plan ncy and Wallace, Roberts & Todd.

Photo by Stephen Hinchey



CWA TO RESUME PARK WORK SOON

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Mar 30, 1934;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Austin American Statesman
pg. 12

CWA TO RESUME PARK WORK SOON

Resumption of work at Zilker park and along [redacted] under the new CWA setup tentatively has been set for April 15, it was announced today by F. A. Dale, state CWA park engineer.

These projects, originally begun by the city but later designated as federal projects, were well along when all CWA work was suspended here Wednesday.

♦ ♦ ♦ Tree Planting Continues

The stone entrance to Zilker park west of Barton creek bridge was almost completed as was construction on the boy scout lodge and concession house. Work of setting out trees already received here for the arboretum will be continued under a special arrangement, Mr. Dale said.

Between 300 and 400 men were working at Zilker park on the various improvements there. Other projects not completed included building of a dam along Dry creek in the west end of the park, building of a girl scout cabin, terracing between the rock garden and the Barton Springs pavilion, and grading of roads.

♦ ♦ ♦ Work For Limited Number

Foot and bridle trails had been laid out along the [redacted] drive and the roadway had been graded but work on bridges at the north end of the roadway was just being started.

The new setup is expected to provide for employment of a limited number of laborers after a thorough study by case workers of the CWA rolls. It probably will call for only subsistence employment, enough to provide only necessities and likely will not assure a fixed number of hours of work per week for the workers, Dale said.

The last city project using CWA labor was finished Thursday when the last concrete was poured on the new swimming pool at Hyde Park playground.

WORK ON SHOAL DRIVE RENEWED

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Jan 17, 1934;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Austin American Statesman

pg. 10

WORK ON SHOAL DRIVE RENEWED

Surveys have been completed and plans are about ready for completion of [redacted] drive from 24th to 30th streets, City Engr. J. B. Motheral said Wednesday.

Workmen are busy at the 29th street end, working back south. Plans include, besides the automobile drive, a bridle path and possibly a footpath along the creek.

The force of 300 CWA workers engaged this week in excavating, clearing away and building right of way, is expected to be increased next week to 300 men. Motheral said. The work must be completed by Feb. 15 in order to assure finishing with CWA labor, Motheral said.

The route of the drive at 24th street is being changed in the new plans to cross the pavement nearer the bridge. This new route, approved by the city council at a recent meeting, will keep to the east side of the creek and avoid two crossings called for in the original plans.

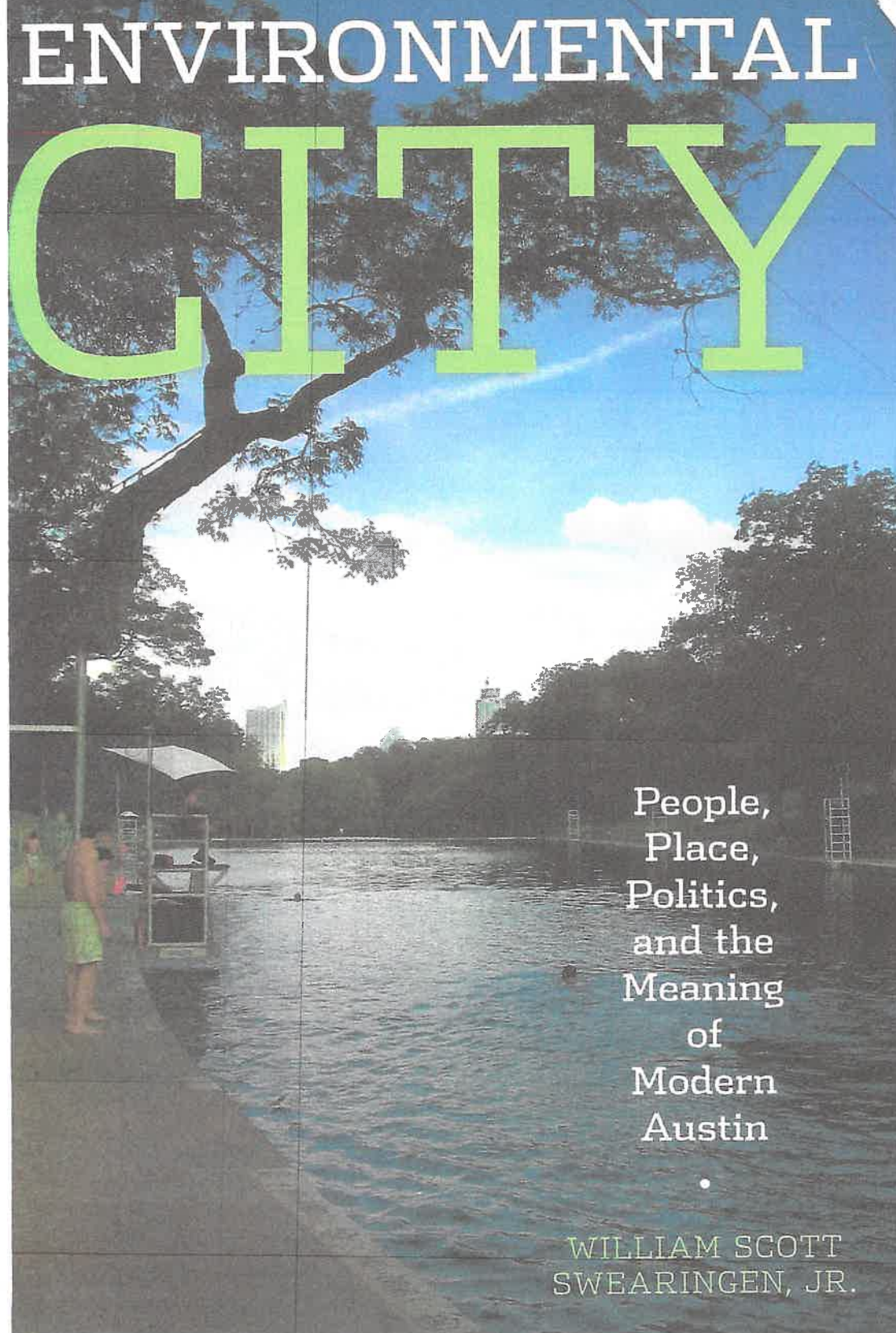
Work was started this week on projects in Rosedale park and Hyde Park playgrounds was halted Tues-

day by rain. In the latter place, workmen are constructing a concrete swimming pool, 80 feet long by 40 feet wide and slanting to a depth of 10 feet.

