

APPENDIX M

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Appendix M: Letters of Support

Andrew Fish
Ann Butler
Austin Parks Foundation
Austin Design Commission
Benchmark Bank
The Brykerwoods Neighborhood Association
Carolyn Long
Downtown Austin Alliance
Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association
Friends of the Forest
Fritz Steiner
Jill Nokes
Old Austin Neighborhood Association
Old Enfield Homeowners Association
Original West Univeristy Neighborhooood Association
Pease Park Conservancy
Pemberton Heights Neighborhood Association
Preservation Austin
Shoal Creek Conservancy
Sinclair Black
T3
Texas Wranglers
TreeFolks
University Area Partners
Urban Forestry

Andrew K. Fish

P.O. Box 1
Austin, Tx 78767

September 5, 2014

Members of the Austin Parks Board
Honorable Lee Leffingwell, Mayor
& Austin City Council Members
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, Texas 78767

Re: Pease Park Master Plan

Dear Sir or Madam:

In 1938, the Works Progress Administration, constructed a primitive trail along Shoal Creek North of Pease Park. At the time, 24th Street, West of Lamar, was a dirt road. The trail, not being in the central part of Austin at that time, gradually decayed and portions were consumed by periodic flooding of the creek. In the late 1950s, my mother, Janet Long Fish, and my father, Russell Hamilton Fish, recognized that the greenbelts of Austin were an asset to the city and as such, should be enhanced. When my father gave my mother money to purchase a new car, she took the money, hired a bulldozer operator, and constructed the first Hike and Bike Trail in Austin which ran along Shoal Creek from Pease Park to Gaston Avenue. They planted fruit trees and wildflowers, watered them during the dry summers, and cleared the trash from the land surrounding the trail, which even included abandoned cars. And over the course of several years, they extended that trail to beyond 38th Street.

The reason for telling you this is because that vision that they had over 50 years ago has manifested itself into one of Austin's greatest attractions – the trails. But much like the WPA project, if it isn't maintained and enhanced, it will gradually disappear. The Pease Park Master Plan, through a public-private partnership between the Pease Park Conservancy and the Austin Parks Department, establishes a road map for not only enhancing this incredible asset, but the surrounding areas. The most appealing aspect of this plan is that it encompasses something for everyone, from young Austinites to our oldest citizens, and in a way that coexists and enhances the natural beauty.

I simply ask that you recognize the opportunity before you today to acknowledge and support the Pease Park Master Plan which takes the vision that originated so many years ago and enhances it to its full potential for the betterment of Austin and the citizens of Austin.

Sincerely,

Andrew K Fish
Son of Janet Long Fish and Russell Hamilton Fish
2401 Windsor Road
Austin, TX 78703

July 22, 2014

Members of the Austin Parks Board
Honorable Lee Leffingwell, Mayor
& Austin City Council Members
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, Texas 78767

Re: Pease Park Master Plan

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to you to recommend the adoption of the Master Plan for Pease Park that will come before you for consideration in September.

Pease Park and the Shoal Creek Greenbelt are true jewels of Austin's open spaces. Thanks to the foresight of Governor Pease and Janet Fish, this green oasis was preserved and made available for all of us to enjoy today. But, if they are to survive the challenges brought on by our increasingly dense urban core, it will require a good plan. Thanks to a great public-private partnership between the Pease Park Conservancy and the Austin Parks Department, we now have one.

The Master planning process for Pease has been an exceptional one involving three well-attended public meetings and survey responses from almost 1,100 residents. The public's input was remarkable for its consistency: "Keep the park natural and maintain it better." Responding to this mandate, the Master Plan does just that.

The Plan has so many good things it is difficult to single out just a few. But, for me, legendary Austin arborist Don Gardner's tree care and canopy restoration plan stand out. He calls for increasing the tree cover of the space to 80% over time and recommends immediate action to save several important heritage trees. New restrooms and playscapes, an enhanced trail system, beautification of the Lamar Blvd. corridor and better pedestrian access are all in the mix as well.

This Master Plan represents a unique opportunity that we must seize. It is the culmination of thousands of hours of hard work by City staff and some of the most talented park designers in country. It provides an excellent blueprint that our community can steadily implement over time. It is our turn to show foresight similar to Governor Pease and Janet Fish. Adopt this plan and let's all get to work!

Sincerely,



Ann Butler
2 Niles Road
Austin, Texas 78703



Austin Design Commission

Board/Commission Recommendation

20140922-04A

Recommendations from the Design Commission on
the Pease Park Master Plan

Approved by the Design Commission on a 7-0 vote.

Dear Council members,

The Design Commission Landscape and Infrastructure working group has met regarding the Pease Park Master Plan as presented by Kim McNight of City Staff on September 22, 2014.

