PEASE PARK MASTER PLAN



CITY COUNCIL ADOPTED OCTOBER 16, 2014

Cover Image: Custer's Oak, Pease Park Ted Lee Eubanks



Prepared for PEASE PARK CONSERVANCY AUSTIN PARKS & RECREATION

Prepared by WALLACE ROBERTS & TODD SIGLO GROUP CLAYTON & LITTLE ARCHITECTS



September 15, 2014

The Pease Park Master Plan you are about to read is the result of a long journey populated first with far-sighted local heroes like Governor E.M. Pease in 1875 and Janet Fish in 1961 and then, more recently, with concerned ordinary citizens, neighbors and friends. The publication of this Master Plan marks the end of that initial journey and the beginning of a new exciting one, full of promise for one of Austin's iconic green spaces.

Pease Park and the Shoal Creek Greenbelt were in a degraded state in 2007 when the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center published its report on the park's multitude of problems. The park was beyond tired, overused and under-maintained. Parks Department budget cuts had taken a toll and the early efforts to turn things around had not gotten the job done. So, some neighbors and friends came together formed "Trees for Pease" in 2008, intent on reversing this decline.

In time, we became the Pease Park Conservancy, a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. We enjoyed many successes, raising funds, planting new trees, installing an irrigation system, restoring historic elements and establishing a permanent financial endowment for the park's care. But, was it enough? The answer was "no."

With central Austin's boom accelerating ever faster, it was clear that the park would be under incredible increasing pressures. This could ultimately result in undoing all our good work, necessitating that someone else pick up the pieces once again in twenty or thirty years. This was simply unacceptable. We hoped for a "fix" for the park that would last. For our hard won progress to be sustainable, Pease needed a plan - an excellent comprehensive Master Plan prepared by the best professional designers in the country to guide its future. That's what you now have in your hands in our opinion.

The Plan speaks for itself. You will find so many good things in it that I know you will get as excited as we all are. New trails, more trees, picnic shelters, better restrooms, state–of-the-art playscapes and a grand entrance that does justice to the park's historic importance and much, much more.

It spreads some additional recreational amenities throughout the 88 acres of the space to populate them with new life and reflects the public's overwhelmingly expressed desire that the park remain "natural" but better maintained. It seizes opportunities for increased intra-park mobility and use of alternative modes of transportation. The park entrances and periphery along Lamar Blvd. will made more pedestrian friendly and beautified as a true tree lined "parkway" in keeping with the intent of the 1928 City Plan.

The Plan has been prepared with "sustainability" in mind so that the park never again falls into dilapidated state or is totally at the mercy of tight public budgets. It sets the stage for a major public-private collaboration that we hope keeps this special green space in good repair, decade after decade.

There will be a lot of daunting work ahead to make the Master Plan a reality. Funding will be a challenge as always. But, problems did not deter Austin park pioneers like Governor Pease or Janet Fish. It is now our turn to step up to the plate and do something of transcendent importance for our community's future. Our generation has a fiduciary duty to see to it that future residents get to enjoy this green corridor that so important to our collective quality of life.

We can do this for Austin. Let's all get started!

Richard Craig President Pease Park Conservancy



It's an exciting time to live in Austin, Texas! The economy is booming and our city is one of the fastest growing metropolitan areas in the country. The Parks and Recreation Department oversees nearly 17,000 acres of parkland, more than 270 parks, 17 preserves, 39 greenbelts, more than 100 miles of trails, 51 aquatic facilities, five golf courses, and multiple museums and sites of historic, cultural and natural value.



Along with explosive growth comes opportunities and challenges. With one of the highest ratios of parkland per capita for a city of our size, the Parks and Recreation Department must foster partnerships with the nonprofit and private sector to provide the citizens of Austin with the best designed and best maintained parks. The Pease Park Conservancy's efforts serve as a shining example of the type of partnership that is integral to a healthy and prosperous park system. The organization has raised more than \$200,000 for the master plan and an additional \$200,000 for a permanent financial endowment to support the park in the long term. Further, the Pease Park Conservancy has planted nearly 600 trees throughout the park and funded a new roof for the historic Tudor Cottage restrooms.

The Pease Park Master Plan is the culmination of a year-long effort to develop the first master plan for one of Austin's oldest parks and the plan reveals an exciting vision this treasured green space in the heart of our city. With an overall focus on enhancing and preserving the naturalistic feel of the park and adjacent Shoal Creek Greenbelt, opportunities have been identified for improving gateways, sensitively adapting the historic Tudor Cottage restroom building and enhancing the playscape area. Additionally, the plan calls for additional bridge crossings across Shoal Creek and a much improved and enhanced trail system.

The Parks and Recreation Department is proud to support this plan and appreciates the efforts of the Pease Park Conservancy to make it a reality. When the community comes together to support our parks, we all win.

Sincerely,

Sara L. Hensley, CPRD, Director Austin Parks and Recreation Department The Pease Park Master Plan was completed with contributions from the individuals, organizations, and public sector entities listed below.

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PREFACE

HOW TO USE THE MASTER PLAN

The contents of the report reflect the process used to develop it.

The Executive Summary begins with the big picture, including the vision for the creek and boulevard as an integrated greenway, a summary of recommendations and overview of its implementation.

Chapter 1- Introduction sets the stage for the recommendations. This chapter outlines the contents of the report and describes the status of the master plan project in relation to its place in the City and its companion watercourse, Waller Creek; the call to action to address the impacts of pressures that bear on the Park, such as population growth, recreation demand, drought, climate change, and balancing the appearance and use of the park; and future areas of study beyond the scope of the master plan.

Chapter 2 - Foundation for Planning provides an understanding the place. This chapter provides the basis for the master plan recommendations. It includes a description of the master plan process and overview of public engagement, park history, planning context, and inventory of the natural, cultural, recreational and infrastructural resources of the park and its immediate surroundings. Chapter 3 – Vision brings together the inventory and public input. This chapter sets the course for the master plan recommendations, and is the outcome of the inventory and public process. The vision distills the input from the Foundation for Planning into a vision statement, four goals for culture, nature, recreation and infrastructure, and their supporting objectives and actions.

Chapter 4 – Recommendations is the blueprint for action. This chapter is divided into parkwide recommendations that cover the systems and features throughout the Park, design recommendations that cover the design character of specific features found throughout the park, and then detailed recommendations that describe the specific places, or rooms, in the Park.

Chapter 5 – Implementation shows how the recommendation will be acted upon. This chapter addresses governance; partnerships; cost estimates, phasing and priorities; management of natural areas and uses, security and future horizons after the master plan.

DEFINITIONS

The Master Plan document uses the following terms to describe Pease Park's existing conditions and specific recommendations and improvements to be made over time. Though some terms may be obvious, other may be used in a way that is less obvious. Therefore, definitions are provided here for clarity.

Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC): See Works Progress Administration.

District Park: District parks range from 31 to 200 acres, have a service area of a two mile radius, provide basic recreational opportunities found in neighborhood parks that may also utilize the land's features in preservation and interpretation and provide major indoor and outdoor facilities.

Gateway: a city planning / urban design term describing the architectural treatment that defines the space or feature that marks the entry into a place of a particular character.

In this master plan, the following definitions apply:

Civic Gateway: gateways at 15th and 31st Streets that mark the passage into the "Pease Park / Lamar Parkway" space, and thresholds between Downtown Austin and West Austin at Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, 24th and 29th Streets.

Park Gateway: pedestrian oriented entrances into to the park at Kingsbury Street, Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Harrell / Windsor Streets, 24th, Gaston, 29th and 31st Streets. **Greenway:** a corridor of undeveloped land preserved for recreational use or environmental protection (first used in 1966) (Merriam Webster) In the context of this master plan, greenway refers to the Shoal Creek Greenway as defined in the Shoal Creek Greenway Action Plan.

Park: Generically, a large public green area in a town, used for recreation. In the context of this plan, "Park" refers to all the public open space between Kingsbury Street and 31st Street. Austin PARD has categorized Pease Park as a District Park.

Parkway: Generically a parkway is a broad landscaped thoroughfare (first used in 1887) (Merriam Webster) The master plan proposes that Lamar Boulevard be thought of as a parkway so that the Park and Lamar Boulevard can be considered as a unified and interrelated system.

Parkway is also the proper name of the street that runs from Lamar Boulevard to 24th Street. It is called Kingsbury Street between the Pease Park Gates and Harrell Street. Parkway / Kingsbury Street presently serve as a frontage street for the neighborhood side of the park. The master plan recommends that Parkway / Kingsbury Street be developed to look and function more like a true parkway.

Pease Park: The specific 42.68-acre City property designated as a public park. Governor Pease and his wife dedicated 23 acres of land in 1875 for use as a public park extending from what is now the intersection of Kingsbury Street / Parkway to a point south of Rainbow Lane. The City built Kingsbury Street and Parkway within the 23-acre limits, and later enlarged the park to its present 42.68 acres, extending it to the north to 24th Street. **Project Area:** The land that is the subject of this master plan. The project area includes the 42.68 acres of Pease Park proper from Kingsbury Street to 24th Street, and a 41.74 acre portion of the larger public open space referred to as the Shoal Creek Greenbelt, from 24th to 31st Streets. This land lies within the Shoal Creek Greenway (see below) and the Shoal Creek Watershed. The project area occupies only 1% of total watershed.

Shoal Creek: The 10.1 mile creek that flows through Pease Park. 2.1 miles is within the project area. Shoal Creek is the drainage corridor of the Shoal Creek Watershed.

Shoal Creek Greenbelt: The public open space extending northwards along the creek from 24th Street. This is the northern, upstream part of the project area and of the Shoal Creek Greenway plan's Parkland Character Zone.

Shoal Creek Greenway Action Plan produced in 1998 for the Shoal Creek Partnership. In the Action Plan, the project area of Pease Park master plan is called the "Parkland Character-15th-29th Streets." (The Cliffs are covered in the "Suburban Character Zone")

Shoal Creek Watershed: a drainage area of 12.5 square miles /8,384 acres. The watershed is highly urbanized, with 60% of the watershed covered by impervious surface,

Shoal Creek Watershed Restoration

Project: The \$5.8 million project by the City's Watershed Protection Department will stabilize approximately 3,000 linear feet of the creek bank, relocate wastewater lines from the creek bed, provide stormwater treatment for water quality and improve vegetation and trails along the sides of the creek. Updates to the original design include adding an underpass to the hike and bike lane, which will bypass the busy Windsor Road / 24th Street intersection. Also, thanks to public input, more open space was incorporated into the design with plans to install a rain meadow, instead of rain gardens, to capture and retain stormwater runoff at Custer's Meadow in Pease Park.

Urban Trail Network "A citywide network of non-motorized, multi-use pathways that are used by bicyclists, walkers and runners for both transportation and recreation purposes." (Urban Trails Master Plan)

Watershed: The area of land that drains into a creek. Shoal Creek is in the Shoal Creek Greenway, which is in the Shoal Creek Watershed.

Works Progress Adminstration (WPA): The federal agency responsible for civic recovery works during the depression via the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Along the Creek, this included work on the bridges, Shoal Creek Trail, and Lamar Boulevard, among other work.

City and Other Entities

Austin Park and Recreation Department (PARD): The purpose of the Parks and Recreation Department is to provide, protect and preserve a park system that promotes quality recreational, cultural and outdoor experiences for the Austin community. PARD owns the land and manages the park property and is a partner with PPC in the development of this master plan.

Austin Energy: maintains the power lines and utility poles in the public right of way. Austin Energy is a proposed partner in the burial of the power lines and relocation of poles at Kingsbury Street and Polecat Hollow.

Austin Parks and Recreation Board: The Park and Recreation Board's charter is for acquisition, development, improvement, equipment, and maintenance of City parks and public playgrounds; future development of City parks, playgrounds, and recreational facilities, and purchase of additional land for those purposes; and improvements in the maintenance, operation, and general welfare of the City's parks, grounds, and recreational facilities and their use by the public.

Austin Parks Foundation: The Austin Parks Foundation (APF) is a non-profit organization devoted to building public/private partnerships to develop and maintain parks, trails, and open space in Austin and Travis County. APF's mission is to connect people to resources and partnerships to develop and improve parks. APF seeks to fill the gap between what needs to be done and what Austin's parks department can afford to do.

Austin Streets Department: Austin's Street and Bridge Operations handle repair and maintenance of all of Austin's structures within the City's public right-of-way. This includes streets, bridges, sidewalks and guardrails. A potential partner in the improvement of Lamar Boulevard, Kingsbury Street and Parkway. Austin Water Utility: the entity responsible for the water and sewer lines that run down the center of the creek and across 29th Street at Lamar Terrace.

Austin Urban Forestry Board: May study, investigate, plan, advise, report, and recommend any action, program, plan, or legislation which the board determines necessary or advisable for the care, preservation, pruning, planting, replanting, removal, or disposition of trees and shrubs and other landscaping in public parks, along streets, and in other public areas. A possible partner in advocating for street trees and managing the park's tree canopy.

Austin Watershed Protection Department: Watershed Protection Department (WPD) protects lives, property and the environment of our community by reducing the impact of flood, erosion and water pollution. WPD is leading the Shoal Creek Restoration Project.

Pease Park Conservancy (PPC): formerly known as Trees for Pease, founded in 2008 to save the Park from further degradation. PPC is the initiator and primary funder of the master plan. PPC is "dedicated to the rehabilitation beautification and support of Austin's central city park for the enjoyment of Austin and future generations."

Shoal Creek Conservancy (SCC): formed in 2013 to help improve Shoal Creek for all Austinites - present and future. It is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose vision is: Shoal Creek will be a vibrant corridor that integrates the flow of water and people, engages the community, and inspires the public. The Shoal Creek Conservancy's mission is to restore, protect and enhance the ecological, social and cultural vibrance of Shoal Creek for the people of Austin by engaging the public and partnering with the community.

The conservancy addresses the entire watershed. The SCC is a cooperating partner in the development of the master plan.

PLACE NAMES

The park is made of a series of connected spaces, like rooms. The spaces have their own identity and are the point of reference in this master plan.



1 KINGSBURY COMMONS

Kingsbury Commons is the recreational heart and cultural soul of Pease Park. It is home to the playground and splashpad as well as the Historic Tudor Cottage and iconic picnic tables. The historic Pease Park Gates frame the main entry to the Park. The mature tree canopy is dominated by cedar elms and will eventually be joined by the recently planted sycamores, oaks and elms.



2 BIG FIELD

As the largest open space in Pease Park, Big Field serves as a multi-purpose event field and home to Eeyore's Birthday Party. Big Field offers sweeping interior views of the Park as well as views of the rising downtown skyline.



3 HILLSIDE

Live oak trees frame a spectacular view of the State Capitol Building along this slope forest of ashe juniper, hackberry and cedar elms. Starting from the back of Tudor Cottage, Hillside, along with North Ramble, includes the Park's largest collection of hiking and nature trails.



4 NORTH RAMBLE

North Ramble is a Texas ash and ashe juniper dominated slope forest that suffers from hillside erosion. Like its neighbor, Hillside, North Ramble is home to many of the park's hiking and nature trails.