GRANDPA NO DANCER

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 17.—Howard W. Henderson, a grandfather who is 6 and gray-haired, became indignant in domestic relations court. "The idea!" he exclaimed, "the idea of saying that I spend my time dancing!"

He had been haled into court by his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Margaret Henderson, who accused him of hiding her husband as well as being a gay blade. The judge decided he should contribute to the support of the grandchildren.

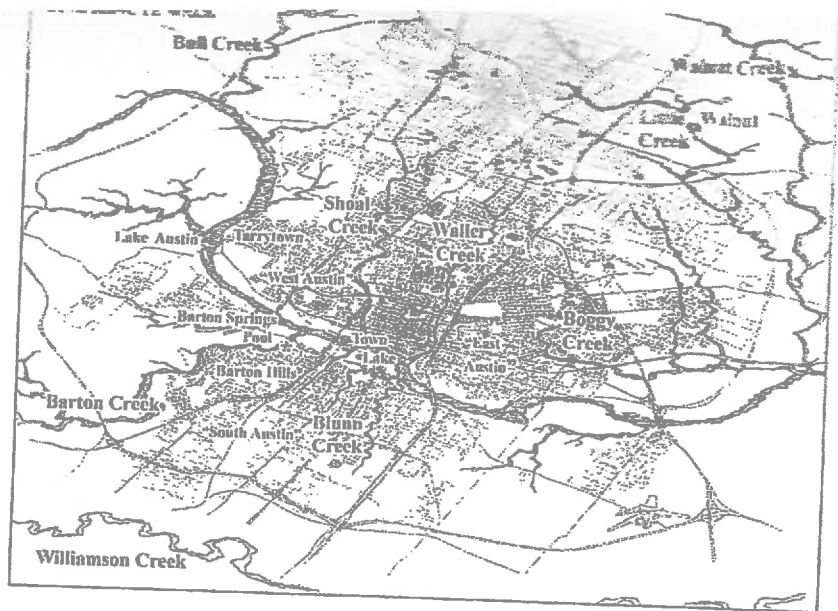


ENVIRONMENTAL CITY

People,
Place,
Politics,
and the
Meaning
of
Modern
Austin

•

WILLIAM SCOTT
SWEARINGEN, JR.



Map 2.3. The Core City, ca. 1972. The creeks, river, and neighborhoods that define the core of Austin. Adapted from Austin Creeks' Horizons '76 Committee, City of Austin.

Crenshaw laughed in delight at the memory of how infuriated the other pro-project council members were. "They thought they had old man White in their paw, but he surprised them. When he refused to vote, they took a recess, took White in the back room, and tried to strong-arm him. But all he said was, 'I am not going to vote on this issue today.' So it failed!"

The First Hike and Bike: A Greenbelt Takes Shape along Shoal Creek

Another person who was able to use her social position to influence the creation of Austin's landscape was Janet Fish, the daughter of Walter Long and wife of Russell Fish. Walter Long had come to Austin in the early years of the century and was one of the prime movers in Austin. He served as the Chair of the Chamber of Commerce from 1914 to 1949, actively promoting a vision of a growing Austin all his life. The family home sits on a hill overlooking Shoal Creek. Janet had grown up riding her family horses on an old bridle path along that creek. The path had been built by the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) during the Depression, but had fallen into disrepair since the

was not willing to spend money on its upkeep. Janet, along with Dickson Parks Director Beverly Sheffield, saw the creek as a natural parkway and wanted to restore the old CCC trail. She approached the city about ways that the creek could be cleaned up and the bridle path restored. But the city was willing to spend the money required.

Janet, on the other hand, had decided that something *was* going to happen, and she set about making it happen. Since the city would not dedicate the money required, Janet contracted the city to do much of the restoration work, using her own money. Parks Director Sheffield recalls that "one day it came down to the office and wrote out a \$5,000 check to the city. Later her husband Russell joked that check was her new car!" That was a lot of money in the 1950s, but \$5,000 did not cover the entire expense to make the trail. So Janet got community organizations such as the Boy Scouts and church groups to donate time and labor to clear and build the trail. In addition, Janet actually made a map of all the houses along the trail for its first section. She went to each household, asking them to take responsibility for a 1/2 section of the creek adjacent to their property. Asked if this helped, she replied, "Sure—then their yard help wouldn't go over and dump their trash in it!" Most residents were enthusiastic, and many who lived along the trail volunteered time to keep it clean. Several households organized their children as "junior deputies" who were told to watch the trail and report anyone dumping trash. Janet actually "deputized" the kids, giving them badges and notepads on which to write the names of transgressors.

The Fishes, Dickson, Sheffield, and many others hoped to extend the trail up the creek, past its present end at 35th Street. But they had trouble with landowners who would not grant easement rights. The land on the creek presently houses Seton Hospital contains a set of free-flowing springs, called Seiders Springs. The original plan to build Seton would have ruined the spring and used land the Fishes wanted for the Hike and Bike. Russell, the landowner fought in the city council, Russell asking that the landowner not be given the right to build over the spring. "We are friends again, but we fought bitterly over that land," says Russell. The owner eventually agreed to set the hospital back so as not to destroy the spring, and gave the city a right-of-way. In 1976 three sisters descended from original settlers, the Seiders, gave a \$10,000 donation to restore the park at the springs where they grew up. This donation allowed the city to create Seiders Park, presently the northern terminus of the trail.

The Seiders sisters gave their money to conserve the land as a public good, and other landowners farther up the creek were not to be moved. As Russell

approached them about trail access, some agreed, but many would not hear of it. The reason many gave was that they "didn't want 'common people' wandering along their property."

The city bureaucracy created its own problem as well, mostly in the area of upkeep. The city was supposed to maintain the trail, and while Russell was trying to get property owners to cede access, Janet was trying to get city departments to take care of trash, trail destruction, and other problems.