The Design Commission endorses the Master Plan as presented as it is in full compliance with the Urban Design Guidelines. The team of Staff, Stakeholders and the Pease Park Conservancy have worked well to propose a park and maintenance regime that will provide long term health of the park therefore extending its usefulness to the citizens of Austin.

The City has made a concerted effort to work with the Disk Golf community and the Design Commission understands their disappointment in the relocation of their course. The Design Commission supports the execution and the healthy ecosystem spirit behind the MP.

Pease Park is a district park whose future will accommodate a cross section of the Austin citizenry when the Pease Park Master Plan is realized.

Respectfully,

Respectfully,

Dean Almy, Chair
Austin Design Commission

Dean Almy,
Chair

Evan Taniguchi,
Vice Chair

Hope Hasbrouck,
Secretary

Juan Cotera

James Shieh

Bart Whatley

Jeannie Wiginton

George Adams
Executive Liaison

Jorge E. Rousselin
Staff Liaison



July 1, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

Please allow this letter to serve as a ringing endorsement for the Pease Park Master Plan. APF has had a long and prosperous relationship with the Pease Park Conservancy and are truly inspired by their efforts. This master planning process is the latest in a long line of victories for this iconic, central Austin park.

- Pease Park and Shoal Creek are some of Austin's most iconic spaces, yet have never had a master plan. This park space will soon be under more pressure from new residents seeking recreational outlets in the increasingly dense Downtown corridor.
- The master plan grew out of a community initiative that was desirous of getting ahead of this potentially negative impact of population growth. The goal is to preserve the space for posterity and keep faith with the legacy left us by Governor Pease and Janet Fish.
- The master plan was privately funded without any tax dollars and we are proud to be donors. This is a unique accomplishment and a great example of a solid public-private partnership.
- There was extensive public outreach involved in the master plan, including three well-attended public meetings over an 8-month period. Over 1,000 residents submitted their input to inform the master plan.
- The public input was remarkably consistent - support for the park as a natural green space that was better maintained with better trails, more accessibility and a few more amenities, picnic facilities and restrooms. The master plan dutifully addresses all of these interests.
- Adoption of the master plan will pave the way to improvements in the space almost immediately. This is a plan that will not sit on a shelf. The City has private partners ready to push it forward. This is a great opportunity that we cannot afford to miss as a community. Now is the time.

We are excited about the prospect of seeing this master plan fully implemented in Pease Park. This is a huge win for parks in Austin and for the city as a whole. We are proud to lend our full support to the implementation of this much-needed plan.

Sincerely,

Colin Wallis
Executive Director
Austin Parks Foundation

**BENCHMARK
BANK**

September 15, 2014

Members of Austin Parks Board
Honorable Lee Leffingwell, Mayor
& Austin City Council Members
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, Texas 78767

Re: Pease Park Master Plan

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to you to recommend the adoption of the Master Plan for Pease Park that will come before you for consideration in September.

Pease Park and the Shoal Creek Greenbelt are treasured green spaces in the Austin community. Their importance dates back centuries, yet they have never had a Master Plan. With Austin's recent influx of residents it is especially important for us to preserve this area that is rooted deep in our history and central to the city.

The Master planning process has been an intricate year-long event involving more than 1,000 residents in the Austin community, with many being native Austinites, dedicated to restoring this historical landscape. The Plan introduces new playscapes, an enhanced trail system for pedestrians and bicycles, and beautification of the Lamar Blvd corridor. The Tudor Cottage will be remodeled with outside terraces and made an available event space, giving residents an event greater reason to utilize to the park.

The purpose of the Master Plan is to balance the needs of scores of diverse stakeholder groups and local residents, not just a single group's desires. It will combine major public-private entities benefiting the entire Austin community. Let's seize the moment and build on the good work that has been done by the planners to make Austin more beautiful.

Sincerely,

Rusty Edgar, Area President
Benchmark Bank
1901 N. Lamar Blvd
Austin, TX 78705



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July 15, 2014

Mayor Lee Leffingwell
Members of the Austin City Council
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Mayor Leffingwell and Council:

On behalf of the Bryker Woods Neighborhood Association, we offer our support for the concepts presented in the Pease Park Master Plan. We appreciate the Pease Park Conservancy's engagement with our organization and applaud its efforts in broadening stakeholder participation in partnership with the City of Austin Parks and Recreation and Watershed Protection Departments in a transparent and collaborative process. We look forward to the opportunity for continued engagement and input as the plan moves from concept to design to installation.

Pease Park and the Shoal Creek greenbelt were the result of foresight by civic leaders long ago. Once again, civic initiative is engaged in helping this invaluable parkland achieve the next step in its evolution for our enjoyment and for those that will follow.