5 WINDSOR HILLSIDE

At one of the highest elevations above Shoal Creek, Windsor Hillside typifies the dry-mesic slope forest and woodland of the Edwards Plateau. This upland hillside suffers from an abundance of nonnative invasive plants.



6 POLECAT HOLLOW

Home to Lamar Knoll, Mesquite Grove and the popular volleyball courts, Polecat Hollow is the largest open space on the east side of Shoal Creek with stunning views of Downtown Austin. Current creek bank soil erosion will be resculpted and replanted by the City of Austin Watershed Protection Department.



CUSTER'S MEADOW

Named after the site of General George A Custer's encampment in the 1860's, this meadow is anchored by a stately live oak known as Custer's Oak. Custer's Meadow serves as a vehicular and pedestrian gateway to the Park and offers multiple creek access points to explore the waters of Shoal Creek



8 CASWELL SHOALS

Live Oaks and Cedar Elms dominate this woodland and savannah landscape on the east side of Shoal Creek. This is the site of a new commuter bicyclist trail with access to Lamar Boulevard and 24th St.



9 WOOTEN WOODS Cedar elm groves with signature live oaks frame

a pedestrian promenade reminiscent of a formal allee. Frequent flooding along with heavy human and dog traffic have eliminated the groundcover and understory necessitating the need for immediate restoration efforts.









10 LIVE OAK TERRACE

The presence of mature live oaks and closely mowed herbaceous vegetation characterize the open riparian space of the Live Oak Terrace. At the heart of the terrace is a stone bench triangle nestled amongst the trunks of three live oaks.

11 GASTON GREEN

As the heart of the dog park, Gaston Green is the central open space north of 24th St. With entrances from Shoal Creek Boulevard and Gaston St., it is one of the few locations where you can park in the park.



12 EAST BANK

East Bank is home to some of the steepest slopes in Pease Park which serve to funnel and direct views while driving along Lamar Boulevard. The wooden hillside is dominated by a cedar elm canopy but suffers from hillside erosion and abundance of nonnative invasive plants.



13 LAMAR SLOPE

Often confused as a right-of-way for Lamar Boule-vard, Lamar Lawn is a narrow open space with access only from the Lamar sidewalk. The Lamar Lawn presents an opportunity for riparian restoration and stormwater infiltration along Lamar Boulevard.

14 RAMBLE SCRAMBLE

The steep slope forest canopy of the Ramble Scramble is dominated by the live oak, cedar elm and ashe juniper while the understory is being taken over by young non-native invasive plants. Ramble Scramble is home to Split Rock, a huge boulder that split into two forming a forty-foot canyon.

15 LAMAR TERRACE

Characterized by level terrain out of the floodplain, Lamar Terrace is an unprogrammed open space with access to Lamar Boulevard and 29th St. Lamar Terrace is home to a sewer interceptor which runs through the center of the terrace.

16 THE BLUFFS

A piece of Hill Country in the City, the 40' high bluffs are a natural geologic landmark unique to the rest of the Park. Cat Hole and Blue Hole are famous hideouts along The Bluffs that play a prominent role in the cultural lore of Austin. The Bluffs suffer from bank erosion and an infestation of invasive species.

SHOAL CREEK

As one of the seven creeks in Austin, Shoal Creek is the central spine flowing through Pease Park. Its' tranguil and turbulent waters serve as a destination for park users and as a force of nature requiring bank stabilization and riparian reforestation. Over 80% of the Pease Park Master Plan site is within the Shoal Creek Floodplain.

LAMAR BOULEVARD

Lamar Boulevard parallels the Shoal Creek for nearly two miles along the eastern frontage of Pease Park. With over 75,000 commuters a day and counting, Lamar Boulevard is a transportation artery that presents several challenges for Pease Park in terms of pedestrian connectivity, stormwater management and utility restrictions.



KINGSBURY / PARKWAY

Together Kingsbury and Parkway form the western frontage of Pease Park. The two lane roads present an opportunity to connect Pease Park with the neighborhoods while defining what the character of a park road can be.

PREFACE 7

A Note about the Room Names

For ease of communication in this report, Pease Park has been divided into sixteen character zones. The place names assigned to these spaces are interim names for the purpose of reference only. The names call attention to, provoke dialogue about, and memorialize the unique character of the place. Where possible, the names reflect the geography or history of the park. Some, such as Custer's Meadow, are longstanding traditions; others, such as "Lamar Terrace" have no current identity, but are important locations worthy of a name. The final names are the work of Austinites to determine, per Austin City code. The code establishes a naming policy for public parks as a public process, which could be initiated by PARD and PPC, if there is a desire to formally name the places in the Park.

From Spaces to Places

It takes the effort of concerned and devoted people to make generic spaces become enduring, memorable. Place names are generally an indicator of community concern for a landscape, such as Custer's Meadow or Split Rock. PARD and PPC should engage the community in a public process to determine place names for the special locations in the Park, integrated with interpretive planning. For instance, research determined that Polecat Hollow was the name that area had historically been given according to a book called "A History of Central Texas" by Mary Starr Barkley published in 1970.

5



W 15TH ST

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

THE BIG PICTURE

The master plan is a blueprint for a unified vision defined by supporting goals, objectives and actions, with a prioritized phasing plan and budget. Like the Park itself, the plan bridges past and present, drawing from the memories that give Pease Park

its special meaning and the aspirations for its role in the Austin of the future.

The executive summary presents the big picture of the Park, including the vision for the creek and boulevard as an integrated greenway, a summary of recommendations and overview of its implementation.



Image: "Shoal Creek snaking its way towards downtown Austin" by Lars Plougmann is licensed under CC-BY 2.0

AUSTIN'S GRAND PARKWAY

Pease Park, Lamar Boulevard and Shoal Creek together form Austin's grand parkway, winding towards downtown Austin, connecting the City to the Colorado River at Lady Bird Lake.

A tangible symbol of the region's famous geology, the Shoal Creek Valley is both visible evidence of the Balcones Fault system separating the Hill Country from the Blackland Prairie and the dividing line between downtown and west Austin. Pease Park connects the City and its neighborhoods, a civic landmark and neighborhood treasure.

The Pease Park Master Plan looks at the Park, creek and road as an integrated system that moves water, cars, bicycles, people, and wildlife through the valley. The Shoal Creek Trail and Lamar Sidewalk connect neighborhoods upstream with the booming lower Shoal Creek district.

What is today a road next to a park will be tomorrow's grand parkway, a memorable green ribbon taking its place among other great parkways of the nation.



Pease Park and the Shoal Creek Greenbelt stretch over two miles along Shoal Creek and Lamar Boulevard. The plan shows the vision for a fuller canopy of shade trees, with five proposed activity hubs and gateways.

POLISHING A HIDDEN GEM

Austinites have yet to know the full value of the hidden gem that lay before them. Pease Park, by virtue of its character and strategic location, is an exceptional and undervalued, albeit much loved, community treasure. We have not seen the full potential of Pease Park. This is a good time to plan for its future, and to aspire to a build on the Park and greenbelt's noble past of ground breaking environmental history.

In many cities, any open space not specifically spoken for and programmed, or explicitly preserved as undeveloped land, is claimed for expedient use such as parking, organized ball fields, or concessions. Pease Park has miraculously escaped this, in part because of its narrowness and location by the volatile Shoal Creek. It remains something of a blank slate upon which Austinites can write their own narrative. Perhaps that is why the Park is as popular as it is - a beloved place that allows people to use it as they wish. Keeping a low profile may have saved the Park from intensive development.

But there is no assurance that this passive approach is guaranteed to continue unchallenged, nor that the absence of a plan will stand the Park in good stead in the competition for resources to sustain it. In the absence of other guidance, the Park is there for people to decide what happens to it on an ad hoc basis. Absent a publicly supported, administratively approved plan for its future, there is nothing but force of communal will to prevent the Park from being changed in a way that alters the very qualities that make it appealing. Without a plan to prepare it for the inevitability of increasing use, there is currently no way for the Park to protect itself from that impact. While the ongoing Watershed Protection Department Restoration Project will help to address water quality and quantity problems, only an integrated partnership with the City and the Shoal Creek Conservancy will be able to tackle the full magnitude of this critical watershed-wide problem. Climate change in the form of drought, rising temperatures and catastrophic flooding is stressing the great canopy of trees and the creek bed, and shows no sign of abating. Without a plan, current and planned investments are in perpetual jeopardy from drought, flooding and polluted water. Likewise, there is no plan to protect the Park from being smothered by good intentions to place unwanted facilities in inopportune locations. This plan is needed to assist in advocating for Pease Park's future - for the resources required to preserve its natural and cultural heritage, and develop its recreational and infrastructural potential.



While the ongoing Watershed Protection Department Restoration Project will help to address water quality and quantity problems, only an integrated partnership with the City and the Shoal Creek Conservancy will be able to tackle the full magnitude of this critical watershed-wide problem. Climate change in the form of drought, rising temperatures and catastrophic flooding is stressing the great canopy of trees and the creek bed, and shows no sign of abating. Without a plan, current and planned investments are in perpetual jeopardy from drought, flooding and polluted water.

DARING TO DREAM

Beyond these protective, reactive concerns, there is a higher civic value to which the Park ought to aspire. Over years of budget woes, citizens have been, in effect, trained to expect and even demand less due to fiscal and other challenges that confront our cities. As a result, citizens are frequently loath to ask the best of the public realm. The truism that parks are among the first sectors to be cut when budgets are tight has made us accept the status quo. That has started to change in Austin as the City seeks its new identity as a one of the most popular cities in the country, and park advocates have successfully lobbied for higher funding.

In addition to protecting it, a plan for Pease Park gives us the opportunity to think big and long term. The era in which we live is one of the first in decades in which so many cities are aspiring to improve their quality of life by improving their parks. The desire to improve quality of life through park amenities can be considered a "movement." New York and Chicago have made major investments in their parks. These cities, along with others, have made this the first flowering of park improvement since the eras of the City Beautiful Movement and WPA.

In this context, stewards, advocates and community members have taken time to examine the Park we see today and dream of a Pease Park that could be. This has resulted in a plan that focuses on the Park itself, and reaches out to its surroundings to create the best setting for the Park's success.

The opportunity to shape the future of Pease Park and the Shoal Creek Greenbelt can be compared to Governor Elisha M. and Lucadia Pease's donation of the land for the Park and to another threshold moment in Austin's history. In recounting the story of one of Austin's public realm heroines, Janet Long Fish, author and educator William Scott Swearingen Jr. observed that Mrs. Fish:

"...gave her trail the name 'Shoal Creek Hike and Bike Trail'... The trail became a model linear park at both the local and national levels. As a form of landscape, the Hike and Bike Trail served as the model for all future greenbelts in Austin, showing how area creeks could be used for recreation rather than dumping grounds. It also provided a name for an idea used by other cities across the nation, for the first time placing Austin in the forefront of thinking about environmental landforms and city design."

The seeds of civic leadership are already inherent in the place. The first big idea was to create the Park, the second to create the trail and greenbelt. The next step is to do the hard work to bring these ideas into the 21st century and form the creek, Park and boulevard into a true integrated parkway. This time the parkway will be a leader pointing the way to watershed restoration and a landmark for the City. This initiative will be led by a partnership among PARD, Pease Park Conservancy, Shoal Creek Conservancy and other City departments and partners.



MOVING FROM PRESENT TO FUTURE

The master plan takes a position between status quo and radical makeover. Public sentiment was clearly in favor of keeping the Park as it is. The responsibility of managers and advocates is to look to the future to protect the Park and offer reasonable public amenities that accommodate evolving recreational use and the growth that has begun to affect the park. Between these poles is a first step towards a revitalized and robust park, one that is appropriate for the level of current use and public expectation. The plan provides more facilities than are presently needed to accommodate future growth. Planning now allows for quick implementation response when the time comes to build. The plan changes more than some are comfortable with, and does not change as much as others think is necessary. Public opinion favors familiarity. Vision favors change. The plan divides the major issues and actions to address them into four themes. Nature and culture, which represent preservation and restoration; and recreation and infrastructure, which represent change, growth and design.

The existing prefabricated restroom is an unflattering focal point for Kingsbury Commons. It is proposed to be removed and a new, larger restroom is proposed, located, along with the splash park mechanical room, in the west side of the commons, away from the floodway and tucked into the slope.

VISION

PEASE PARK AND SHOAL CREEK GREENBELT IS...

- > a green, urban oasis whose natural waterway, Shoal Creek, its forest, open spaces and cultural history are protected and enhanced,
- > a safe, well-maintained and beautiful destination that is easily accessible for all, and serves the adjoining neighborhoods and all Austinites, and
- > a hub of Austin's trail system, where people gather as a community to enjoy recreation and respite.



GOALS AND ACTIONS

The goals of sustaining and improving Pease Park cover the four parts of the Park's physical development. **ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIONS** address the Park's natural systems, **CULTURAL ACTIONS** address the historic and contemporary built features in the Park, **RECREATIONAL ACTIONS** address the spaces and features that provide leisure activities for people and **CONNECTIONS ACTIONS** link the Park to the surrounding neighborhoods and system, largely outside of the Park property. Below are listed the major objectives that will shape the park, grouped by these four themes.

ENVIRONMENT

Goal: Preserve and Enhance the Natural Environment

- Preserve the existing legacy trees and other native trees and vegetation where possible.
- Plant more trees especially on the hillside, along the creek and roadways.
- Eradicate invasive plants, focusing on the hillside and creek edge.
- Restore the creek edge by extending the actions of the Watersheds restoration project from Gaston Green to the Cliffs.
- Improve habitat by reducing fragmentation / improving patch and corridor integrity and planting vegetation conducive to desirable species such as song birds, waterfowl and pollinators.
- Define the edges of the manicured landscape versus naturalized landscape for the purpose of maintenance and aesthetics.
- Provide for special treatment and preservation of the important geologic resources including the Buda limestone Cliffs and Split Rock and the fossil beds.

RECREATION Goal: Provide Appropriate Recreation

- Increase passive recreation capacity by distributing activity northward in the park.
- Focus recreation facilities and gathering areas in five locations: Kingsbury Commons, Polecat Hollow, Custer's Meadow, Gaston Green and Lamar Terrace.
- Create more places for people to gather, sit and picnic.
- Extend and improve the trail system throughout the park.
- Create a hierarchy of trails including Shoal Creek and Lamar sidewalk trails as the primary spines, along with a secondary and tertiary level of path development.
- Provide attractive trails that evoke the flow of moving water, and are constructed in a sustainable way to resist flood damage and erosion.

CULTURE

Goal: Preserve and Enhance the Cultural Environment

- Define the spaces of the Park as rooms and provide names grounded in local heritage.
- Preserve and enhance the 1920s and CCC-era historic features in the park: Tudor Cottage, picnic tables, walls and bridges.
- Reuse the Tudor Cottage as a public meeting place.
- Design new facilities to complement but not mimic existing historic features to reinforce the civic and rustic aspects of the park on the streets and the park interior respectively.
- Provide picnic / shade shelters in each of the five hubs, with new bathrooms in Kingsbury and Lamar, and provisions for potential future bathrooms and a park folly called the "History Hut" in Gaston Green.
- Develop an interpretive program for the natural and cultural environment.