Janet gave her Shoal Creek trail the name "Hike and Bike Trail," a name that stuck. The trail became a model linear park at both the local and national levels. One of Janet's friends was Liz Carpenter, assistant to Lady Bird Johnson (wife of President Lyndon Baines Johnson). Janet gave pictures of the Hike and Bike to Carpenter, who showed them to Lady Bird. Lady Bird was so impressed with the trail that she passed out pictures of it in her beautification efforts around the country. As the trail got national acclaim, several national magazines wrote articles on it, and Janet got calls from other cities asking how the project was done. As a form of landscape, the Hike and Bike Trail served as the model for all the future greenbelts in Austin, showing how area creeks could be used for recreation and parks rather than dumping grounds. It also provided a name for an idea used by other cities across the nation, for the first time placing Austin in the forefront of thinking about environmental landforms and city designs.

It is a noteworthy aspect of the Shoal Creek story that these early conservationists were able to create the trail because of their private wealth and social position. Their resources were used to beautify a section of the city in which they lived. Although Parks Director Sheffield worked with Janet on the idea of contracting the city to do the work, overall the nature of the city bureaucracy was then (as now) focused on creating urban space, not green space. It was not until Janet paid the Parks Department to act as contractor that the department agreed to come into the plan. Private landowners proved even more difficult to move; the trail ends where it does today because landowners would not give right-of-way to continue it.

Ecology and Preserves: New Ideas Shape New Conservation

To the efforts of Old Austinites and wealthier residents were added another group of people who emerged as early conservationists. These were the professionals: lawyers, early high-tech workers, and university personnel who came to town to work in the university and government industries. Their professional training and higher education had exposed them to ideas about the

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TEXAS: SOCIOLOGY, GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

AS AUSTIN GREW FROM a college and government town of the 1950s into the sprawling city of 2010, two ideas of Austin as a place came into conflict. Many who promoted the ideology of growth believed Austin would be defined by economic output, money, and wealth. But many others thought Austin was instead defined by its quality of life. Because the natural environment contributed so much to Austin's quality of life, a social movement to preserve the city's environment became the leading edge of a larger movement to retain its unique sense of place. Thus the "environmental movement" in Austin became the political and symbolic arm of the more general movement for place.

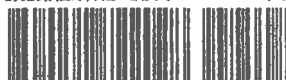
This is a history of the environmental movement in Austin—how it began; what it did; and how it promoted ideas about the relationships between people, cities, and the environment. It is also about how the deeper movement to retain a sense of place continues to shape the way Austin is built today. The city it helped to create is now on the forefront of national efforts to rethink how we can build our cities, reduce global warming, and find ways that humans and the environment can coexist in a big city.

WILLIAM SCOTT SWEARINGEN, JR., teaches Environmental Science and Policy, Urban Sociology, and Environmental Sociology at St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas. He has been involved in the environmental movement in Austin for two decades.

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Staff Photo

PEASE DESCENDANTS SEE PARK DEDICATED
Douglas and Margaret Harmon, great-great-grandchildren, unveil marker

Historical Marker Reminds Park Lovers of Pease Gift

By LARRY BE SAW
Staff Writer

Scenic Pease Park, donated to the city in 1875 by the late Gov. and Mrs. Elisha M. Pease, became an official state historical site Saturday with the dedication of a Texas Historical Marker by the Travis County Historical Survey Committee.

Descendants of the former governor, including great-grandson Thomas Graham of Austin, and about 75 spectators were on hand for the unveiling of the marker.

The monument commemorates the 23-acre park land as the former Pease home and the post-Civil War camping ground of Gen. George A. Custer and 200 soldiers. "It remains a spot of natural beauty," the marker states.

Featured speaker at the dedication ceremonies was Dr. Irv

school superintendent, who said the marker will "remind those who are here and those who are yet to come of the origin of the park and the name of the generous and public spirited family that gave it."

"Good deeds and those who do them are often forgotten," he said. "It is our hope that this historical marker will be read by the thousands who will enjoy this park in the years to come."

Carruth reviewed Pease administration, noting that "among his many constructive acts while governor was the passing of laws that laid the financial base for the public school system, laws that encouraged railroads to come to Texas, along with other acts that brought prosperity and growth to the Lone Star State."

"In these days of asphalt, pollution, crowded apartments, crowded homes, growing

population and increasing traffic," he said, "may the park continue to be a place where people can come to relax, to visit, to play, or just walk alone and enjoy the beauties of nature."

Following Carruth's speech, Graham thanked the committee for its efforts in establishing the marker. It is at the end of Parkway, off 12th and past the old underpass.

Although given to the city in 1875, the land was not developed until 1926 when the Austin Kiwanis Club retained a landscape engineer to assist the group in landscaping, lighting and installation of a water system. The City Recreation Department was created in 1929 and the land was developed into a useable public park.

Members of the Austin High School band provided music during the ceremony.

Austin History Center



Descendants of the Pease family at the marker: James and Julie Graham Harman, Nancy Graham, Margaret Harman, Douglas Harman, Mrs. Tom Graham and Tom Graham.



Margaret and Douglas Harman at marker.

Austin History Center



Some of descendants of Gov. & Mrs. Pease. Left to right: Mrs. Tom Graham, Tom Graham, Mrs. Julie Graham Harman, Nancy Graham, Margaret Harman, Douglas Harman, Mr. Carl Widen (not a member of the family)



Margaret Harman unveils the marker.



PEASE PARK

NAMED FOR FAMILY OF 1853-57 TEXAS GOVERNOR, ELISHA MARSHALL PEASE (1812-83), WITHIN WHOSE EARLY-DAY PLANTATION, THIS AREA WAS SITUATED. GOV. AND MRS. PEASE ON MAY 20, 1875, GAVE 23-ACRE SITE HERE ON SHOAL CREEK TO CITY OF AUSTIN FOR USE AS A PUBLIC PARK. IT WAS ALREADY A LANDMARK, KNOWN AS POST-CIVIL WAR CAMPING GROUND OF GEN. GEORGE A. CUSTER (1839-76) AND 200 FEDERAL SOLDIERS.

LEFT UNDEVELOPED UNTIL ABOUT 1913, PARK WAS NEVERTHELESS USED FOR ALL SORTS OF CELEBRATIONS SUCH AS THE ANNUAL OUTINGS OF VOLUNTEER FIREMEN. IT REMAINS A SPOT OF NATURAL BEAUTY.

