

# APPENDIX E

## PUBLIC INPUT - COMMENTS TO PARD

### **Appendix E: Public Input - Comments To PARD**

Appendix E1: Comments To PARD - November 12, 2013 - June 27, 2014

Appendix E2: Comments To PARD - August 14, 2014 - September 14, 2014

# APPENDIX E1

COMMENTS TO PARD -  
NOVEMBER 12, 2014 TO  
JUNE 27, 2014

## Pease Park Email Feedback November 2013- June 2014

I have a question about the Bartholomew Park Master Plan.

"In alignment with and in support of the Bartholomew Park Master Plan, how can the leaders of the Austin disc golf community help the city move forward with the improvements to the disc golf course at Bartholomew?"

A recent poll of disc golfers found the most significant problem with the course at Bartholomew is the tee boxes, which have not received attention for many years, and have become rutted and tricky to use without turning an ankle. Other disc golf courses in town have received upgraded concrete tee boxes, which reduces long-term wear and increases player safety.

Ways in which I believe the disc golf clubs can help:

- Planning: We can contact a reputable disc golf course designer to review the course layout to see if any fairways need to be altered to make the course more sustainable and to fit with other park amenities. That planning would then allow other work for the disc golf course tee boxes and signage to proceed.
- Fundraising: The clubs would like to sponsor fundraising for the tee boxes and tee box signage.
- Volunteer work days: The club members can assist with accomplishing park improvement goals at Bart (not just those to the disc golf area)

Please let me know who I can talk to in order to provide information or assistance related to the disc golf course at Bartholomew. You will find me a respectful and helpful partner. I have been leading park improvement projects with Austin Parks Foundation to mulch and plant trees at disc golf courses in Austin, and I'd like to ensure we take full advantage of converting disc golfers into park stewards who can help clean and volunteer to maintain the parks the play in.

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Thank you for your efforts to restore and preserve the Shoal Creek Greenbelt! This initiative is a great opportunity to help replenish the urban forest canopy for future generations.

As the Pease District Park Master Plan progress forward, please include a map indicating where there will be concentrated efforts for the planting of new trees. These areas will be presumably localized due to irrigation requirements. And as I shared with you, I am particularly interested in the planting of trees around the **Lamar Terrace** area at 29<sup>th</sup> & Lamar. So please consider this as a formal request for your records.

Also, below is a link to the history and pictures of the old house (Splitrock) we restored. The family home sits on the bluff west of Shoal Creek overlooking the Lamar Terrace.

<http://austinsplitrock.wordpress.com>

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I received an email this morning noting that PARD is "adamant" that disc golf doesn't return to Pease Park. Yes! Thanks again for taking a stand last night.

I didn't get anything in writing about who to write (I put various sticky notes up) regarding this master plan. Who can address the following?

What is this plan costing?

Who decided to spend that amount on endless planning, when PARD needs so much money for wildfire mitigation, park maint, and all the things it is self-evident need to be done? (I 'm a well-educated Texas history teacher and

researcher, native plant gardener of 30 yrs, student of geology, and resident on Shoal Creek, no ignorant redneck – some of which you know, as I’m adamant that disc golf never be allowed to return to Pease Park.)

To whom may I write about points in the plan that I want to comment on?

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Thank you for taking time to respond, especially while you were away from the office.

I’m sorry, but we disagree with what you are saying is now the reason the disc golf course was pulled out of the park at the end of 2010.

At the meetings in 2009 and 2010, the reason given by PARD and Watershed for pulling the course at the time was that the creek restoration project would be starting in the following year to year-and-a-half and that the area needed a bit of time to recover before the work began. That was why the two city departments said it had to be pulled right then. It was also in those meetings that the city came out and admitted that disc golf was not the cause of all the environmental degradation in the park. The sport had its role to play in the way the park looked but so did: other user groups, the periodic flooding of this major drainage waterway (flooding made worse over the years by ever increasing up-stream development, all allowed by the city), the ongoing severe drought, and the lack of maintenance by the Parks Department itself.

The removal was supposed to be temporary (long-term temporary that is) until after the creek restoration project was completed. At that time, the re-designed/restored park would be looked at to see where in the park it would be appropriate to return the sport.

These points were all publicly stated at in front of many disc golfers.

At the June 2010 meeting, PARD made the promise not to close the Pease disc golf course until a new course was completely installed and playable. That promise was later broken in November 2010 when it was announced that the course would be pulled at the end of the year and yet there was no new course open yet (only proposed).

In addition, the proposed course at Roy G. Guerrero was already in the works before removing the Pease course became an issue. It was supposed to be a great complement to Pease, the long awaited new course that Austin had been needing for many, many years (given that the most recent city course prior to that was the Circle C course, installed in 1992). Now here we are 22 years after the installation of Circle C, and we still have only five disc golf courses in City of Austin parks; despite the explosion of the sport’s popularity and the huge numbers of Austin residents that play disc golf (plus all the people from close by in Central Texas and from around the state that visit the city and want to play disc golf while they are here).

We do appreciate the new course at Roy G. Guerrero, it is wonderful! And we also appreciate all of PARD’s (and Watershed’s) work done to revitalize Circle C, Searight, and now Zilker. We are happy to have contributed our money and our volunteers’ time to all these projects, and we will continue to do so.

All of the work on these courses just goes to prove how disc golf can be done in a sustainable fashion in our city’s parks. It can be done in Pease too! It would restore a valuable amenity to a wonderful park, and it can be done in such a way as to keep the ecological balance that the creek restoration and other projects are meant to restore.

Finally, I’d like to come back to a central, and very important issue. NOW is when Pease Park is being Master Planned. NOW is when disc golf needs to be approved to go back in the park. You stated in your memo to the Parks Board that you couldn’t recommend it at this time. We aren’t asking or expecting it to go back in right away, but rather once the creek restoration work is complete. Excluding disc golf from the Master Plan by saying now

isn't the time to put it back in seems really to be just a back door way of excluding the sport from the park permanently.

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As a long time disk golfer please consider a course at Pease Park. It was a crown jewel and we miss it dearly. I know a few people that say that disk golf saved their lives. How you ask? It gave them an outlet to exercise and socialize saving them from obesity and depression. We do our best to take care of the parks because we love them as much as anyone. Thank you for your consideration.

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What can we do to make this a reality :)  
Cheers

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I appreciate your efforts, I look forward to participating in the process.

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Here are a few random comments about several points brought up in the excellent Master Plan powerpoint presentation yesterday. Take them for what they are worth.

1.) Entrance to Pease at Kingsbury Commons: I thought some background might be useful about the recent evolution of the entrance tree plantings at Kingsbury. This space used to be wide open. Truck traffic into the park used to go straight from Parkway and the arches into the park and between the restroom and the playscape on into the big field. PARD trucks had rutted this out into a grass-less eroded gully. Plus, the safety aspect was crazy with trucks rumbling passed children heading from the playscape to the restroom and Splash Pad.

We determined to change this in 2010. PARD agreed to install a new street cut and driveway on the east side of Kingsbury near the dumpster, allowing PARD vehicles to go down the existing Hike & Bike Trail to access the interior of the park.

Jill Nokes had a vision of planting a screen of two rows of Cedar Elms along the front of the park. These would serve as street trees to cool the parked cars and mitigate the urban heat island effect from the asphalt. But, they would also serve as a "curtain" or "veil" that one would walk through to then discover the open big field beyond- a la Prospect Park's mile long meadow.

I agree with you that the entrance to the park is "incoherent" with a "hodge-podge" of different elements added at different times. But, the trees were our attempt at solving both a safety and aesthetic issue, making the entrance shaded and thus, cooler and adding some "mystery" that would "draw visitors into the space" at the same time.

2.) Pedestrian enhancements at MLK and Lamar Blvd.: We discussed the issue of free right hand turns a bit yesterday with regard to West 29th and Lamar. The same objections would likely be raised to eliminating the right hand turn at MLK.

Austin is the fastest growing city in the US. Our traffic is a nightmare and it gets worse every year as thousands of new people move here. The City wants to encourage folks to ride bikes instead of drive. But, we have a climate like Phoenix. Not going to happen. Buses as an alternative are great but, we have a car culture that is hard to break. Lamar Blvd. is particularly congested at rush hour and I am afraid this proposal would make it more so.

I think we will get push back on this. But, leave it in for now and see what happens.

3.) Irrigation: Thanks for including the "purple pipes" suggestion in the presentation. We need to encourage fast tracking their installation in the park. But, you might also briefly touch on some other ideas for capturing rainfall or

storm run-off in cisterns or other types of catchments that could be used to make the park more "self-supporting" with our irrigation needs. Eric had mentioned some ideas on one of our early walks.

4.) Polecat Hollow Utility Lines: It might be useful if we could throw out a rough cost estimate on what it generally costs to bury utility lines per mile and then give a number on the length of the area that we might propose burying. Doing the math would help inform thinking about this issue.

5.) Width of the Shoal Creek Hike & Bike Trail north of West 24th Street Bridge: D'Anne Williams and I had a brief discussion on the width of this trail. As I mentioned, this area is fairly wide-wider than the envisioned 10 foot concrete path. I would hate to "narrow" this space. It currently has an aspect of the broad formal American Elm allee in Central Park with the overarching trees on both sides. We ought to work to retain this.

Further north at the area that frequently washes out the trail must necessarily narrow due to the proximity of the steep slope and creek bank. But, south of that to 24th Street, it is almost a "grand promenade" and should remain so in my opinion. if it is a cost issue, we can address that.

6.) Bus Shelter: Could we include a photo of a possible "Faux Bois" bus stop on this slide along with the others? The photo of the most modern shelter seems inappropriate for the language of Pease as a rustic, natural park with its historic context. It resembles some of that "Waller Creek nonsense" to me.

7. Harrell Street Cut Access to the Park: The old Harrell Street cut should be retained in some fashion for pedestrian access to the main park. I know some Clarksville neighbors to the south at the last meeting mentioned a desire for access from Lorrain and that is great to add a staircase or ramp there.

But, many Old Enfield neighbors to the west do actively use the blocked off Harrell Street cut between Windsor Road and Kingsbury. Some vision as to what that could look like as a landscaped ramp or staircase (combo) should be added to the presentation too. Old Enfield N.A. will not like it if we propose closing this access point completely.

I think that is it. Again, great job all around. Everyone was most impressed and pleased with the powerpoint. I know it represents a ton of hard work on your part. Thanks for all your effort.

I am inspired to start raising money for the first phases now!

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I want to cover the topics we talked about during our conversation on Friday afternoon, February 14<sup>th</sup>.

Regarding input to the Pease Park Master Plan, the Waterloo Disc Golf Club (representing hundreds of disc golfers in Central Texas), and I personally, would very much like to see disc golf return to Pease Park as soon as possible. Depending on how the final re-construction work comes out, we feel there may be room to return a full 18-hole disc golf course to the property. At the very least, there should be room for a 9-hole course, possibly with alternate tee boxes (2 distinct and different tee boxes per hole so it could be played as an 18-hole course).

This is a very important issue to the disc golf community. It isn't just the established, serious disc golfers that would benefit from this, but all the thousands of nearby UT and ACC students who are within easy walking distance of the park. They need access to this fun, affordable, outdoor physical activity. During the 21 years the course was at Pease (from 1989 – 2010), many students, both men and women, would come down to the park and play with just a disc or two. It is also important to the people who live and/or work downtown. It can be difficult for them to get off work in the evening and fight through traffic in time to be able to play a round disc golf before it gets dark (except for maybe in the height of summer when it stays light until 9 pm). A course in Pease Park would make it possible for them to play in the evenings and possibly even on their lunch hour.

The club and the disc golfers do appreciate the work you did recently to re-open the online public input survey. We realize that it isn't always as easy as throwing a switch to re-start a process like this, and we are grateful for the ability to contribute to the input of ideas about the park's future.

Regarding the survey itself though, and the process of the meetings and public input, we were very disappointed that there seemed to be an effort to shut disc golf, and disc golfers, out of the park. Disc golf is one of the older amenities / stakeholders of the park. We preceded the Pease Park Conservancy, the Volleyball courts, and the off-leash dog area just to name a few. Disc golf was installed in the park in 1989 as a last-ditch effort to save Pease Park. At that time it was a dangerous place with a very bad, sullied reputation. It was not the kind of area where people felt safe to walk and jog; parents did not feel safe letting their kids play in the park; there was blatant, out-in-the-open drug use and sexual activity. Disc golf was brought in to provide an ongoing presence of ordinary park users, moving throughout the park, thus helping to drive undesirable activity away. We succeeded in a huge way, making the park so much safer for all the users. Bringing disc golf back will continue to provide this valuable service. It is not as crucial as it was back in the 80s and 90s, but is still an important role that we can play.

The decision to remove the disc golf course at the end of 2010 was highly controversial, resulting in many public meetings with lots of disc golfers in attendance. It was billed as necessary to take it out at that point in order to prepare the land for the upcoming renovations and creek work that would be starting in the next year to two years. However, it has now been over 3 years with absolutely no work done on the site. We feel that this lack of timely progress was well known at the time, that this delay would be the case, but was still falsely pushed as "necessary" in order to push the sport out of the park as soon as possible in order to appease the Trees For Pease group and the neighbors who were against the presence of the sport in the park. In the final meetings the city came out and admitted that disc golf was not the cause of all the environmental degradation in the park. The sport had its role to play in the way the park looked, but so did many other user groups, environmental (and city policy) factors, and the lack of maintenance by the Parks Dept.

The removal of disc golf was never billed to the public and the disc golf community as permanent, rather it was a temporary (though semi-long term) measure until the creek construction work could be done. At that point, there was supposed to be a new look at the park to see where the disc golf course would best fit, not whether it would return at all.

Regarding the online survey, it was incredibly disappointing and frustrating that there was absolutely no mention of disc golf anywhere in the survey; not even in the "what's not there right now that you would like to see". There wasn't even an "Other" choice on that page where you could then write in an activity not listed. How can an activity like disc golf that was present for so long, that had such a large and vocal constituency, that was well known by the Parks Dept to be desired to be returned to the park just be left completely off the public input survey? Who designed the survey and what were there motives for leaving out this major, long-time activity?

Regarding the rest of the master planning process (the November 2013 meeting, the availability of the survey, and the upcoming February 2014 meeting), how could the Waterloo Disc Golf Club and the local disc golfers be left out of the notification process? There was no shortage of disc golfers at the public meeting prior the removal of the course, plenty at the meet and greet meeting held at the park, plus some at the display of Watershed's plans in early 2013. Plenty of names and email addresses, lots of input by the disc golf community, lots money and volunteer labor spent by the club and the disc golfers at the city's other disc golf courses in the intervening years. But no notification of the November 2013 meeting and survey? No notification of the closing of the survey? No notification of the February 2014 meeting? We had to find out from the Time Warner Cable news story. Again, a

disappointing and frustrating way to find out about such a major issue that is so important to the Austin disc golfing community.

Disc golf is a sport that is affordable, family friendly, and playable by people from age 6 to 86. It is a great outdoor activity that provides valuable exercise and that helps people appreciate and enjoy being out in our city's parks. It has so many of the things that the city wants and needs in our parks.

Pease Park is just that: a park. It is meant to be enjoyed by the city's citizens and its visitors, and a variety of fun, affordable, accessible activities should be available to all the users. Pease should not be a nature preserve, or a transportation corridor, or something that is just pretty to look at as people drive by it. Disc golf should return to Pease Park. It can be done in a way that is environmentally sustainable, and it would fit in with many other wonderful uses of this amazing parkland in the heart of Austin.

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I'm sure you've gotten a few emails and you may be tired of hearing about Disc Golf. But keep in mind that it's just passion for the sport and Pease Park specifically that drives us, no pun intended.

Yes, there are other parks in town with Disc Golf courses, but Pease is in the heart of the city, right by campus and was always a course that had people playing. Most days at 4-5pm when people got off work there would be a 30 minute wait at hole 1 while people would tee off. It gave the community and students a place to go and play without driving out of town or across town. You would always see college couples out on dates playing disc golf and experiencing nature instead of milling around inside somewhere.

It also brought people from all over the country into town to spend their money in local stores and restaurants instead of outside of town or somewhere else. Seeing all sorts of people playing together is one of the best thing about disc golf. It truly brings people together from all walks of life. I've played with Lawyers and Doctors, UPS Delivery workers, people who make Pottery, Teachers, Students, etc. I've played with teenagers to people in their 70s.

Speaking of which, humor me and let me tell you a short (very short) story about the kind of people who play this sport. I was playing the second round with a couple of guys I'd met playing previously. One of the brought their father out and the other brought his son. So basically 3 generations were playing at once. During the round, I'd mentioned to the grandfather that I was engaged to be married. At the end of the round he had me write my name and my fiance's down for him. Keep in mind, I'd just met the man 3 hours ago. The next time we played, a week or so later, he gave me a pair of hand etched wooden fountain pens for both me and my (now) wife with our names engraved. It's really rare to see pure generosity like that happen. That's what makes Disc Golf so great. It's not the game so much. It's that you get to spend 1-3 hours with someone you may not even really know before. It's not in a bar or an office or some place where you're competing against each other. You're out in a park and enjoying nature. That's what really matters. And after all, isn't that the point of having a park?

Honestly, teeing off and looking out over the trees and seeing the Capitol Building in the distance was one of the true joys of playing at Pease. Please help us to put Disc Golf back into the park so the next generation of Austinites can experience the joy of being in the park.

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I would add that Pease park was proudly co-designed by a Deaf person, our legend Stevie Campbell with John Houck, Houck Design. We Deaf Disc Golfers take a great pride on that. It would be a great gesture if the Pease Park could involve Stevie Campbell with John Houck onto the master plan. Because Stevie is losing his sight gradually. So it would be great honor to our homegrown legend to see his fruits of labor and love become permanent landmark



of our Disc Golfing landscape. Furthermore Austin has 2nd largest Deaf community in USA and still growing. Plus Austin Deaf Disc Golf Club prides in producing the most National Deaf Disc Golf champions in various divisions. All things positive for us Deaf members roots back to Stevie and Jimmy Starr. So we Deaf members have fondest and deep love for the Pease Park! We will be at the meeting to unify our one voice and one heart!

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Obviously the frisbee golfers want a place to play their sport - why dont they go to the other frisbee golf parks? PARD removed disc golf from Pease for multiple very good, urgent reasons. Why on Earth would they put it back in?

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Good day and I hope that you are well. I wanted to spend a moment and personally email you, and others, on the topic of the Pease Park Master plan development that is being considered.

I am contacting you as a resident in Austin, concerned park user, and an avid local disc golfer that strongly desires to have disc golf be an integral part of the parks future development.

First, thank you for advising me of the upcoming meeting on February 27, 2014 so that I could contact fellow disc golfers and relay the information about it. We plan on being in attendance so that our opinions, thoughts, and ideas can be considered.