INFRASTRUCTURE CONNECTIONS Goal: Provide or Advocate for Connective Infrastructure to Support Use and Access

- Develop attractive and welcoming park gateways at major intersections and trailheads at the five hubs.
- Improve Lamar Boulevard as a civic "parkway" and improve Parkway with sidewalks and safe crossings as a more neighborhood oriented park frontage street.
- Add street trees where possible, improve stormwater management /rainwater capture, and bury power and communications lines where possible at Kingsbury and along Polecat Hollow.

MAJOR ACTIONS AT THE FIVE ACTIVITY HUBS AND ADJACENT STREETS

The strategy to accommodate and manage recreational use is to concentrate activity in five hubs to allow the forest to regenerate and thrive: Kingsbury Commons, Polecat Hollow, Custer's Meadow, Gaston Green and Lamar Terrace. To reduce impact in Pease Park where park use is heaviest, additional points of recreational development are proposed at Gaston Green and Lamar Terrace. The descriptions below assume that landscape restoration is a given feature at all locations.

KINGSBURY COMMONS ACTIVITY HUB



OPEN ARMS: THE FUTURE KINGSBURY COMMONS

The welcoming front door of the park is a civic landmark with a shady and well-used entry area and a long sweeping view across the Big Field.

Kingsbury Commons, the current heart of Pease Park, will remain the Park's most prominent space. New access and internal improvements will make it a more attractive and interesting place while reinforcing the good parts that make it popular and one of Austin's iconic open spaces.

Approach, Arrival and Entry

The most dramatic change will come at the doorstep to the Park.

- Primary Park gateway and arrival space at Kingsbury Commons
- Proper setting for the historic stone gates integrated with the Park arrival space
- "Traffic table" of special paving at the intersection of Parkway and Kingsbury to slow traffic

- Clear, safe and attractive pedestrian crossings from Parkway to the Park
- Relocate utility poles and bury the wires in the prime viewshed/circulation space
- New signature pedestrian bridge aligned with City's proposed 15th Street crosswalk on Lamar, and salvage the existing bridge for re-use
- Re-designed parking lot to improve appearance, capture/filter stormwater, and add shade
- Remove/redesign vehicle barrier and position dumpster to limit visibility
- Bicycle racks, Austin B-Cycle station and drinking fountain

Kingsbury Commons

- Welcoming, attractive and iconic Park entry space with stone paving, terraces and low walls to frame the view to the Big Field
- Continued park like appearance of trees in lawn, framed on the east by the riparian forest and on the west by the Ramble slope
- Existing prefab bathroom removed and salvaged for re-use elsewhere in the Austin park system
- New state of the art nature-influenced playscape to replace the existing playscape, and include a multifunction activity pad and basketball court and shade structures
- New splash pad in the new playscape. Demolish the existing splash pad
- Renovated Tudor Cottage as a multipurpose gathering space with adjacent seating terraces.
- Retain historic CCC picnic table and reinforce the shade grove
- New multipurpose pavilion that includes shaded picnic space and interior space for expanded restrooms, storage for park maintenance hand tools, space for the splash pad mechanical equipment and material storage
- Key existing trees protected, relocate select trees and plant additional trees to shade and frame the spaces, trim dangerous trees
- Provide an integral space for the memorial garden and a petanque court
- Provide limited, new compatibly designed pedestrian lighting
- Build paved Shoal Creek Trail to align the CCC stone walls, to expand the Big Field.
- Provide a Shoal Creek Overlook
- Continue to reinforce the riparian restoration efforts by defining the mow line along the Shoal Creek Trail

BIG FIELD

- Expand to the east when Shoal Creek Trail is shifted and paved
- Retain softball/kickball field
- Expand/densify shade grove at north end
- Design focal trail node/seating area at the north terminus of the Big Field, aligned with proposed MLK gateway and new pedestrian bridge to Polecat Hollow/MLK

NORTH RAMBLE / HILLSIDE

- Provide four trail gateways at the Shoal Creek Trail (north), Big Field Node (east), Tudor Cottage (south), and Kingsbury Street (west)
- Analyze the "backcountry" hiking trail system to simplify and find the best routes for the long term path placement, to protect vegetation and allow for access
- Continue "rough" mowing to the midslope trail, and allow the remaining sloped area up to Kingsbury Street to grow in with annual mowing only
- Continue reforestation to infill canopy and address attrition, and frame the important Capitol View corridor

WINDSOR HILLSIDE

- Develop a signature Park gateway at former Harrell Street. Remove street and barriers and provide landing spaces with terraced steps, adjacent ramps, low walls and re-vegetation
- Encourage a fully layered native canopy / understory / groundcover forest to enhance songbird habitat
- Provide soft hiking trails to allow access for birding and alternative routes from Windsor Road to Kingsbury Street

POLECAT HOLLOW



DOWN TO THE CREEK: THE FUTURE POLECAT HOLLOW The big view from Lamar will show a busier place framed by shade trees with places to gather at the edge of the expansive lawn and along the creek.

Polecat Hollow will be transformed from a relatively unused space into a gathering place second to Kingsbury Commons in its array of park features.

- Major Park gateway at Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard (MLK) intersection with improved crosswalk, curb ramps and other features.
- Provide new custom bus shelter, arrival terrace, signage seating, B-Cycle station, open bicycle racks, trash receptacle and drinking fountain
- New pedestrian bridge to Kingsbury Commons with connecting path to MLK arrival terrace.
- New walkway connecting MLK to the Polecat features
- Excavate where possible to provide shallow rainwater capture basins south of MLK and north of the volleyball courts

- New picnic pavilion near courts, with freestanding picnic tables near the large oak and a seating area and a path to channel circulation and frame the space
- Reinforce riparian forest, existing Mesquite Grove and define high value lawn area within a meadow context
- New tree-studded terraced bowl leading to the creek with a veil of trees along the creek.
- New signature pedestrian bridge to Custer's Meadow, to complete an ADA accessible route encompassing all of Pease Park proper
- Maintain signature plantings, wildflower meadow, drinking fountain and exercise stations.

CUSTER'S MEADOW



CONNECTED: THE FUTURE CUSTER'S MEADOW

Now linked to Polecat Hollow by bridge, Custer's Meadow is the low key space of Pease Park with a shade-dappled lawn to sit out on, and overlooks to the creek from Shoal Creek Trail.

Custer's Meadow will remain a low-key open space, with better connections to the rest of the Park and neighborhoods. Custer's Oak is among the most iconic features in the Park. The Watershed Protection Department's Shoal Creek Restoration project will capture and filter stormwater from Parkway and reduce and eventually remove and relocate parking from around Custer's Oak to be farther from the tree or on the street. The plan proposes modest improvements in the form of an improved pedestrian node at the Oak, gateway at 24th Street sidewalk, a pavilion and connecting trails to a bridge leading to Polecat Hollow.

The area has been stressed by human and pet traffic, stormwater flows, bank erosion and invasive species. The Shoal Creek restoration project will dramatically reshape this area through bank stabilization, rainwater meadows, invasive species control, impervious pavement reductions and landscape plantings. The master plan will support and complement this work by ensuring the plantings between the trail and the creek are of appropriate size to direct user traffic, expanding the riparian zone to include the entire area between the creek and trail, creating formal creek access points, and monitoring invasive species.

- Gateways at Custer's Oak, 24th Street and Rainbow Lane to reinforce the Park character.
- New overlook and terraced creek connection at Fossil Bend
- New shade pavilion near 24th Street
- Improved edge condition at Parkwa
- Bridge to Polecat Hollow with connecting walk to Custer's Oak

WOOTEN WOODS



GREEN TUNNEL: THE FUTURE WOOTEN WOODS

The Shoal Creek Trail weaves under the canopy of the cedar elm grove, with side routes to creek crossings, overlooks, and seating areas braided into the design of the space.

Wooten Woods is the beginning of the wilder, north portion of the greenbelt. Heavily affected by flooding, the area is defined by the grove of cedar elms and the arching canopy over the Shoal Creek Trail. Improvements will support the Shoal Creek Restoration Project to stabilize the soil, revegetate the area and pave the Shoal Creek Trail.

The groundcover and understory in this area are substantially degraded from previous disturbances that include disc golf and flooding. These previous disturbances are exacerbated by current informal, off-trail recreation and off leash dogs. Understory restoration as well as bank stabilization is part of the Shoal Creek Restoration Project and will substantially enhance the area. The master plan will complement these efforts by increasing canopy, understory and groundcover diversity in the restored area, creating formal creek access points, and creating formal and/or informal barriers to allow for plant establishment in highly used areas.

- Invasive Species Removal
- Tree Care
- Riparian Reforestation
- Signature Plantings
- Stone Culvert Restoration
- Picnic Tables / Seating / Dog Waste Stations
- Integrate the proposed fully-designed Shoal Creek Trail and braided side trails with the trail being built in the Shoal Creek Restoration Project.
- Overlooks and Trail Connectors

GASTON GREEN



NEW DESTINATION: THE FUTURE GASTON GREEN A shade pavilion and the History Hut face onto a multiuse lawn surrounded by places to sit, facing out to the Shoal Creek Trail along the Creek.

Gaston Green provides a mid-Park gathering place, a focal point for the gateway and serves Pemberton Heights. Gaston Green, the fourth activity hub, is located at the base of Gaston Street and the two Shoal Creek Boulevard bridges. It is the gateway to Pemberton Heights and a popular destination for dog owners. Recommendations are to restore the landscape where possible, increase park amenities and improve the area's appearance with select paving and curbing.

- Shade Pavilion
- History Hut for gathering and interpretation
- Central Lawn with perimeter path and seating
- Improved walkways, parking lot and street edges

- Restore Historic Walls and Benches
- Riparian Reforestation
- Invasive Species Removal
- Tree Care
- Waterline / Water fountain
- Gaston Sidewalk / Gateway
- Integrate the proposed fully-designed Shoal Creek Trail and braided side trails with the trail being built in the Shoal Creek Restoration Project.
- Picnic Tables /Seating / Dog Waste Stations
- Historical Interpretation
- Bridge Lighting

LAMAR TERRACE



GATEWAY TO THE GREENBELT: THE FUTURE LAMAR TERRACE

The new civic gateway at 29th Street welcomes park visitors, UT students and seniors from the Lamar Senior Activity Center with a view of a central lawn framed by a shade pavilion, restroom and overlook and seating among the arching trees.

Lamar Terrace is the northern most hub space in the greenbelt and a major civic gateway and park entry. Recommended improvements will make it a more welcoming and interesting place for recreation. Located opposite the Lamar Senior Activity Center, it provides an opportunity for recreation for seniors in an intergenerational setting. It is a gateway space for UT students, the first connection to the green belt from campus via 29th Street. It is also the location of the service access for the crosstown sewer line, and requires service access accommodation for Austin Water Utility.

- Shade pavilion
- Restroom built into the east slope
- Central lawn with perimeter walkway and seating.

THE BLUFFS



HILL COUNTRY IN TOWN: THE BLUFFS

The path snaking along the face of the Buda limestone cliffs will be selectively widened to provide safe clearance with a new railing and a tree canopy overlook from the Lamar Boulevard sidewalk.

The Bluffs are the defining feature of the north greenbelt and a landmark unto itself. Recommendations focus on preservation and developing safe and alternative ways to experience the Bluffs. The topography visible from the trail as it goes through the Bluffs area is some of the most dramatic found within the study area. A walk through the Bluffs is a lesson in the geologic history of Central Texas that can be accentuated through appropriate interpretation. This area has numerous invasive species infestations within the riparian zone and at the base of the bluffs. Management will focus on replacing these invasive plants with appropriate natives and increasing overall diversity in the area. This area of the park

is similar to the steep canyons found in the Balcones Canyonlands on the eastern edge of the Edwards Plateau. As a result, some of the plant selection recommendations are unique to this type of habitat. Because of the unique nature of the Bluffs within the Park and Austin, the area is considered a high priority area within the master plan.

- Invasive Species Removal
- Upland Reforestation
- Riparian Reforestation/ Bank Stabilization
- Children's Nature Play
- Shoal Creek Retaining Wall / Guardrails
- Overlooks and Trail Connections
- Restore Pylons / Culverts
- Historical Interpretation

MAJOR ACTIONS ON SURROUNDING STREETS

In an effort to create an attractive and safe context for the Park, some of the most important aspects of the plan are recommended in the street rights of way of Lamar Boulevard and Kingsbury / Parkway outside the park.

WEST MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BOULEVARD GATEWAY



WELCOME: MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. GATEWAY AT LAMAR BOULEVARD

Across Lamar Boulevard will be a shaded terrace with low stone walls opening to a walkway across the bridge through Polecat Hollow.

The busy intersection of Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK)and Lamar Boulevards will become a gateway to the Park. The existing bus stop will be improved and the gateway will serve as a trail node for the Lamar Boulevard sidewalk, MLK sidewalk, connection to Kingsbury via bridge and the Polecat Hollow loop trail. Immediately to the south is an open lawn that could be excavated as a shallow infiltration basin. The bus shelter will be a custom design related to the new park structures, with additional attention to artisan craft.

- Improved Crosswalk
- Bus Shelter
- Entry terrace
- Low stone seat/signage walls
- Bicycle racks / B-Cycle station
- Trail node / Orientation signage
- Drinking fountain
- Trash can/recycling station
- Stormwater management infiltration feature

LAMAR BOULEVARD



THE FUTURE LAMAR "PARKWAY"

Travellers by car, bicycle and foot will move along a greener tree-shaded corridor framing postcard views of the skyline and of the new features in Polecat Hollow.

Lamar Boulevard will be enhanced to create a more accessible, healthy and attractive edge for the park. The improvements will shape a new parkway environment with stronger connections to the Park.

- Major Civic North –South Gateways at 15th Street and 31st Streets
- Major Civic East-West Gateways at Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, 24th and 29th Street
- Lamar Sidewalk
- Street Trees
- Stormwater Drainage
- Utility Poles

PARKWAY



LIVING UP TO ITS NAME: THE FUTURE PARKWAY Converted from a frontage road, the Parkway will include a new sidewalk, edging treatment, crosswalks, speed control, street trees and drainage.

PARKWAY

Kingsbury and Parkway are the neighborhoodscaled companions to Lamar Boulevard. Traffic calming, stormwater runoff and safe pedestrian access are the major concerns. The street functions as a throughway and as such is somewhat hazardous at times for pedestrians, especially neighborhood children and parents with strollers. New sidewalks and ways to channel stormwater are key to its improved function as a neighborhood park frontage street.

- Park Entry Gateway at 24th Street
- Bridge preservation and graffiti abatement

- Sidewalks (both sides of Parkway south, only east sides of Kingsbury and Parkway north)
- Street Trees
- Crosswalks
- Traffic Calming
- Drainage improvements
- Restore CCC Stone walls
THE BELVEDERE



THE BELVEDERE: THE FUTURE WINDSOR GATEWAY From sunny barricaded asphalt to leafy passage, new terraced stone steps and a ramp will connect Windsor Road and Parkway.