(1981)

Pease Park

Is this your business?

13 Reviews #115 of 326 things to do in Austin Nature & Parks

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Review Highlights

"Beautiful trail"
If you're looking for somewhere to go for a nice walk or run, you've found it. I think Pease feeds... [read more](#)

 Reviewed 2 weeks ago
Aashrawi, Cypress, Tx via mobile

"Wonderful time"
Our three year old had a wonderful time at this park. He especially loved the splash park and large... [read more](#)

 Reviewed May 26, 2017
cel421, edinburg, texas via mobile

[Read all 13 reviews](#)



All photos (6)



Overview Reviews Location Q&A

Overview

4.5

13 reviews

Excellent	78%
Very good	15%
Average	0%
Poor	7%
Terrible	0%

- 2 weeks ago

"Beautiful trail"
- May 26, 2017

"Wonderful time"

Open Now All hours
Hours Today: 5:00 AM - 10:00 PM

LOCATION
1100 Kingsbury, Austin, TX 78705

CONTACT
Website +1 512-499-6700
[Improve This Listing](#)

Is this attraction suitable for all ages? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

Top Selling Tours & Activities in Austin

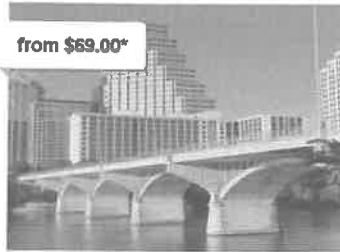
from \$49.00*



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Discover Austin by bike on a 2-hour tour that goes through Zilker Park, Congress Avenue, and around Lady Bird Lake. See landmarks like the Texas State...

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Combine the cultural and natural highlights of Austin on an exhilarating Segway tour... read more
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from \$45.00*



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Go beer tasting at craft breweries in Austin with an informative guide who takes you around the city in a pedicab. Soak up the fresh air as your guide... read more

from \$60.00*



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Experience the urban and the outdoors in Austin during this 2-hour bike tour including Lady Bird Lake and some of the city's best parks. Cycle along the... read more

[See More Experiences](#)

Reviews (13)

[Write a Review](#)

Traveler rating

<input type="radio"/> Excellent	10
<input type="radio"/> Very good	1
<input type="radio"/> Average	0
<input type="radio"/> Poor	1
<input type="radio"/> Terrible	0

Traveler type

- ☐ Families
- ☐ Couples
- ☐ Solo
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Friends

Time of year

- ☐ Mar-May
- ☐ Jun-Aug
- ☐ Sep-Nov
- ☐ Dec-Feb

Language

- ☐ All languages
- ☒ English (12)
- ☐ Spanish (1)

See what travelers are saying:

1 - 10 of 12 reviews



Reviewed 2 weeks ago ☐ via mobile

Beautiful trail

If you're looking for somewhere to go for a nice walk or run, you've found it. I think Pease feeds into another park but either way, the trails are really beautiful. There's trees lining long stretches but there's also a large open grassy area. Great... More

Aashrawi
Cypress, Tx
7

☐ Thank Aashrawi



Reviewed May 26, 2017 ☐ via mobile

Wonderful time

Our three year old had a wonderful time at this park. He especially loved the splash park and large selection of swings! We will be back!

cel421
edimburg,
texas
54 22

☐ Thank cel421

●●●●● Reviewed April 29, 2017 via mobile

Eyeore's 54th birthday celebration

A lovely well maintained park and easy walking distance from town. The reason for our visit was Eyeore's 54th birthday and everyone was there celebrating. Lots of people dressed up, walking their dogs, fun activities for children, commutative t-shirts for sale, lots of food and... More

Scrappywalker
Cardiff, United Kingdom
📍69 🍌16

👍 Thank Scrappywalker

●●●●● Reviewed April 11, 2017

mid city respite

Calm peaceful, walking/ running paths following shoal creek. Road and lot parking away from busy traffic. Great for short or long visits.

Wowsey
Dallas, Texas
📍40 🍌6

👍 Thank Wowsey

●●●●● Reviewed September 3, 2016 via mobile

Kept the hike going with a sprinkle!

We took a two mile hike along Shoals Creek to Pease Park and a 15-minute stop at the bathroom and the sprinklers recharged our 7-year old (and us) and made the hike back seem absolutely easy!

NYCityCountr...
New York City, New York
📍99 🍌27

👍 1 Thank NYCityCountryMouse

●●●●● Reviewed June 30, 2016

Pretty Pease!

This beautiful heavily wooded park sits on both sides of Shoal Creek next to Lamar Blvd. in the very heart of Austin. Although you are in the middle of the 11th largest city in the United States, it is easy to imagine that you are... More

richardcraig2...
Austin, Texas
📍1 🍌1

👍 1 Thank richardcraig2004

●●●●● Reviewed September 23, 2015

Great park and great location

I love Pease Park! It is a place that is fun to walk around or take kids to. It is also the site for Eeyore's every spring, which is a rite of spring in Austin.

Gloria L
Austin, Texas, USA
📍515 🍌152

👍 Thank Gloria L

●●●●● Reviewed August 31, 2015

Eeyore's Birthday is the Best!

All the creatures of the forest are welcome and usually make an appearance. Fun for the whole family - drum circles, face painting, crazy costumes, maypole, etc. Don't miss this, if you're in Austin the end of April.