Sincerely,

August W. Harris III

August W. Harris III
President

Carolyn A. Long
 1401 Preston Ave
 Austin, TX 78703

June 9, 2014

The Austin Parks Board
 The Honorable Mayor Lee Leffingwell
 Members of The Austin City Council
 P.O. Box 1088
 Austin TX 78767

Dear fellow Citizens of Austin:

One of the great side effects of Austin's growth is the ability to marshal support and investment in our key urban amenities, including Pease Park and the Shoal Creek Greenbelt. Way back in 1875 when Governor and Mrs. E. M. Pease gave the land we know as Pease Park to the citizens of Austin, the deed, as accepted by the City Council of Austin, called for "continued improvement by the City." Progress and improvement have varied over the years, to say the least!

We are now at a delicious tipping point – the community of businesses and neighborhoods surrounding Pease Park have collaborated and underwritten an extensive **Master Plan** to guide investment in a park system stretching over 30 blocks through the heart of Austin. The plan addresses multiple needs: moving water, people and bikes through our urban core; providing safe access to nature and recreation; and offering exercise and engagement opportunities to the growing number of residents living near the downtown and university areas.

Many of the same private donors who funded the Master Plan are eager to help with the implementation, but first, **we want to know that the City fully supports adoption of the Pease Park Master Plan.** I urge you to publically endorse this plan so that together with the Pease Park Conservancy and Shoal Creek Conservancy, we can breathe new life into this much-loved set of green lungs in the heart of Austin.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Long

DOWNTOWN AUSTIN ALLIANCE

211 East 7th Street, Suite 818
Austin, TX 78701
512.469.1766

www.downtownaustin.com
www.downtownaustintv.org

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Charles Betts
Executive Director

Preserving and Enhancing the Value
and Vitality of Downtown Austin

July 9, 2014

Mayor Lee Leffingwell, Mayor Pro Tem Sheryl Cole, and Council Members
P. O. Box 1088
Austin, Texas 787678-8865

Mayor and members of the Council,

Your consideration and adoption of the Pease Park Master Plan is encouraged by the members and Board of the Downtown Austin Alliance. Pease Park and the Shoal Creek Greenbelt are of vital importance to central Austin and have historically not been given the attention and the resources that they deserve. This natural oasis must be nurtured just like the Waller Creek and Lady Bird Lake if our increasingly dense urban core is to continue to thrive.

The planning process for the Pease Park Master Plan has indeed been impressive. Input from over 1,100 Austin residents has resulted in a true community led initiative in keeping with our rich heritage of Governor Pease's philanthropy. The plan has been paid for by the Pease Park Conservancy with the help of neighbors, stakeholders and charitable foundations.

The planning area covers the park and greenbelt up to the trailhead at West 31st Street. This corridor follows Lamar Boulevard and is a gateway to downtown for many residents and visitors.

This plan represents an opportunity to focus public and private resources on Pease and Shoal Creek, and gives our community a well thought out plan for a critical green space that we so highly value. Your approval of the master plan will encourage the necessary work of implementing the plan.

Thank you,

Charlie Betts
Executive Director
Downtown Austin Alliance



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July 30, 2014

Mayor and Council of the City of Austin
300 W. Cesar Chavez
Austin, Texas 78701

Honorable Mayor and Council,

DANA supports the adoption and implementation of the
Pease Park Master Plan.

Implementing the plan would ensure that Pease Park and
the Shoal Creek Greenbelt live up to their potential to
connect Austinites and enable them to enjoy the natural
assets that extend along Lamar Blvd. from from the W. 31st
St. trailhead to downtown.

The inclusive planning process yielded a plan that retains
the natural beauty of centrally-located, historic Pease Park,
while bringing modern elements of design and functional
infrastructure to make for a modern and sustainable park for
future generations to enjoy. New infrastructure would also
activate Pease Park by supporting additional programming.

We urge you to adopt the plan and support its
implementation.

Respectfully,

Pam Power-Hughes
President

Cc: Nancy.Williams@AustinTexas.gov
Greg.Anderson@AustinTexas.gov
Leah.Bojo@AustinTexas.gov
Andrew.Moore@AustinTexas.gov
Joi.Harden@AustinTexas.gov
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Friends of the Forest Foundation
PO Box 12902
Austin, TX 78711

President:	Scott Sexton
Vice-President:	Tim Owen
Treasurer:	Andrew Pfullman
Secretary:	Lori Moore

July 15, 2014
 Members of Austin Parks Board
 The Honorable Mayor Leffingwell
 Members of the Austin City Council
 P.O. Box 1088
 Austin, Texas 78767

Re: Pease Park Master Plan

Dear Sir or Madam:

I strongly support the Pease Park Master Plan that has recently come up for your consideration.

The park and adjacent portions of the Shoal Creek Greenbelt are special places. Despite their importance, they have never had a Master Plan. The exploding growth and increasing density of Central Austin make this natural riparian corridor more important than ever to our quality of life. It is incumbent on us to plan its future carefully and so that they will not be overwhelmed by this growth. The Pease Park Master Plan does just that.