The Windsor Gateway will replace the abandoned Harrell Street connector between Windsor and Kingsbury. Existing paving and barriers will be removed, and a new flight of terraced stone steps will be built, flanked by a bicycle/stroller ramp. The upper and lower entries will be stone paved landings, flanked by low stone walls. In years to come, the adjacent space will be revegetated with trees and signature plantings to create a closed canopy of trees overhead.

DESIGN CHARACTER

The master plan provides general direction for the design character of Pease Park and the Shoal Creek Greenbelt. The design process will refine the broad ideas presented here with more specific images and products. Green design is a typical consideration at the outset of the discussion of built form and management. It is recommended that construction projects actively enroll in or at least follow the precepts of the LEED and Sustainable Sites Initiative, whose national leaders include the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center and University of Texas School of Architecture.

The Park is already shaped in various ways by its geology, hydrology, historic and contemporary influences. There is such an eclectic mix of styles it is not possible to derive one overarching style or form that should dictate the design of new improvements. The historic influences are the Tudor Cottage with its pitched roof and brick and timber detailing, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)-era bridges with their neoclassical concrete form, the tradition of stone craft on the gates and the low walls and the precast concrete picnic tables. Paving materials are limited to concrete and decomposed granite.

The overall composition we see today was not driven by a predetermined form. The location and arrangement of features is casual and appears to have responded to simple concepts of convenience and logic, such as the siting of the cottage above the flood plain. Very little documentation exists from which to draw conclusions about the designers' intent beyond what remains on the site.

The facility program that evolved during the master planning process recommends new structures, trails and other features. The cumulative effect of these features will alter the image of the Park, so a clear concept of and rationale for the new look is needed to create a coherent built image. The design team took the challenge of helping to shape the Park in the context of the design tradition of the City of Austin, PARD and the neighborhood and the intrinsic spirit of the Park.

Seeking inspiration for guiding principles to shape the character, the team examined the site's geology, hydrology, vegetation, and the architectural traditions of the City, including that of craftsmen and artisans and current public open space design. The team concluded that the specific idiosyncrasies of the place dictate the need to evolve a new aesthetic that is drawn from the land and influenced by the people.

The story begins with the site's position on the Balcones fault, spanning two geologic formations and the recognition that stone is a very visible part of the site's skeleton as seen in the bluffs and the creek bed. The hydrology of the site, evidenced by the creek and its flow, provides a counterpoint to the rugged stone. Together the rugged crystalline stone and the fluid dynamic creek drive the overarching design character of the park.

The buildings, site walls and paths, the most visible elements of the Park, define the character. The proposed buildings are straightforward rectangular forms made of steel and stone that relate to the monumental presence of the stone features in the park – the bluffs, split rock and the creek bed. The buildings also relate to the urban conditions along the park's edge at the streets, where the CCC-era monumentality and civic form inspired the concrete bridge designs.

Together, the two systems work together by looking inward to the wilds of the Park and its driving force, the creek, and outward to the civic form of the streets and neighborhoods surrounding the Park. The four components of the built realm of the Park are described below: the paths that provide access through the site, the buildings that house the activities, the site features that support the exterior spaces, and the furnishings.

IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation addresses the governance of the Park, the capacity of the City to take action, the estimated order of magnitude costs of the Park with prioritized phasing, natural areas management, use management, safety and future horizons for planning beyond the scope and time frame of this document.

GOVERNANCE

Pease District Park and the adjacent Shoal Creek Greenbelt that comprise the planning area are fully operated and managed by PARD. The Pease Park Conservancy (PPC) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and the "Adopt-a-Park" partner for Pease Park. Since 2008, the PPC has led efforts to improve the area's landscape, including planting 500 new trees and restoring historic features in the park, such as the Tudor Cottage, Memorial Entry Gates constructed in the 1920s and the picnic tables installed by the Works Progress Administration. PPC has established a permanent financial endowment at the Austin Community Foundation. It is meant to be a "trust fund" for the Park to supplement what the City can spend on its care. The endowment is presently valued at \$200,000.

MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The master plan provides a conceptual framework for the development of Pease Park and the adjacent Shoal Creek greenbelt for the next 20-30 years. An Implementation Guide that lists suggested priorities and cost estimates is part of the final document. The master plan, developed through a community-based process, provides a blueprint of park development and moreover, is a tool that can be used to leverage contributions from the nonprofit and private sector for improvements. The City will likely play a role in coming years through the Capital Improvements Program, which is the voterapproved bond program that addresses major capital projects. Currently, there are no public sector funds allocated for the implementation of the master plan.

The Conservancy has expressed its intent to actively raise private funds to assist the City in funding approved projects in the park. PPC and the City will continue to work with other partners to fund improvements. Among the various approaches to funding may be the naming of certain features or places in the Park, in accordance with City policy.

ORDER OF MAGNITUDE COST ESTIMATE / PHASING PRIORITIES

Inside the Park

Landrana Chavatay Zana		Total		
Landscape Character Zone		Low Range	High Range	
Kingsbury Commons		\$4,195,060	\$6,458,202	
Big Field		\$865,674	\$1,560,780	
North Ramble and Hillside		\$296,148	\$466,716	
Windsor Hillside		\$411,240	\$774,180	
Polecat Hollow		\$2,220,420	\$4,328,370	
Caswell Shoals		\$101,568	\$202,722	
Custer's Meadow		\$629,280	\$1,012,920	
24th St Bridge		\$563,040	\$935,640	
Wooten Woods		\$405,720	\$661,020	
Live Oak Terrace		\$196,650	\$383,640	
Gaston Green		\$985,941	\$1,637,232	
East Bank		\$68,310	\$164,220	
Ramble Scramble		\$1,033,620	\$1,672,560	
Lamar Slope		\$82,800	\$193,200	
Lamar Terrace		\$1,121,250	\$2,028,600	
29th St Bridge		\$455,400	\$759,000	
The Bluffs		\$359,490	\$757,620	
Reclaimed Water		\$871,200	\$1,742,400	
	TOTAL	\$14,862,811	\$25,739,022	

Outside the Park

Landssona Character Zona		Total		
Lanuscape Character Zone		Low Range	High Range	
Kingsbury Commons		\$489,900	\$897,000	
Gaston Green		\$55,200	\$82,800	
East Bank		\$34,500	\$55,200	
Lamar Parkway		\$4,335,960	\$7,990,200	
Parkway / Kingsbury		\$996,360	\$1,835,400	
Reclaimed Water		\$1,400,000	\$4,200,000	
	TOTAL	\$7,311,920	\$15,060,600	

NATURAL AREAS MANAGEMENT

The desire to preserve the natural environment was made clear during the public engagement process. Participants placed "Preserve and Protect the Natural Environment" of the Park at the top of the list of priorities. Further evidence of care in stewardship can be seen by the huge volunteer effort already put into the Park by Pease Park Conservancy volunteers and their partners. To continue to protect and enjoy this amazing and dynamic natural resource, active management is necessary. The guidelines and concepts presented in the plan and in the more detailed appendices lay out some of the information needed to work towards the goal of preserving and protecting the Park. The plan includes categories of parcels designated for land management tasks, a land management schedule that prioritizes tasks over the next five years, monitoring recommendations that insure a clear understanding of resources and time invested and allow for a feedback loop of success, metrics to understand how the complex system of management is working towards overall multi-year goals, and finally resources for building greater capacity of the core volunteer group that has carried out so much work at the Park already.

USE MANAGEMENT: LIMITS OF ACCEPTABLE CHANGE AND CARRYING CAPACITY

PARK MANAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIP

All parks experience varying degrees of competing interest, budget limitations and expectations of appearance, function and experience. Park agencies are pressed to balance the different positions and priorities in terms of fiscal, social and physical impact. To address this aspect of management, the plan recommends a framework to evaluate, monitor and take action on the physical and human side of the park. It is rarely possible for park agencies to manage each park's interests to the degree necessary to manage the many issues that arise, especially in popular urban parks. The presence of a conservancy provides a partnership opportunity to resolve, or if not possible to resolve, funnel focused concerns to the City. Such an agreement will help to ensure the future of Pease Park. It will need to be drafted by the City and the Pease Park Conservancy along with other important stakeholders such as the Shoal Creek Conservancy.

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

A partnership agreement or memorandum of understanding/agreement is necessary to establish the ground rules for what the partner entity is required or able to do, and what is not possible. Such an agreement lies in the future at Pease Park. It needs to be worked out by the City, and the Pease Park Conservancy, along with other important stakeholders like the Shoal Creek Conservancy.

BALANCING PEOPLE WITHIN NATURE WHILE REACHING THE FULL POTENTIAL

Pease Park has the capacity to serve more people, but only to a certain extent before increased use degrades the park's environmental and experiential quality. This is called carrying capacity, and it is a relative concept. As the first plan for Pease Park, it is recommended that a conclusive procedure be put in place to evaluate carrying capacity on an ongoing basis.

THE BASIS FOR MANAGEMENT: RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP AND VISITOR EXPERIENCE

Park stewardship addresses the quality of the place and what people can do in it. To establish a baseline for park stewards and the public, some form of agreement is needed about the expectations for the physical quality and social experience. In the case of an established park such as Pease, there is a long record of maintenance and use that predisposes expectations. This master plan is an opportunity to set a baseline for future stewards and park users to refer to as the Park environment and pressures for use evolve.

SECURITY

The increasing popularity of the Park as a key part of Austin's focus on physical health and outdoor lifestyles, coupled with the increase of trail use of all kinds has drawn more people to the Park and helped to provide a passive police presence. In addition, the range of programming from school groups to picnickers, families, kick ballers, volleyball players, birders and petanque players have all contributed to the increased safety of the park. The layout and design of gateways, paths, parking, and gathering places in Pease Park will reinforce user and neighbor safety according to best practices.

FUTURE HORIZONS

THE VISION BEYOND THE HORIZON The to do list for Pease Park and the Shoal Creek Greenbelt is extensive. Even so, it is only the first step in an even larger civic perspective. The master plan responds to the needs of the Park itself, and reaches beyond to the adjacent streets to bring them into the greenway concept. But this plan stops at the right of way. Several big picture influences are beyond the scope of this master plan, but may have a significant influence in the future. These influences include population growth, climate change, success and greenway plan.

- Opportunities Due to Growth: the Lamar of the Future
- Climate Change and Canopy Decline
- Coping with Success
- A Bigger Vision: the Shoal Creek Greenway



INTRODUCTION ER 1



INTRODUCTION ER

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SETTING THE STAGE

The Introduction outlines the contents of the report and describes the status of the master plan project in relation to its place in the City and its companion watercourse, Waller Creek; the call to action to address the impacts of pressures that bear

on the Park such as population growth, recreation demand, drought climate change, and balancing the appearance and use of the Park, and future areas of study beyond the scope of the master plan.

1.1 ABOUT THE MASTER PLAN

The master plan is a blueprint to develop a unified vision with supporting goals, promote and manage the range of actions necessary to implement the goals, and prioritize phasing and budget. Given that this document is Pease Park's first master plan, it must cover considerable ground. As the first comprehensive master plan for Pease Park, the document presents a vision for the Park that is grounded in its past and looks to its future. Like the Park itself, the master plan bridges past and present, drawing from the memories that give the Park its special meaning and the aspirations for its role in the Austin of the future.

The master plan document includes an executive summary; the foundation for planning, which includes the history, and existing conditions of natural and cultural resources, recreation and connective infrastructure. The master plan section includes the vision and goals; program; challenges and opportunities and alternatives considered; parkwide recommendations, detailed recommendations, design character and implementation. The vision, goals and program connect the inventory, community input and the recommendations. The master plan views the Park from the broadest point of view (the vision), by thematic interest/jurisdictional responsibility (the four themes), by systems (e.g., circulation, vegetation, stormwater) and by geography (by "room," or park space).

The project area is the public land from Kingsbury Street to 31st Street, including Pease Park proper and the Shoal Creek Greenbelt. This area is described very generally in the 1998 Shoal Creek Greenway Master Plan, the only other known comprehensive document prepared for the creek, which limited most recommendations to the Shoal Creek Trail.

Because the sustainability of the Park is strongly influenced by its surroundings, the master plan looks outside the Park to the streets that surround it, to the adjacent neighborhoods, and to the larger context of the major actions in the City that bear on Pease Park as a part of Austin's park system.



Shoal Creek Trail in Custer's Meadow weaves among heritage trees along the creek. It is proposed to be widened for safe two way bicycle traffic and pedestrians. Image: Scott Swearingen The Opportunity of Being in the Middle In terms of planning, this master plan for Pease

Park and the Shoal Creek Greenbelt is being undertaken before and after several defining planning and design efforts. It is being done after the City's \$5.8 million investment in the Shoal Creek restoration project and the plan for the proposed lower Shoal Creek trail improvement projects extending to the Lake. It is being done before the Shoal Creek Conservancy's master plan for the entire creek corridor. Thus, this plan builds on major public investments in watershed restoration as a fixed condition, and can help to define the overall greenway vision. Along with the Shoal Creek Restoration Project, the master plan can be seen as the "beta test" for planning the greenway.

In terms of geography, this reach of the creek is in the middle of planning zones. It is the middle of the greenway described as the "parkland character zone" in the Action Plan. This is only 35% of the overall length of the greenway. Downstream is the urban character zone and upstream is the much longer suburban character zone. The comparatively bucolic parkland zone is radically different from the narrow corridor and dense high rise conditions of much of the urban character zone, and is a more established and dramatic landscape than the suburban zone. It is the only place along the creek that is paralleled by a continuous major roadway, Lamar Boulevard.

Certain aspects of Pease Park are predetermined due to the high quality of its natural and cultural heritage. The narrow creek corridor and steep slopes that are well suited to the Park's linear trails leave comparatively little space for public use and gathering. 80% of the Park is in the flood plain and most of that is subject to high velocity inundation. So, of the Park's 84-acres, 29.2 acres are riparian, 17.3 acres are steep slope, leaving 37.5 acres of level land.

As a much loved and established park, Pease Park comes with many strings attached to its cultural heritage and a wealth of folklore about the Park itself, as well as its development. With about 139 years of history since its designation as a public park, many aspects of the Park's physical form are indeed "cast in stone" or rather, concrete, as parts of long established use patterns. Additionally, the Park is the literal backyard of many residents, and as such many residents are passionate about limiting the extent of change from the present state. Pease Park is defined by the City as a district park with a very long and strong record of neighborhood use patterns and deeply rooted concern for its present integrity. One of the most frequent statements in user surveys conducted during this planning process was to keep the Park as it is.

Yet there is both a mandate for and also great capacity for positive change to shape the Park in a way that will sustain it and make it more useful and attractive.

ASSETS

Pease Park has numerous assets to be celebrated...















CHALLENGES

SOLUTIONS

...but it faces many challenges that must be met with visionary solutions.





flooding and erosion ______ bio-engineering





drought and tree stress ------ native planting and reforestation





water pollution and stagnant water -----> filtration



neglect - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - → restorat





disjointed circulation -----

-> connected



illegible spaces -----> defined places

Drought and Stress are Taking a Toll on the Trees

Natural attrition, coupled with the well-known regional challenge of drought, as well as a major windstorm, has stressed and/or killed some of the existing trees within the Park. Existing trees need to be protected and nurtured and new trees need to be planted to replace those that have died. Trees for Pease addressed this crisis and the Pease Park Conservancy continues to dedicate itself to restoring and preserving the tree canopy.