Second, thank you for allowing an extension time for the survey so that I, and others, could review the questions and provide responses.

Upon reviewing the survey and completing it, I noticed a stunning omission from it, it was found that anything related to the sport of "disc golf" was not listed or as a direct option in the survey questions.

This is a very upsetting fact, and a gross negligence, from the survey structure to adequately consider all the variables that will go into the planning of such a memorable park like Pease Park.

Third, the limited public notice from the planning committee, about the upcoming and previous meetings, failed to reach out to anyone in the disc golf community. Many members of the disc golf community use the park on a regular basis for various activities and it was not widely known despite their regular use of the amenities in the area.

If a small moment was spent to perform an internet search with the key words "Austin disc golf" or "Austin disc golf club" each one of these searches accumulate over 300k entries. Depending on the users browser history, the top ten searches can tally two or more self-explanatory results that give direct information on a valid link to learn additional contact information.

At a minimum, there are local businesses that are known world-wide and staff local disc golf professionals that could have answered any questions you may have had, but it simply seems that the disc golf community was not contacted.

As you may discern from my previous statements, my passion is disc golf and my current concerns are very deep that it is not being considered for the Pease Park Master Plan. I would like to emphasize that for such a vibrant and memorable park, disc golf has an amazing historical reputation and positive impact for the Austin community and everyone who has used it before.

When disc golf is considered to not be a part of the master plan, you will be literally erasing one of the most important parts of this cities history that helped develop this park, the area, and the residents who live here.

Disc golfers are the invisible string that ties and binds this city together. We come from all types of economic backgrounds. We develop ourselves at all educational levels. We grow on the vibrant culture that is Austin, and disc golf, then we take it with us wherever we go.

I would challenge you to spend a mere moment and ask long time residents, during your travels around Austin, in a survey, or to Austinites who no longer live here; "Have you ever played disc golf in Pease Park?"

The answer will not surprise you. The increasing number of responses will be "yes" and they will accompany smiles and their stories of those cherished memories in Austin and how it helped mold their positive outlook on the Austin culture.

With this type of historical impact and affect on so many people, how could it not have been known or included in the plans and considerations.

Key notes about Pease Park and disc golf:

- disc golf was an integral part of Pease Park from 1989 to 2010
- disc golfers volunteer thousands of hours a year in the park systems (including Pease)
- disc golfers contribute their time, money, and personal resources to many of the days dedicated to these parks, like Pease
- disc golfers provide personal and corporate donations to the parks system and specifically to parks like Pease.
- disc golfers have held tournaments and events in Pease Park on an annual basis to raise thousands of dollars in donations and contributions for local charitable organizations like the Capitol Area Food Bank and the Ronald McDonald House (to name a few)

Overall, disc golfers are the strong silent stewards of parks system and specifically parks like Pease. They love the park deeply and they pay for it at every opportunity with their sweat, their heart, and their passion that binds them to the love of disc golf in Pease Park.

Please reflect on the history of the park, understand the greatness that disc golf brings to the park, and know that the people in this city truly love disc golf there. The 30 year master plan would simply be incomplete without disc golf in it.

Let's not lose a part of our Pease Park history, let's make a new generation of history that includes it in the plans.

Thank you very much and please contact me with any additional questions or concerns that you may have and I look forward to seeing you on February 27, 2014.

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In the online survey, disc golf is not even on the list of "other activities that you'd like to see added to the park". I would therefore like to express my disappointment and frustration that disc golf has been completely left off of the survey despite it being one of the older amenities of the park, and despite vocal opposition from the disc golf community to removing the course in the first place.

I would also like to express my disappointment and frustration that the disc golf community was not even contacted about the first meeting they held back in November; again despite our long-standing presence in the park from 1989-2010 and our involvement in the entire debate over the course and the park during the past few

years.

I look forward to continuing to share my input and that of the community of disc golfers about the future of Pease Park.

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I just learned about the public meetings for the Peace Park master plan. I will be at a Tony Robbins event during the February 27th meeting and won't be able to attend, so I wanted to send in my comments.

I started visiting Austin in 1976 and moved her in 1987. Austin has been the place I wanted to live since I first visited at 8 years old. Austin has always had a diverse population where everyone accepts each other for who they are without a lot of judgement. I believe it's one of the qualities of our city that attracts people to it. Unfortunately, many of the people who have moved here in the last 10 years want to change it into California or someplace else where they moved from. They are embarrassed by the uniqueness of Austin and would have been embarrassed if their friends from back home knew we had had a Leslie running for Mayor. They want to be in the middle of all the action that attracted them to Austin in the first place, but when they get here they want the city to force the music volume down.

Parks are for people to use. It's where we go to unwind and to forget all of lives problems. Each park has it's own soul defined by it's historical use and the people who fill it. Parks are for all of the citizens in a community to enjoy, not just a few people who want to be completely alone (we have plenty of green space around Austin for this) or for the view of a few people who are fortunate or rich enough to live on it's borders. I've been watching Pease Park closely since they closed the disc golf course, and it's basically empty. Rarely do I ever see anyone in the park except for the joggers and bikers who stay on the trail. There are times when I see people playing volleyball and the occasional group in the field next to the volley ball courts, but over all, the park is not being utilized. There is plenty of open space in the field next to playground that is generally empty as well, except for one day a year when Eeyores invades. Obviously if this space next to the playground and basketball courts begins to be fill, it would make since to re-evaluate the open spaces of the park so there would be enough room for the Saturday tag football game. Until then, the right thing to do is not to keep Pease Park empty, when since the 80's part of the park had a historical use as a disc golf course that was being utilized and enjoyed by thousands of people.

The disc golf course has been in Pease as long as I can remember. I have travelled all over the US... and the course at Pease Park is something people from all over the United States see as synonymous with Austin. I can't tell you how many people have mentioned the basket in the big tree on my travels. The course was popular in Austin before Austin became a big city. It was a big deal to many of the citizens of this Austin long before all the homes along Parkway started being remolded and has been know as a disc golf park for as long as I can remember. Many weekends in the beautiful Austin weather, you would find my sons and I playing the course at Pease Park. At first we might spend as much time on the creek crossings as we did playing the course, but as they grew their love of the game and skill levels grew too. When I hurt my back in 2005, I began playing early in the morning and at night in the summer. My presence helped to run off the drug users under the bridge and the gay couples who would use the park for illicit rendezvous. I can only imagine what the park would have become had we not been there to help take care of it and give it a constant, vigilant presence.

Austin already has no lack of open spaces that are not being utilized. Go walk through Duncan Park right down the street from Pease (only the homeless), check out the park along Waller Creek off 12th between Trinity and Red River, walk along Festival Beach or the acres and acres of unused park along the river off of Pleasant Valley Road. These are all areas that have no historical use in Austin that are underutilized. Do we really need to add Pease Park to that list of open space that gets an occasional use?

I attended an event at the park that included the city parks department and others right before they took out the disc golf course. It's where I purchased my Peace Park Conservatory t-shirt. During that meeting the city guys confirmed that people playing disc golf had not been the reason for creek or bank erosion and said that the course could be reinstalled after they finished work on utilities. There were some areas of the park where the grass gets trampled by disc golf users... but parks are meant to be used, not just lie vacant for the enjoyment of a few. No one has recommended taking out the play ground because the grass around it gets trampled by the kids. With planning the disc gold course could be continued to be enjoyed by thousands of Austinites and visitors to Austin without causing any serious damage.

There are many good people who have been in Austin a long time who do not want to see the course go. In the video "PPC Final 2013 Oct2 v1 - Pease Park Master Plan 2013", they mention that *"A master plan can protect the park by keeping out unwanted intrusions, political changes and even leadership changes. It gives people that chance to have a defensible document saying 'This is what's here' "*. The disc gold course is that thing that defines part of Pease Park. It is the thing that people with self serving interest are trying to intrude in (an *unwanted intrusion*) and change to match their vision of the park instead of allowing the park to be for Austin what's it's always been. Choosing to keep the disc course out so we can have more vacant space in Austin is not in the best interest of Austin as a whole, but only in the interest of a few.

I do hope you will share my comments at the planning meeting later this month and will share them with others who are choosing to decide the fate of one of Austin's great landmarks. Most people don't think of Pease Park as a landmark..... but in the disc golf community all over the world... it is!

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I wanted to comment on the fact that disc golf has been left off of the list for "other activities" to be considered for the Pease Park renovation. Disc golf is one of the oldest uses the park has had, and I am disappointed that it wasn't mentioned even after much petitioning and vocalization from our local clubs, especially Waterloo about this. The sport is evolving, its not about hippies and losers, or drugs and alcohol, its about fun and exercise, bonding with you friends and enjoying nature at the same time. Thank you for your time.

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I'm a Houstonian that used to travel to Austin especially for Pease park disc golf. This course when open taught me allot and provided the most beautiful natural scenery Texas has to offer. I have memories of a disc golf battle for 1<sup>st</sup> place against one great local player and the thing it taught me when I took second place by a stroke. The next year I won a World Title with the simple life lessons I learned that day. The most important part of this is that losing this course has turned the lights out on a place that creates positive memories and impact for today's society. We are a fat society and the ability to exercise regardless of sport should be rewarded not taken away. Not seeing disc golf on the survey ballot really makes me feel saddened. If ever you needed advice on disc golf please let me know. Good luck with your project and I look forward to enjoying whatever becomes of the area.

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As a former UT student and 27 year resident of Austin, I ask you to consider re-instating a state-of –the –art disc golf course in Pease Park.

I live in the Camp Mabry area and used to bike down to Pease a couple times a week when the old course was there. I also enjoyed meeting up with friends from UT who could easily walk there to meet me for a round or two.

I understood that the new course in east Austin was supposed to "replace" Pease, but it is way too far away (especially for UT folks), and not the same experience as the Pease course.

While I understand the environmental concerns, I also noticed that another Austin course I tried by default (Wells Branch), has a similar terrain but seems to do just fine. There are clearly defined and accessible water crossings

which seem to limit erosion; wise course design which utilizes the narrow spaces without interfering with foot/bike traffic; and a healthy flow of players that keeps the park vibrant and alive.

Unfortunately, in my estimation, Pease Park has become a little seedy lately, and a place that feels much less safe (even during the day!). When the disc golf course was there, it seemed like there were less people “camping” there, or taking over the facilities (bathrooms, benches, etc) for their own use. Maybe more people using the park for recreation is a good thing in that respect.

I’m all for protecting the natural setting of the park—the trees , the creek, and the topography of Pease is what made the old disc golf course a real Central Austin treasure. I do believe that “Parks and Recreation” needs to both take care of the parks while providing residents with unique opportunities for recreation. I hope to be part of finding that balance in designing a new Pease Park that serves both of those goals!

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I am not sure if you have noticed or not, but Austin has a huge love of Disc Golf. Austin is unique with it's many options for us to chose from as far as Disc Golf courses. But Pease Park was one of the oldest, and most loved courses in town. I only moved here 3 years ago, and it was already gone. I never did get the chance to play there. But I have heard from many great people how fun it was, and how much of a treasure it was to everyone.

Thank you again for providing us place to get our voices heard on this subject. It is very appreciated.

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First, I want to thank you for taking into account my position and ideas. I'm sure that your role is challenging as you consider serious matters in regards to the 30 year future of Pease Park.

I miss enjoying our beautiful park while playing some disc golf with my wife & two daughters.

The girls loved the game and loved bringing our pet dog and also visit the dog park. Sometimes we would bring our bikes as well.

Pease Park is an Austin icon as disc golf is also recognized as an Austin activity. I want to take a moment to affirm and recognize our local disc golfers.

I am 52 yr.'s old and have always been a part of sports and the events and clubs that come with that sport.

I have never seen such hard-working, compassionate people who truly care about their hometown and the shared sport that brings us together. There has been annual events to raise money/food for central Texas non-profits for DECADES now. And much of that was done at Pease Park between 1989 to 2010!! Throughout the year we would conduct clean up or beautification events to express our love and show our support. To see Pease Park get the attention it deserves would be a testament to others that our city leaders always consider the heart of our vibrant capital city . . . Austin, Texas!

My two requests are . . .

1. I would like to see the survey reopened.
2. I want to formally express my desire to bring disc golf BACK to Pease Park where it belongs and to be a living and enjoyable icon for ANYONE who wants to take part.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my story and the Cotter family wish you great things.

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I will be unable to attend the upcoming meeting Thursday, Feb. 27 but would like to add a request to consider the possibility of returning Disc Golf to Pease Park. A full 18-hole championship course would be preferable, but at the very least a top notch 9-hole course. Disc Golf is a sport that can be enjoyed by family members of all ages.

Thank you for your consideration

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My voice is small as I'm just the power of one, but I speak for many disc golfers.

I know there is a master planning public input meeting coming up on Thursday, Feb. 27th and I ask kindly if you can re-open the survey to those that can't make it so we can have input into having a disc golf course within Pease Park.

Thank you for your consideration!

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Please re-open the Pease Park Master Plan Survey online. When I attempted to access the online survey, it states it is closed.

I would like to express my support for reinstating a disc golf course at Pease Park. A full 18-hole course would be preferable, but at the very least a 9-hole course would be a positive development.

---

I understand that you are in charge of the planning process underway for Pease Park. Let me be among the many area Disc Golfers to ask that a course be added back into the Master plan for this beautiful city park.

I have had the pleasure of calling Pease Park my "home" course 3 times over the last 30 years of living and playing in Austin.

My wife and 2 children also play Disc Golf. My son Ian, whom we lost 2 years ago, played his 1<sup>st</sup> holes at Pease when he was just 3 years old.

He beat me at my own game there at 12 and by 14 I was lucky to win a hole much less and round.

His spirit lives there now, but without the discs flying in the air.

Over the many years of playing, the grounds of the park were never degraded by Disc Golfers. The weather, drought and floods, have always been the driving factor in the condition of the park. The woman that was quoted so many times as saying that we created a "moon scape" from our presence was wrong.

Disc Golf created an environment that was safe for everyone, morning, noon and night. Please consider returning at least a 9 hole course as part of the Master plan for Pease.

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Good day and I hope that you are well. I recently found out about the Pease Park meeting on Feb 27th and following the article I noticed that the link for the survey was closed?

Is there any option to get the survey back opened for additional input and information? I am very interested in attending the meeting and would like to see the current information on the master plan.

If you have a moment to update me as well, I would appreciate that.

Thank you and have a great weekend.

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I want disc golf back in Pease Park, can you please put it as part of the Master Plan for the park. Feb 27th

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I've been informed that there was a survey related to pease park and disc golf.

I would like to encourage you to re-open this survey and seriously reconsider the state of pease park with regards to disc golf.

This was a cornerstone course for Austin, Texas, providing exercise and a competitive outlet for thousands of people, Austinites and beyond. I know I speak for many when I say re-opening this course would provide an increase for the quality of living in Austin.

---

I would just like to add my 2 cents on the master plan. I would like to see a disc golf course added back in. Right now a lot of people that used to play in Pease are using Zilker and this extra load is detrimental to the Zilker course. The best idea would be more courses centrally located and not less. I think a good course design is compatible with other activities and nature. Part of the problem was the large number of people using the old course which is really what you want for your parks. Lots of people using them. Also as a side note the central location of Pease brought in people from all over town. At this point you have some people that only play north or south.

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I was sent the article about planning for Pease Park and tried to access the survey but it was closed. Is there any way we can reopen that? I am interested in disc golf being available at that park again and want to make my opinion heard.

Thanks for your help!

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Here are some ideas that we had after a visit to the park...

1. smoother sidewalks for roller skating/blading. Currently they are that rough and rocky concrete which is tough on a kid on wheels.
  2. more things that are about hanging/climbing/spinning and less about running/walking. i.e. monkey bars that go in a circle or square so that you could either choose to get off or continue on.
  3. more usage of the natural landscape. some sort of interactive creek play?
  4. clusters of benches for parents so that they are focused on each other and not JUST on staring at the kids. currently all the benches face the playground but not each other. maybe even a small kid area that encourages parental community and discourages helicopter parenting.
  5. leave the beautiful concrete picnic tables. they are AWESOME!!!
  6. obstacle course type arrangement - through the trees/creek/etc. more naturally inclined with some physical prowess required.
- 

My wife and I walk our dogs frequently at Pease Park. I am interested in updates on improvements to the park. If I could suggest one improvement, it would be restrooms. The only restrooms I am aware of are way down by 15th street. There's nothing near the parking lot around 2600 block of Lamar, or further up.

Also, a dog waste bag dispenser closer to the parking lot would be cool. It would eliminate back tracking when your dog does his business upon arrival.

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I have many suggestions. If anyone asks for email participation could you tell them I want drinking fountains and bathrooms at 29th. Drinking fountains open all year. The cottage at Pease to be a yummy cafe with booze! The running trails should all be dirt! That crap they put down is hideous on runners backs. I'd recommend walkways down into the park from Windsor north and south side of bridge onto path. Hmm what else... Water at the dog park would be great! Shade for the water splash pad.

---

I have lived on Windsor road across from Pease Park for 25 years. I live with the park 24/7. It is the first thing I see 365 days of the year in the morning.

First let me say I appreciate all the work that Richard Craig has done on behalf of Pease Park. He has done wonders for that park. It would be a decaying inner city park today without his efforts. Those of us who worked to improve the park for years before Richard came along were not making much headway other than the playscape the Moodys gave, getting community service kids to cut back invasive plants along Windsor road and getting the Parks Department to remove what they cut down, getting the old restroom closed and new one put in a bond package, establishing the Pease Park fund in the Old Enfield Improvement and Preservation Fund, getting the city to plant a few trees for those that were lost and getting the city to put curbing along the Windsor Road part of the park ( that took 17 years and thanks only to Toby Futrell)

On Tuesday the Pease Park Master Plan meeting is scheduled. . I have a few questions about the city's role in this master plan I could not get answered at our Old Enfield Board meeting yesterday.. I hope you can answer. I have followed some of this planning and fundraising in the West Austin News. I am a member of the Pease Park Conservancy (PPC) but have not received anything from the PPC although I am a dues paying member.

First who is paying for this master plan? Is it the city? What role is the city playing in the master plan? What is going to happen to the master plan after it is finished? Is it going to be presented to council for adoption. I have heard and read things saying like \$250,000 is the cost of the plan. I have heard the money has been raised but then I have heard that the money has not been fully raised. Is the city the sponsor of this Master Plan?

If the city is the co sponsor of this plan but is not putting any money into the plan how much has been raised and who is paying for it? How can its results be viewed as fully independent if it not paid for by the city of Austin? I am hearing it is being paid partly by business interests who own property along Shoal Creek. Is that true? If so is that not a conflict of interest? Should there not be a full disclosure to everyone who is paying for this master plan if the city is not?