Some of the major points about the Master Plan:

- *It is the result of a year-long process involving input from 1,000+ residents.
- *Three (3) public meetings were held to offer citizens an opportunity for input.
- *Online surveys and clipboard canvassing in the park were also used.
- *Its purpose was to balance the needs of scores of diverse stakeholder groups and local residents, not just one single-issue group's desires.
- *It has "sustainability" as its objective for the space keeping in mind the constraints of drought, floods, clay soils, heavy use and limited public funds.
- *It keeps the area largely "natural," consistent with its present usages.
- *But, it adds some new recreational amenities throughout the length of the corridor in order to enliven the entire space with desirable activity.
- *New and improved trails for pedestrians and bicycles will improve circulation.
- *The historic 1926 Tudor Cottage will be remodeled with outside terraces and made available for rental by the public for small social gatherings.
- *A comprehensive woodland management and restoration plan is included.

This Plan sets the stage for another major public-private collaboration that will benefit all Austinites and our collective future. Private donors and charitable foundations stand ready to help make its vision a reality. Let's build on the good work that has been done by the planners and seize the opportunity!

Sincerely,

Scott Sexton
 President – Friends of the Forest Foundation



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

August 11, 2014

Mayor Lee Leffingwell, Austin City Council Members,
 and Austin Parks Board Members
 P.O. Box 1088
 Austin, Texas 78767

Dear Friends,

I have reviewed the Pease Park Master Plan draft and am pleased to offer my enthusiastic endorsement. I believe Pease Park and Shoal Creek Greenbelt are deserving of attention and resources for the sake of our future quality of life in our great city. In this regard, the plan advances and augments the goals of other recent plans in our community, specifically Imagine Austin and the new University of Texas campus plan.


With the upzoning of the West Campus, the population density of the neighborhood has increased significantly, with over 13,000 people per square mile. Pease Park and the Shoal Creek Greenbelt are critical to this neighborhood. In addition, it is tremendously important that the university community have access to the quality green spaces that Pease and Shoal Creek provide.

The Pease Park Master Plan provides a positive vision for ensuring the quality of life for future generations of Austinites. I urge you to adopt and implement this important plan.

All my best,

Frederick Steiner
 Dean
 Henry M. Rockwell Chair in Architecture

FS:cwm



Jul Nokes, Horticulturist

*Native Landscape Design
Consulting
Garden Installation*

4200 Avenue F
Austin, Texas 78761
(512) 450-0576

June 30, 2014

To: Austin City Council Members, The Parks Board, and Mayor Leffingwell
Re: In Support of the Master Plan for Pease Park

I am sending this letter to urge you to approve and adopt the **Pease Park Master Plan**.

My involvement as an active volunteer in Pease Park began in 2005, when I became alarmed by the dire effects of our ongoing long term drought cycle in the park. In the park's neglected and abused landscape, trees were dying, soil was eroding, and periodic flooding had scoured the groundcover. The park was at a critical tipping point, and it wasn't until volunteers started paying attention, that long overdue management, mitigation, and improvements finally began to take place.

Today, I am so pleased to see Pease Park finally receive the attention and help it needs. Pease Park Conservancy (formerly Trees for Pease and a fiduciary partner with The Austin Parks Foundation) has partnered with the Parks Department to mobilize neighbors, citizens, businesses, and volunteer groups to plant hundreds of trees, spread truck loads of mulch, remove invasive species, and a host of other conservation tasks to restore this important asset of the city. Pease Park is a vital component of Austin's much admired open green spaces, but it relies upon the stewardship that PPC has provided to continue to effectively capture and filter storm water, provide relief from the heat island effect, and equally important, to offer solace, recreation, and wildlife habitat in the heart of our city.

These initial restoration efforts are urgent and ongoing. But to fulfill the potential Pease Park has as a model of successful public/private partnership, it needs this Master Plan as a consensus-built map of how to move forward. The Master Plan, according to city guidelines and rendered through extensive stakeholder meetings, has captured the guiding premises and desires of the community of how the park ought to be cared for, enhanced, and developed to serve a growing community, while at the same time preserving it's natural character for future generations.

I urge you to approve this plan and to support Pease Park Conservancy and the hundreds of volunteers and donors who are prepared to contribute considerable resources to revive this precious district park according to the vision and guidance presented in this report.

Sincerely,
Jul Nokes



Post Office Box 1282

Austin, TX 78767

www.originalaustin.org

September 14, 2014

Austin Board & Commission Members

Honorable Lee Leffingwell, Mayor

& Austin City Council Members

P.O. Box 1088

Austin, Texas 78767

Re: OANA endorses and recommends approval of the Pease Park Master Plan

At its August meeting the Old Austin Neighborhood Association board voted unanimously to endorse and recommend for your approval the Pease Park Master Plan. This letter memorializes that decision.

We applaud the Pease Park Conservancy in its efforts to protect, preserve and enhance Pease Park and its work in concert with the Shoal Creek Conservancy to do the same with the Shoal Creek Greenbelt above and below the Park.