Think-Holiday
Austin
📍29 🍌23

👍 Thank ThinkHoliday

●●●●● Reviewed August 13, 2014

Visit Austin with young kids? Pease Park

What to do in 100 degree weather in Texas with young kids? Grab a few

MyMimosa
Austin, Texas
14 10

towels, water bottle, lawn chairs and spend a few hours at Pease Park. Turn into Parkway/Enfield from Lamar to park. It is a local spot, walk along the creek to... More

1 Thank MyMimosa



5 Reviewed April 29, 2014

Celebrate Eeyore's Birthday

Piquarick
Piqua
185 77

Having come of age in the 60s, going to Pease Park for Eeyore's 51st birthday party was a step back in time and a new experience all at the same time. The park was packed on a pleasantly overcast Spring afternoon with thousands of mostly-costumed... More

Thank Piquarick



Previous

1

2

Next

Nearby

Sponsored by:

Nearby Restaurants

Jeffrey's Restaurant
4 183 reviews
.46 miles away

ALC Steaks
4 258 reviews
.23 miles away

Wink Restaurant
4 282 reviews
.35 miles away

Goodall's Kitchen & Bar
4 65 reviews
.39 miles away

Nearby Attractions

HOPE Outdoor Gallery
4 267 reviews
.35 miles away

Graffiti Park at Castle Hills
4 420 reviews
.34 miles away

Harry Ransom Center

Fall Creek Vineyards

Department » Parks And Recreation » Park Of The Month » **Pease Park: So Much More than Meets the Eye**

PARK OF THE MONTH

TAGS

Pease Park: So Much More than Meets the Eye

Feb 05, 2014 - 02:11 pm CST

Pease Park
Eeyore's Birthday
Shoal Creek



Austin's Pease Park. For most people just the name of this park conjures up memories of the annual Eeyore's Birthday Party—a fete thrown by locals in honor of the perpetually-sad donkey in A. Milne's Winnie-the-Pooh stories. Since 1974, the 42-acre park in the heart of Austin has been the gathering

place for the eclectic party that features live music, family games (think giant maypole, sack races and oversized jigsaw puzzles) and a costume contest renowned for its creativity. But there is much more to Pease park than its annual tribute to the fictional donkey.

A Rich and Varied History

Shoal Creek, which makes up the backbone of the park, was home to native Americans who fished in, and drank from, the creek's pristine waters. In 1842, a Mexican invasion caused many Austin residents to flee. After that time, the Native Americans became more aggressive in skirmishes with European settlers. Most Native Americans were pushed out by the 1850s.

After the Civil War, the Congressional Reconstruction Plan called for George Custer and his troops to come to Texas, restore order and reign in post-war opportunists. Custer and his men were encamped along Shoal Creek when cholera swept through the camp, killing a reported 35 to 40 men, all of whom were buried along the west side of Pease Park. In the 1880s, most of the bodies were located and reinterred to the National Cemetery in San Antonio. Seven more bodies were discovered in the aftermath of the flood of 1900. These were then reinterred at Austin's Oakwood Cemetery, where they lie in state today. Robert E. Lee, as a young man, also camped with troops all along Shoal Creek.

If the Shoal Creek area hadn't already seen enough, the 1890s brought a surge of gold-rush fever. Rumors of buried Mexican gold brought treasure hunters to dig in the park for years. But no gold was ever found. Rough times were not over for the park... In 1875 Governor Pease and his wife gave the land we know as Pease Park to the citizens of Austin. But for another 50

✎ The fund now boasts a \$165,000 balance, five percent of which can be used annually for improvements in the park and greenbelt.

The PPC went even further by funding a Master Plan for the park and teaming up with the City of Austin to gather significant public input. "The Master Plan will provide a blueprint for the ecological restoration and maintenance of the park and greenbelt as well as some recreational enhancements of the area," says Craig. "Once it is completed and adopted by the Austin Parks Board and City Council, the PPC and City will work together to find funding to implement the plan in phases over time."

Another project aims to address erosion issues in Shoal Creek. The Shoal Creek Restoration Project will include: stabilizing the creek banks; improving creek access points; extending trails and paths; installing infiltration areas to better manage stormwater runoff; removing some wastewater line and restoring soil and native vegetation. Work on these projects will begin in the spring of this year and will last approximately 18 months. The project will be constructed in three phases such that the park will not be impacted all at once.

This year promises to be an exciting one for Pease Park. The combination of dedicated residents, neighbors and City staff have all come together to address the diverse needs of the park in a permanent and ongoing way.

"As our central city population grows rapidly in density and size, these green spaces are going to be under intense pressure from residents seeking recreation," Craig said. "We want it to be sustainable and this will be hard work that the next generation, and the following one, must take up in turn."

So by all means check out Eeyore's party, but come back for everything else this great park has to offer.



Note: Pease Park offers miles of trails for walking, cycling and dog-walking. The park also has a playscape, a splashpad, two basketball courts, three volleyball courts and many picnic tables. There is an off-leash area along the trail to the west of Shoal Creek between 24th and

29th Streets.

Tagged: Pease Park, Eeyore's Birthday, Shoal Creek

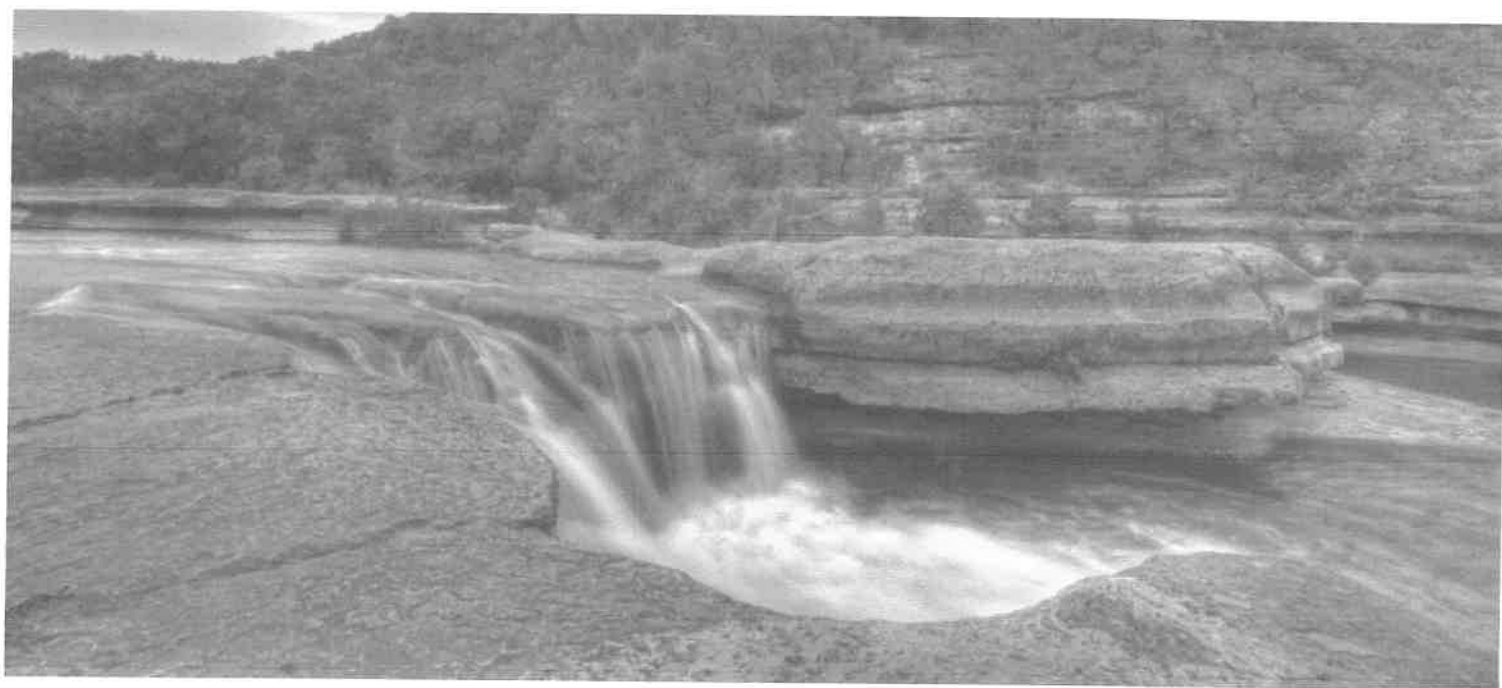
Share:   