What is to be gained from this master plan? No one could answer me that at our board meeting yesterday. Most of the time a master plan is created when you have specific improvements that you seek to be made over time.? No one could tell me what capital improvements are to come out of the Master Plan. Can you tell me?

Secondly is everything going to be on the table with this master plan? Does that mean looking at the growing impact of Eeyores Birthday party on the park. I will tell you frankly that because two Eeyores people sit on the PPC board many of us who have worked to improve Pease Park long before the PPC came along view this master plan as a way to cement their stay in Pease Park regardless how big they get in the future. I have kept quiet over the last few years as this event has grown and grown until now I finally hear voices from other people not just in Old Enfield saying again it might be too big for Pease Park. .Eeyores is only going to get bigger bigger and bigger as Austin grows. If the impact on the park of eeyores is not to be considered then I dont considered



this a legitimate Master Plan especially if this plan is paid for by the PPC with two Eeyore members on their board and the city of Austin is not paying for the master plan. . I have a copy of a damage report prepared by a city staffer several years ago showing thousands of dollars of damage to Pease Park after Eeyores. I realized that report was quashed but the fact remains and someone has to explain why an independent third person city staff person made that report on the damage to Pease Park by Eeyores or my neighbors and I will continue to think there was a city cover up.

Secondly I am hearing there will be some attempt in this master plan to change the barrier along Windsor. I did not get the barrier placed there by the city. Mr Jim Vier did before I moved into this neighborhood. . Kingsbury is a closed street there by the city of Austin. People are not supposed to go down a closed street so people who gripe about the barrier should not be using that access anyway. When the curbing was placed along Windsor I consulted with the city engineer about whether the curbing should be split there. He did not want to do that since there were no gutters there and he needed the runoff to flow down Windsor to Enfield. He did not want the water flowing into the Windsor Road ridge and into the park.

The barrier should not even be part of this study since it is legally not considered part of the park. It is city of Austin right of way for about 9 feet to the ridge. I know that because to remove the invasive plants we had to get permission from right of way and not Parks. When I got the city to run the water line to the Park side of Windsor I had to go get written permission from Right of Way and not Parks. So I don't understand why that is even on the table for this master plan. I will vigorously oppose any change to that barrier.

Yes I know you can get people who want the barrier removed but they have no knowledge of why it was put there in the first place. Those of us who have lived along Windsor will educate them. They don't all live with the park along Windsor 24/7 but we do.

I would appreciate some answers to these questions about the role of the Parks Department in this master plan. There was a news article recently in the West Austin News that indicated this meeting on Thursday was sponsored by the PPC AND the Austin Parks Department. . So again I ask if the city is not paying for the master plan why are you sponsoring this event.

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Some months ago, before the disc golf course was removed from Pease Park, I was walking on the trail with my 6-year old grandson. He was hit by an errant disc just above the eye, resulting in a cut on his eyelid. He was hurt, but, worse, he was really scared, as was I.

The young man who threw the disc rushed to help and was very apologetic. He offered to assist us to an emergency room and gave his name and address. It turned out that the cut was superficial and did not require stitches, but the trauma for grandson and grandfather was real. To this day, my grandson has bad memories of Pease Park—our visits since that incident have been limited to the basketball court.

This of course was an accident and fortunately not a bad one. But had the disc hit an inch lower my grandson could have been blinded in that eye. Even good golfers hit balls that stray away from the fairway. Likewise, disc golfers throw discs that stray away from the course. Disc golf is not compatible with a walk in the park.

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Thanks for hosting/moderating the recent public feedback meeting on the pease park master plan. I have a few comments...

1. I strongly urge the inclusion of explicit language in the plan to define the off-leash dog park's continued existence and boundaries within the park. Everything else in the plan reflects great attention

to detail (down to the colors and texture of building materials) yet fails to mention, much less define the continued existence if the off-lease dog park area.

2. Including picnic facilities within an off-leash dog park is in my opinion asking for trouble. Dogs are very naturally attracted to food and with that they will investigate people eating. I suggest either not including the picnic areas or including them with considerable and clear warning to picnickers that they are in an off-leash area and responsible for incidents resulting from bringing food into it.

3. What is undesirable about the nature currently existing in the park? It appears that the proposed master plan is defining a vision and plan to turn a beautiful and naturally occurring area into a manicured "dolled-up" place that would never occur in nature. And to do so at great expense. Why? Putting walkways in the park that will not get washed away in the next flood does not require extensive new construction and re-layout of the park. Similarly the removal of invasive plants can be done without the other big changes shown.

4. The master plan identifies many expensive changes to the park. How are these expenses to be paid for? And will those paying for any such improvements have the kind of control demonstrated by C3 with the auditorium shores park? If so, then I would rather have no plan and no improvements.

4. Does the parks department value natural areas as they exist in nature? If so then why is the city spending taxpayer money to define a plan for altering such areas to resemble someone's yard, much less implementing the plan?

4. I think the massive changes proposed to make entrances to the park "more inviting" are a waste of time and money (if implemented). The park is a jewel today. There is not a problem with the park being uninviting either at the entrances or elsewhere.

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I am thrilled to see the Pease Park Master Plan, and excited about what's possible for the park's future.

The plan that has been developed balances many different uses, enhances both natural and to-be-built features, and does a huge amount to make Pease Park a true asset for the City of Austin. I have lived in other cities with amazing linear parks — Washington, DC with Rock Creek Park, New York with the High Line, Madrid with the Paseo de la Castellana — and have seen the power of those parks as travel corridors, gathering spaces and enhancements to their cities and the people who live there and those who visit. I live near Pease Park, and use the park most days of most weeks. It has been a place for my kids to play in the creek, a place for my dogs to run, a place for me to exercise and enjoy nature at the same time, and a place to watch the seasons change. I truly love this park just as it is, and I'm amazed by the diversity of life that I see there. But I have also always dreamed of what more could be possible.

This plan for the park will make a good park truly great, transforming a beloved ugly duckling into a widely appreciated swan. I hope that the city will grab this opportunity, and I hope to see and participate in the changes in the years to come.

Thank you, too, for leaving room for dogs to continue playing off leash, for using this as an opportunity to restore natural areas, and for imagining what's possible if citizens become invested and involved in the transformation of the park. Count me in!

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Huge events in the park like Eeyores should be eliminated.

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Eeyore's birthday party destroys the park. Several years ago a City Staff member reported that Eeyores did \$20,000 in damages to the park. I have a copy of that report. The impact of Eeyores on the park needs to be examined in this master plan.

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Thanks for sharing the Master Plan details. I think you all have done a fantastic job. I have one suggestion regarding the Windsor Gateway at the intersection of Parkway and Kingsbury. It showed steps taking the place of the old street that is there now. Any chance there could also be a smooth ramp on part of it for bike and wheelchair access?

Thanks for your consideration.

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1. The city department who monitors the water quality on Shoal Creek told me the dog poop content below the dog park on upper Shoal Creek/Pease Park was higher than it was below the park on Bull Creek. Why was removal of the dog park in Upper Shoal creek not looked at in the Master Plan.?

2. At a recent meeting of the Austin City Council the Parks Director told the city council that the position of the Old Enfield Homeowners Association for removal of the parking lot would be looked at as part of this Master Plan. I heard nothing about the parking lot in the February meeting. Was it looked at?

3. I asked several of my neighbors if they asked for an entrance to Pease Park from Lorrain. I live and own a house about 20 feet from this proposed entrance. None of my neighbors asked for it. I never saw any comments made at the first meeting of allowing for additional access from Windsor which would be only 20 feet from the only entrance to Pease Park from Windsor near Marshall. Can you explain how the master planner came up with that. I never saw any comments on your web site asking for this second entrance. How in the world if you have no public comment could this possibly be considered in the plan. Is this some private agenda of a person who has influence with the master planners. This process needs to be transparent and above board.

4. Regarding the disc golfers. They have a legitimate right. The removal of disc golfers was made by the Parks Director NOT the City Council. If this plan is going for final approval by the City of Austin City Council the disc golfers have a right to included and it is the City Council NOT the Parks Director that should have the final decision. This is a democracy not a dictatorship of select few. This is America not China.

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It was nice to meet you last week at the planning meeting. I wanted to email you my thoughts for the master plan for your records. My fiancé and I live [on] Shoal Crest Avenue, across the street from the 29th and Lamar entrance. We have two large dogs and I use the park twice a day with them. At least 4 times per week, we use the entire park all the way down to the playground area and sometimes even to downtown and back.

I run with them, ride my bike with them and use the large grass area to throw the ball for them. I enjoy the workout stations personally. I also take my 2 year old niece along occasionally and will plan to do the

same with my own children in the near future. I only share all of this with you to let you know where I'm coming from, which ultimately, I hope the same rules stay in place with regard to the on and off leash areas for dogs. I think there is a nice balance between the two throughout the park, which allows all types of people (with dogs, with children only, with both, elderly, etc.) to enjoy the park.

I'd like to encourage the following considerations and share my thoughts when developing the final master plan:

- Keep the on and off lease dogs areas the same
- Do not stipulate any area that is No Dogs Allowed like they did with Auditorium Shores (except of course for the current children's splash pad-understandably so). I noticed a lady writing no dogs allowed along 24th St-Kingsbury at the meeting. I think this is a very selfish request. If a dog is on their leash, I don't see the issue with someone not wanting to look at them. Like I said before, I use the park to ride by dogs (along side my bike-on leash) all the way downtown. If I were required to get off the trail and onto Lamar, which I might add, may be potentially a bike path for future cyclists, it would cause disruption for them and be very hot during the summer without shade protection.
- I think there should be a few more trash can/dog bags stand along the 24th bridge to parking lot going north. This entire area is off leash and there is not one trash can/bag stand except for the area by the parking lot.
- Event space-being rented out. There was mention of areas by the 29th and Lamar entrance being turned into an event space. I highly discourage this. We already have enough areas that are renting out (i.e. now Auditorium Shores, Zilker, etc.). The beauty of this park is that it is so natural and untouched. I'd hate to see it turned into an event area.
- Picnic Tables in grass area that is off leash at 29th and Lamar entrance-We spoke about this, but I think it's wise to put proper signage, reminding people it's an off leash area so they expect dogs to possibly approach them if they are eating. If these tables are added, I think they should be under shade trees and not in the middle area. This space is used currently by dog owners daily for playing fetch and I also see UT students playing soccer on the weekends.
- There is a homeless man that sleeps in the bushes close to the workout stations. I've reported him 5 times and just last week they finally caught him and gave him a warning. He was defecating all over the open field, in the bushes and leaving his trash around. You don't even want to know why I know this...let's just say I have dogs that are curious about different smells. Disgusting. So, to the people that think it's only dog feces left around, it's not. They also sleep around the 24th st bridge.
- I heard a lot of people requesting more parking. I agree that there is enough parking and you should encourage walkers, bikers, etc. However, I think it would be nice to add a few reserved spots for seniors only. I'm not sure if you can do this or not, but I see quite a few seniors enjoying the park and they may not be in a state to ride a bike, etc.
- My final wish list-A dog splash pad. This may be stretching it, but the creek gets so nasty in the summer. Regardless, I think it would be nice to add a few water fountains for dogs along the trail. When the creek is gross, the water will make them sick and it's nice to just let them drink water without having to get wet.

I would love to be a resource to you guys if needed. I come with an open mind and try to be considerate of everyone's wishes, but also be fair and realistic. Feel free to contact me if I can be of any assistance. Thanks for your time.

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And who is going to pay for this improvement? If you are thinking of bonds / taxing the property taxes to pay for this you really need to think twice. I will work hard to go against any attempt to raise taxes for this project.

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide input and suggestions as to the Master Plan for Pease Park.

As a resident of the neighborhood (Mohle Drive, Austin, 78703-1933) and as a frequent user of the park, especially the Shoal Creek Greenbelt, I would like to make the following suggestions and recommendations:

- **Do not pave** any more of the park/greenbelt. We central Austin residents have seen our share of green spaces erode away significantly: (the "Central Park"-in name only-development of state land/the Triangle development/the Mueller Airport reconstruction, and so on.
- Put out more garbage cans; There are precious few along the greenbelt.
- Alert neighboring institutions, such as Seton Hospital, not to allow refuse to litter the park and/or greenbelt. Take a look at the greenbelt near Seton and 38th Street and you will see much refuse coming down the hill, toward Shoal Creek itself.
- Keep the current "no leash required" area along the greenbelt south of 29th Street and **enforce this regulation** north of 29th Street, along the greenbelt.
- Make all efforts to ensure pedestrian safety at entrances to the park/greenbelt such as crossing Lamar at 29th Street, crossing Lamar at MLK and so on.
- Resist further development along Lamar, especially on the hills overlooking the park.
- Continue the graffiti abatement program and alert the public how to support it, if only by telling them how to report instances of it to 311.

Maybe we need a new slogan: "Keep Austin Green."

Thanks again for this opportunity. I especially value it since I will be out of town during the meeting.

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I have listened to the February meeting of the Pease Park master plan and I am shocked. Not only did it ignore things people put down at the first meeting but it seems you are listening to only a small group of people. How can you have a master plan if it is a master plan of only Richard Craig.

I am a member of the Pease Park Conservancy. I am dues paying member. We have never had a single PPC meeting of the membership. Never elected officers and yet the city is giving them more influence in this master plan than you are giving those of us who live across from this park 24/7 and have worked to preserve it for over 25 years. How outrageous is that?

This master plan and process has no creditability if all you are listening to is self perpetuating unelected board PPC board with most of its board members not living around the park.

The vision statement does not reflect my vision and my neighbor's vision for the park. Why were we not given an opportunity to have input into this vision statement. We are stakeholders. Who developed this vision?

At this meeting the staff of the city is giving names to areas of this park that had never been its historic names. How can you do this?

People in Old Enfield have been working to preserve this park for years. We got the new restroom on the bond election years before the PPC. We have worked for years with Max Moore to remove invasive plants along the Windsor hillside long before anyone was interested. We have sought crime protection for people who use by contacting the park rangers when we become aware of crime. If there is another meeting with city staff on this master plan where the PPC sends representatives I believe that would be an opening meeting and because I am a member of the PPC and the Old Enfield Homeowners Association board I want to be invited to that meeting.

---

I missed the last planning meeting, but I received the email about the presentation.

I have to say I am a bit disappointed.

I gave money to this group to fund this plan.

I assumed the money was for improvements to the park, which should focus on maintenance, trail surface improvements, landscape restoration and some other active recreation additions as recommendations for city action.

Yet I see a lot of work spent on traffic and Allee "improvements" on Lamar and other streets?

Where did this even come from?

I assume the improvements recommended will be sent to PARD and council for inclusion in future budgets. Although there is no budget or priority list presented, I have serious reservations about any funds being spent on Lamar intersections when we have real needs for a better trail surface and other sidewalks in our neighborhood. We have a lot of other improvements that deserve city funds before we ever think about any sidewalk or traffic changes on Lamar.

According to the presentation, they have received over 900 surveys

Most of the feedback has requested that the Park remain mainly "natural " with few improvements requested.

Most respondents requested safety improvements, trail and accessibility improvements and more maintenance.

I don't remember any concerns about the Lamar intersections.

So how did "new urbanism" sidewalk/traffic intersection studies even get included here?

Although it is questionable whether a "fully pedestrian crossing" is really necessary, I think any money that would be spent over the "improved pedestrian crossing" is unnecessary and is better spent on other trail improvements and pedestrian sidewalks, including those requested in our neighborhood,

such as Claire ( which is not shown as proposed). These “fully pedestrian crossings” improvements could easily cost as much or more as one block of sidewalks we would rather have. I’m not even going to get into the issues about how all of the recommended “fully pedestrian” schemes will create more traffic problems than they would supposedly solve. I both walk and drive at each of these intersections and would not agree that any of this is at the top of the list of any improvements using taxpayer dollars, especially in a study that was originally for park improvements.

No budget or priority for the improvements was included, but by the scope shown, it will be in the multi-millions, including the Lamar improvements.

I’ll be asking our neighborhood association to discuss this at the board meeting. I was going to be recommending we write a letter to the council indicating our support or objection to elements of the study and the priority of improvements. We should be looking at this very carefully and as of now I have some very serious concerns about what is being advocated here.

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When will the master plan include discgolf?

Why is it not on there already?

When will the baskets be put back in the park?

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I cannot make the meeting tonight.

**Question I have – are there plans to plant new trees to help compensate for those lost to drought on the “Lamar Terrace” (29<sup>th</sup> Street & Lamar)?**

I know most of plan’s focus is on the part of the greenbelt closer to Pease Park, however it appears that scope of the project goes upstream to 31<sup>st</sup> street. So I am wondering what improvements to the urban forest (i.e. tree plantings) are planned beyond Pease Park proper.

Many thanks for any information you can share

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We would like the dog-free areas and the dog-on-leash areas clearly demarcated and enforced.

We are more concerned with stabilizing the erosion, maintaining existing trees, shrubs, and groundcovers than we are with adding amenities.

We hope that the reasons the park will never work for disk golfing can be made abundantly clear to those who are still fighting to reintroduce the game. The area is too narrow, and the flora already too compromised, and the erosion too severe to allow the golfers to return.

---

My question is a simple one. Will Disc Golf be included in the plan? As you could see from the response at the planning meeting, both in person and on the survey, we are very interested in getting Disc Golf back into Pease Park. How many other citizens banded collectively in this number about any other single facet or amenity in the park other than wanting more restrooms?

As I sat there during the recent planning meeting, I felt very disappointed with the fact that Disc Golf was left out of the discussion completely, other than at the introduction of the meeting. It gave me less hope of ever getting the joy of playing Disc Golf in Pease Park with my children.

Again, thank you for taking the time to email us to keep us in the loop.

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No disk golf? Why? I think you under estimate it's impact on the people of this city. I beg you to reconsider.

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Good day and I hope that you are well. I wanted to spend a moment and personally email you, and others, on the topic of the Pease Park Master plan development that is being considered.

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I am contacting you as a resident in Austin, concerned park user, and an avid local disc golfer that strongly desires to have disc golf be an integral part of the parks future development.

First, thank you for advising me of the upcoming meeting on February 27, 2014 so that I could contact fellow disc golfers and relay the information about it. We plan on being in attendance so that our opinions, thoughts, and ideas can be considered.

Second, thank you for allowing an extension time for the survey so that I, and others, could review the questions and provide responses.

Upon reviewing the survey and completing it, I noticed a stunning omission from it, it was found that anything related to the sport of "disc golf" was not listed or as a direct option in the survey questions.

This is a very upsetting fact, and a gross negligence, from the survey structure to adequately consider all the variables that will go into the planning of such a memorable park like Pease Park.

Third, the limited public notice from the planning committee, about the upcoming and previous meetings, failed to reach out to anyone in the disc golf community. Many members of the disc golf community use the park on a regular basis for various activities and it was not widely known despite their regular use of the amenities in the area.