We also agree with many others that this Master Plan represents a unique opportunity. Given the skilled work of City staff and very talented professionals, this Plan provides an excellent blueprint for improving the park. It is our turn to show foresight similar to Governor Pease and Janet Fish. Adopt this plan and let's all get to work!

Sincerely,

Ted Siff, President

Board of Directors

Ted Siff, President

Ray Canfield

Perry Lorenz

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Rick Hardin

John Horton

Charles Peveto

Blake Tollett, Secretary

Paul Isham

Bill Schnell

September 7, 2014

Members of the Austin Parks Board
Honorable Lee Leffingwell, Mayor
& Austin City Council Members
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, TX 78767

Re: Pease Park Master Plan

Dear Sir or Madam:

On behalf of the Old Enfield Homeowners Association I want to express our strong support for the Pease Park Master Plan that is coming before you for consideration. Pease Park is in our neighborhood; it is our park and one of our most beloved historic treasures. We want to see it thrive and become more accessible, beautiful and enjoyable not only for our residents but for all Austinites.

The Plan sets forth a much needed roadmap for improvements and maintenance. We haven't had such a roadmap in the past and unfortunately Pease Park has suffered greatly from neglect. The Pease Park Conservancy has stepped in to fill this void to a degree. Prior to their great work, our residents rarely wanted to use the park. It wasn't a place people wanted to go, rather it was a place to ignore. However the Pease Park Conservancy alone cannot sustain Pease Park.

This Master Plan provides a great opportunity to continue the great work that the Pease Conservancy has put forth in the past several years. We have already seen a tremendous number of improvements, grassroots volunteer efforts and community pride grow from their leadership. Our residents are beginning to make the Park a destination. Please help turn this trend into a long-term community benefit by endorsing the Master Plan.

All my best,
Marlene Romanczak
President, Old Enfield Homeowners Association



July 1, 2014

Members of Austin Parks Board
The Honorable Mayor Leffingwell
Members of the Austin City Council
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, Texas 78767

Re: Pease Park Master Plan

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing as president of the Original West University Neighborhood Association (OWUNA) to express our support of the Pease Park Master Plan. We are a very dense neighborhood on the eastern border of the park, between MLK and 24th street. Our residents use the park for recreation, exercise, transportation, and most of all, as respite from the hustle and bustle of central Austin living. We support the plan because it has struck a good balance between improving the park, and preserving the natural aspects that we all cherish.

As this process continues, we hope for the prioritization of the east/west connectivity, specifically the access at the MLK level. This will connect the population of the densest planning area in the City to the amenities that exist west of the creek.

We are appreciative to both the Pease Park Conservancy and City staff for making the planning of our park such an inclusive process.

Sincerely,

Nuria Zaragoza
President/OWUNA



July 1, 2014

The Honorable Mayor Lee Leffingwell, City of Austin
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, Texas 78767

Re: Pease Park Master Plan

Dear Mayor Leffingwell:

I urge you to adopt the Pease Park Master Plan that will come before you soon.

The plan is the result of a year-long effort by a public-private partnership between the Austin Parks Department and Pease Park Conservancy. It represents input from almost one thousand Austin residents at three public meetings and via both online and in-person clipboard surveys. The talented, nationally known design team of Wallace, Roberts & Todd of Philadelphia distilled all this feedback and has come up with an incredibly exciting vision to guide the park's future.

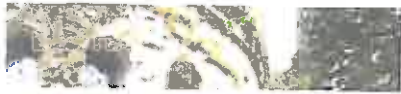
Pease Park and the Shoal Creek Greenbelt & Trail have been sadly neglected for many years. Severe overuse and lack of maintenance showed us just how fragile the park's eco-system was. We almost lost it. However, the importance of this green space as a vital recreational outlet for central Austin has increased exponentially with our recent population boom. If Governor Pease's legacy gift of parkland is to survive and thrive despite the pressures brought on by this growth, it needs a good plan. The Master Plan that is brought before you is just such a document.

The plan preserves the area's natural environment, restores the woodlands, sensitively adds new recreational amenities, spreads activity throughout the length of the Greenbelt and provides new and improved trails that serve so many multiple functions today. It carefully balances the desires of multiple disparate stakeholders and residents rather than just one single-focus interest group.

The Pease Park Conservancy is poised to begin implementing the plan once it is approved in close partnership with the City and others. Individual donors and charitable foundations have already voiced their keenness to help fund it. We are all anxious to get started. With your approval of this plan, we can begin. Let's seize this unique opportunity and give Austin the superior park and green space its residents so richly deserve!

Sincerely,

Richard Craig
Chairperson



Pemberton Heights Neighborhood Association

June 11, 2014

Dear Mayor, Mayor Pro-Tem, and Council Members:

RE: Pease Park Master plan Support

Pease Park, along with the Shoal Creek Hike and Bike Trail, has been sadly neglected. The trails and creek banks are eroding, trails are too narrow and rough for the heavy volume of traffic using them, trees and vegetation are sadly neglected and existing buildings are in need of major maintenance and improvements. The list of such deficiencies is long.