Floods: More Water Quantity, Poorer Quality

Shoal Creek has long been suffering from greatly intensified urban stormwater runoff stemming from adjacent development throughout the watershed. This has led from a historically more consistent flow of purer water to periods of intense flood and very low flow. Without a strategy to mitigate these problems, the future of Pease Park's creeks will be increasingly jeopardized.

Shoal and Waller Creeks: Bookends to Downtown

In the broad sense of city planning, the future of Shoal Creek must be considered in light of its relationship with Waller Creek. The two creeks delineated the approximate original boundaries of downtown, and although they are locked within the streets in their lower reaches, they continue to mark the edge of the urban core. Waller and Shoal both have distinct lower, middle and upper character areas. The Pease Park reach in this master plan is more akin to Waller's middle reach, including the UT and older neighborhoods of the Creek. Shoal and Waller both have urban design driven and infrastructure intensive plans for their lower urbanized reaches, and both have suburbanized upper reaches.

This particular reach of Shoal Creek contrasts starkly with the project area of the City's lower Waller Creek initiative. Lower Waller Creek is the central feature of the City's massive floodwater management and economic redevelopment initiative. It is hyper-urbanized, radically altered



Shoal Creek and Waller Creek frame downtown Austin as seen in the 1880's lithograph in which the Shoal Creek valley is shaded. West Austin was undeveloped at that time. Image: Perry-Castaneda Library Map Collection, University of Texas Libraries by a new massive stormwater infrastructure bypass, adjacent to the interstate highway proposed for total transformation, and the subject of visionary ideas for economic change and new urban form.

The development of these two greenways presents an opportunity for the City to coordinate and take advantage of these two bookends to downtown. While the two are very different in many respects, coordination of the public right of way would be a clear way of marking the limits of the historic downtown core, celebrating the Waller Map's origins, and drawing attention to the creeks, both as features unto themselves as well as companions that frame the core. Coordinated urban design could take many forms, such as signage, lighting, streetscape design and could be synchronized with the three reaches of each creek corridor.

The Pease Park portion presents the opportunity to set the civic agenda for urban design gateway standards that would unify the two corridors. In Austin, north-south streets have long been the defining corridors. Using these streets as thresholds to downtown, the east west streets could be elevated in importance as corridors linking the western and eastern neighborhoods to downtown. The gateways in the Park at 15th, Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, 24th and 29th Streets could reinforce this concept.

More People/ Same Park Size

The Park must respond to increased use and be prepared for even more intensity. The population of Austin has grown by 1000% from approximately 8,000 residents when the Park was first established to 885,400 residents in 2013. Imagine Austin, the City's comprehensive plan was based on a 30-year time horizon, by which Austin is projected to grow to one million. Once the western edge of the town, the Park is now a green ribbon surrounded by development, minutes from downtown, and the focus of Austin's long established western neighborhoods. The growth the City is experiencing and the policies the City has adopted to manage it have fueled, and will continue to fuel, intensive highrise development downtown. Much of this is concentrated along or near lower Shoal Creek, just minutes from Pease Park.

This increased population, the trend towards pedestrianization and better connections to downtown/Lady Bird Lake are placing significantly increased pressure on the Park: pressure for space on trails, lawns, parking areas and in the back country.

Meeting the Needs of the City

The population growth places further pressure on the City to accommodate the leisure needs of additional citizens. Parks throughout the country in areas of growth need to respond to this by creating efficient, low impact ways to accommodate the additional use that comes from this growth. Balancing increased human use and traffic with the urgent need to preserve the natural environment that attracts people in the first place is a key concern. Like all successful parks, Pease Park faces the challenge of being loved to death, and reaching a point where it exceeds its ability to regenerate and sustain its environmental and social stability.

The demand for recreation requires additional accommodation in ways that do not impact the Park environment in excess of its sustainable carrying capacity. As use and impact increase, additional facilities are needed and the visual quality of those facilities become increasingly important.

Improved Access, Increased Impact

As part of this master plan, improved connections in all directions, intended to encourage safer and more convenient access, will draw in more people and attendant impact on the Park. Facility Lifecycles Come to an End and Require Replacement

Facilities such as the splash pad and playscape have a natural lifecycle beyond which they cease to function well and maintain their appearance. This renewal presents an opportunity to improve and renew the facilities.

Long and Thin Parks Present Unique Challenges and Opportunities

Greenway parks in very dense urban areas are subject to many natural and manmade impacts; they both suffer and benefit from the edge effect. Unlike a park of similar size in a circular shape, for example, negative effects degrade the image and function of linear parks along its length and impacts from either side easily affect the entire width of the Park. Conversely, the greenway park's shape allows more contact with surrounding neighborhoods and residents and can serve as a thoroughfare.

A Call to Action

Collectively these influences call for a wellintegrated and comprehensive response. Unlike a start-up park or one that is truly "broken," Pease Park requires a wide range of solutions that preserve it as a well-loved place while addressing the issues, fixing the problems and making the needed improvements.

Pease Park's value to Austin resides in its natural and cultural history, its recreation amenity, and its role as a civic feature in the City. Taken at face value, any of these four values establish the Park as a significant asset to the City, yet it is the combination of the four that set Pease Park apart.



Volunteers have helped to replace the trees lost to drought and age. An overall strategy for tree planting will help to prioritize and guide volunteer efforts in the long-term.

Image: Pease Park Conservancy

1.2 FURTHER STUDY

The document includes a basic inventory of park features at a level of detail sufficient to inform decision-making at the broad master plan scale. Further detailed study is recommended when and where needed to provide the support for specific decisions on a site- and project-specific basis.

The topics of natural heritage, interpretation and play are cited for further study:

Natural Resources

The natural resource inventory herein is intended for master plan level decision making. It is based on field visits, overview of available literature, and several expert opinions. It is not a peer reviewed scientific inventory, which is recommended as the basis for detailed management decisions and to inform a higher level of resolution in interpretive planning. PARD and PPC may consider promoting the project area as the subject of urban ecology and biological investigations by university students and faculty as a way to increase technical knowledge.

The natural resources report prepared by Siglo Group was extensively summarized in the body of the master plan document. Appendix A contains the full body of document including georeferenced photopoints, botanical names, species lists, technical citations and detailed text for inventory and recommendations.

In addition to a biological survey, the ongoing concerns for water management dictate the need to continually monitor flow and pollutants, including fecal coliform, as well as the effects related to the presence of the off-leash dog area in the Park. PARD/PPC may wish to consider an approach used with increasing frequency called a "bioblitz." These events are intense, 24-hour site investigations conducted by a multidisciplinary team of academics, ecology professionals and volunteers/residents. The intent is to bring together diverse resources to catalogue the flora and fauna of a property.

Interpretive Planning

An interpretive plan should be done for the Park based on the findings of the above studies. The plan should identify themes, story lines, methods of interpretation and appropriate ways to do so via programs, signs, cell phone apps or other platforms.

The State of Play

The state of the art of play has evolved considerably since the current play and spray equipment was put in place. The master plan recommends that upon (or before) reaching the end of their lifecycle, the spray pad be relocated out of the floodplain and integrated with a redesigned playscape. The new play trends include advances in playscape and water play equipment, nature play, adventure play and intergenerational play. The Park should be considered in its entirety as a play venue, with special focus on creating a play experience worthy of Pease's potential.



FOUNDATION FOR PLANNING



FOUNDATION FOR PLANNING

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UNDERSTANDING THE PLACE

The Foundation for Planning provides the basis for the master plan recommendations. It includes a description of the master plan process and overview of public engagement, park history, planning context,

and inventory of the natural, cultural, recreational and infrastructural resources of the park and its immediate surroundings.

2.1 PROCESS / PUBLIC COMMENT

2.1.1 THE MASTER PLAN PROCESS

The project began with literature research, site visits and meetings with PARD, PPC and key stakeholders. The WRT Team prepared an inventory and analysis of existing conditions and potential program elements, which was presented and discussed at a public meeting. The team conducted a user survey on site, at the public meeting and via web. The team continued with stakeholder interviews and comparative analysis tours of local parks and neighborhoods. The results of the first public meeting, the survey and other aspects informed the development of the draft park concepts presented at the second public meeting. The team continued to collect data in interviews and site visits with local experts and synthesized the results of the second meeting in the preparation of the draft master plan presented at a third public meeting, and in this document.

2.1.2 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

PARD planning staff facilitated the public engagement process to ensure that community outreach and participation was extensive and far-reaching. Outreach included signage in the park; notices to neighborhood associations and interested parties through the community registry; web page and social media; and multiple media advisories that resulted in numerous print and television stories. Further, PARD worked with the consultants to develop a survey tool that received nearly 1,000 responses. PARD maintained a dedicated Pease Park Master Plan website and posted the presentations from each public meeting. All three public meetings were well-attended with an average of 70 attendees at each meeting. PARD also facilitated a meeting with the Lamar Senior Activity Center Advisory Board to solicit feedback about how the park could better serve the center. Please refer to Appendix D for the full reporting.



PARD staff served as the primary point of contact for the community to ensure that feedback received from the public throughout the planning process was conveyed quickly and directly to the master plan consultants. PARD staff convened a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to advise the master plan team throughout the process. The TAG consisted of representatives from the following city departments:

- Watershed Protection Department
- Transportation Department
- Neighborhood Connectivity
- Water Utility
- Corporate Public Information Office
- Urban Planning Division
- Capital Metro
- PARD Forestry
- PARD Operations and Maintenance
- PARD Office of Capital Improvement Program

Three community meetings at the Lamar Senior Activity Center provided opportunities for discussions and explanation of issues and solutions. Image: Vic Hinterlang



forest. 99

2.1.3 PEASE PARK PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY

The Pease Park Master Plan has gone through an extensive public input process to solicit feedback necessary for the vision and future of Pease Park and Shoal Creek Greenbelt. From Mid-November to the middle of February, nearly 1,000 people offered comments in a variety of formats:

- Pease Park Conservancy Comments: Over a dozen members of the Pease Park Conservancy presented several different types of planning input to the Design Team in the form of the Design Team survey, Pease Park Conservancy's own survey dated May 19, 2011, general types comments and annotated park maps.
- Public Meeting #1 Keypad Survey: As part of the first public meeting, the Design Team led 57 participants through a keypad survey to solicit input to inform development of conceptual alternatives.
- Public Meeting #1 Input Comments: After the Design Team presentation and the Keypad Survey, participants in the first public meeting were invited to provide further input on four key themes of the project area – Natural Resources, Cultural Resources, Recreational Amenities and Infrastructural Amenities (transportation and utilities).

- On-Line Survey November 11, 2013 to January 28, 2014: This survey was hosted by the Survey Monkey website and was the same survey as the Keypad Survey that was conducted as part of the first Public Meeting and the Clipboard Survey that was conducted in the Pease Park and Shoal Creek Greenbelt. 368 people participated in this on-line survey.
- On-Line Survey February 9, 2014 to February 14, 2014: This survey was hosted by the Survey Monkey website and was the same survey as the on-line survey that was open from November 11, 2013 to January 28, 2014. Numerous members of the public asked to have the survey re-opened as they did not have a chance to have their input heard prior to the January 28th deadline. 358 respondents participated in the survey. Almost all of these respondents were members of Austin's disc golf community.
- Clipboard Survey: The Clipboard Survey was conducted throughout Pease Park and the Shoal Creek Greenbelt over a four-day period in January. The intent of the Clipboard Survey was to solicit input directly from the users of Pease Park and the Shoal Creek Greenbelt. This survey catches a glimpse of the weekend users as well as park volunteers. 109 people participated in this clipboard survey.











A diverse range of community members and interest groups attended the meetings and completed surveys in person, on site and online. Images: Vic Hinterlang

2.2 THE HISTORY OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF PEASE PARK AND THE SHOAL CREEK GREENBELT



Elisha Pease, born in Enfield, Connecticut in 1812, left for Texas at age 22. Elected as governor in 1853, he and his family took up residence in a west Austin plantation the seat of which as the house known as Woodlawn. The Pease holdings of 200 acres from 12th to 24th Streets were gradually subdivided by the family as primarily residential lots. Eventually Pease's New England roots were reflected in place names of Enfield, Windsor, and others. The bottomlands along Shoal Creek were reportedly Lucadia Pease's favorite of part of the plantation. In 1875, the Peases donated 23 acres of bottomlands and upland slope to the citizens of Austin for their use and enjoyment. The city named the parcel Pease Park, the first park in the city beyond the public squares designated in the Waller plan for Austin.

At present no scholarly research appears to have been done to verify the background details of the donation, or the Pease's intentions beyond the donation. However, several coincidences and parallel events suggest how events in the national scene of city development of the early 1850's -1870's provide context for the Peases' donation.

As Governor Pease and his wife Lucadia kept up correspondence and visits to and from eastern kin, they would presumably have heard about the parks being developed in the east and elsewhere, in particular in Hartford. This period was the beginning of a nationwide movement to draw upon English and European precedents for the use of public open space to improve the conditions of cities that were experiencing rapid growth due to the industrial revolution. It coincided with the development of large tracts for housing, and the rise of a class of wealthy individuals some of whom turned to philanthropy directed towards civic improvement. Parks were considered to be useful to provide relief for the workers and also to establish value for the residential development. This civic and civilizing gesture was imported to address similar concerns in growing American cities. Pease's home town of Hartford, Connecticut was a center of this. It was home to both the nation's first municipallyfunded park, Bushnell Park, developed in 1853, and the birthplace of Frederick Law Olmsted (b.1822), who was to become America's premier park designer of the time. Having travelled to Connecticut to marry his cousin Lucadia Niles in 1850, Pease and his future wife would have been present for the beginnings of America's great park movement.



Coincidentally, Olmsted travelled through Austin during his trip as a journalist documenting conditions across the south in 1856-7. He does not mention meeting the Peases or participating in discussions of city development, but Lucadia Pease wrote in correspondence at the time, "Yesterday two young gentleman sons of John Olmsted of Hartford reached here on their travels to Mexico." A year later, in 1858, Olmsted would win a competition for the design of Central Park in New York, fueling the nation's drive to develop public parks as primary features of their public identity. There is no clear connection between Olmsted and Pease, but it is notable that, following the Peases' donation, it was 37 years until a park of the stature of Central Park was developed in Austin, Zilker Park in 1917.

The city did not take action to improve the park after 1875, and in the absence of a plan it apparently became a dumping ground. Austin like other American cities was preoccupied with matters of economic development and the associated infrastructure and social concerns. A product of the collective concern for the appearance and what we now call livability of cities led to the City Beautiful Movement of the 1890's and 1900s. Led by booming Chicago, American cities turned again to the public realm of streets and parks as a target to improve and raise the stature of the nation's cities to the standards set in Europe.