If a small moment was spent to perform an internet search with the key words "Austin disc golf" or "Austin disc golf club" each one of these searches accumulate over 300k entries. Depending on the users browser history, the top ten searches can tally two or more self-explanatory results that give direct information on a valid link to learn additional contact information.

At a minimum, there are local businesses that are known world-wide and staff local disc golf professionals that could have answered any questions you may have had, but it simply seems that the disc golf community was not contacted.

As you may discern from my previous statements, my passion is disc golf and my current concerns are very deep that it is not being considered for the Pease Park Master Plan. I would like to emphasize that



for such a vibrant and memorable park, disc golf has an amazing historical reputation and positive impact for the Austin community and everyone who has used it before.

When disc golf is considered to not be a part of the master plan, you will be literally erasing one of the most important parts of this city's history that helped develop this park, the area, and the residents who live here.

Disc golfers are the invisible string that ties and binds this city together. We come from all types of economic backgrounds. We develop ourselves at all educational levels. We grow on the vibrant culture that is Austin, and disc golf, then we take it with us wherever we go.

I would challenge you to spend a mere moment and ask long time residents, during your travels around Austin, in a survey, or to Austinites who no longer live here; "Have you ever played disc golf in Pease Park?"

The answer will not surprise you. The increasing number of responses will be "yes" and they will accompany smiles and their stories of those cherished memories in Austin and how it helped mold their positive outlook on the Austin culture.

With this type of historical impact and affect on so many people, how could it not have been known or included in the plans and considerations.

Key notes about Pease Park and disc golf:

- disc golf was an integral part of Pease Park from 1989 to 2010
- disc golfers volunteer thousands of hours a year in the park systems (including Pease)
- disc golfers contribute their time, money, and personal resources to many of the days dedicated to these parks, like Pease
- disc golfers provide personal and corporate donations to the parks system and specifically to parks like Pease.
- disc golfers have held tournaments and events in Pease Park on an annual basis to raise thousands of dollars in donations and contributions for local charitable organizations like the Capitol Area Food Bank and the Ronald McDonald House (to name a few)

Overall, disc golfers are the strong silent stewards of parks system and specifically parks like Pease. They love the park deeply and they pay for it at every opportunity with their sweat, their heart, and their passion that binds them to the love of disc golf in Pease Park.

Please reflect on the history of the park, understand the greatness that disc golf brings to the park, and know that the people in this city truly love disc golf there. The 30 year master plan would simply be incomplete without disc golf in it.

Let's not lose a part of our Pease Park history, let's make a new generation of history that includes it in the plans.

Thank you very much and please contact me with any additional questions or concerns that you may have and I look forward to seeing you on February 27, 2014.

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I appreciate your response to my email. I would like to add a couple of points, also echoed by several other community members and disc golf players, that bear worth repeating.

In the online survey, disc golf is not even on the list of “other activities that you’d like to see added to the park”. I would therefore like to express my disappointment and frustration that disc golf has been completely left off of the survey despite it being one of the older amenities of the park, and despite vocal opposition from the disc golf community to removing the course in the first place.

I would also like to express my disappointment and frustration that the disc golf community was not even contacted about the first meeting they held back in November; again despite our long-standing presence in the park from 1989-2010 and our involvement in the entire debate over the course and the park during the past few years.

I look forward to continuing to share my input and that of the community of disc golfers about the future of Pease Park.

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The work you all have done is fantastic!

My feedback FWIW:

- Really appreciate the focus of increasing the tree canopy along the entire greenbelt (especially in presence of the epic drought)
- Also really like and appreciate the improvements associated with the “Lamar Terrace” (nice to have attention given to this neglected entrance to the greenbelt)
- Appreciate the attention to all the historic bridges spanning Shoal Creek (see <http://brykerwoodsaustin.wordpress.com/our-history/bridges/>)
- The added trails on along the “Ramble Scramble” are a great idea! (also really like the trail entrance proposed on the west side of the 29<sup>th</sup> Street bridge)
- There might be too much off leash area for dogs (especially if we are concerned about water quality)

Thank you for all your hard work on this effort. This initiative is so very important to maintaining the quality of life for Austin residents.

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I am thrilled to see the Pease Park Master Plan, and excited about what’s possible for the park’s future. The plan that has been developed balances many different uses, enhances both natural and to-be-built features, and does a huge amount to make Pease Park a true asset for the City of Austin. I have lived in other cities with amazing linear parks — Washington, DC with Rock Creek Park, New York with the High

Line, Madrid with the Paseo de la Castellana — and have seen the power of those parks as travel corridors, gathering spaces and enhancements to their cities and the people who live there and those who visit. I live near Pease Park, and use the park most days of most weeks. It has been a place for my kids to play in the creek, a place for my dogs to run, a place for me to exercise and enjoy nature at the same time, and a place to watch the seasons change. I truly love this park just as it is, and I'm amazed by the diversity of life that I see there. But I have also always dreamed of what more could be possible. This plan for the park will make a good park truly great, transforming a beloved ugly duckling into a widely appreciated swan. I hope that the city will grab this opportunity, and I hope to see and participate in the changes in the years to come.

Thank you, too, for leaving room for dogs to continue playing off leash, for using this as an opportunity to restore natural areas, and for imagining what's possible if citizens become invested and involved in the transformation of the park. Count me in!

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At the original meeting of the Pease Park master plan I was told that "everything was on the table" That is not what I heard from the tape.

My questions

1. The city department who monitors the water quality on Shoal Creek told me the dog poop content below the dog park on upper Shoal Creek/Pease Park was higher than it was below the park on Bull Creek. Why was removal of the dog park in Upper Shoal creek not looked at in the Master Plan.?
  2. At a recent meeting of the Austin City Council the Parks Director told the city council that the position of the Old Enfield Homeowners Association for removal of the parking lot would be looked at as part of this Master Plan. I heard nothing about the parking lot in the February meeting. Was it looked at?
  3. I asked several of my neighbors if they asked for an entrance to Pease Park from Lorrain. I live and own a house about 20 feet from this proposed entrance. None of my neighbors asked for it. I never saw any comments made at the first meeting of allowing for additional access from Windsor which would be only 20 feet from the only entrance to Pease Park from Windsor near Marshall. Can you explain how the master planner came up with that. I never saw any comments on your web site asking for this second entrance. How in the world if you have no public comment could this possibly be considered in the plan. Is this some private agenda of a person who has influence with the master planners. This process needs to be transparent and above board.
  4. Regarding the disc golfers. They have a legitimate right. The removal of disc golfers was made by the Parks Director NOT the City Council. If this plan is going for final approval by the City of Austin City Council the disc golfers have a right to included and it is the City Council NOT the Parks Director that should have the final decision. This is a democracy not a dictatorship of select few. This is America not China.
-

My name is [name redacted] and disc golf has been a big part of my life the past few years and it saddens me that there is no place for the best disc golf course in austin, in pease park.

I would really like y'all to reconsider because I love this city so much.

Thank you for representing us and keeping an open mind.

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Thanks for sending us the Master Plan of Pease Park. In all it looks beautiful and I'm excited about all the changes happening to the park. One thing I didn't see was a disc golf course, so I would like to have my voice heard to add this to the final Master Plan. Disc Golf takes in the surroundings with very minimal upkeep and maintenance, plus disc golfers love to volunteer in parks to keep them looking nice and maintained.

Also, I know a lot of families within the disc golf community, including myself and I want to make Pease Park a destination place. Play disc golf, have a picnic and have the kids play in the splash pads.

So, I ask that a disc golf course be added to the final draft. If we can't get a full 18 holes (which would be optimal), at least 9 holes will make us happy!

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Another comment/request – when applying herbicide to the bamboo, please also hit the poison ivy. Within the past several years it seems as all of Austin's trails have become more infested with the noxious plant.

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Thank you for allowing public input for Austin citizens on the Pease Park Draft Master Plan. I have gone to a couple meetings and I'm glad there is so much interest in making the most of Pease Park. It is great to have such a large and beautiful green space so close to downtown and the University of Texas. I can see great efforts are being made to provide the most recreational activity for Austin citizens. This is a large park within walking distance of the University of Texas (UT) and is particularly useful to help students without cars, exercise. As a student of UT back in the 60's my friends and I used Pease Park often for recreation due to its proximity.

When I look at the Master Plan it looks good, yet I want to emphasize important points that are not shown, to make sure they are in the Master Plan(I know it is hard to show everything on the map):

1. I could not tell if the basketball court and goals close to Kingsbury Commons would still be in place or improved. I hope so for the obvious exercise benefit.
2. The same is true for the volleyball courts close to Polecat Hollow. Please keep and/or improve.
3. I assume the hike and bike trail will continue as is or will be improved. For hikers' and runners' knees I hope the trail can be as soft as possible, with as little hard concrete sidewalk as possible.
4. There is no mention of reinstalling the World Class Disc Golf Course that was recognized worldwide. Obviously disc golf is great recreation for UT students between classes, yet the disc golf course helped some UT students play at a pro level and made the UT disc golf team competitive with other colleges.

Since UT tries to be world class in just about every sport, perhaps working with the UT disc golf team could be useful in reinstalling the renowned disc golf course (Waterloo Disc Golf Association would gladly help too, as they have also done at other Austin Parks). Yes, having access to a great disc golf course this close to campus has and would be a great step for UT disc golf.

In summary, the Master Plan looks good and I would support it if we made sure the above points are included. If they cannot be included, then for now, I would recommend the Master Plan be tabled.

Again, thank you for letting Austin citizens give input into the Pease Park planning.

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My name is [name redacted], I am a 49 year old, and I have lived in Austin since 1966, I am an owner of a supply business on South Congress.

Normally, it seems that the City Departments are fairly responsive to public feedback, and I think in general terms the PARD is also listening when people voice concerns.

My purpose for writing is my concern I have about Master Plan for Pease Park.

I attended some of the planning meetings, and took the online survey but haven't heard any feedback to address the large number of people who desire to have disc golf restored to the park.

Avid Disc Golfers in Austin are a rather tight knit community-more like a family in this area than a guild or association would be. At least a hundred of us have known each other for 10 or more years.

I have to say that many of us felt deceived when the City initially stated that the Disc Baskets would be temporarily removed until the watershed engineering project was completed. So when the Masterplan was published it was rather like a slap in the face.

Quite frankly, I think the City fails to see that the benefits of having disc-golfers (hikers) regularly traversing Pease Park, and overestimate any disadvantages. Sure there are worn paths, but I believe it is common sense that 99% of the erosion happening along the creek is caused by the creek overflowing its banks, and not disc golfers-as was stated for the final reason in removing baskets.

You may not realize that dozens disc golfers actually pick up others litter along the way, and attend many of the "It's My Park Days"!

I urge you to reconsider reinstalling baskets due to the relatively low cost as compared to many other sports, the recreation benefit, the nearness of Pease Park to UT Campus, and the added benefit of turning away miscreants.

It you have any questions about my comments, please feel free to contact me by phone, mail or email. I would love to discuss it further.

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I am against the Pease Park Master Plan as it is currently proposed!

The Pease Park Conservancy worked hard to exclude disc golf from the process and from the park. They left it completely off the survey as an existing item or even as a possible item. Despite all the disc golfers at the previous Pease meetings, no notification of the survey and the Master Planning process was communicated to the disc golfers (so we weren't able to attend the first public meeting and missed the online survey). Pressure was successful in getting the survey re-opened and around 300 people filled it out in just one week. About 95% of those people wanted disc golf returned. Months and months of survey time got 600 respondents, and the disc golfers got almost 300 people in just one week. And yet despite this community outpouring for disc golf, it was still ignored by the Parks Dept. and the Master Planning company. Even worse, the Park's Director Sarah Hensley didn't even care about the public input. Before the input was finished, and before the second public input meeting ever occurred, she had already made up her mind and wrote to the Park's Advisory Board that she couldn't support disc golf in Pease Park AT THIS TIME.

This is a travesty! She makes it sound like she could support it in a year or two or five, but just not now because of all the creek work being done. However, the Master Planning is being done AT THIS TIME and she knows it. She's trying to make it sound as if she is reasonably considering it but instead she is dead set against it and has been for a long time. If we don't get in the Master Plan, we won't get it back in the park and she knows it, and the Pease Park Conservancy knows it too. This is just what she and the Conservancy want.

Disc golf has all the desired qualities that the Master Planning company said they wanted in recreational activities: Family, Nature, Intergenerational. Disc golf fits all three of those. Yet because the funders of the Master Plan (the Conservancy) didn't want it, then Ms. Hensley didn't want it, so the Master Planning company dismissed it.

Disc golf is one of the older amenities / stakeholders of the park. We preceded the Pease Park Conservancy, the Volleyball courts, and the off-leash dog area just to name a few. Disc golf was installed in the park in 1989 as a last-ditch effort to save Pease Park. At that time it was a dangerous place with a very bad, sullied reputation. It was not the kind of area where people felt safe to walk and jog; parents did not feel safe letting their kids play in the park; there was blatant, out-in-the-open drug use and sexual activity. Disc golf was brought in to provide an ongoing presence of ordinary park users, moving throughout the park, thus helping to drive undesirable activity away. We succeeded in a huge way, making the park so much safer for all the users. Bringing disc golf back will continue to provide this valuable service. It is not as crucial as it was back in the 80s and 90s, but is still an important role that we can play.

Pease Park is just that: a park. It is meant to be enjoyed by the city's citizens and its visitors, and a variety of fun, affordable, accessible activities should be available to all the users. Pease should not be a nature preserve, or a transportation corridor, or something that is just pretty to look at as people drive by it. Disc golf should return to Pease Park. It can be done in a way that is environmentally sustainable, and it would fit in with many other wonderful uses of this amazing parkland in the heart of Austin.

Disc golf is a sport that is affordable, family friendly, and playable by people from age 6 to 86. It is a great outdoor activity that provides valuable exercise and that helps people appreciate and enjoy being out in our city's parks. It has so many of the things that the city wants and needs in our parks.

We are not asking to bring it back into the park right now (in the middle of the creek restoration project). Instead, we are asking that it be put into the Master Plan and returned once the creek restoration project is complete.

It might not be that big of a deal to for Ms. Hensley to have it recommended not to go in now EXCEPT that NOW is when the Master Plan is being done. If it doesn't go in the Master Plan, then in a few years when the creek project is complete and it is an appropriate time to return disc golf to Pease, any one that doesn't want it back is going to be able to say: "Disc Golf can't come back because it isn't in the Master Plan". Also, Master Plans usually cover the entire park. They do not tend to leave large areas unplanned, marked for "figure out later". If we try to bring it back in a few years and want to put it in a certain spot, someone will be able to say, "Sorry, that spot is Master Planned for X amenity". When we suggest a different spot, they'll say, "Sorry, that area is Master Planned for Y function". There will be nowhere for the disc golf course to go.

By supporting leaving disc golf out of the park "for now", it means leaving it out of the Master Plan, which seems to be a disingenuous way of excluding it from Pease Park for the long term; decades, if not permanently.

Without disc golf, this is a BAD Master Plan! And NO Master Plan is better than a BAD Master Plan!!!

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I heartily approve the master plan. It will result in a much improved, citizen-friendly public space.

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I am of the opinion that this is a bad master plan because it does not include disc golf. I envision taking my two sons to play disc golf in the park in the next 5-10 years once the creek restoration is complete. I have personally witnessed the sport of disc golf transform peoples lives in an unprecedentedly positive way. For myself, I used to compete in basketball and baseball, but when I hurt my shoulder I could no longer participate in either of these activities. Disc golf is one of a few sports, along with traditional golf) that can be enjoyed relatively risk free of injury for years and years on end. I've played with my Dad and I've played with my son. The sport of disc golf is becoming more and more popular and is legitimizing itself around the world as a source of good, clean, fun, as well as a competitive outlet. I would rather see no master plan than see this master plan approved. Let's keep our options open with respect to Disc Golf @ Pease Park.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Pease Park Master Plan.

I attended two of the earlier meetings and want to compliment all those involved for their professionalism in creating an atmosphere that was welcoming to all attendees.

I am a member of a club of petanque players (Heart of Texas Petanque Club) who have been playing this (THE national pastime sport in France) game at Pease Park for over 10 years. We created our formal club, affiliated with the national and international petanque organizations, in 2008.

In looking at the proposed enhancements to Pease Park, I could not tell from the drawings what the surface materials were for the pathways and other non-grass areas.

I wanted to remind the planners that the requirements for a petanque court (called a terrain) are quite simple since no “formal-type” of court is really needed. This game can be played on relatively level ground (gentle inundations are fine – similar to the existing pathways). Crushed limestone/granite/gravel work best and no formal boundaries are needed. The space can be as narrow as 6 feet and the length can be anything between 40 and 50 ft – but since the game can be played over random areas, long and wide areas work great. The type of terrain required is usually maintenance-free as long as heavy rains don’t cause washouts. The terrain can be shared with others but should be located “off the beaten path” for safety reasons since it involves pitching 2 lb metal balls 20 to 40 ft.

I am reminding you of the petanque club’s presence at these meetings and our expressed desire to have at least some of the enhancements to the park continue to provide us with locations in which to play this game. It is a game suitable for all ages.

If you need to know more about the terrain for petanque, please contact me or the president of the club, Mr. Arsene Dupin. In 2013, Austin’s Mayor Leffingwell (he is also a petanque player) asked Mr. Dupin to be a consultant in planning the city’s Paggi Square Park in the Mueller community. The resulting park is a multi-use area that is quite suitable for petanque.

Thank you again for encouraging public participation in this project.

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#### General

-The presentation provided a thoughtful and creative vision for the future of Pease and this stretch of the greenbelt that acknowledged community concerns while also provided a fresh vision for the future. I look forward to reading the full plan and review the ideas in more detail. I am happy to provide more comprehensive comments at that time and to talk through any of my thoughts from the presentation below. Thanks for the opportunity!

#### Natural Areas

- The presentation discussed invasive species and restoration. I look forward to reading this section of the plan and seeing how it relates to the city's invasive species management plan as well as the recent Pease Park/Shoal Creek recommendations by the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.

- Will the plan also address pest management, such as strategies for dealing with poison ivy? At a minimum, this is a major issue around the 29th Street bridge, which was highlighted in the presentation.



- I really like the idea of using citizen scientists to help track the success of restoration work. This could be a great model for work throughout Shoal Creek.

- The addition of metrics to track success of proposed restoration work is very useful.

#### Culture

- The Lamar Terrace concept is really a great vision for transforming a currently underutilized space with significant potential.

- While I really like the idea of the 29th Street bridge area as an event space and strongly support the creation of such spaces along the trail, a few concerns come to mind that I am assuming will be discussed in the plan. There are wastewater utilities under this bridge that often smell quite foul. This area is also prone to flooding, which would certainly complicate plans for anything other than temporary use of the space.

#### Recreation

- I hope that the plan will underscore the need for new and improved wayfinding and signage not only in this area, but as part of a larger effort to connect this portion of the trail to the rest of the trail and the community.