The Park and the Trail should be a major environmental and recreational resource in central west Austin. Having a vision of a vastly improved park amenity, a group of stakeholders in Austin formed The Pease Park Conservancy and have raised funds to undertake a master plan for improvements for Pease Park, one of Austin's natural treasures.

The Pease Park Master Plan effort will provide a road map for on-going maintenance and future improvements which will benefit all of Austin. The Pemberton Heights Neighborhood Association supports this effort and requests that the Council consider implementing the vision of the plan and appropriating adequate funds in the budget to ensure that this Park remains a vital recreational and environmental treasure for the future residents of the city.

Sincerely,

Carla Hatler

President, Board of Directors, Pemberton Heights Neighborhood Association



Tom Stacy
President
Shelly Hemingson
President-Elect
Danette Chimenti
First Vice President
Lin Team
Second Vice
President

Kim McKnight
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APPENDIX M-LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Tim Leagus
Emily Little
Jennifer Marsh
Melanie Martinez
Scott Mason
Peter Fagg Maxson
Alyson McGee

Kim McKnight
Andrea McWilliams
Maureen Metteauer
Marion Sanchez
Tammy Shaklee
Bratton Thomason
Stephen Webb

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INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Angela Reed

June 23, 2014

Chair Jane Rivera and Board Members
City of Austin Parks and Recreation Board
Austin, Texas
Sent via Email

Dear Chair Rivera and Parks Board Members:

Preservation Austin respectfully requests your support for the Pease Park Master Plan, as presented by the Pease Park Conservancy. As the city expects a high rate of growth in future years, a Master Plan will be necessary to protect the park's historic and natural resources, and Preservation Austin is pleased that such a plan is proposed for this important cultural landscape.

Pease Park was established in 1875 after a generous land donation to the City of Austin by Governor Pease. Within its boundaries are significant historic structures such as the 1920s stone Pease Park Memorial Gates, the Tudor Cottage built by architect Hugo Kuehne in 1910, the 28th Street bridge built in 1928, picnic tables built by the Works Progress Administration and stone walls constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s. These are but a few of the historic structures in the park, which, among other protections, the Master Plan calls for recognition in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Master Plan has been paid for with private funds raised from residents and charitable foundations and is a community-led park initiative, in keeping with the tradition established by Janet Fish and Governor Pease. Wallace Roberts & Todd (WRT), the Philadelphia Landscape firmed hired by Pease Park Conservancy, is working directly with local preservation architect Emily Little to design new compatible structures and park elements throughout Pease Park that meet Secretary of Interior Standards for Historic Preservation and for treatment of new construction on a historic site. The Master Plan calls for new construction and restoration so that historic structures maintain their integrity while allowing Pease Park to embrace the future with facilities for modern programming, an enhanced trail system and overall infrastructure improvements.

For 60 years, Preservation Austin has been the leading protector of Austin's diverse cultural heritage through the preservation of historic treasures and places. As such, we believe that learning from and celebrating our past while planning for and creating the future enhances livability and a sense of identity for our city. We ask that you support the Pease Park Master Plan so that the park remains for future generations to enjoy.

Sincerely,

Tom Stacy
President



August 13, 2014

RE: Letter of Support for the Pease Park Master Plan

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Shoal Creek Conservancy, we are writing to express support for the draft Pease Park Master Plan and to share our recommendations for additional improvements to this Plan and future planning efforts in this area. The content of this letter is based on our review of the draft Plan and the June 2014 public meeting presentation. We appreciate the opportunity to share both our support and comments and look forward to partnering with Pease Park Conservancy and the City along the creek.

The Draft Master Plan provides thoughtful and creative visions for the future of Pease Park that acknowledge community concerns while providing fresh ideas for the future. In particular, we appreciate the focus on not only preserving the park's unique cultural and historical resources, but also including them as an integral component of the vision. Additionally, the concept of creating destinations through series of distinct but connected "rooms" to visit along the trail dovetails nicely with the Conservancy's vision for the entire length of the Shoal Creek trail. We also commend the planners for recognizing and prioritizing the need for improved connections from the park to the southern and northern stretches of the trail and to nearby neighborhoods, particularly across Lamar Boulevard.

Additionally, the draft Plan acknowledges that the health of Shoal Creek is central to the sustainability of the greenway and the Park. It also notes that 80% percent of the study area is within the 100-year floodplain and highlights the challenges posed to the Park by the creek's altered hydrology and intense flooding. Given this reality, although beyond the scope of this Plan, we would like to underscore the critical importance of implementing watershed-wide solutions to the flood, erosion and water quality issues facing Shoal Creek.