In 1903 Mayor White addressed the citizens in the park on the occasion of the annual honoring of the city's firemen. He bemoaned the condition of Pease Park, linking the city's obligation to develop the park with the intent to honor the legacy of Governor Pease and his family. As reported in a transcript of the speech in the Austin Statesman of April 22, 1903, the Mayor notes that "This park...is not very large, but twenty three acres, I am informed, but it is exceptionally, rarely beautiful. It is at present somewhat inaccessible. We must enlarge it, we must beautify it and we must make it more accessible."

He then makes the case for this in terms of Austin's need, stating that "...there are few cities of [Austin's] size anywhere, certainly in America and European cities of our own age, population and wealth so devoid of pleasure places for the people as is Austin."

He discusses the terms of the deed in which the land would revert to the family in the absence of city improvement and use as a park for public good, and the challenge of the public expenditures. The address turns to a vision of expansion with donations of land by adjacent landowners, following the Pease example, with the 23 acres being "at the very heart of land fitted by nature for park purposes". In his vision

Frederick Law Olmsted Credit:: "Portrait_of Frederick_Law_Olmsted.jpg" by James Notman, Boston; engraving of image later published in Century Magazineis he states that "We should enlarge this park to at least a hundred acres. It could be expanded to Twelfth Street on the south, way up to the valley to the north and on the east to the base of the hills of West Avenue." In a nod to the need for accessibility to the park, he notes the potential connection to public transit: "This expansion would bring the park within two blocks of the street cars." He confronts the need for management of the city's parks by recommending creation of a park commission with funds from the city to run them.

He concludes: "It is time the citizens of Austin should begin to aspire to large things, to beautiful things, to things that make for the pleasure, the happiness, for the health and refinement and contentment of our people. Cannot this day....be made the day and this the occasion of the beginning of the park system for our beloved and beautiful city?"

But it was not until twenty years later that momentum built for action, making this period the highpoint of the community's vision for Pease Park. The Austin Statesman writes on March 23, 1926 that the completed plans approved by both the council and Kiwanis Club International call for "One of the most beautiful scenic parks in the state. The entire park will be worked into the scheme of decoration and beautification. Building of the memorial gates will be carried out by [Pease descendants] Niles Graham and Murray Graham as individual contributions to the project. All construction work by the Kiwanis Club will be of a permanent nature. The wading pool will be of concrete. The low water dam will also be of concrete, being placed across Shoal Creek so as to form a miniature lake which will be beautified with

lowers, lilies, swans, decorative lights, and other improvements. Permanent drives constructed by the city will form a miniature scenic loop along the course of the lake and around the park. Various attractive lighting devices will be placed throughout the parkland along the drives while heavily wooded sections have been made places for picnic grounds with benches, tables, water and lights.



No plans of the park have been found to date and little documentation of the design of features has been found with the exception of drawings for the stone gates, used in their restoration. The design of the Tudor Cottage has been attributed to Hugo Kuehne, designer of the Austin Public Library, among other civic buildings, and many residences. Kuehne organized the College of Architecture at University of Texas and was an adjunct professor from 1910-15, when he entered private practice. He was involved with the Koch and Fowler City Plan for Austin. In the 1930s the WPA program directed funds to bridge and park improvements. During this period construction included major infrastructure such as the Shoal Creek Boulevard, 24th and 29th Street Bridges, and park amenities such as the concrete picnic tables, various stone walls and improvement of the Shoal Creek Trail. In this period Lamar Boulevard was built by the city, completing the modern infrastructure surrounding the park.

No other recorded improvements have been documented until the involvement of Janet Long Fish with the Shoal Creek. Writing in his book Environmental City, local author and educator Scott Swearingen Jr. describes the story now of local legend. Janet Fish, daughter of civic leader Walter Ewing Long, and wife of Russell Fish. Grew up riding her family horses on the CCC path along the creek. The path had fallen into disrepair and Fish, with Roberta Dickson and Parks Director Beverly Sheffield, saw the creek as a natural parkway and wanted to restore the old CCC trail. With no funding forthcoming from the city, Fish funded the improvement of the trail by paying for a bulldozer. Attempts to extend the tail along the creek were blocked by landowners unwilling to grant access. Fish named the trail the "Hike and Bike Trail," a name that led to its recognition as a model linear park at both the local and national levels, reaching the attention of Lady Bird Johnson, who promoted the idea to national acclaim. As a form of landscape, the Hike and Bike Trail served as the model for all the future greenbelts in Austin, showing how area creeks could be used for recreation and parks rather than dumping grounds. It also provided a name for an idea used by other cities across the nation, for the first time placing Austin in the forefront of thinking about environmental landforms and city designs. In the late 1940's, the city relocated O'Henry's "honeymoon

cottage" to Gaston Green, sparking controversy that ended with the destruction of the house by fire.



Following the Hike and Bike trail construction, the park entered a period of accumulated improvements in the form of a new playground, conversion of the wading pool to a splash pad with mechanical room. The Tudor Cottage was closed and used for storage due to security concerns, and to address that, a new prefabricated restroom was built in a highly visible location in the center of the lawn leading to the Big Field. The Janet Long Fish Bridge was constructed near 29th Street, and the Watershed Protection Department constructed bank stabilization from Gaston Green north along the Lamar Slope.

The current improvements serve park users, but do not seem to capture the visionary spirit of Mayor White's address on the future of the park.

Below is a timeline that captures the diverse and colorful history of the park, its Native Americans, settlers, General Custer, treasure hunters, and others.

Janet Long Fish Credit: Andy Fish The geologic history of Austin shaped the Shoal Creek Valley and set the stage for its history of human settlement.

Early History:

The Pease Park area was inhabited by our earliest ancestors. According to archeologists, there is evidence that Native Americans were in the area as early as 11,400 years ago.

1800s

1800

..1825

...1850

....1875

1900

The Native American population and early settlers to Texas began to struggle over this area from the early to mid-1800s. As the population of Austin grew and frontiersmen began to venture further out of the central city, clashes with the Native American tribes ensued and skirmishes were reported along the banks of Shoal Creek.

In 1836 local settler Sarah Hibbins was abducted by Commanches and escaped from an encampment near Split Rock.



It is believed that Edwin Waller, the first mayor of Austin, gave Shoal Creek its name when in 1839 he drew the plan for the new capital of Texas, the city of Austin. The town's western boundary was Shoal Creek, named for its many shallow shoals Waller Creek, the eastern boundary, was later named in Waller's honor. Between 1865 and 1866, General George Custer and his men camped at the banks of Shoal Creek, having been sent to Texas under the Congressional Reconstruction Plan to "put down" robbery and bloodshed caused by post war opportunists. While bivouacked along Shoal Creek, cholera swept through the camp killing an estimated forty men all of whom were buried along the west side of Pease Park. In 1900 the bodies were disinterred by a flood and were reinterred at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio.

1875

The Park was created by the visionary Governor Elisha Marshall Pease and his wife, Lucadia Christiana. Guided by their New England roots and inspired by New York's Central Park, the Pease's believed in the importance of public parkland for growing cities. Pease Park was the first public park donated in Texas.

"1885: "Austin's First Trail System" is actually built by Mrs. Pease, who maintains a road across her pasture so that citizens have access to the park. Unfortunately, the park becomes a dumping ground for dead animals and she is forced to close the road." (taken from "Pease Park Restoration and Management Project" by Jill Nokes)

Children among the bluebonnets in Pease Parkpossibly in the Big Field. Image: The Austin History Center

006

1925

195C

1900s

"1903: "Park Keeper" appointed by City Council. He asks citizens to donate plants and labor to beautify the park which is used by the volunteer firemen and other groups as a picnic ground." (from "Pease Park Restoration and Management Project" by Jill Nokes)

Mayoral address cites need to develop Pease Park for recreational use to honor the terms of the Pease deed.

1913: Pease Park expanded slightly with title adjustment.



1920s

Starting in the teens, Parkway and Kingsbury Street are built on park land.

Rumor of buried Mexican gold leads to treasure hunters digging along the creek.

Fifty years after the gift from Governor E. M. Pease and his wife, the park lay nearly dormant becoming a city dumping ground. This changed in 1926 when the Austin Kiwanis Club initiated significant improvements including landscaping, lighting and the installation of a water system. With funds from Governor Pease's grandsons, Niles and Marshall Graham, the stone Memorial Gates (designed by Giesecke & Harris Architects) were built, as well as the Tudor Cottage, the park's original bathroom, which is attributed to Hugo Kuehne, architect. To maintain these improvements, the City created its first City Recreation Department in 1929. 1929, City expands Pease Park north to 24th Street.

In 1928, the 24th Street Bridge was built by the Austin Development Company, which was owned by Niles Graham, the grandson of Governor Pease.

-1930s

Lamar Boulevard is developed.

As a response to the Great Depression, Roosevelt's New Deal of 1933 helped commission the 24th Street Bridge expansion and West 29th Street Bridge. Stone culverts and large reinforced concrete picnic tables were constructed at various locations throughout the park. Their assumed date of construction is sometime in 1930's as a Works Progress Administration project.

In 1934 the Park Division of the Texas Civil Works Administration commissioned the Upper and Lower Shoal Creek Bridges designed by L.A. Schmidt, Paul M. Enright, and Charles A. Millhouse.

In 1939 the West 29th Street Bridge designed by Carl G. Levander replaced an earlier bridge at the same location was constructed as part of the WPA projects.



From left: Architectural plans of the stone gates 1920's-era recreation in the park.

1920's-era recreation in the park.

Images: The Austin History Center

1940s

...1925

950.

..1975

2000

In 1948, city dedicates Goodall H. Wooten Park from 24th to 35th Streets.

1950s

1956: William Sydney Porter's (O'Henry's) honeymoon cottage, relocated to Gaston Green, is destroyed in fire.

1960s

In the early 1950s Pease Park had again fallen into disrepair. In 1960, a neighbor, Janet Fish, became its champion by cleaning out the garbage and clearing a trail along the Comanche path by the creek, which she envisioned as a future walking path. Fish fought at the city council to stop the original plan to build Seton Hospital over the creek, which would have ruined the pair of free-flowing springs along Shoal Creek. In 2006 a pedestrian bridge over the creek near 29th street was dedicated in her name.

1970s

The annual Eeyore's Birthday Party moves to Pease Park in 1974. This traditional Austin festival of music, food, and costumes began in 1963 and continues today (2014).



Lady Bird and daughter Linda Bird Johnson at Eeyore's birthday in Pease Park, circa 1969. Images: San Antonio Express-News Collection

In 1976, The City of Austin and National Bicentennial Commission presented the booklet, Austin Creeks as Austin's bicentennial gift to the nation. The plan called for protecting and enhancing waterways for preservation, recreational use and flood control. City and national funding for the project led to the completion of the Shoal Creek Hike and Bike Trail.

1980s

On Memorial Day, May 24th, 1981, extensive torrential rains led to an intense flash flood. Thirteen people lost their lives and damage citywide was estimated at nearly \$36 million.



The devastating 1981 flood. Images: San Antonio Express-News Collection

1975

1990s

The Shoal Creek Greenway Action Plan was prepared in 1998 for the Shoal Creek Greenway Partnership (a partnership of City agencies, non-profit organizations and private companies). Recommendations included improved trail access, stream channel restoration, and comprehensive signage.

Austin's Watershed Protection Department was formed in 1991 (originally called the Drainage Utility) to manage the City's creeks, drainage systems, and water quality programs.

2000s

In 2007, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center prepared the Pease Park Ecological Assessment and Restoration Recommendations, which called for (among other things) the removal of invasive species and construction of bioswales and erosion control features.



Significant planting and restoration projects have been spearheaded by the Pease Park Conservancy (formerly known as Trees for Pease). Since forming in 2008 the Pease Park Conservancy has completed three phases of park revitalization, planted 500 new trees and helped restore the Tudor Cottage and Memorial Gates as well as the picnic tables installed by the Works Progress Administration.

A splashpad and new restrooms were built at Kingsbury Commons in 2010.

The Shoal Creek Conservancy was formed in 2013 to help restore and protect Shoal Creek.

Initiated in 2013, the ongoing Shoal Creek Restoration project was begun to provide streambank stabilization and water quality and trail improvements along Shoal Creek between West 24th Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

2014

Pease Park sits at the core of much of Austin's history and today it is well loved by many in our rapidly growing city Studying the park - its geological features, the flora and fauna and the scattered built elements- gives us a view back in time. We can trace the evolution of the park, from the geological upheavals of the Balcones Fault to the Indians, the settlers, the territorial battles, to landowner Governor Elisha Marshall Pease who gave the original 24 acres to the city to the present day with the dedicated Pease Park Conservancy that has revived public interest in the park with improvements and visions for the future.

Bluebonnets in Polecat Hollow recall the Pease era of open fields of flowers. Image: Scott Swearingen

The downtown master plan, UT master plan, and potential plans for the capitol district all point to creation of an ever more vibrant and vital city core.

2.3 **PLANNING CONTEXT**

Austin's legacy of leading edge environmental planning provides a strong foundation for this master plan. Beginning in the 1970's the Lake Austin Growth Management Plan set the agenda for responsible planning that integrated natural factors into the municipal decision-making process. This led to the important planning done to preserve Barton Creek, among others, and continues to the present in the form of Imagine Austin, the city's comprehensive plan. A range of reports were reviewed to determine both the park itself and the effect of the urban context, to determine the guidance for park planning, programming and design. Please refer to Appendix L for a summary of these reports.

At the largest scale, the growth management policies in Imagine Austin, drive the approach to densification of centers, especially downtown, to reduce environmental impact, increase walkability, limit sprawl and road congestion. With that mandate in place, the downtown

master plan, UT master plan, and potential plans for the capitol district all point to creation of an ever more vibrant and vital city core.

Growth places pressure on public facilities to serve the increasing demands and impact of the expanding population. The figures below indicate the pressure on all Austin parks to accommodate growth. In the city core, increased density makes creating and sustaining high quality open space a major factor in retaining and improving the quality of life for residents, workers, student and visitors

Imagine Austin has summarized the regional response to growth and the community's interests in environmental quality, equity, prosperity and other values. The summary of relevant policies indicates the degree to which Imagine Austin and the Pease Park master plan are aligned, and lays the groundwork for many of the recommendations in the following chapters.



Commercial

Transportation and Utilities

Civic



Park

Zoning and Land Use

Undeveloped

Parks and Open Space

The park is surrounded by residential, and park use except for the are of commercial zoning along Lamar. Housing is single family to the west, single and multifamily to the southwest and east, and high density multifamily with mixed use to the southeast.