- I assume that the proposed new trails will compliment the current trail improvements underway in the area by the City, rather than suggesting a replacement of these new trails.

- The focus on creating connection within the area with pathways is wonderful and would positively change the feel and function.

#### Connections

- The suggested connections to the nearby community area, particularly across Lamar Blvd, are long over due and provide a great vision for moving forward.

- I was happy to see that the plan will provide recommendations for improvements to Lamar, which has significant potential. If this is to serve as a vision, I would suggest going as far as to promote the creation of a center media with landscaping, which is really what would be needed to create a road that compliments the nearby park and greenbelt.

- I strongly support the suggestion by one attendee at the public meeting to add bike lanes into the vision for Parkway. This would create yet another type of connection with the community.

- The presentation did a great job of discussing the need for connections to the trail south and to the neighborhood areas. However, it did not discuss the need to create a connection to the trail as it continues north to the 38th. If not already considered, I would encourage the plan to acknowledge the continuation of the trail north and at a minimum suggest signage to inform users that the trail continues.

## Rooms

- I really like the idea of viewing the area as a series of rooms or a series of distinct but related destinations.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Pease Park Master Plan.

My main comment is that I'm disappointed not to see disc golf anywhere in the plan. Austin has always been a leader in what is generally known as the fastest-growing sport in the world, and the City should be proud that it has taken the lead in providing this kind of recreation, which has become an important part of the lifestyle of tens of thousands of citizens.

Disc golf is one of the things that makes Austin attractive to people and businesses considering relocating to Austin. And let's not forget the role that the disc golf course played in eliminating a bad element from Pease park and making a better place for families to spend time.

Disc golf is good for Austin and good for Pease Park. Please make sure it is included in the final version of the Master Plan.

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I looked in detail at all the plans, and I have no negative comments. I think it's all amazing and great and hope that the money can be raised to implement asap!!

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Recently, the Pease Park Conservancy and the City of Austin presented the Pease Park Master Plan. It is my understanding the proposed master plan will not include disc golf at Pease Park.

As an avid disc golfer and tax payer, I strongly disagree with this proposal and ask that the city reconsider.

Disc golf is the fastest growing sport in America. Through a grass roots movement, several local disc golf clubs have grown the sport into a tight-knit community, gathering together to have fun, form bonds, and enjoy nature. We come from all walks of life and from all over the world to live in the best area in Texas. Professional and Amateur players call Austin home.

Pease Park is a classic Texas disc golf course and Austin landmark. Removing this course is the equivalent of removing the Stevie Ray Vaughn statue or taking out the stairs to Mount Bonnell. It's like putting up a 'Do Not Enter' sign at Barton Springs pool or Twin falls. You cannot allow the removal of another part that makes Austin unique.

In America, we grow up being told you can make a difference. Your voice, your vote, counts. More and more these common basic human rights that make us the greatest country in the world are being eroded by politics and big business. Here is your opportunity to hear our voices. Are you listening?

Reject the Master Plan and return Pease park disc golf course to the people. It's not your park. It's not my park. It's OUR park.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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I am 60 now and have played disc golf my entire adult life. I qualified to compete for the U.S. Team in the World Frisbee Championships in 1981 and in 1982, which included 5 different events in addition to disc golf. My son attended UT-Austin for 5 years, graduating in 2009, and he only started playing disc golf when at UT (I never pressured him into playing it; he chose it on his own).

He lived in apartments near Pease Park and we regularly would play a round whenever his mother and I would visit him. It was one of our more enjoyable 'bonding' experiences. When the disc golf course left Pease Park, we both were disappointed.

Please include disc golf in the Master Plan currently under development for Pease Park. Memories have been and should continue to be made there for families and their children. I beg you not to take those opportunities away from us.

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I looked at the master plan and there are some great improvements to Pease Park. They fit perfectly with a vision had by many of the people who have been utilizing the park long before the Pease Park Conservancy existed. Unfortunately, it appears that these same people who have been enjoying and utilizing Pease park for decades have now been completely ignored. You mentioned you had hundreds of inputs, yet have ignored OVER 600 of them.

The disc golf course has been in Pease as long as I can remember. I have travelled all over the US... and the course at Pease Park is something people from all over the United States see as synonymous with Austin. I can't tell you how often people mention the basket in the big tree on my travels. The course was popular in Austin before Austin became a big city. It was a big deal to many of the citizens of this Austin long before all the homes along Parkway started being remolded and has been know as a disc golf park for as long as I can remember. Many weekends in the beautiful Austin weather, you would find my sons and I playing the course at Pease Park. At first we might spend as much time on the creek crossings as we did playing the course, but as they grew their love of the game and skill levels grew too. When I hurt my back in 2005, I began playing early in the morning and at night in the summer. My presence helped to run off the drug users under the bridge and the gay men who would use the park for illicit rendezvous. I can only imagine what the park would have become had we not been there to help take care of it and give it a constant, vigilant presence.

Disc golf is one of the older amenities / stakeholders of the park. We preceded the Pease Park Conservancy, the Volleyball courts, and the off-leash dog area just to name a few. Disc golf was installed in the park in 1989 as a last-ditch effort to save Pease Park. At that time it was a dangerous place with a very bad, sullied reputation. It was not the kind of area where people felt safe to walk and jog; parents did not feel safe letting their kids play in the park; there was blatant, out-in-the-open drug use and sexual activity. Disc golf was brought in to provide an ongoing presence of ordinary park users, moving throughout the park, thus helping to drive undesirable activity away. We succeeded in a huge way, making the park so much safer for all the users. Bringing disc golf back will continue to provide this valuable service.

Austin already has no lack of open spaces that are not being utilized. Go walk through Duncan Park right down the street from Pease (only the homeless), check out the park along Waller Creek off 12th

between Trinity and Red River, walk along Festival Beach or the acres and acres of unused park along the river off of Pleasant Valley Road. These are all areas that have no historical use in Austin that are underutilized. Do we really need to add Pease Park to that list of open space that gets an occasional use?

I attended an event at the park that included the city parks department and others right before they took out the disc golf course. It's where I purchased my Peace Park Conservatory t-shirt. During that meeting the city guys confirmed that people playing disc golf had not been the reason for creek or bank erosion and said that the course could be reinstalled after they finished work on utilities. There were some areas of the park where the grass gets trampled by disc golf users... but parks are meant to be used, not just lie vacant for the enjoyment of a few. No one has recommended taking out the play ground because the grass around it gets trampled by the kids. With planning the disc gold course could be continued to be enjoyed by thousands of Austinites and visitors to Austin without causing any serious damage. In one of the pieces you sent out months ago it says "No Disc Golf... Too Destructive". I'm not sure who's opinion this is.. but there are no facts to back this up. It's only the opinion of the few people who are trying to take over this landmark in Austin.

There are many good people who have been in Austin a long time who do not want to see the course go. In the video "PPC Final 2013 Oct2 v1 - Pease Park Master Plan 2013", they mention that "A master plan can protect the park by keeping out unwanted intrusions, political changes and even leadership changes. It gives people that chance to have a defensible document saying "This is what's here" ". The disc gold course is that thing that defines part of Pease Park. It is the thing that people with self serving interest are trying to intrude in (an unwanted intrusion) and change to match their vision of the park instead of allowing the park to be for Austin what's it's always been. Choosing to keep the disc course out so we can have more vacant space in Austin is not in the best interest of Austin as a whole. There is no reason that Pease Park can't have most of the improvements included in the master plan AND have disc golf too.

Most people don't think of Pease Park as a landmark..... but all over the world in the disc golf community... it is!

Finalizing the Master Plan without including disc gold in the park is going against the wishes of the thousands of Austinites who use Pease Park the most. This makes it NOT a master plan for the people but a takeover of the park by a few.

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To the decision maker on the Pease park Master Plan:

Please do not approve the currently proposed Master Plan for Pease Park at this time. It has been hastily designed (read the e-mails) and has blatantly ignored any and all input from the sizeable disc golf community here in Austin.

In my experience as a former City Council Member in Galveston, I never experienced such a callous disregard for legitimate public input as that shown by the Parks Director Sarah Hensley. She never showed up in person at any of the numerous public hearings I personally attended, yet we were told

that she had unilaterally had made the key decision not to reinstate disc golf at the park. Hours of long powerpoint presentations supposedly encapsulating public input contained not one word mentioning the outpouring of comments from our disc golf community. In short, her department's public hearings were conveniently deaf when it came to acknowledging our legitimate concerns,

Master Plans are a road map for 30 to 40 years in the future. This plan should rightfully be reworked and considered by a new council elected by district who will be the ones who begin to implement any changes after actually listening to the views of all the citizens of Austin.

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Thank you again for the updates on the Pease Park Master Plan updates.

The park has many beautiful amenity options for consideration, but still no DISC GOLF. Despite the your emphatic discussions in community meetings that say disc golf will not be included, I should say once again that it should be reconsidered and provided as part of the Master Plan.

Pease Park and disc golf have been with each other since the beginning. It was Disc Golf that forced out much of the illegal activities that occurred many years ago.

It was disc golf that allowed the increased use of the park and allowed all the other activities to flourish in that part of the city.

Disc golf pre-dated the conservancy groups that came in to help. It was disc golf that took the lead and the hard actions to prove that the park could be a great space.

Disc golf provides everything a park desires. It brings people to it, it provides everyone a free activity to play, and it is an activity that is low impact and does not require special skills, even from those who are not fully abled physically.

Disc golf is just that important to Pease Park and the citizens of the community in Austin.

The sport and technology of disc golf have come a long way since it was first introduced into Pease Park. Now, the equipment and measures taken to design a good disc golf course have advanced beyond measure while providing low costs and low negative impacts to where the courses may be installed.

The disc golf community is not looking for an 18 hole long professional course, we simply want a good course (as before) included into the Pease Park Master Plan.

Thank you for the notification on the Master Plan and I hope that decision makers would consider allowing disc golf into that master plan. As disc golfers, we volunteer THOUSANDS of hours across the city each year cleaning and maintaining parks and current disc golf courses without any requests from the City of Austin. We simply do this on our own. Knowing this additional information I hope the City does not forget what we do for it and consider the value of disc golf and disc golfers.

Include DISC GOLF in the Master Plan for Pease Park.

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Waterloo Disc Golf Club, representing not only our 450 members, but also the thousands and thousands (tens of thousands?) disc golfers in the Central Texas area is against approving the Pease Park Master Plan.

The Master Plan either needs to be amended to include disc golf OR it needs to be voted down.

Without the inclusion of disc golf as an amenity and recreational activity at Pease Park, this is a bad Master Plan.

Everything the plan wants to do can be done without there being an official Master Plan adopted. If the Master Plan is amended to include disc golf or if it is voted down by the Parks Board and/or the City Council, the improvements can still be made including adding disc golf back to the park. BUT... if the Master Plan is approved, disc golf likely will not be allowed back in Pease for decades, if ever.

NO Master Plan is better than a BAD Master Plan!

Disc golf has all the desired qualities that the Master Planning company said they wanted in recreational activities: Family, Nature, Intergenerational. Disc golf fits all three of those. Yet because the funders of the Master Plan (the Conservancy) didn't want it, then Ms. Hensley didn't want it, so the Master Planning company dismissed it.

We are not asking to bring it back into the park right now. Instead, we are asking that it be put into the Master Plan and returned once the creek restoration project is complete.

Pease Park is just that: a park. It is meant to be enjoyed by the city's citizens and its visitors, and a variety of fun, affordable, accessible activities should be available to all the users. Pease should not be a nature preserve, or a transportation corridor, or something that is just pretty to look at as people drive by it. Disc golf should return to Pease Park. It can be done in a way that is environmentally sustainable, and it would fit in with many other wonderful uses of this amazing parkland in the heart of Austin.

Please either amend the Master Plan to include disc golf, or don't go forward with the rest of the approval process. Just take many of the good ideas presented and proceed with improving the park without the Master Plan officially in place.

Bring back disc golf to Pease Park, one way or the other.

NO Master Plan is better than a BAD Master Plan!

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10 years ago I was taught how to play disc golf by a few friends in my small town of Abilene. If you know anything about that area there isn't much to do and having something in keeping a young 17 yr old active is key. I moved to Austin to attend UT in 2006. Here I discovered the true beauty of Disc Golf and the courses it was capable of producing particularly the legend that is Pease Park. This course is simply iconic in the disc golf community and will be spoken of for years to come, if not forever. It pained me to here news that it was being removed from the Park some years ago.

Now I don't know the politics behind it, nor the agendas for the removal let alone the plans for the "Master Plan" but what i do know is the city is making a mistake in leaving it out. Here's why:

1) Disc Golf is the fastest growing sport in America as we speak.

2) The Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA) is working hard every year adding millions of dollars in revenue and payouts to members and growth of the sport professionally. Interested? Check out pdga.com and see just how big this sport is. We are Global!

3) ESPN is looking hard at the sport for serious coverage soon to be seen in the next 2+ years. That means major sponsors, major tournaments, and major money flowing into cities with PDGA PRO stop tour locations. Especially legend courses just like Pease Park.

4) UT has they're own Collegiate team also, and wouldn't it be great for them to travel just down the road to practice than across town?

The list could go on, but I won't keep you for that. This place is important to us. There are so many people who care about something big and are getting placed aside, again for whatever political reasons there may be. I hope this letter may bring some curiosity and maybe even change. We love our park. We love our City. Help us get back the most important piece of our sports community here in Austin.

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Austin Parks and Rec is still missing the whole mark on Disc Golf exclusion at Pease Park. I don't know how the City, your department, and any other people involved can have such a closed view regarding Disc Golf and Pease Park. How can such a huge community response not be incorporated into the master plan? Did 300 people in 1 week demand more toilets, a coffee house in the Tudor cottage, concrete art structures, or anything else for that matter? Yet, it fails to register with those involved. Why is this? There has yet to be a solid or definitive reason provided for this.

Again, disappointed is not even strong enough to convey the feeling.

# APPENDIX E2

COMMENTS TO PARD -  
AUGUST 14, 2014 TO  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2014



## **Pease Park Email Feedback about the Draft Master Plan**

**August 14, 2014—September 14, 2014**

I'm going to take a guess and say that without even having to read this plan, that there is not a plan for disc golf. A plan without disc golf, when the majority of the people that make up a meeting are disc golfers, shows that the park department is not looking at what the community needs.

Please take into account what the Austin disc golf community has to offer. We would be the main users of that park. We don't create a mess, we pick it up.

Until this is taken into account then I can't take any email into consideration.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Pease Park Master Plan. The park is a jewel in the heart of Austin and the master plan will do great things for the park and focus long needed energy to the maintenance and enhancement of the park.

I politely request the City to consider two options for returning disc golf to Pease Park.

1) Install a short 9-hole disc golf course positioned in a location to minimize impact to stream and trees. A 9-hole course would reduce the number of players using of the course from previous levels to a manageable amount. The space required would be reduced, allowing selection of fairway placement that removes sensitive areas from use.

While the report in several places notes the previous detrimental impact of disc golf, an issue not noted was the lack of any maintenance of the disc golf course for decades that could have offset impact by popular use of that activity at Pease. Engaging the disc golf community in work days such as Austin Parks Foundation's "It's My Park Day" and closing the course for several months of the year could mitigate risks while allowing the amenity to return to Pease in a sustainable fashion. The Wells Branch Disc Golf Club, for example, has been hosting APF IMPD events that so far have planted 15 trees and mulched many other trees at the WB disc golf course using club funds. Volunteers from the club water the new trees for the first two years after planting. Such activities create a sense of protectiveness of the course and greenbelt in its players.

2) As a second option, if a 9-hole course is not allowed, I suggest the City allow the Austin-based Waterloo Disc Golf Club (of which I am also a member) to hold an annual disc golf event in Pease Park using a temporary layout that would function as a fundraiser for charity. Waterloo currently organizes two signature fundraisers each year that benefit the Captial Area Food Bank and the Ronald McDonald House

- This year, 122 players came to play the Ice Bowl at the Wells Branch Disc Golf Course, and the event raised an event record \$1,375 plus 437 pounds of food for the Captial Area Food Bank

- Last year, the 36th Annual Waterloo Disc Golf Tournament raised a record \$10,750 for the Ronald McDonald House

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Hello again. We have been following the progress of the, in the opinion of a huge community of people, "incomplete Master Plan." I have to say again that disappointment abounds amongst the citizens regarding PARDs continued exclusion of Disc Golf from Pease Park. Let me ask you a couple of questions to put this in perspective.

1) How many people logged into your survey, attended the meetings, and voices their opinion AGAINST DiscGolf being in Pease Park?

2) How many people logged into your survey, attended the meetings, and voiced their opinion FOR DiscGolf being in Pease Park?

My guess is that there were way fewer people in the first group. Am I right?

This whole process has been flawed and slanted from the beginning, with people at PARD deciding what people want or need instead of listening to the community voice. The agenda against DiscGolf is just another feather in PARDs cap I guess. Great job!

I support NO MASTER PLAN if DiscGolf is excluded from the plan. How hard is it to revise the plan, redesign the course to improve flow, and make the people of Austin happy?

I sure hope that someone reads this, and the many more emails that are coming, and decides to do something to right this shameful wrong against the people of Austin.

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Since 1990 my father took me to Pease Park. We enjoyed the small pool, single bldg bathroom, critters that lived along the creek but the best memories was Disc Golf.

Before 1990 I remember, being almost 40 yrs of age now, when people were lying there having sex in the open, using needles in their arms and legs and other terrible and dangerous actions as a teenager. I wasn't allowed to go alone.

After yrs of Disc Golfer's constantly roaming and playing the entire park, cops were called, druggies and prostitution dissipated. Slowly the park had become safer.

In 2006 I started taking my children to play Pease Park course but only for a short while due to having restoration projects done on the drainage from the overwhelming and ever increasing consruction of buildings and houses and expansion of asphalt road...the water had nowhere to be absorbed. Which made Pease "naturally dangerous.

When the disc golf baskets were removed it was promised that it would be temporary.

Keep Austin's disc golfer's at Pease to help keep the community safe, property's safer and family's like mine encouraged to support PARD.

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My name is [name redacted] and I'm writing to you today to inquire about the lack of disc golf in the Pease Park Master Plan. I am probably not your typical disc golfer. I've lived in Austin since 1999 and have since graduated from UT as well as UT Law School in 2006. In 2010, my wife (also a UT Law grad and disc golfer) lost a terrible battle with postpartum depression and I was suddenly a single father with a four month old daughter. One of the few things that helped take my mind off my grief in short spurts was playing disc golf with friends and family members. It was a way to get outdoors, get some exercise, and honor something that my late wife was passionate about. Both of us learned how to play disc golf at Pease Park while at UT. If there had not been a disc golf course at Pease Park when we attended UT, there is a very good chance that we never would have discovered the sport. I'm sure others can better describe the many benefits of the sport and why having a course at Pease again is a good idea. I simply felt compelled to write this quick message on my lunch break so that you know there are many types of fans of the sport and the impact of your decision could some day have a very positive impact on someone's life.