The draft Plan focuses primarily on storm water erosion control and expansion of the City's restoration projects and presents useful recommendations for slowing the flow of water in the immediate area. Ideally, given the severity of the issues, any plan for this area would discuss solutions to creek issues with more depth and breadth. Addressing these issues at the watershed scale will be key to ensuring long-term sustainability and successful implementation of major components of the Plan, including, as noted in the Plan, riparian habitat restoration. The Conservancy looks forward to partnering with Pease Park Conservancy and the City to pursue these solutions to these larger-scale challenges.

Furthermore, Chapter 1 of the draft Plan recommends additional detailed natural resources studies to provide support on a site- and project-specific basis. The Conservancy agrees with the needs for these additional studies in the future; however, we remain concerned about the incompleteness of the information in and the subsequent recommendations derived from the draft Natural Resources Inventory.

In our rapidly growing city, Austin's parks are virtually the only spaces within our urban environment where citizens are offered an opportunity to connect with the broader natural world that surrounds us. These public spaces are the physical representatives of our natural heritage. A comprehensive and holistic approach to Pease Park planning is needed to ensure that Austin's natural patrimony continues intact for future generations. In fact, there is no greater responsibility for any park plan than to ensure the integrity of the natural, and historical, resources protected in these public spaces.

To this end, while we support this iteration of the plan as presented, we emphasize that the report is incomplete. It is not a complete strategy that will guide PARD in its management decisions. We understand the limitations of budget and time necessarily restricted what could and could not be expected of this phase of the Pease Park planning effort. In fact, we congratulate the consultants on being able to accomplish what they have within these limitations. However, we believe that the Pease Park Master Plan will be finished and a significantly more useful document once a complete resource inventory (baseline) is concluded, along with comprehensive interpretation, engagement, and public use strategies.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. While we have expressed some concerns and recommended improvements regarding particular aspects of the Plan, we offer our support for the adoption of this Plan. Please feel free contact me with any questions at Joanna@shoalcreekconservancy.org or 512-474-2412.

Sincerely,



Joanna Lynn Wolaver
Executive Director



Ted Eubanks
Board Member

Board of Directors

Ted Siff, President

Jo-Dee Benson

Perry Lorenz

Albert Stowell, Treasurer

Ted Eubanks

www.shoalcreekconservancy.org

707 West Avenue, Suite 101 Austin, Texas 78701

Phone: 512-474-2412 Fax: 512-474-2417 E-Mail: info@shoalcreekconservancy.org

SINCLAIR BLACK & ANDREW VERNOOY, AIA

August 4, 2014

Mayor Leffingwell, City Council
City of Austin
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, TX 78701

Austin Parks and Recreation Board
200 South Lamar
Austin, TX 78704

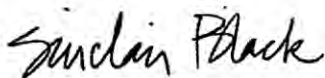
Dear Mayor Leffingwell, City Council, Austin Parks and Recreation Board:

By now you have probably seen the report submitted to the Pease Park Conservancy by Wallace Roberts & Todd (W.R.T.). My opinion is that it is a great document pointing the way to a brighter future for the park in particular and Shoal Creek in general.

I have lived for thirty-six years within two blocks of Pease Park. The park and the creek have suffered many years due to limited resources to take care of it. The City has this wonderful asset, and now has a fabulous partner in the Conservancy.

Please support this community treasure any way you can.

Sincerely,



Sinclair Black, F.A.I.A

cc: Richard Craig
Pease Park Conservancy

SINCLAIR BLACK, FAIA
D. ANDREW VERNOOY, AIA



1801 North Lamar Blvd
Austin, TX 78701

August 18, 2014

Mayor Lee Leffingwell and Council Members
City Council, City of Austin
Post Office Box 1088
Austin, TX 78767-8865

Re: Pease Park Master Plan, Pease Park Conservancy

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

As the founder and business owner of T3, Pease Park is our neighborhood landmark. Clearly T3 has a great interest in the improvement of the historic park but it is larger than that. As citizens of Austin we should all be proud to be part of the generation that brings Pease Park to a new level of grandeur and more importantly preservation of its natural beauty.

T3 employees visit and enjoy the park for idea sessions, an integral part of what we do at as a creative agency. We use the park for employee summer outings, sponsored nature walks to educate and inspire our employees to get involved and volunteer. We donate use of our parking facilities for park events and the proceeds benefit Pease Park.

The Master Plan is ambitious and of course costly. All of us working together and contributing financially and spiritually to the plan for Pease Park improvement we can reach the ambitious goals in the redesign.

As Austin continues the trend of increasing population density it becomes an even greater obligation to preserve our green space and maintain the beauty and pride of Austin, Texas.

Sincerely,

Gay W. Gaddis
Founder, CEO

AUSTIN

NEW YORK

SAN FRANCISCO

WWW.T-3.COM

September 13, 2014

Members of Austin Parks Board
The Honorable Mayor Leffingwell
Members of the Austin City Council
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, Texas 78767



Re: Pease Park Master Plan

To Whom It May Concern:

Please consider this letter as strong support of the Pease Park Master Plan that has been proposed.