Neighborhood Office
2.3.1 AUSTIN BY THE NUMBERS

One of the most pressing issues bearing on Pease Park is the need for the city park system to respond to and accommodate the city's renowned growth. As a key park in the city core, Pease Park is increasingly affected by the growth downtown and the University of Texas neighborhood. This confers a need to respond to the level of investment by protecting its vulnerable natural and cultural resources, improving services, increasing the capacity of the park and enhancing the aesthetics commensurate with the city's growing stature. The figures below make the case for and add urgency to the need for this response:

- Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area population is 1.9 million, at a density of 2,610 people per square mile
- Population grew from 790,390 in 2010 to 865,504 in 2014
- 11th largest city in the United States
- 3rd highest net migration over the last five years
- Job growth is 4.1% per annum
- 3rd worst traffic congestion in the country

Next to the project area:

- Downtown population 10,000 (estimated)
- 123,178 people work Downtown
- \$2 billion worth of construction in west downtown near Shoal creek.
- 2,163 condo units have been built since 2000 (to 2014)
- 1,994 apartment units have been built since 2000
- 1,164 apartment units are under construction currently
- Occupancy levels are over 90%
- 17,000 residents of West Campus, up from 10,000 in 2000
- West Campus has one of the highest population densities in the City with 13,319 people per square mile.
- From 2005 to 2009 there were 2,400 apartment units built. Occupancy levels are 96 to 100%
- The average age is 22 years old

2.3.2 IMAGINE AUSTIN AND PEASE PARK

Imagine Austin, the city's comprehensive plan, provides the overarching framework for the city's growth and development. The master plan was developed within this framework, and is evident in the correspondence between the master plan actions and the many related policies. To build the interdepartmental cooperation needed to review and then implement the plan, PARD assembled a technical advisory group with representatives of the concerned departments, frequently citing their departmental mission in terms of Imagine Austin. The Pease Park Master Plan provides an opportunity to put into action over fifty of these policies, reinforcing the central importance of the Park and its strategic role in the vision for Austin's future. Relevant connections to the vision statement, planning principles and policies are listed below, grouped according to the four themes of this plan.

Compatibility with Imagine Austin's Core Principles

The six core principles are listed in order of their relevance to the park master plan:

- Integrate nature into the city
- Sustainably manage water, energy and other environmental resources
- Grow as a compact, connected city
- Develop as an affordable and healthy community
- Think creatively and work together
- Provide paths to prosperity for all

Compatibility with the Imagine Austin Vision

Austin's vision statement includes six components, four of which directly support Pease Park: Livable, Natural and Sustainable, Mobile and Interconnected and Creative. The others are: Educated, Prosperous and Values and Respects Its People. The plan and its process have indirect relationships with a prosperous Austin by virtue of improving its quality of life for recruitment and retention of talent and its role as an outdoor classroom for the city.

LIVABLE

- Healthy and Safe Communities
- Housing Diversity and Affordability
- Access to Community Amenities
- Quality Design / Distinctive Character
- Preservation of Crucial Resources

NATURAL AND SUSTAINABLE

- Sustainable, Compact, and Walkable Development
- Resource Conservation/Efficiency
- Extensive Green Infrastructure

MOBILE AND INTERCONNECTED

- Range of Transportation Options
- Multimodal Connectivity
- Accessible Community Centers

CREATIVE

- Vibrant Cultural Events/Programs
- Support for Arts/Cultural Activities

PROSPEROUS

- Diverse Business Opportunities
- Technological Innovation
- Education/Skills Development

VALUES AND RESPECTS PEOPLE

- Access to Community Services
- Employment, Food, and Housing Options
- Community/Civic Engagement
- Responsive/Accountable Government

EDUCATED

- Learning Opportunities for All Ages
- Community Partnerships with Schools
- Relationships with Higher Learning

Compatibility with the Imagine Austin Policies

The 48 polices from Imagine Austin that are relevant to the Pease Park Master Plan are grouped below by Pease Park Master Plan category. These provide integrated support for the actions called for in the master plan, indicating the extent to which implementation of the master plan is woven into the range of city agencies who share responsibility for the various facets of the park and its surroundings.

NATURE (13 relevant policies)

- LUT P34. Integrate green infrastructure elements such as the urban forest, gardens, green buildings, stormwater treatment and infiltration facilities, and green streets into the urban design of the city through "green" development practices and regulations
- CE P1. Permanently preserve areas of the greatest environmental and agricultural value.
- CE P2. Conserve Austin's natural resources systems by limiting development in sensitive environmental areas that including the Edwards Aquifer and its contributing and recharge zones and endangered species habitat.
- CE P3. Expand the city's green infrastructure network to include such elements as preserves and parks, trails, stream corridors, green streets, greenways, and agricultural lands.
- CE P4. Maintain and increase Austin's urban forest as a key component of the green infrastructure network.
- CE P6. Enhance the protection of creeks and floodplains to preserve environmentally and other sensitive areas and improve the quality of water entering the Colorado River through regional planning and improved coordination.
- CE P7. Protect and improve the water quality of the city's creeks, lakes, and aquifers for use and the support of aquatic life.

- CE P8. Improve the urban environment by fostering safe use of waterways for public recreation, such as swimming and boating, that maintains the natural and traditional character of waterway and floodplain.
- CE P9. Reduce the carbon footprint of the city and its residents by implementing Austin's Climate Protection Plan and develop strategies to adapt to the projected impacts of climate change.
- CE P10. Improve the air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions resulting from motor vehicle use, traffic and congestion, industrial sources, and waste.
- CE P12. Adopt innovative programs, practices, and technologies to increase environmental quality and sustainability and reduce Austin's carbon footprint through the conservation of natural resources.
- CE P14. Establish policies that consider the benefits provided by natural ecosystems, such as ecological processes or functions in places such as wetlands and riparian areas that have value to individuals or society.
- CE P16. Expand and improve regional collaboration and coordination in preserving Central Texas' natural environment.

CULTURE (10 relevant policies)

- LUT P37. Promote historic, arts, culture, and heritage-based tourism and events.
- LUT P38. Preserve and interpret historic resources (those objects, buildings, structures, sites, places, or districts with historic, cultural, or aesthetic significance) in Austin for residents and visitors.
- LUT P39. Maintain and update inventories of historic resources, including locally significant historic properties not listed on national or state registries, archeological sites, etc.
- LUT P41. Protect historic buildings, structures, sites, places, and districts in neighborhoods throughout the City.
- LUT P42. Retain the character of National Register and local Historic Districts and ensure that development and redevelopment is compatible with historic resources and character.

- LUT P43. Continue to protect and enhance important view corridors such as those of the Texas State Capitol District, Lady Bird Lake, and other public waterways.
- LUT P44. Preserve and restore historic parks and recreational areas.
- LUT P35. Infuse public art into Austin's urban fabric in streetscapes along roadways and in such places as parks, plazas, and other public gathering places).
- CFS P37. Integrate public buildings and facilities into active, walkable, mixed use neighborhoods and complete, healthy communities.
- CFS P39. Develop public buildings and facilities that create healthy work environments and educate the public about energy-efficient, sustainable building, and greening best practices.

RECREATION (13 relevant policies)

- LUT P29. Develop accessible community gathering places such as plazas, parks, farmers' markets, sidewalks, and streets in all parts of Austin, especially within activity centers and along activity corridors including Downtown, future TODs, in denser, mixed use communities, and other redevelopment areas, that encourage interaction and provide places for people of all ages to visit and relax
- LUT P30. Protect and enhance the unique qualities of Austin's treasured public spaces and places such as parks, plazas, and streetscapes; and, where needed, enrich those areas lacking distinctive visual character or where the character has faded.
- E P5. Enhance Austin's draw as a premier national and international tourist destination by strengthening and diversifying the arts and entertainment offerings, enhancing natural resources, and expanding the availability of family-friendly events and venues

- CFS P41. Ensure and increase equitable access to and opportunities for arts, recreation, and leisure activities for all ages throughout the City.
- CFS P43. Maximize the role of parks and recreation in promoting healthy communities and lifestyles.
- CFS P44. Feature superior design in parks and recreational facilities and include opportunities for public art and green and sustainable design solutions.
- CFS P45. Expand the amount of permanently protected natural and environmentally sensitive areas for use as open space and passive recreational areas.
- CFS P46. Foster the use of creeks and lakes for public recreation and enjoyment in a manner that maintains their natural character.
- S P29. Create public spaces that attract and engage children and serve as gathering places for children and families
- C P5. Continue to explore and identify solutions to support live music venues while addressing sound abatement issues.
- C P6. Encourage new or existing art forms, new approaches to the creation or presentation of art, or new ways of engaging the public, including children, with art.
- C P16. Increase the availability of significant public art to designate districts and/or their entrances and to assist visitors in navigating the area.
- C P17. Define Austin's sense of place through high standards for architecture and urban design, public art, public spaces and parks, and arts education.

CONNECTIVE INFRASTRUCTURE (12 relevant policies)

- LUT P11. Promote complete street design that includes features such as traffic calming elements, street trees, wide sidewalks, and pedestrian, bicycle, and transit access through¬out Austin, considering the safety needs of people of all ages and abilities.
- LUT P15. Incorporate provisions for bicycles and pedestrians into all roads such as freeways, toll roads, arterial roadways, and to and from transit stations and stops, and major activity centers.
- LUT P22. Protect Austin's natural resources and environmental systems by limiting land use and transportation development in sensitive environmental areas and preserving areas of open space
- LUT P23. Integrate citywide and regional green infrastructure to include such elements as preserves and parks, trails, stream corridors, green streets, greenways, agricultural lands, and the trail system into the urban environment and the transportation network
- LUT P32. Assure that new development is walkable and bikeable and preserves the positive characteristics of existing pedestrian-friendly environments.
- LUT P33. Apply high standards of urban design to ensure that "complete streets" are safe and accessible for all users. Encourage people to use alternative forms of transportation that are sensitive to the demands of the Central Texas climate.
- HN P10. Create complete neighborhoods across Austin that have a mix of housing types and land uses, affordable housing and transportation options, and access to healthy food, schools, retail, employment, community services, and parks and recreation options.

- HN P13. Strengthen Austin's neighborhoods by connecting to other neighborhoods, quality schools, parks, environmental features, and other community-serving uses that are accessible by transit, walking, and bicycling.
- LUT P36. Transform all major streets into vibrant, multi-functional, pedestrian-friendly corridors.
- CFS P42. Increase connectivity between neighborhoods and from neighborhoods to parks and greenways through the use of side¬walks, bicycle lanes, multi-use paths, and trails.
- S P11. Develop public transportation options that link all areas of the City, are affordable to economically disadvantaged groups, and provide access to job opportunities and services.
- S P25. Increase sidewalks and bicycle lanes in neighborhoods to create safer routes to schools, parks, and transit stops.

2.3.2 CITY PLANS, POLICIES AND STANDARDS IN THE PROJECT AREA

The team reviewed documents pertaining to the planning context, natural, cultural, recreational and infrastructural systems in the park (See Appendix L).

Pease Park is City owned, dedicated as parkland, a significant clarification for state law protections and regulations, and operated and maintained by PARD. PARD sets the standards for park, trail and greenways in the city. Within the project area of this master plan, Pease Park is classified as a district park, the remainder as part of the Shoal Creek Greenbelt. The Shoal Creek Trail is a classified as a park trail, and the entire park and greenbelt is within the Shoal Creek Conservancy's area of focus, as defined in the 1998 Shoal Creek Greenway Action Plan. In the Action Plan, the Parkland Character Zone generally aligns with the master plan project area.

The master plan complies with the policies and standards of PARD's and the other city departments' governing documents. Many of the recommendations in the master plan capture the general recommendations in PARD's planning documents for parks, greenways and trails, those of the adjacent neighborhood plans, and the adjacent neighborhoods. These recommendations include items such as erosion control, environmental restoration, trail surfacing and width, the need for trees, bike parking, benches, picnic shelters, signage and some lighting, among other items.

Aside from the PARD documents and the greenway plan, the project area has literally been on the edge of most of the planning studies in the city including Downtown Austin, Great Streets, and several Neighborhood Plans. This has placed the project area in a sort of planning vacuum, with no consistent focused plan driving the park's future, however there are a number of pertinent recommendations in the city and surrounding plans that bear directly on the Park's future.

Adjacent Plans: the Neighborhoods

Neighborhood plans call for better connections to parks in general, with more amenities such as benches, picnic tables and more shade trees. West Campus calls for improvement of 21st Street to allow pedestrian a quieter alternative to Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and 24th Streets.

Other Major Influential Plans

Major planning initiatives for downtown, UT, and Waller Creek all emphasize growth and the need for a high quality public realm of streets, parks, plazas, quads, monumental grounds, and greenways. These three plans respond to the need for and accommodate or stimulate growth. Additionally, there is an unmet but pressing need to plan for the urban design quality of the capitol district, its ability to serve state governmental needs and support the growth of downtown and UT. Taken together, plans for these four areas will significantly shape the city core as a cosmopolitan center.

In this context, the major downtown open spaces in addition to Waller Creek have been planned: Lady Bird Lake, Republic and Wooldridge Squares, new open space at the Seaholm complex at the confluence of Shoal Creek and the Lake. Lower Shoal Creek itself has been planned to respond to its downtown context and nearby Duncan Park is slated for study to explore its move to the next level of programming and quality. Just upstream from booming downtown and adjacent to West Campus, Pease Park is the only other significant green space near downtown that is unplanned.

Several other city plans provide guidance for the master plan: the city's Urban Trails Master Plan, Culture, Signage and Lighting, Gateways. Together these plans and those noted above prescribe the park and trail standards in the project area and the extent and quality of actions in the streets and neighborhoods that surround the park. (See Appendix L for further detail.)



Neighborhood Context

The project area lies within a mostly residential context. Immediately adjacent to the park on the west side is entirely single family residential and on the east side across Lamar Boulevard are park uses and businesses. Upstream is institutional and residential use, and downstream is a mix of park, and high density commercial, residential and institutional uses. The unique geology of the Balcones Fault Zone has shaped the contours of Shoal Creek Valley, creating rolling hills, seeps, and dramatic cliffs.

2.4 NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY

2.4.1 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

The unique geology of the Balcones Fault Zone has shaped the contours of Shoal Creek Valley, creating rolling hills, seeps, and dramatic cliffs. The four geologic layers that underlie the study area, as illustrated on the geology map, are Georgetown Limestone, Del Rio Claystone, Buda Limestone, Eagle Ford Formation, and alluvial deposits.

These layers are almost exclusively found within the Balcones Fault Zone, which runs northeast - southwest through Austin. Movement along the faults has raised the rocks to the west and lowered the rocks to the east by a 1,000 foot differential. These faults divide the Hill Country of the west from the flatter plains of the Blackland Prairie to the east. While the limestone outcrops in the Shoal Creek Valley look similar to those in the Hill Country and the hills of west Austin, they are distinct geologic formations that do not occur west of the fault zone. They are also rarely found at the surface level east of the fault zone.

These geologic layers, along with Shoal Creek, have a tremendous influence on the soils that are present. The eight soil types are Oakalla soils, Volente soils and Urban land, Tarrant soils and Urban land, Urban land and Austin soils, Urban land and Ferris soils, Urban land, Tarrant soils and Urban land, and San Saba soils and Urban land. As the names indicate, most soils have been greatly altered by urban development.

The steep cliffs and limestone outcrops in the northern section of the park are Buda limestone. This hard rock was primarily formed by oyster and mollusk deposits, although the shells are highly fragmented and most of the fossils have been broken into small pieces. The Tarrant and San Saba soils are primarily associated with this layer. These shallow soils have the least amount of shrink-swell capacity in the park. The Tarrant soils are the only ones that are also commonly found in the Hill Country to the west. Where fractures occur in this limestone, water flows downward through the soil profile.