Thanks for taking the time to read my letter and I hope you have a good day/weekend.

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Without disc golf, the Master Plan is incomplete at best and bad at worst. No Master Plan is better than an incomplete or bad Master Plan.

This plan should be:

- 1) sent back to PARD with directions for them to add disc golf back into it
- 2) slowed down so everyone has more time to look at the problems; it is being rushed and yet this will change Pease Park for the next 25-30 years, that is what a Master Plan does. There will be a brand new council later this year that will change things for that long or even longer. Let's look at it more, and wait for their new perspectives. Pease is a very important park to the city and to so many of its residents, take the time to get it right.
- 3) If neither of those are feasible, the plan should be voted down

There are lots of great things in this Master Plan, WRT did a good job, but because PARD and PPC had already made the decision to lock us out, WRT weren't even able to consider all the input and ideas for disc golf. All the wonderful ideas there can still be done even if the Master Plan isn't officially approved, but if it passes without disc golf, the sport will likely never be able to return to the park.

**NO MASTER PLAN IS BETTER THAN A BAD OR INCOMPLETE MASTER PLAN.**

The PPC and PARD worked hard to exclude disc golf from the Master Planning process and from the park. They left it completely off the survey as an existing item or even as a possible item. Despite all the disc golfers at the previous Pease meetings (both around the time PARD discussing removing the course to make way for the Shoal Creek Restoration Project by the Watershed Protection Dept, and in the years

after that as the Restoration Project continued to be planned), no notification of the survey and the Master Planning process was communicated to the disc golfers so we weren't able to attend the first Master Plan public meeting and we missed the online survey. Our pressure was successful in getting the survey re-opened and around 300 people filled it out in just one week. About 95% of those people wanted disc golf returned. Months and months of survey time got 600 respondents, and the disc golfers got almost 300 people in just one week. And yet despite this community outpouring for disc golf, it was still ignored by the Parks Dept. and the Master Planning company.

Even worse, the Park's Director Sarah Hensley didn't even care about the public input. Before the input was finished, and before the second Master Plan public input meeting ever occurred, she had already made up her mind and wrote to the Parks & Recreation Board that she couldn't support disc golf in Pease Park AT THIS TIME. She makes it sound like she could support it in a year or two or five, but just not now because of all the creek work being done. However, the Master Planning is being done AT THIS TIME and she knows it. She's trying to make it sound as if she is reasonably considering it but instead she is dead set against it and has been for a long time. If we don't get in the Master Plan, we won't get it back in the park and she knows it, and the Pease Park Conservancy knows it too. This is just what she and the Conservancy want. Disc golf has all the desired qualities that the Master Planning company said they wanted in recreational activities: Family, Nature, Intergenerational. Disc golf fits all three of those. Yet because the funders of the Master Plan (the Conservancy) didn't want it, then Ms. Hensley didn't want it, so the Master Planning company dismissed it.

At the Public meetings in 2009 and 2010, the reason given by PARD and Watershed for pulling the Pease Park Disc Golf Course at the time was that the creek restoration project would be starting in the following year to year-and-a-half and that the area needed a bit of time to recover before the work began. That was why the two city departments said it had to be pulled right then. It was also in those meetings that the city came out and admitted that disc golf was not the cause of all the environmental degradation in the park. The sport had its role to play in the way the park looked but so did: other user groups, the periodic flooding of this major drainage waterway (flooding made worse over the years by ever increasing up-stream development, all allowed by the city), the ongoing severe drought, and the lack of maintenance by the Parks Department itself. The removal of disc golf was never billed to the public and the disc golf community as permanent, rather it was a temporary (though semi-long term) measure until the creek construction work could be done. At that point, there was supposed to be a new look at the park to see where the disc golf course would best fit, not whether it would return at all. These points were all publicly stated in front of many, many disc golfers.

Disc golf is one of the older amenities / stakeholders of the park. We preceded the Pease Park Conservancy, the Volleyball courts, and the off-leash dog area just to name a few. Disc golf was installed in the park in 1989 as a last-ditch effort to save Pease Park. At that time it was a dangerous place with a very bad, sullied reputation. It was not the kind of area where people felt safe to walk and jog; parents did not feel safe letting their kids play in the park; there was blatant, out-in-the-open drug use and sexual activity. Disc golf was brought in to provide an ongoing presence of ordinary park users, moving throughout the park, thus helping to drive undesirable activity away. We succeeded in a huge way, making the park so much safer for all the users. Bringing disc golf back will continue to provide this

valuable service. It is not as crucial as it was back in the 80s and 90s, but is still an important role that we can play

---

Waterloo Disc Golf Club, representing not just our 450 members but also the much larger Central Texas disc golf community, would like to send our comments regarding the final proposed version of the Pease Park Master Plan. We are a local organization that promotes the sport and works to maintain and improve a number of the courses in the Central Texas area. We want to say that the Club and the disc golf community are against the Pease Park Master Plan as it is currently proposed. There are many great items in this plan, but there is one glaring omission: disc golf.

The Pease Park Conservancy (PPC) and the Austin Parks & Recreation Department (PARD) seemed to work hard to exclude disc golf from the Master Planning process and from the park. They left it completely off the survey as an existing item or even as a possible item. Despite all the disc golfers at the previous Pease meetings (both around the time PARD discussing removing the course to make way for the Shoal Creek Restoration Project by the Watershed Protection Dept, and in the years after that as the Restoration Project continued to be planned), no notification of the survey and the Master Planning process was communicated to the disc golfers so we weren't able to attend the first Master Plan public meeting and we missed the online survey. Our pressure was successful in getting the survey re-opened and around 300 people filled it out in just one week. About 95% of those people wanted disc golf returned. Months and months of survey time got 600 respondents, and the disc golfers got almost 300 people in just one week. And yet despite this community outpouring for disc golf, it was still ignored by the Parks Dept. and the Master Planning company. Even worse, the Park's Director Sarah Hensley didn't even care about the public input. Before the input was finished, and before the second Master Plan public input meeting ever occurred, she had already made up her mind and wrote to the Parks & Recreation Board that she couldn't support disc golf in Pease Park AT THIS TIME.

This is outrageous! She makes it sound like she could support it in a year or two or five, but just not now because of all the creek work being done. However, the Master Planning is being done AT THIS TIME and she knows it. She's trying to make it sound as if she is reasonably considering it but instead she is dead set against it and has been for a long time. If we don't get in the Master Plan, we won't get it back in the park and she knows it, and the Pease Park Conservancy knows it too. This is just what she and the Conservancy want. Disc golf has all the desired qualities that the Master Planning company said they wanted in recreational activities: Family, Nature, Intergenerational. Disc golf fits all three of those. Yet because the funders of the Master Plan (the Conservancy) didn't want it, then Ms. Hensley didn't want it, so the Master Planning company dismissed it.

Disc golf is one of the older amenities / stakeholders of the park. We preceded the Pease Park Conservancy, the Volleyball courts, and the off-leash dog area just to name a few. Disc golf was installed in the park in 1989 as a last-ditch effort to save Pease Park. At that time it was a dangerous place with a very bad, sullied reputation. It was not the kind of area where people felt safe to walk and jog; parents did not feel safe letting their kids play in the park; there was blatant, out-in-the-open drug use and

sexual activity. Disc golf was brought in to provide an ongoing presence of ordinary park users, moving throughout the park, thus helping to drive undesirable activity away. We succeeded in a huge way, making the park so much safer for all the users. Bringing disc golf back will continue to provide this valuable service. It is not as crucial as it was back in the 80s and 90s, but is still an important role that we can play.

Pease Park is just that: a park. It is meant to be enjoyed by the city's citizens and its visitors, and a variety of fun, affordable, accessible activities should be available to all the users. Pease should not be a nature preserve, or a transportation corridor, or something that is just pretty to look at as people drive by it. Disc golf should return to Pease Park. It can be done in a way that is environmentally sustainable, and it would fit in with many other wonderful uses of this amazing parkland in the heart of Austin.

Disc golf is a sport that is affordable, family friendly, and playable by people from age 6 to 86. It is a great outdoor activity that provides valuable exercise and that helps people appreciate and enjoy being out in our city's parks. It has so many of the things that the city wants and needs in our parks. We are not asking to bring it back into the park right now (in the middle of the creek restoration project). Instead, we are asking that it be put into the Master Plan and returned once the creek restoration project is complete.

It might not be that big of a deal to for Ms. Hensley to have it recommended not to go in now, except that now is when the Master Plan is being done. If it doesn't go in the Master Plan, then in a few years when the creek project is complete and it is an appropriate time to return disc golf to Pease, any one that doesn't want it back is going to be able to say: "Disc Golf can't come back because it isn't in the Master Plan". Also, Master Plans usually cover the entire park. They do not tend to leave large areas unplanned, marked for "figure out later". If we try to bring it back in a few years and want to put it in a certain spot, someone will be able to say, "Sorry, that spot is Master Planned for X amenity". When we suggest a different spot, they'll say, "Sorry, that area is Master Planned for Y function". There will be nowhere for the disc golf course to go.

By supporting leaving disc golf out of the park "for now", it means leaving it out of the Master Plan, which seems to be a disingenuous way of excluding it from Pease Park for the long term; decades, if not permanently. Without disc golf, this is at best an incomplete Master Plan, and at worst a bad Master Plan. And NO Master Plan is better than an incomplete or bad Master Plan!

At the Public meetings in 2009 and 2010, the reason given by PARD and Watershed for pulling the Pease Park Disc Golf Course at the time was that the creek restoration project would be starting in the following year to year-and-a-half and that the area needed a bit of time to recover before the work began. That was why the two city departments said it had to be pulled right then. It was also in those meetings that the city came out and admitted that disc golf was not the cause of all the environmental degradation in the park. The sport had its role to play in the way the park looked but so did: other user

groups, the periodic flooding of this major drainage waterway (flooding made worse over the years by ever increasing up-stream development, all allowed by the city), the ongoing severe drought, and the lack of maintenance by the Parks Department itself. The removal of disc golf was never billed to the public and the disc golf community as permanent, rather it was a temporary (though semi-long term) measure until the creek construction work could be done. At that point, there was supposed to be a new look at the park to see where the disc golf course would best fit, not whether it would return at all.

These points were all publicly stated at in front of many disc golfers. At the June 2010 meeting, PARD made the promise not to close the Pease disc golf course until a new course was completely installed and playable. That promise was later broken in November 2010 when it was announced that the course would be pulled at the end of the year and yet there was no new course open yet (only proposed).

In addition, the proposed course at Roy G. Guerrero was already in the works before removing the Pease course became an issue. It was supposed to be a great complement to Pease, the long awaited new course that Austin had been needing for many, many years (given that the most recent city course prior to that was the Circle C course, installed in 1992). Now here we are 22 years after the installation of Circle C, and we still have only five disc golf courses in City of Austin parks; despite the explosion of the sport's popularity and the huge numbers of Austin residents that play disc golf (plus all the people from close by in Central Texas and from around the state that visit the city and want to play disc golf while they are here).

We do appreciate the new course at Roy G. Guerrero, it is wonderful! And we also appreciate all of PARD's (and Watershed's) work done to revitalize Circle C, Searight, and now Zilker. We are happy to have contributed our money and our volunteers' time to all these projects, and we will continue to do so. All of the work on these courses just goes to prove how disc golf can be done in a sustainable fashion in our city's parks. If it can be done at Zilker, arguably the city's most important park, it can be done in Pease too. It would restore a valuable amenity to a wonderful park, and it can be done in such a way as to keep the ecological balance that the creek restoration and other projects are meant to restore.

This is a very important issue to the disc golf community. It isn't just the established, serious disc golfers that would benefit from this, but all the thousands of nearby UT and ACC students who are within easy walking distance of the park. They need access to this fun, affordable, outdoor physical activity. During the 21 years the course was at Pease (from 1989 – 2010), many students, both men and women, would come down to the park and play with just a disc or two. It is also important to the people who live and/or work downtown. It can be difficult for them to get off work in the evening and fight through traffic in time to be able to play a round disc golf before it gets dark (except for maybe in the height of summer when it stays light until 9 pm). A course in Pease Park would make it possible for them to play in the evenings and possibly even on their lunch hour. Any time we can get Austinites to walk or ride their bikes to an activity, then that is less pollution in our city. Without a course at Pease, all those students and others will need to drive to Bartholomew, Roy G. Guerrero or other courses.

The Pease Park Conservancy seems to be saying that we didn't do much, or anything, to lessen the impact that disc golf had on the park, but we did. The club put in hundreds and hundreds of volunteer hours and the larger disc golf community put in many more. The club didn't form until 1999, and before then there was still work being done in the park by Kevin Roberts (who worked with the city to install the course), David Moody, and others. And even after the club was around and doing workdays there, David Moody and others regularly did trash and debris cleanup and course improvement work. We did work on the tee boxes to help with erosion problems, we spread mulch, we even did some re-designs of the course to reduce the walking up and down the slopes. Between 2004 – 2010, the club spent nearly \$5,000 on maintaining and improving the disc golf course. This is in addition to the \$14,000 that we spent on various other courses in the area, and another \$8,700 spent since 2011.

The Conservancy also seems to say we did nothing to help them plant trees and re-forest the park. Wrong! We donated \$300 to Trees For Pease (the forerunner to the Conservancy) and we did have disc golf volunteers at some of their tree planting workdays. For one of their other big workdays that they faulted us for missing, we had our own workday out at the Circle C Disc Golf Course that day. On top of that, we don't ever recall seeing a Conservancy member at one of our Pease Park workdays.

Finally, there was the issue of the lack of maintenance by PARD (admitted by them as one factor in how bad pease looked at the time they pulled the course out). PARD did a little maintenance, but not nearly enough. Plus, years ago when Max Moore was the supervisor of Pease, we specifically asked if we could add some tree protections to some of the worst-hit trees, like those right off the #1 tee box. PVC or 2x4s or something around/fronting the trees that would protect them from most of the hits, but we were turned down because it wouldn't look good. They were more concerned at that time with the aesthetics of the park than in the health of it. Disc golf needs trees, to kill them defeats the purpose of having a course. A flat, open area makes for a terrible disc golf course. Trees, terrain, natural surroundings; these are the things necessary to a well-designed, fun, and challenging disc golf course.

The Pease Park Conservancy mentioned at a recent meeting that there were other disc golf courses around the country pulled out, including one at Golden Gate Park in San Francisco. That may be true but it doesn't tell the whole story. Courses are being added around the country, and the world, at an enormous rate.

In the year 2000, there were 1,017 courses around the world.

In 2009, there were 3,082 courses. Over 2,000 new courses in just 9 years, even after counting the ones that were removed.

In 2012, there were 3,762 courses, another 700 in just 3 years.

And while one course was removed from Golden Gate Park, there is still a disc golf course in that Park. At least two of our local golfers and club members have played it within the past two years. There are plenty of trees on it and the course is in great shape.



Meanwhile in Austin, the city had 5 courses in its public parks in 1992. In 1999 it had 5 courses in its parks. In 2010 it had just 5 courses. Now in 2014... it still has just 5 courses. Twenty two years gone by in a sport that has exploded in popularity and yet no more places to play?

This is one of the reasons Pease Park sometimes looked so bad. It was severely overplayed for years and years, it was loved too much, yet the city did nothing to alleviate the situation. The community needs disc golf to return to Pease Park, and we also need many more courses in our parks than we currently have. We need more beginner courses for kids, families, and folks just starting to play the sport (both 9 hole courses and 18 hole courses). We need more intermediate courses for people to play as they become more proficient. We need more championship courses for the top-caliber players in Austin and Central Texas. These intermediate and championship courses will also help draw visitors and tourists to our city, bringing much needed visitor revenue; and top quality courses mean top quality national level tournaments that can attract players (and their families) from around the country and around the globe.

Please help us start making the situation better by insisting that PARD return disc golf to Pease Park by including it in the park's Master Plan. No disc golf? No Master Plan!

We'd like to ask the various Boards and Commissions reviewing the plan, the Austin Parks & Recreation Board, and the Austin City Council to send the plan back to PARD and direct them to add disc golf back into it. We know that PPC doesn't want any course. We'd love to have an 18-hole championship quality course back. We are willing to compromise with a 9-hole course. There is the room, there is the need, and there is the ability to do it sustainably and well.

If not, we'd like them to table the item and take more time to look at it. The Conservancy seems to be in a rush to get this through, and we think adding disc golf back in deserves more of a look. This plan is supposed to guide development at Pease for the next 25-30 years, and we are about to have a brand new council that will change things for that long or even longer. Let's look at it more, and wait for their new perspectives.

Finally, if neither of those, we ask for a "NO" vote on approving this Master Plan.

No disc golf? No Master Plan!

Thank you for your time, and the club would be happy to talk with any of the Board Members, Commissioners, and Council Members about this further.

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We want to ensure my voice is heard regarding the Pease Park Mater plan and it being incomplete until disc golf is included. Thank you for your time.

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As a disc golfer for over 25 years, as someone who grew up less than a mile from Pease Park, and as someone who has played at, relaxed at, and enjoyed the various aspects of Pease Park as a child, a student, and an adult, I am opposed to the current proposed Pease Park Master Plan.

Disc Golf was a major part of that park's recent history, and a huge reason for its rebound from a dangerous, undesirable place to the wonderful, fun place it was before the disc golf course was removed in 2010.

Disc golf should be returned to Pease Park through its inclusion in the Master Plan. There is plenty of room for a good 9-hole course there that stays away from most of the most-sensitive areas. Disc golf is the kind of activity that the city wants in its park: family friendly, affordable, great exercise, appreciation of nature, RECREATING in our parks. It also fits the stated goals of the Master Plan: family, nature, intergenerational.

The sport can be done sustainably there at the park. If it can be done in Zilker, arguably Austin's most important park, it can be done at Pease.

It needs to be there to give access to UT and ACC students who don't have transportation but want and need a good outdoor activity close to campus. The same for those who live and work downtown.

The local disc golfers, both individually and through their clubs, can help maintain it, in partnership with PARD.

Disc golfers were unfairly excluded from the important early stages of the Master Planning process.

Disc golfers were also mis-lead back in 2009 and 2010 when the removal of the course was publicly discussed. PARD may have intended to remove the course permanently at that time, but it didn't tell the golfers that. In several public meetings, attended by many in the disc golfing community, the conversation from PARD and the Watershed Protection Dept. was about the temporary removal of the course to make way for the Shoal Creek Improvement Project, and about the sports return once that project was completed. Now PARD has changed the narrative and said it was always about the permanent removal. That is deceptive and not worthy of a major city department.