LIFESTYLE

AUSTIN'S MOST BEAUTIFUL RUNS THAT'LL MAKE YOU ACTUALLY WANT TO WORK OUT

By ANASTACIA URIEGAS By ANASTACIA URIEGAS

Published On 09/20/2016 Published On 09/20/2016



FLICKR/ROY NISWANGER

Now that the weather is turning from “hell-ish” to “hell-yearning,” Austin’s fit community -- and those of us who aspire to one day consider being fit -- are hitting the ground running, literally. Whether you prefer nature trails or city streets, we’ve got you covered with these 10 circuits equipped with nice scenery.



The Great Travel Bucket List: 50 Things To Do Abroad Before You Die

Slaughter Creek Trail



[FLICKR/LARS PLOUGMANN](#)

Shoal Creek Trail

Central/North Central Austin

Length: 3 miles (one-way)

Follow alongside Shoal Creek for three miles through the heart of the city. Start at the 1st St bridge, cross Cesar Chavez, and hop on Shoal Creek Trail near West Ave and the Seaholm Power Plant. You'll wind around Hut's Hamburgers, Whole Foods, through Pease Park, West Campus, and end up near Randalls on 38th. The more scenic areas are in the northern section.

Advertisement



Photo courtesy of micklpickl

level (the rest of the area is about 580 feet). A great spot for picnicking, too, with rolling hills, the Colorado River, and all of Austin virtually spread out before you.



Museums in Austin

VIEW THIS LIST



Top Austin Attractions Focus on History, Music and The Great Outdoors

VIEW THIS LIST

5 SHOAL CREEK HIKE AND BIKE TRAIL

NORTH AUSTIN

This wide trail spans more than four miles along Shoal Creek, starting in Pease Park. The lush greenbelt is a favorite of cyclists, joggers, and hikers.

This huge, spring-fed swimming hole is surrounded by lovely gardens and pecan trees. The pool is fed by spring waters that maintain a year-round



LIFESTYLE ([HTTP://WWW.WIDEOPENCOUNTRY.COM/CATEGORY/LIFESTYLE/](http://www.wideopencountry.com/category/lifestyle/))

10 Secret Outdoor Spots You Can Hike to in Austin, Texas

BY KYLE VER ([HTTP://WWW.WIDEOPENCOUNTRY.COM/AUTHOR/KYLE-VER/](http://www.wideopencountry.com/author/kyle-ver/)) 1 YEAR

.PHP?U=HTTP%3A%2F%2FWWW.WIDEOPENCOUNTRY.COM%2F12-SECRET-OUTDOOR-EXCURSIONS-IN-AUSTIN-



Flickr/Todd Dwyer ("<https://www.flickr.com/photos/re00dd/4836526060/>")

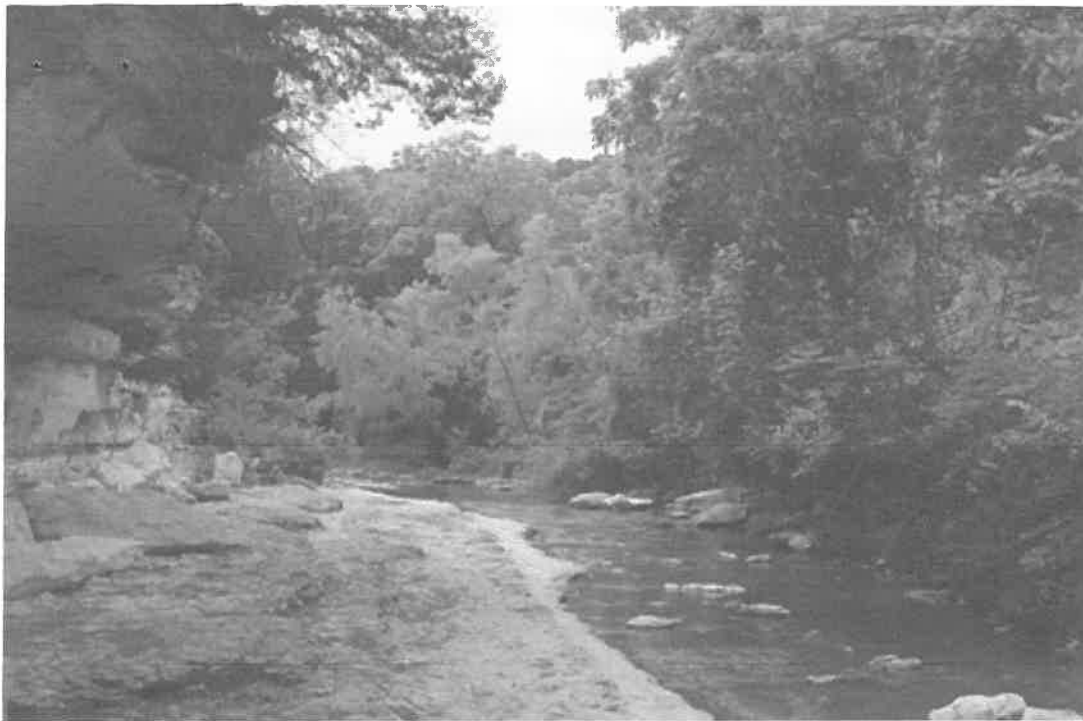
There's no measure of fun the city of Austin, Texas offers its inhabitants and visitors.