Pease Park is one of our favorite places in Austin and serves as a frequented green space by many of our peers. It has continually offered to us a needed escape from the common stresses of city and university life. Having natural relief is imperative for maintaining a healthy and balanced lifestyle. Pease Park has provided this for students of the University of Texas and all people of Austin who seek a getaway.

We have each been in Austin for three years now and have had the privilege of not only observing but also partaking in the development of the park. We have full confidence in this master plan and the abilities of the individuals who will be stewards of the implementation. All of the activities designed to improve the park thus far have been a success in our eyes and have drawn us to the park more than ever. We hope this process of improvement continues and we therefore fully support the Pease Park Master Plan and all of the associated processes.

Our organization, The Texas Wranglers, a spirit group at the university dedicated to serving the Austin community, stands ready to continue our support of Pease Park and we urge this plan to be passed. The park is in need of continued and increased attention, which this plan is in position to provide. It would be a great service to us, our organization and the UT community.

Sincerely,

David Zani
Community Service Chairman
The Texas Wranglers

Adrian Piloto
Vice President
The Texas Wranglers

Cole Paxson
President
The Texas Wranglers

GROWING CENTRAL TEXAS URBAN FORESTS

July 14, 2014

Members of the Austin Parks Board
The Honorable Lee Leffingwell, Mayor
Members of Austin City Council
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, Texas 78767

Re: Adoption of the Pease Park Master Plan

Dear Sir:

On behalf of TreeFolks, I wish to recommend the adoption of the Pease Park Master Plan that has recently been completed. This plan is the culmination of a twelve month long public planning process that has involved three very well attended public engagement meetings and participation by over 1,100 Austinites.

This has been a joint project of the Austin Parks Department and the Pease Park Conservancy and represents a wonderful example of a public-private partnership. It has resulted in a clear vision encompassing the 44 acres of Pease Park proper and an additional 44 acres of the Shoal Creek Greenbelt to the north. This area is part of the green lungs of Central Austin and the proposed plan ensures that it remain so.

Master arborist Don Gardner has prepared a report that is part of the plan that lays out a long term vision for the care and maintenance of the existing woodlands and proposes an expansion of the tree canopy to cover approximately 80% of the area. This will include new street trees along Lamar Blvd. to make it a true parkway as envisioned in the 1928 City Plan.

The plan also dovetails with many other City of Austin goals. These include mitigation of the heat island effect, retention of storm waters on site, restoration of native vegetation and groundcover to prevent erosion and to filter run-off. It also provides additional opportunities for recreation and exercise for all age groups.

We urge the Parks Board and the Austin City Council to formally adopt this Master Plan so that implementation of its many exciting proposals can begin.

Sincerely,

Interim Executive Director
TreeFolks

TreeFolks, Inc. • PO Box 704 • Austin, TX 78767 • (512) 443-5323 • www.treefolks.org

*University Area Partners Inc.
2026 Guadalupe
Austin, Texas 78705*

Richard Craig
Pease Park Conservancy
P.O. Box 50065
Austin, Texas 78763

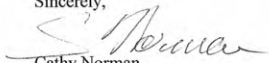
October 14, 2014

Dear Mr. Craig,

I want to thank you again for your informative presentation on details of the Pease Park Master Plan at our general meeting on September 23.

At that meeting we voted unanimously to support that Plan. As you know, Pease Park and the Shoal Creek greenbelt are very important to this neighborhood – as a green space, a recreational facility, and as part of our history. We look forward to working in partnership with the Conservancy and other stakeholders as the Plan is implemented.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Cathy Norman", is written over a horizontal line.

Cathy Norman
President,
University Area Partners



2525 S. Lakeshore Blvd.
Austin, TX 78741

August 29, 2014

Cora Wright
City of Austin
Parks and Recreation Department
200 S. Lamar Blvd.
Austin, TX 78704

Dear Ms. Wright,

I am writing to you as requested by Kim McKnight, Preservation Planner and Cultural Resources Specialist, to express my support of the Pease Park Master Plan draft. The Urban Forestry Program (Forestry) has reviewed and provided comments on all versions of the plan draft and has participated in all public input meetings. It is my expectation that recommendations provided by Forestry will be incorporated into the final version of the plan and our guidance will be sought as the plan is implemented.

Key issues communicated to Plan coordination staff and consultants include the desire to preserve protected and heritage-size trees, plan the site with tree maintenance in mind, retain as many trees planted by Forestry and Pease Park Conservancy as possible, and consult with Forestry on future tree removal plans.

We are excited that this plan is moving forward with tree components as a priority. If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 512-974-9551.

Sincerely,

Angela Hanson

Angela Hanson
Urban Forester
City of Austin