Pease Park is just that: a park. It is meant to be enjoyed by the city's citizens and its visitors, and a variety of fun, affordable, accessible activities should be available to all the users. Pease should not be a nature preserve, or a transportation corridor, or something that is just pretty to look at as people drive by it. Disc golf should return to Pease Park. It can be done in a way that is environmentally sustainable, and it would fit in with many other wonderful uses of this amazing parkland in the heart of Austin.

Disc golfers over the years put in hundreds, likely even thousands, of volunteer hours plus spent thousands of dollars maintaining and improving the Pease disc golf course, despite the Pease Park Conservancy's claims we did nothing, contributed nothing. They are wrong! We not only spent money and did our own work in the park, Waterloo Disc Golf club also contributed \$300 to the Conservancy's cause (back when they were Trees For Pease) and sent volunteers to some of their workdays.

Finally, there was the issue of the lack of maintenance by PARD (admitted by them as one factor in how bad Pease looked at the time they pulled the course out). PARD did a little maintenance, but not nearly

enough. It is not fair to blame the sport and the players for problems that could have been prevented, or at least mitigated, by more resources from the department and the city.

Another reason Pease looked bad back in those years also stemmed from a lack of support by PARD. Far too few facilities for Austinites to use. The city had 5 courses in its public parks in 1992. In 1999 it had 5 courses in its parks. In 2010 it had just 5 courses. Now in 2014... it still has just 5 courses. Twenty two years gone by in a sport that has exploded in popularity and yet no more places to play?

This is one of the reasons Pease Park sometimes looked so bad. It was severely overplayed for years and years, it was loved too much, yet the city did nothing to alleviate the situation. The community needs disc golf to return to Pease Park, and at the same time we also need many more courses in our parks than we currently have.

The Waterloo Disc Golf Club's stance is one I wholeheartedly agree with: No disc golf? No Master Plan!

I'd like to ask the everyone reviewing the plan, all the way up to the City Council, to send the plan back to PARD and direct them to add disc golf back into it. There is the room, there is the need, and there is the ability to do it sustainably and well.

If not, I'd like the issue looked at much more closely, and by the new City Council. We are about to change Austin government, and we are about to change Pease Park; both for the next 20-30 years. Let's slow down and take a good look at things, and get some new perspectives on it.

Finally, if neither of those, then I would like all the Commissions, Boards, and the Council to vote "NO" on approving this Master Plan.

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What's it going to take to get Disc Golf back at Pease Park? We would like to include it into the Master Plan. As a father of two young boys, we love to play the sport. While playing a round with my boys, we often take breaks, explore the area for insects and trash to be picked up and afterwards play on the playground if parks have them.

I vote against the current Master Plan since it doesn't contain the inclusion of a Disc Golf course. Please add it in for me, my family and the disc golf community.

We can even have volunteer hours for the park with disc golfers and if not met, we pay a fine per X amount of hours missed. Why exclude it? There's plenty of room and we aren't asking for trees to be cut down, we want the trees, shrubs and water that make disc golf fun!

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Without disc golf, the Master Plan is incomplete at best and bad at worst. No Master Plan is better than an incomplete or bad Master Plan.

This plan should be:

- 1) sent back to PARD with directions for them to add disc golf back into it or

2) slowed down so everyone has more time to look at the problems; it is being rushed and yet this will change Pease Park for the next 25-30 years, that is what a Master Plan does. There will be a brand new council later this year that will change things for that long or even longer. Let's look at it more, and wait for their new perspectives. Pease is a very important park to the city and to so many of its residents, take the time to get it right.

3) If neither of these options are taken then, the plan should be voted down!!!!

The PPC and PARD worked hard to exclude disc golf from the Master Planning process and from the park. They left it completely off the survey as an existing item or even as a possible item. Despite all the disc golfers at the previous Pease meetings (both around the time PARD discussing removing the course to make way for the Shoal Creek Restoration Project by the Watershed Protection Dept, and in the years after that as the Restoration Project continued to be planned), no notification of the survey and the Master Planning process was communicated to the disc golfers so we weren't able to attend the first Master Plan public meeting and we missed the online survey. Our pressure was successful in getting the survey re-opened and around 300 people filled it out in just one week. About 95% of those people wanted disc golf returned. Months and months of survey time got 600 respondents, and the disc golfers got almost 300 people in just one week. And yet despite this community outpouring for disc golf, it was still ignored by the Parks Dept. and the Master Planning company. Even worse, the Park's Director Sarah Hensley didn't even care about the public input. Before the input was finished, and before the second Master Plan public input meeting ever occurred, she had already made up her mind and wrote to the Parks & Recreation Board that she couldn't support disc golf in Pease Park AT THIS TIME. She makes it sound like she could support it in a year or two or five, but just not now because of all the creek work being done. However, the Master Planning is being done AT THIS TIME and she knows it. She's trying to make it sound as if she is reasonably considering it but instead she is dead set against it and has been for a long time. If we don't get in the Master Plan, we won't get it back in the park and she knows it, and the Pease Park Conservancy knows it too. This is just what she and the Conservancy want. Disc golf has all the desired qualities that the Master Planning company said they wanted in recreational activities: Family, Nature, Intergenerational. Disc golf fits all three of those. Yet because the funders of the Master Plan (the Conservancy) didn't want it, then Ms. Hensley didn't want it, so the Master Planning company dismissed it.

At the Public meetings in 2009 and 2010, the reason given by PARD and Watershed for pulling the Pease Park Disc Golf Course at the time was that the creek restoration project would be starting in the following year to year-and-a-half and that the area needed a bit of time to recover before the work began. That was why the two city departments said it had to be pulled right then. It was also in those meetings that the city came out and admitted that disc golf was not the cause of all the environmental degradation in the park. The sport had its role to play in the way the park looked but so did: other user groups, the periodic flooding of this major drainage waterway (flooding made worse over the years by ever increasing up-stream development, all allowed by the city), the ongoing severe drought, and the lack of maintenance by the Parks Department itself. The removal of disc golf was never billed to the public and the disc golf community as permanent, rather it was a temporary (though semi-long term) measure until the creek construction work could be done. At that point, there was supposed to be a

new look at the park to see where the disc golf course would best fit, not whether it would return at all. These points were all stated in front of many, many disc golfers and the public.

Disc golf is one of the older amenities / stakeholders of the park. We preceded the Pease Park Conservancy, the Volleyball courts, and the off-leash dog area just to name a few. Disc golf was installed in the park in 1989 as a last-ditch effort to save Pease Park. At that time it was a dangerous place with a very bad, sullied reputation. It was not the kind of area where people felt safe to walk and jog; parents did not feel safe letting their kids play in the park; there was blatant, out-in-the-open drug use and sexual activity. Disc golf was brought in to provide an ongoing presence of ordinary park users, moving throughout the park, thus helping to drive undesirable activity away. We succeeded in a huge way, making the park so much safer for all the users. Bringing disc golf back will continue to provide this valuable service. It is not as crucial as it was back in the 80s and 90s, but is still an important role that we can play.

Pease Park is just that: a park. It is meant to be enjoyed by the city's citizens and its visitors, and a variety of fun, affordable, accessible activities should be available to all the users. Pease should not be a nature preserve, or a transportation corridor, or something that is just pretty to look at as people drive by it. Disc golf should return to Pease Park. It can be done in a way that is environmentally sustainable, and it would fit in with many other wonderful uses of this amazing parkland in the heart of Austin.

Disc golf is a sport that is affordable, family friendly, and playable by people from age 6 to 86. It is a great outdoor activity that provides valuable exercise and that helps people appreciate and enjoy being out in our city's parks. It has so many of the things that the city wants and needs in our parks. We are not asking to bring it back into the park right now (in the middle of the creek restoration project). Instead, we are asking that it be put into the Master Plan and returned once the creek restoration project is complete.

The proposed course at Roy G. Guerrero was already in the works before removing the Pease course became an issue. It was supposed to be a great complement to Pease, the long awaited new course that Austin had been needing for many, many years (given that the most recent city course prior to that was the Circle C course, installed in 1992). Now here we are 22 years after the installation of Circle C, and we still have only five disc golf courses in City of Austin parks; despite the explosion of the sport's popularity and the huge numbers of Austin residents that play disc golf (plus all the people from close by in Central Texas and from around the state that visit the city and want to play disc golf while they are here).

It isn't just the established, serious disc golfers that would benefit from this, but all the thousands of nearby UT and ACC students who are within easy walking distance of the park. They need access to this fun, affordable, outdoor physical activity. During the 21 years the course was at Pease (from 1989 – 2010), many students, both men and women, would come down to the park and play with just a disc or two. It is also important to the people who live and/or work downtown. It can be difficult for them to get off work in the evening and fight through traffic in time to be able to play a round disc golf before it gets dark (except for maybe in the height of summer when it stays light until 9 pm). A course in Pease

Park would make it possible for them to play in the evenings and possibly even on their lunch hour. Any time we can get Austinites to walk or ride their bikes to an activity, then that is less pollution in our city. Without a course at Pease, all those students and others will need to drive to Bartholomew, Roy G. Guerrero or other courses.

The Pease Park Conservancy seems to be saying that we didn't do much, or anything, to lessen the impact that disc golf had on the park, but we did. The club put in hundreds and hundreds of volunteer hours and the larger disc golf community put in many more. The club didn't form until 1999, and before then there was still work being done in the park by Kevin Roberts (who worked with the city to install the course), David Moody, and others. And even after the club was around and doing workdays there, David Moody and others regularly did trash and debris cleanup and course improvement work. We did work on the tee boxes to help with erosion problems, we spread mulch, we even did some re-designs of the course to reduce the walking up and down the slopes. Between 2004 – 2010, the club spent nearly \$5,000 on maintaining and improving the disc golf course. This is in addition to the \$14,000 that we spent on various other courses in the area, and another \$8,700 spent since 2011.

The Conservancy also seems to say we did nothing to help them plant trees and re-forest the park. Wrong! We donated \$300 to Trees For Pease (the forerunner to the Conservancy) and we did have disc golf volunteers at some of their tree planting workdays. For one of their other big workdays that they faulted us for missing, we had our own workday out at the Circle C Disc Golf Course that day. On top of that, we don't ever recall seeing a Conservancy member at one of our Pease Park workdays.

There was the issue of the lack of maintenance by PARD (admitted by them as one factor in how bad Pease looked at the time they pulled the course out). PARD did a little maintenance, but not nearly enough. Plus, years ago when Max Moore was the supervisor of Pease, we specifically asked if we could add some tree protections to some of the worst-hit trees, like those right off the #1 tee box. PVC or 2x4s or something around/fronting the trees that would protect them from most of the hits, but we were turned down because it wouldn't look good. They were more concerned at that time with the aesthetics of the park than in the health of it. Disc golf needs trees, to kill them defeats the purpose of having a course. A flat, open area makes for a terrible disc golf course. Trees, terrain, natural surroundings; these are the things necessary to a well-designed, fun, and challenging disc golf course.

The Pease Park Conservancy has mentioned that there were other disc golf courses around the country pulled out, including one at Golden Gate Park in San Francisco. That may be true but it doesn't tell the whole story. Courses are being added around the country, and the world, at an enormous rate.

In the year 2000, there were 1,017 courses around the world.

In 2009, there were 3,082 courses. Over 2,000 new courses in just 9 years, even after counting the ones that were removed.

In 2012, there were 3,762 courses, another 700 in just 3 years.

And while one course was removed from Golden Gate Park, there is still a disc golf course in that Park. At least two local disc golfers have played it within the past two years. There are plenty of trees on it and the course is in great shape.

Meanwhile in Austin, the city had 5 courses in its public parks in 1992. In 1999 it had 5 courses in its parks. In 2010 it had just 5 courses. Now in 2014... it still has just 5 courses. Twenty two years gone by in a sport that has exploded in popularity and yet no more places to play?

This is one of the reasons Pease Park sometimes looked so bad. It was severely overplayed for years and years, it was loved too much, yet the city did nothing to alleviate the situation. The community needs disc golf to return to Pease Park, and we also need many more courses in our parks than we currently have. We need more beginner courses for kids, families, and folks just starting to play the sport (both 9 hole courses and 18 hole courses). We need more intermediate courses for people to play as they become more proficient. We need more championship courses for the top-caliber players in Austin and Central Texas. These intermediate and championship courses will also help draw visitors and tourists to our city, bringing much needed visitor revenue; and top quality courses mean top quality national level tournaments that can attract players (and their families) from around the country and around the globe.

NO DISC GOLF? NO MASTER PLAN!

There are lots of great things in this Master Plan, WRT did a good job, but because PARD and PPC had already made the decision to lock disc golf out, WRT weren't even able to consider all the input and ideas for disc golf. All the wonderful ideas there can still be done even if the Master Plan isn't officially approved. NO MASTER PLAN IS BETTER THAN A BAD OR INCOMPLETE MASTER PLAN.

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I am writing you to express my concern over the finalization of the current Pease Park Master Plan.

I feel as if the Plan is being rushed through and is flawed. This current plan as it exists is NOT complete nor has it listened to a large member of the parks users, our community.

The plan either needs to be slowed down and the citizens given more opportunities to voice their concerns or the plan should include a Disc Golf Course. The course originally came into existence to help the park survive. Disc Golf provides plenty of nature minded families of all ages and income types to be using and walking the trails of the park. The park used to be full of vagrants and both drug users and sexual activities and the presence of more people using the park, really helped to curb this activity.

NO master plan to me is better than a master plan that is excluding one of the most important uses of the communities park system. The course's proximity to the campus provides a wonderful outlet for the students of UT and otherwise they have to get in their vehicles and drive across town to use other parks, thus putting more and more strain on our roadways.

Disc Golf is a wonderful sport that is growing and it allows people of all ages to use nature, to get physical exercise and because it is essentially FREE , it allows people of all economic backgrounds to experience the joys of Pease Park.

The removal of the original course was for creek restoration NOT to be removed permanently and therefore a master plan with no mention of a course is a master plan that is incomplete and flawed.

The park's conservancy has worked with several local disc golf clubs in the past to plant trees, volunteer cleanup days and work parties. As a member of several local clubs, I would continue to donate my time to help work, clean up the creek shed and plant trees in the future. Most disc golfers are environmentally minded people who enjoy the outdoors and helping keep those public lands clean and fun for all citizens to enjoy.

The conservancy also mentions that cities such as San Francisco pulled their disc golf course from Golden Gate Park. This is completely false. I lived in SF for 20 years and I was and still am a member of the San Francisco Disc Golf Club. We have an excellent relationship with the city and the workers in the park. Together, we have made the course one of the finest urban courses in the country, with literally hundreds and hundreds of people playing everyday. And just like Pease, it makes the park a safer place for everyone as the vagrancy and violence is reduced by the foot traffic. The parks' maintenance crews have actually worked together with the club on several renovation projects and tree planting as well as Redwood tree protection measures. The club and the players work tirelessly on keeping the course clean and well run.

For the conservancy to use San Francisco as an example of other cities removing disc golf from parks was a lie and you need to know that Disc Golf is alive and thriving in Golden Gate Park and it is because of the Disc Golf Clubs and cities working together.

There were times that Pease Park was overplayed by golfers and since the addition of Roy G disc golf course and the Zilker Park upgrades, this will help spread the use of golfers across multiple city parks. If we don't have Pease Park as a golf course, then the overplay will happen at these new courses as well. Austin is growing and the city needs to listen to groups who use their parks most and keep adding more courses of different playing levels, NOT take away courses. Please listen , NO DISC GOLF at Pease Park means NO MASTER PLAN.

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Please put the Pease Park Master Plan back up for further review rather than pass it as it now stands.

The exclusion of disc golf from the park in the current plan is unacceptable and an injustice to the citizens of Austin. I have lived here since 1980 and been a homeowner since 1989. As such I have witnessed the various transformations of the park. Originally I would just bike or walk through it and remember the old trail that was never fully rebuilt after the 1981 flood. Later I played pick up basketball at the courts there, attended Eeyore's, and eventually played disc golf. I never felt that disc golf impacted my other activities there and that it made the park enjoyable in another positive way. The city's promise to replace the course with another was in my opinion not realized with Roy G Guerrero. This is not nearly as centralized as Pease, requires an extra long play time due to its location and layout, is not suitable to just play a few holes when time is a factor and generally not as inviting of a local. Austin is changing at a breakneck speed so let's take our time and not make a mistake that will be regretted later with one of Austin's premier parks.

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I do not support the master plan for Pease park. Disc golf is a huge sport growing stronger every minute. Its a global sport for thousands and thousands. People of all ages, race, and sex find the sport a good exercise, a good way to get with nature, a good way to meet others who may or may not have interest in the sport. Please consider placing a disc golf course in the master plan. IF ANYTHING TO REPLACE THE ONE THAT WAS TAKEN AWAY

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Please consider adding Disc Golf back to Pease. It was the first place I ever played and there's nothing like it anywhere else. It seems as if an event such as Eeyore's, which obviously is just a huge party, are allowed to take place there, we should be able to golf there once again. Please consider revising the master plan to include DISC GOLF, which you should try sometime, if you haven't already. =)

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Check out old lists of the top 100 things to do in Austin. One could always find "play disc golf at Pease Park".

Including disc golf as part of the long term plan for Pease Park is a good idea for the following reasons to be elaborated in further detail below. If you don't care to read the whole text, here are my key points...

1. Cost: Very inexpensive compared to benefit
2. Uniquely close to Downtown and UT
3. Downtown destination for peripheral Austinites like me
4. Able to put to good use otherwise marginal flood-prone parkland
5. Source of park stewards and increased public safety
6. Much less damaging than implied by local elitist neighbors who do not want disc golf
7. Much more flexible/ changeable than extensive landscape projects

1. Cost. A goal of PARD should be to get people active, outside, and using its parks. The prior course did this with little real cost for upkeep. Disc golfers do not need the landscaped, water-thirsty expansive mowed green spaces that are shown on architectural renderings of "future Pease". The most eye-catching and appealing feature of Pease that is now lost was the view from Lamar of the large groups of golfers playing. Seeing people playing gave Pease the positive Austin vibe. (Thank goodness the Volleyball courts are still there to maintain some of the vibe). Local clubs may help offset any set-up costs. Disc golfers do not need expensive sidewalks and bridges to "connect the park". More space set aside for unimproved disc golf allows more investment into dog offleash areas, entrances, splash pools, and restrooms. Austin's future budget could leave PARD unable to fulfill its vision in some areas of the park- disc golf is an easy turn-key proposition.

2. I have had the pleasure of playing with many out-of-town visitors who were able to walk from their downtown hotels, hostels, or friends residences to play at Pease. Roy G. is too hard to access and is not

a beginner course and fails to be an adequate substitute. For now, Zilker is the only similar course, but it is still far from UT and downtown. Even from NW Austin, Pease was quickly accessible and a central location for disc golfers to meet.