The city's massive live music scene attracts people from around the world, especially during the South by Southwest and Austin City Limits music festivals. Along with taking advantage of its diverse and established music world, visitors can do a whole bunch of experimenting with Austin's up-and-coming food and drink scene.

But after spending all day (and night) in crowded music venues, standing in line for hours at Franklin Barbecue and trying your patience with the city's hoards of hipsters, you'll be craving some well-needed outside time.

WRITE FOR US >

(<http://www.wideopenmediagroup.com/jc-music-writers/>)



(<http://www.wideopencountry.com/12-secret-outdoor-excursions-in-austin-texas/walnutcreektrail/>)

Hill Country Outdoors (<http://www.hillcountryoutdoors.com/clubportal/EventDetailPublic.cfm?clubID=1&EventID=220616&mo=5>)

If you rather embrace nature on two wheels, take your bike to Walnut Creek. The trail, favored by bikers, offers some 15 miles of North Austin grandeur. Reward your workout with a break at the Domain. Entering the Trail at Balcones District Park on Duval Road and Amherst Drive is recommended. Map

(<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Balcones+District+Park/@30.4120803,-97.7208889,17z/data=!3m1!4m2!3m1!1s0x8644cc15103be303:0x46bdf2218c95c5c5>)

Shoal Creek Trail



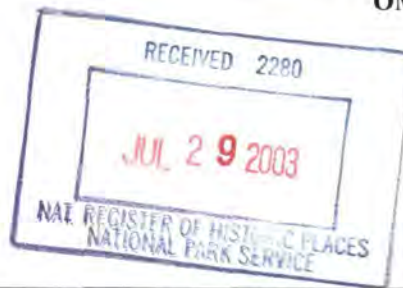
(<http://www.wideopencountry.com/12-secret-outdoor-excursions-in-austin-texas/shoalcreektrail/>)

10Best (<http://www.10best.com/destinations/texas/austin/north-austin/attractions/shoal-creek-hike-and-bike-trail/>)

Here's something pretty central! Shoal Creek Trail is very convenient if you're trying to get downtown by foot or bike; but not many seem to notice. The trail starts off around 38th Street and finishes at Town Lake. If you find yourself on the trail come sunset, mind the swarming bats under the low overpasses on Shoal Creek. Park at Pease Park! Map

(<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Shoal+Creek+Trail,+Austin,+TX/@30.2857103,-97.7535649,17z/data=!4m7!1m4!3m3!1s0x8644b57079fea8f3:0x8b0bd8c05d8c05d8>)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

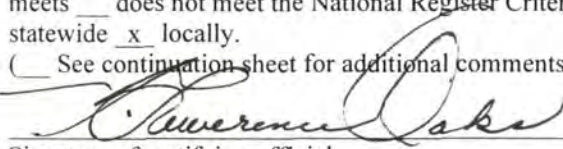
HISTORIC NAME: Old West Austin Historic District
OTHER NAMES/SITE NUMBER: N/A

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: Roughly bounded by W. 13th, Lamar Blvd., W. 35th, & Mo-Pac Expy.
CITY OR TOWN: Austin VICINITY: N/A NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A
STATE: Texas CODE: TX COUNTY: Travis CODE: 453 ZIP CODE: 78703

3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination
___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of
Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property
meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally
statewide x locally.
(___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)


Signature of certifying official

7/22/03
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Texas Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.
(___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ removed from the National Register
___ other (explain):


Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

SEP 12 2003

5. CLASSIFICATION

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: Private; public-local

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY: District

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:

CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBUTING	
1,568	951	BUILDINGS
1	0	SITES
4	0	STRUCTURES
1	0	OBJECTS
1,574	951	TOTAL

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER: 5 (Judge Robert Lynn Batts House, Goldie Horton-Porter House, Jacques and Maggie Keith House, Chester and Lorine Nagel House, Woodlawn)

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING: N/A

6. FUNCTION OR USE

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS: DOMESTIC: Single dwelling, Secondary structure, Multiple dwelling
LANDSCAPE: Park
TRANSPORTATION: Road-related

CURRENT FUNCTIONS: DOMESTIC: Single dwelling, Secondary structure, Multiple dwelling
LANDSCAPE: Park
TRANSPORTATION: Road-related

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION:

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial; Classical; Italian Renaissance; Tudor;
Mission/Spanish Colonial Revivals

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Prairie School,
Bungalow/Craftsman

MODERN MOVEMENT: Moderne, International Style, Ranch Style

MATERIALS: **FOUNDATION:** BRICK; WOOD; STONE; CONCRETE
WALLS: WOOD (weatherboard, board and batten, drop-siding); BRICK; STONE;
STUCCO; SHEET METAL
ROOF: WOOD (shingles); ASPHALT; CLAY TILE; SHEET METAL
OTHER: CONCRETE; GLASS

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION: see Continuation Sheets 7-5 to 7-71

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 5

Old West Austin Historic District
Austin, Travis County, Texas

Description

The Old West Austin Historic District covers approximately 106 blocks of residential development and park land distributed across a plateau west of Austin's central business district. The area is comprised of three major suburbs, Enfield, Pemberton Heights, and Bryker Woods and was all originally part of the George W. Spear League. When the league was divided, the Pease family's Woodlawn plantation and farmland John Woods Harris owned encompassed the greater portion of the parceling. Although a few houses were built before the turn of the century, suburban development began in the southern portion of the area in the 1920s and expanded northward through the 1950s. Architect-designed dwellings coexist with more modest vernacular dwellings and the collection includes period revival residences, bungalows, cottages, and apartments. Relieving the basic rectilinear grid are several streets that conform to Shoal Creek basin's irregular topography and others that gently descend into Pease Park, which forms the historic district's eastern boundary. The resultant grouping of nineteenth- and twentieth-century resources includes 2,525 dwellings, garages, and other properties that retain integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, which remain recognizable to the historic district's period of significance.

Old West Austin's Automobile Suburbs

The historic district includes several features that refer to its nineteenth-century history. Woodlawn plantation, with its Greek Revival dwelling built in 1853 (see Photograph 1) and adjoining acreage provided much of the land for what would become the historic district. Nineteenth-century development included establishment of the International and Great Northern Railroad, which defines the historic district's western boundary, and the founding of Pease Park, donated to the city by the Pease family, owners of Woodlawn, which defines the historic district's eastern boundary. Other nineteenth-century development included a few dwellings on the historic district's north side.

Twentieth-century suburban development, however, dominates the historic district. A significant portion of the Old West Austin Historic District occupies a limestone shelf west of the city. The scenic view of downtown Austin and the University of Texas campus is a distinctive feature of many dwellings built along the area's eastern edge. The suburbs of Enfield, Pemberton Heights, and Bryker Woods form the nucleus of suburban development.

The oldest and southernmost suburb in the historic district is Enfield. Its rough boundaries are Windsor Road on the north, Pease Park on the east, 13th Street on the south, and the Mo-Pac Expressway on the west. The suburb encompasses several additions platted between 1914 and 1948. Two later additions were platted on the west side of the historic district after the period of significance under consideration. The plan for Enfield is largely intact, incorporating several small island parks along curvilinear streets at the edge of Pease Park. Lot sizes and shapes are irregular. Topography dictates the route of the main east-west thoroughfares, Enfield and Niles Roads. Street widths vary considerably within the suburb. Most dwellings have a thirty-foot setback from the street. Fewer park lands were platted in the 1930s subdivisions than in earlier additions. Streets tended to be rectilinear, and, although lots continued to vary in size, they seldom were irregularly shaped. The right angles of rectangular lots, of any size, meant more lots could be platted and sold. Restrictions in some of these later subdivisions required only twenty-five-foot setbacks for dwellings and a one-story house could cost a minimum of \$2,000.

Due north of Enfield is the suburb of Pemberton Heights, roughly bounded by Westover Road on the north, Shoal Creek on the east, Windsor Road and 24th Street on the south, and the Mo-Pac Expressway on the west. Pemberton Heights encompasses several additions platted between 1927 and 1947. The earliest-developed portion of the suburb has curvilinear streets, small island parks, and varied lot sizes and shapes. Later additions are more rectilinear in plan with smaller, relatively uniform rectangular lots. These later additions also have asphalt-surfaced driveways. Setback requirements in Pemberton Heights vary from thirty to forty feet. Southern access to Pemberton Heights is from Windsor Road, which rambles through Enfield, or the 1928 bridge spanning Shoal Creek at 24th Street. The bridge was widened in 1939. Two other bridges span Shoal Creek along Shoal Creek Drive within the confines of Pease Park. The southernmost of these two bridges was rebuilt of reinforced concrete in 1935; the northernmost bridge was rebuilt in 1934. A fourth bridge had been at 29th Street for years, providing access to the north side of the historic district. The early bridge was replaced with a reinforced concrete structure in 1926, repaired in 1933, and replaced again in 1938.

Bryker Woods, the northernmost suburb in the historic district, is roughly bounded by 35th Street on the north, Shoal Creek on the east, Westover Road on the south, and the Mo-Pac Expressway on the west. The suburb encompasses several parcels of land that were platted between 1886 and 1951. Bryker Woods was intensively developed between 1936 and 1940 with subdivisions that followed mostly rectilinear streets with regularly-sized and shaped lots. The last two plats of 1940, however,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 6

Old West Austin Historic District
Austin, Travis County, Texas

brought substantial physical changes to the largely rectilinear suburb by introducing two very long, oval-shaped blocks. Where there would have been sharp right angles, small triangular-shaped island parks guided traffic. Another slightly larger park is at the north end instead of residential lots. Later additions, Belmont 1 and 2, were platted in the 1950s, but construction in these areas largely postdates the period of significance under consideration. Setbacks are a uniform twenty-five feet from the street throughout most of Bryker Woods.

Landscape features are found throughout the historic district. Lush landscaping includes curbside live oaks, elms, and several varieties of flowering trees and shrubs. Islands and small parks often have a substantial live oak growing within their perimeter (see Photograph 2). Residential yards have groomed lawns and many have complimentary, though not necessarily historic plantings of flower beds, shrubs, and potted plants. Numerous older trees are on many of the properties.

Other landscape features include the street system. Some portions of the system are rectilinear and others are curvilinear. Alleys were unnecessary in automobile suburbs, thus access to garages and outbuildings is by way of the main streets. Except in a few early instances, primarily near Pease Park, stone curbing or retaining walls, concrete curbs, gutters, and storm drains are standard. A decorative feature on many corner curbs in Pemberton Heights is inlaid ceramic tile identifying street names. Materials for driveways vary broadly from street to street. Concrete driveways dominate, but numerous examples of asphalt or gravel beds also exist. The dominant gateway in the historic district is at the Parkway Road entrance to Pease Park (see Photograph 3).

Pease Park defines the eastern boundary of the historic district and serves as its most significant landscape feature. The initial twenty-three-acre park grew to encompass just more than forty-two acres. Its landscape design elements are minimal, emphasizing natural features and passive use of much of the park's grounds. Trails along the creek and leading away from it take advantage of the bluffs, trees, and waterway. The landscape design includes picnic and playgrounds. These active areas are close to Lamar Boulevard on the eastern rim of the park, and the passive areas are along and west of the creek.

Buildings in Old West Austin's Suburbs

As a result of planned development and deed restrictions, single-family residences and related outbuildings comprise the bulk of the historic district's building stock. Approximately 1,423 of the buildings are dwellings. Of the dwellings, 922 properties follow an asymmetrical plan, 286 follow a typical bungalow form, 137 follow a rectangular form, fifty-three follow a multiple-family plan, and eighteen follow a symmetrical plan. Table 1 shows the distribution of plan types by stylistic classification.