3. Without Pease, I find myself venturing downtown less. Maybe that is good for traffic, but without Pease, I no longer shop at Anderson's coffee, Book People, Swetish Hill, or visit the Tavern. Pease has the tradition of being the course in Austin for out-of-town disc golfers to visit. It had always been the site of the State Open Championship. Thanks to PARD's efforts at other courses, Austin still is a disc golf destination- but Pease was the best.

4. Floodplain precludes most improved structures. The creek may be horrible for most uses, but is an ideal water hazard and a source of varied topography that makes disc golf more challenging.

5. More golfers in the park improve safety for runners and dogwalkers. It also has helped limit the number of campers and bush sexcapades. Disc golfers have contributed to Trees for Pease and have helped on work days planting trees and spreading mulch. Around the country, disc golf clubs adopt courses to make improvements, do plantings, and coordinate with concerns from local neighborhoods. We can be good park stewards.

6. Some, but not all of the local residents do not want golf. They look at Pease as their park. Many of them have put much effort into restoring Pease, so I can share their concerns. I have heard complaints of frisbees by the splash pool (no where near disc golf area). At city meetings, I have seen images of the erosion created by golfers. These images show bare areas often unrelated to disc golf. I have also seen pictures of trees killed by disc golf that were no where in areas where play occurred. Tree damage is a concern, but is in reality minimal compared to the effects of flooding, wind storms, and drought. Compaction of soil can be addressed through periodic moving of holes and planning for lower impact areas.

7. It is very easy to move a basket and move a removable tee pad. This allows for change and redesign around new trails and structures.

I would like reconsideration of some type of a disc golf course left at Pease. Although I would like the old course back, space and other plans are likely to make this difficult. It would not serve me as well, but a smaller (even 9-hole) beginner course would keep the spirit of Pease alive for many years into the future. Right now the course looks dead. People- not architectural plans can bring it back to life. It's a park! Let's use it for such. Not just a pretty postcard view from the expensive new condos across the street. I welcome any conversation further via e-mail or phone.

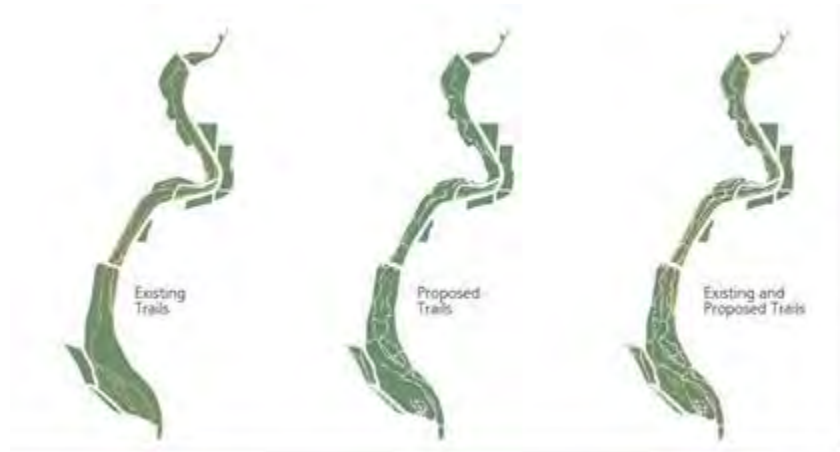
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**1. Recommend that the number of trails in the park be reduced, especially concrete trails, that the trails width be 7 ft. (current porous concrete trail width) or less, and that porous concrete or mulch be used whenever possible.**

Many smaller trails are being added, some of them concrete, some of them limestone stepping stones, some of them mulched. The picture below is from pg. 127 and shows the large number of proposed trails to be added to the current network.

There is ambiguity about the width and surface of the trails in the park. It should be clearly stated that they be 7 ft. wide maximum and of porous concrete or mulch. The master plan landscape architect explains that all of the trails in the park are within the floodplain and thus, they recommend a porous concrete surface with an 8 ft. width in sensitive areas such as the bluffs or near heritage trees, but that the plan recommends 12 ft. concrete where possible. The continuous trail off the park, east of the creek, along Lamar is for commuting and will be 12 ft. wide concrete by enlarging the existing sidewalk whenever possible.

Though trails do provide paths to guide people and this reduces soil compaction, an excessive number of trails fragments the park and, if made of concrete, increases stormwater runoff and the heat island effect.



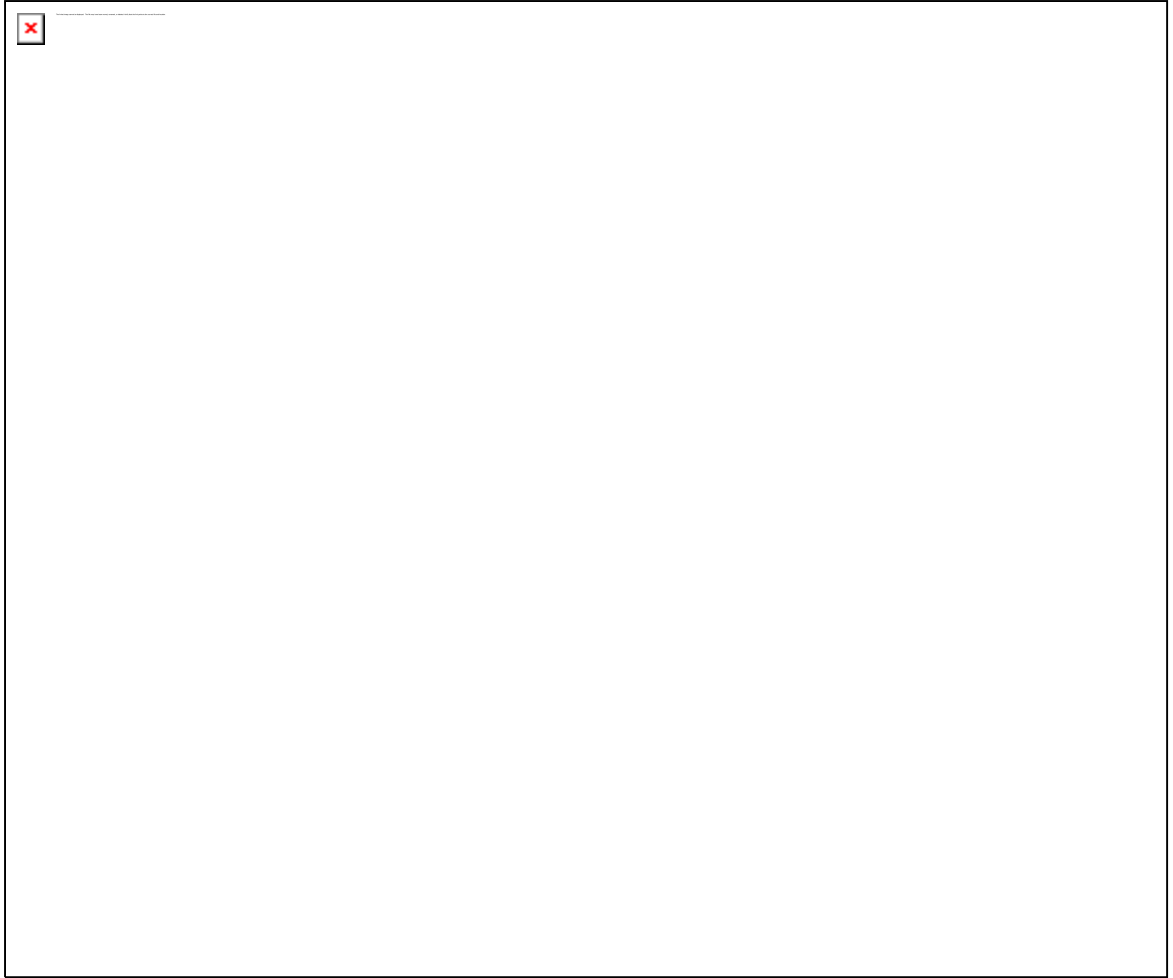
2. **Recommend that the continuous trail in the park, west of the creek, be 7 ft. wide porous concrete.**

This trail is in the park and is mainly for recreation. The portions of this trail that Watershed is building will be 7 ft. wide and porous concrete to match the existing trail. However, the master plan recommends that this trail be 12 ft. wide concrete and states that PARD may review this (pg. 126). A 12 ft. wide west trail is excessive for the narrow site due to the proximity of the trail to many heritage trees and the creek.

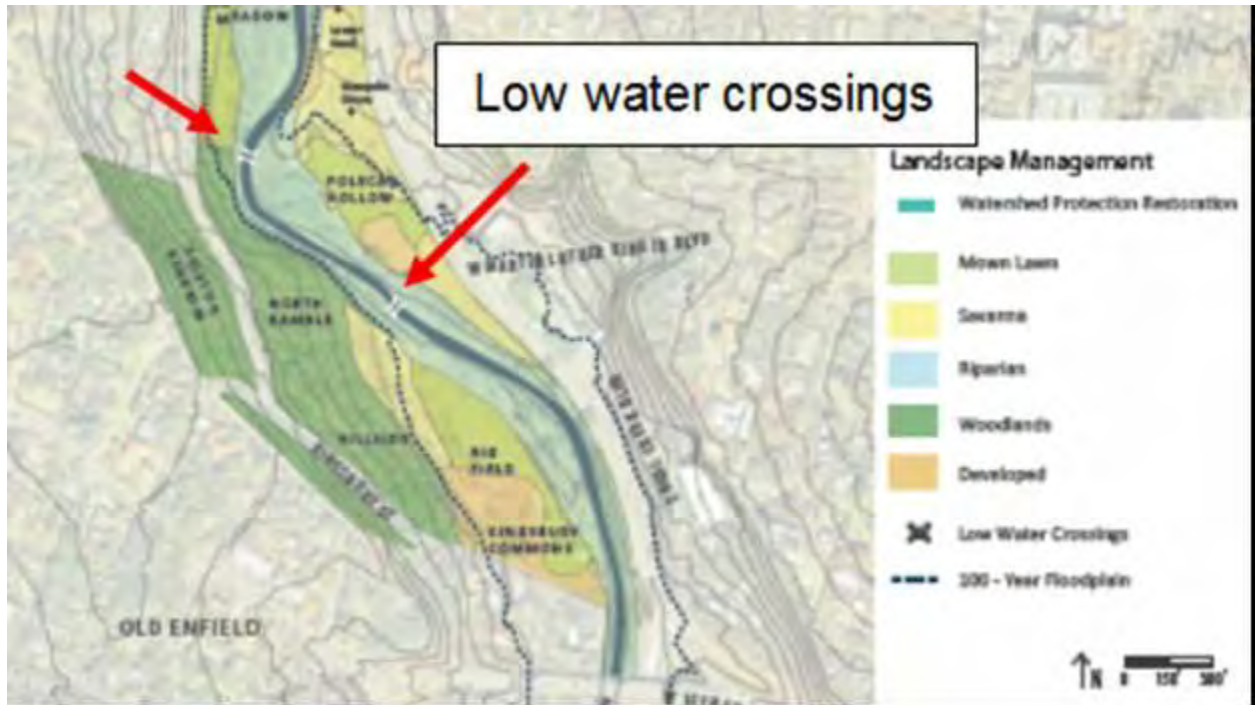
3. **Recommend that the concrete trail added by the master plan behind the volleyball courts in the east side of the creek be moved about 40 ft. east to be away from the heritage trees, riparian zone and creek edge.**

This is a short (0.18 mile) 12 ft. wide concrete trail that will connect at each end to the two new bridges. However, this trail will also bring cyclists and pedestrians right to 2 creek access points, inviting them to cross the creek. See item #4 below.

This trail (shown in light rose below) will meander in a wooded area where there are several heritage trees, causing the removal of all vegetation in a riparian area. In addition, parts of that proposed small trail will be very close to the edge of the creek. There is no trail currently at that location. Picture below is from pg. 129.



4. **Recommend that the 2 low water crossings be removed since 2 new bridges will be built near by. Or, recommend that the 2 low water crossings include a mechanism to prevent bicyclists, riding on the trail loop (discussed in #3), from riding on the creek bed or creek banks. The trail loop is near the 2 low water crossings. Picture below is from pg. 119.**



5. **Recommend that a larger amount of native pecans and live oaks than currently included in the plan be planted**, per Don Gardner's recommendations (consulting arborist that assessed the trees, recommendations included in the Appendix). These are the most appropriate and resistant trees for this park. Plant live oaks along Lamar.
6. **Recommend that Dillo Dirt (pg. 117) not be used on steep slopes and that it be kept 100 ft. from the creek, per EPA regulations.** Only apply Dillo Dirt per agricultural application recommendations. See Setbacks and Potentially Unsuitable Areas for Biosolids tables in pages 2.10-1 and 2.10-2 : <http://www2.epa.gov/sites/production/files/documents/handbook2.pdf>
7. **Recommend against a disc golf course at Pease Park, or at any other existing park that can't accommodate one without damaging heritage trees.**
  - a. Pease Park can't accommodate a disc golf course, not even a scaled down one, because this park is narrow and long, and in an environmentally sensitive area with a creek, eroded creek banks and riparian areas that need to be restored.

Disc golf courses need to be designed properly taking the existing trees, of any size, into account. A large area, wide and long, is needed to protect the trees. Areas with less valuable trees, such as cedar, are preferred. An excellent example is the Roy Guerrero course. It may be impossible to find a central public place for a disc golf course, other than at UT.

- b. Disc golf courses are incompatible with valuable heritage trees. Disc golf causes extensive and significant damage to trees by the discs damaging the trunks and breaking branches. Many younger trees or soft older trees get killed by the discs causing excessive cuts to the cambium layer. In addition, the players cause soil compaction and erosion, and this causes the decline and death of many trees of all ages and species. Softer trees (persimmon, cedar) and smaller trees get damaged more easily, but larger trees of hard species such as oaks also get damaged. The high number of players compact and erode the soil over the root of the trees, where the baskets and tees are typically placed. Those areas are barren of vegetation and the soil is very compacted. The area of soil compaction is very large since players pick up their discs wherever they fall. There are several compacted trails from one basket to the other.

Many players rely on hitting the trunks or branches to bounce off the discs. The discs are very hard plastic. They break branches and cause large deep nicks in the trunk bark. There are many players, so trees typically trees in the path to the baskets have a very large number of nicks and wounds from the discs. Some of the wounds are deep enough to penetrate the cambium layer creating an open path for infection. The branches that are broken by discs are also open paths to infection, fungus, bugs and Oak Wilt.

**SOIL COMPACTION SOLUTIONS FOR A DISC GOLF COURSE:** There are no implementable solutions. A thick layer of mulch, 6-8 inches deep, is recommended to prevent this soil compaction but that thick layer of mulch will prevent the roots of the trees from getting air, nutrients and adequate water from rain (mulch absorbs water preventing it from reaching the roots). A thick mulch layer is recommended only for temporary use of less than 2 months during construction. A more appropriate solution is to release the soil compaction with advanced methods such as soil aeration with an air wand, mulch 3 inches deep, fence and water the root zones for a year, then re-apply the mulch and water periodically. This approach was used for 91 heritage trees at the Zilker Park disc golf course in 2010, but the players didn't respect the fences and walked all over the roots zones compacting the soil again. In addition, PARD didn't water adequately.

**BARRIER SOLUTIONS TO PREVENT TREE DAMAGE FOR A DISC GOLF COURSE:** There are no feasible solutions. Net fencing would be best, but players object to this since they want to hit the trees. A fence would have to be at least 30 ft. tall to protect the trunk and branches. A fence could be 12 ft. tall to protect part of the trunk, but such a fence would have to be built to last 20 yrs. per PARD requirements, so the supports would have to be buried in the ground, which could damage the roots of heritage trees.

- c. Disc golfers typically say that they value trees, and that the sport needs trees and doesn't impact them. We strongly agree with the comments below from a UT PhD dissertation that studied the Pease Park, Zilker and Searight disc golf courses ("Addressing the Environmental Challenges of Outdoor Recreational Sport: The Illustrative Case of Disc Golf", Trendafilova, 2008):

"Due to the nature of disc golf, players' skill levels, and weather conditions (e.g., wind velocity and direction), discs frequently hit trees. This, however, did not seem to bother the players. In fact, when a player with a few years of disc golf experience was asked what his thoughts were about tree damage in the instances when discs hit trees, he replied:

*"Yeah, those trees have seen a lot of hits but they're pretty tough. They're oak trees and oak trees don't die that easily. They may look like they're in bad shape but they're not."*

Similarly, another player stated:

*"I think most of those trees are cedar trees and they're supposed to be pretty sturdy. They won't break that easily."*

Both interview excerpts clearly show the lack of knowledge and awareness among players about the ecological damage to the trees as a result of playing disc golf. A second point that stands out is the lack of knowledge in identifying the tree species in particular. It is evident how some players thought trees were oak, while others thought they were cedar. This indicates the confusion players had about the tree species in the park.

During one of the visits to Zilker Park, two players were observed playing very competitively and hitting the trees very often, and after one strong but unsuccessful throw of the disc one of the players hit a tree and commented:

*"I don't care if I break the trees; that's how it goes."*

The statement above is also an indicator of how players perceived hitting trees as a part of the game, thus seemingly placing more importance on the game rather than on the environmental consequences of their actions"

"Disc golfers seem to seek more than simply participation in a recreational activity; they seek the social atmosphere associated with disc golf and the friendship with other players. Being a member of the disc golf subculture provides a sense of community, which is highly valued among players... The community of golfers appeared to value the time spent together having fun as a group and the friendships they developed, which in turn developed the feeling of belonging to one big family."

"Disc golfers indicated the value they place on being outdoors and on the natural environment. One would then expect that they would have a better understanding of the consequences of their actions on the surrounding environment. As it turned out a strong false belief was prevalent among them that their behaviors, such as dragging bags on the ground and hitting trees with discs, could not possibly lead to ecological degradation. This belief plays a key role in resolving a contradiction that would otherwise arise between the value they place on the park and the value they place on the game of disc golf. For example, tree targeting during warm-up, which involves repetitively hitting the trees, is not an indication of a lack of environmental values if the player does not perceive this behavior as harmful to the tree. Therefore, disc golfers are not facing the dilemma of choosing one value over the other if playing the game is not in their eyes at the expense of the park."

- d. Disc golf courses are incompatible with other park uses. The discs hit people and pets, in the golf course and when they stray off the course. We have observed that frequently players will not stop their game to allow a person to cross the area. They threw the discs no matter who was in the way, even to the large PARD water truck that was watering heritage trees at Zilker park.

Thanks,  
Zoila

Zoila Vega, Ph.D.  
Austin Heritage Tree Foundation

Pictures below show representative disc damage to heritage trees (Zilker park)





and at Mary Moore Searight:





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Please consider putting the disk golf course back into the plan. I am on the ballot for district two this fall and will be behind the PARD all the way.

Thank you for your consideration,