Bands of Del Rio claystone cross the park and are intermixed with both Buda and Georgetown limestone. The soils over this layer are heavy, thick clays with high shrink-swell capacity. The Ferris and some of the Volente soil types are primarily associated with this layer. The high clay content of the Del Rio claystone has two important implications for the park. First, the very high shrink-swell potential of the Ferris soils makes tree establishment difficult. The soil may push into and pull back from the planted trees, reducing root penetration into the native soil. Second, the claystone is impermeable to downward groundwater flow. Water flows downward through fractures in the Buda limestone until it reaches the claystone and then flows laterally through the ground, eventually surfacing in seeps in the North Ramble and Hillside areas. This is a possible but unverified explanation of the origin of Buda Boulder Springs near Split Rock.

The lowest geologic formation is the Georgetown limestone, which can be readily seen on the bed of Shoal Creek. The banks and terrace of Shoal Creek are also composed of Quaternary alluvium (soil and gravel that have been deposited by the creek in the last few hundred thousand years). Austin, Volente, and Oakalla soils are most commonly associated with these geologic layers. Oakalla soils are the frequently flooded soils found directly adjacent to the creek. They are the most common soils on the property and the only ones with high loam content and thus are conducive to vegetation.

(See Appendix A for further detail on Natural Resources).



"Austin is particularly vulnerable to these problems due to our torrential downpours and rocky landscape."

Austin Watershed Protection Department

2.4.2 HYDROLOGY

The property is bisected by Shoal Creek, an intermittent creek that flows southward through west Austin, joining the Colorado River at Lady Bird Lake. The creek starts near Braker Lane and flows 9.5 miles before it enters Lady Bird Lake. Heavily urbanized, the creek's watershed includes approximately 12.5 square miles or 8,295 acres. Numerous unnamed wet weather channels bring water into the creek within the property boundaries. One identified spring and various seeps create conditions of interest indicative of the unique hydrology of the Hill Country.

Shoal Creek is the dominant hydrologic feature in the study area, with 80% of the area lying within the 100-year floodplain. Of great significance to and impact on public use and development of the land, the high amount of impervious cover and shape of the watershed make the watershed prone to sudden intense water flow with drastic changes of flow rate. The City of Austin Watershed Department website states that Shoal Creek drops from near-flood conditions to almost dry in a matter of hours. The most recent 100-year flood occurred in 1981 when 11 inches of rain fell in the watershed in a three-hour period. Some witnesses said that a 10 to 20 foot wall of water pulsed down the creek at that time

Buda Boulder Spring (sometimes referred to as Split Rock Spring) is located at the base of the cliffs at Split Rock. The spring is part of the Balcones Canyonland Preserve system of protected features and is monitored by the City of Austin (Travis County and City of Austin 2011). Caecidotea reddelli, a troglobitic isopod (small crustacean that spends its entire lifecycle in the karst environment), is a species of concern at the spring. A 1992 report described the spring as experiencing heavy sewage pollution, but whether this was from nearby homeless encampments or other sources was unclear. A hydrologic study of the spring has not been completed (Hauwert 2014).

Several seeps are located on the property with the largest two being located in Hillside and North Ramble. Pease Park Conservancy members state that these seeps flow almost perennially and that the one located on Hillside did not go dry during the 2011 drought. While most of the vegetation in these areas is not distinct, the Hillside seep does contain a healthy population of frogfruit (Phyla nodiflora), a facultative wetland plant (FAC). FACs may occur in both upland and wetland sites but are considered hydrophytes, preferring wet areas. While no wetland indicator plants were found in the North Ramble seep, there are at least two plants that are normally associated with wetter areas. One, wild onion, (Allium drummondii) is rarely found in large patches in upland areas.



Shoal Creek's volatility and destructive erosive power has grown with the increasing watershedwide development of impervious surface. Image: WRT



2.4.3 ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS

Vegetation at Pease Park has been heavily modified by land management and the surrounding area's urbanization. The ecological systems and vegetation types listed below represent the current ecological expression at the park. They are subject to change over time due to changes in management, changes in site conditions such as climate change, or changes based on the time since the last major disturbance due to succession.

Ecological systems are associations of species that are shaped by geology, soils, weather patterns, previous land use, geographic location, and landscape disturbances. Large disturbance events vary throughout the park. In the riparian areas, floods have played a significant role in depositing sediment and affecting the population of water-intolerant plants. In the upland woodlands, windthrow and ice storms promote diversity by creating light gaps and depositing downed woody debris when trees are uprooted or large branches broken. Understory fires, which have historically reduced leaf litter, allow a greater amount of light to penetrate to the ground, which increases the establishment of select plants such as Spanish oak recruitment but reduces Ashe juniper seedling abundance. Drought impacts all the communities. Additionally, human management, including conversion of natural areas to Bermuda grass and alteration of the hydrologic regime, has played a significant role in shaping Pease Park's plant communities.

The ecological systems listed below and described on the following pages were determined through field observations on site using Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Ecological System Classification database.

Ecological Systems

- Riparian
- Limestone Savanna and Woodland
- Slope Forest and Woodland
- Wooded Cliff/Bluff
- Disturbed Vegetation Types







Wide ranging environments of limestone bluffs, forest and savannah make the park uniquely Austinian. (Images: WRT)



Riparian System

This ecological system is found in the bed and on the banks of Shoal Creek. It is characterized by loamy Oakalla soils and a rich variety of hardwood species that are either absent from or less abundant in the surrounding uplands.

A wide variety of vegetation types is found within this ecological system. The most common is hardwood dominated woodland. Trees found in this area include green ash, hackberry, black willow, box elder, American elm, sycamore, pecan, and cottonwood, with green ash and black willow being the most dominant. Ashe juniper, mesquite, and other trees that do not require mesic conditions are also present. Common invasive species in the canopy include Chinese tallow and Chinaberry. Some of the sub-canopy woody species include poverty weed, buttonbush, sesbania, and Texas palmetto.

One of the defining characteristics of the riparian woodlands at Pease Park is their youthful appearance. North of Gaston Green especially, the banks contain very few large "cathedral" trees that are normally associated with riparian areas. Where bank stabilization occurred in the past, the plant community is dominated by dense stands of green ash and invasives, most of which are under 12 feet in height, and overall riparian woodland diversity is low. In many locations, dense stands of green ash are closer in structure to shrubland than woodland Over time, some of these trees will begin to dominate and form a mature canopy, but it may be necessary to plant oaks, pecan, bald cypress, and other riparian trees that are not presently regenerating.

Herbaceous areas of the riparian zone are a mix of native and exotic grasses and forbs. Some of the most common ones include giant ragweed, water willow, switchgrass, frogfruit, and spikerush. A few eastern gamagrass are present, mostly in areas that appear to have been revegetated after erosion control work. The invasive Mexican petunia is also abundant throughout the riparian area, especially in gravel bars.

Based on evaluation by botanist Bill Carr, the Shoal Creek riparian area does not contain many of the endemic species that characterize other creeks such as Bull Creek and those on the Edwards Plateau; it contains almost entirely generalist species. It is of note that there are very few reference sites with Buda limestone, and thus the impact of invasive species and land management is unclear.

The size of this ecological system has shrunk from its historical extent, and what remains has many stressors. Major stresses to the riparian zone include alteration of the hydrologic cycle with lower base flows and more extreme flood events due to upstream development, conversion of riparian habitat to a more manicured park setting, off-trail recreation and invasive plants. Symptoms of these stresses include downcutting of the creekbed, streambank erosion, simplified vegetation structure, and lower biodiversity. Urbanization of the watershed has altered Shoal Creek's hydrology. As impervious cover increased in the watershed, the amount of water infiltrating the ground decreased, and the amount of water flowing into the creek during rainfall events increased. The banks of Shoal Creek show signs of downcutting, a common issue with urban creeks. As Shoal Creek cut down to bedrock, the water table in the loamy bottomland soils surrounding the creek has likely dropped.

Park management has converted some areas that were riparian vegetation into a manicured lawn and/or savanna vegetation. The loamy bottomland soils are mapped beyond the boundary of the riparian zone. However, many of these soils are now dominated by Bermuda grass, and only some of the larger overstory trees remain. In a few areas, fill was brought in to raise the ground level, destroying a portion of the riparian zone. Stresses include off-trail recreation and invasive plants. Off trail recreation has completely denuded the vegetation along the bank in some areas. The worst bankside erosion is located in the off-leash area and dog tracks are plentiful in these locations. Invasive plants are lowering plant diversity in the remaining riparian area. The species of most concern include Chinaberry, Giant cane, Mexican petunia, and Chinese tallow.



The creek flows through a mostly green corridor despite erosion and loss of riparian edge. The shifting gravel deposits seen here gave Shoal Creek its name. (Image: WRT) "The live oaks are the irreplaceble remnants of the ancient central Texas forest, the strongest organisms in the Hill Country."

Don Gardner, Consulting Arborist

Limestone Savanna and Woodland System

This plant community is found throughout the Edwards Plateau on cretaceous limestone soils on level to rolling topography. At Pease Park it is found between the riparian area and Lamar Boulevard, and between the riparian area and the steep slopes that lead to the surrounding neighborhood. Much of this system has been highly manipulated to create recreation areas, although a substantial natural area remains in the southwest corner of the park. Two vegetation types have been identified in this ecologic system, oak/hardwood motte and woodland and savanna grassland.

The oak/hardwood motte and woodland overstory is composed primarily of cedar elm and live oak. Other common trees include Texas ash, Spanish oak, Ashe juniper, soapberry, and hackberry. Tree plantings have increased the woodland diversity by adding chinquapin oak, burr oak, and bald cypress.

Understory woody species include Texas persimmon, gum bumelia, wafer ash, agarita, and elbow bush. Texas redbud, Mexican plum, and Texas mountain laurel are naturally occurring and have been planted. In the more managed areas, the understory has been relegated to the margins of the recreation areas. The most common Invasive species present include both Japanese and Chinese privet, and young Chinaberry. The herbaceous layer of the mottes and woodlands varies widely across Pease Park depending on whether the area supports recreational activities (currently or previously). For example, areas currently managed for recreation are dominated by either Bermuda grass or straggler daisy.

The former disc golf course is still dominated primarily by Bermuda grass, although the presence of the occasional sideoats grama indicates that some seed planting likely occurred in this area in the past, and ragweed has become well established. As one would expect, the natural areas are much more diverse. Shadeloving native grasses such as foxtail, Canada wildrye, and Texas wintergrass are plentiful, as are forbs such as turk's cap, plateau goldeneye, pigeonberry, four o'clock, and ragweed.

Stresses to the Limestone Savanna and Woodland include heavy recreational use and invasive plants. Symptoms of these stresses include soil compaction and erosion, low native plant regeneration and displacement of native plants by invasive plants. Soil compaction and erosion are most noticeable in locations near parking areas and just to the north of 24th Street. Many areas heavily impacted by disc golf still have low levels of native plant establishment, with Bermuda grass forming a dense cover. The invasive species of most concern are Bermuda grass, Japanese and Chinese privet, Catclaw vine, Giant cane and Chinaberry.



Park management has converted some areas that were riparian vegetation into a manicured lawn and/or savanna vegetation. The loamy bottomland soils are mapped beyond the boundary of the riparian zone. However, many of these soils are now dominated by Bermuda grass, and only some of the larger overstory trees remain. In a few areas, fill was brought in to raise the ground level, destroying a portion of the riparian zone. Stresses include off-trail recreation and invasive plants. Off trail recreation has completely denuded the vegetation along the bank in some areas. The worst bankside erosion is located in the off-leash area and dog tracks are plentiful in these locations. Invasive plants are lowering plant diversity in the remaining riparian area. The species of most concern include Chinaberry, Giant can, Mexican petunia, and Chinese tallow.

The tree-studded, open lawn is the urban equivalent of the savannah ecosystem, as seen here, looking across Polecat Hollow. Attractive, but lacking amenities, it receives comparatively little use. A shallow depression could capture and infiltrate rainwater. (Image: WRT)

Slope Forest and Woodland System

This system is found on steep, dry limestone slopes throughout the Hill Country and in larger patches in western Travis County. Although the species present are not radically different than the oak/hardwood woodlands described above, the diverse topography, less intensive management, and slightly different species composition in this area contribute to Pease Park's habitat diversity.

The dominant trees in this ecologic system include live oak and cedar elm, with Ashe juniper, Spanish oak, and Texas ash also abundant. Understory is similar to the system described above, but with a greater abundance of Texas mountain laurel and the presence of Mexican buckeye. Other species that appear to be unique to these portions of the park include purple leatherflower and yellow passionvine. While non-native vines and woody species are present throughout the park, they have a greater percentage of coverage in this ecologic system, presumably due to less frequent control efforts. Stresses to the Slope Forest and Woodland include human encampments and invasive plants. Symptoms of these stresses include displacement of native plants by invasive plants, vegetation removal, and erosion near encampments. The slope forest to the east of Lamar Blvd. has the greatest evidence of human encampments, with mattresses, sleeping bags, and other paraphernalia littering the ground. In addition to the direct removal of plants at the encampment site, informal trails are showing signs of erosion. Homeless encampments located at Barton Creek Greenbelt have been linked to the spread of oak wilt, and several oak wilt centers are being found in these locations where oaks are wounded by campers. The invasive species of most concern are Catclaw vine, Chinaberry, Paper mulberry, Japanese and Chinese privet, and Chinese parasol tree.



In the North Ramble, the superb view of the Texas Capitol dome is framed by live oaks, highlighting the special condition of Pease Park as a ribbon of nature in a dense city.. (Images: WRT)

Wooded Bluff System

This ecological system consists of vertical to near-vertical limestone rock faces with pockets and small ledges of soil and plants. They are nestled within the slope forests but are quite distinct. The shallow soils are usually dry but can be wet if moisture seeping through fractures in the limestone can support plants unique to the Edwards Plateau. Additionally, many plants vulnerable to heavy deer browsing find refuge in these steep, rocky areas. Potential stresses to the Bluffs ecologic system include uphill development altering soil hydrology, homeless encampments and lawn debris thrown from the bluffs into the park and greenbelt. Housing developments at the top of the slopes may have altered the soil hydrology. Impervious cover does not allow for infiltration, some of which may have seeped through the rock layers and exited fractures in the cliff face in the past. While no rock climbing areas were observed during the site visits, rock climbing would destroy the Bluffs' plant communities if it were to occur.



Hill Country in the City The Shoal Creek Trail skirts the 40-foot high Buda limestone bluffs, a spectacular image anywhere, and a remarkable urban wild that highlights the Balcones Fault's geology. (Images: WRT)

2.4.4 BIRDS, WILDLIFE AND HABITAT

In George Simmons's Birds of the Austin Region, published in 1925, Shoal Creek and Pease Park are listed as local haunts for many of Austin's bird species. This diversity was due largely to the fact that the Shoal Creek corridor contained habitat associated with both the Blackland Prairie and Hill Country regions. In addition, Shoal Creek was a significant local stream with good quality riparian habitat. Waterbirds like the American coot and pied-billed grebe could be found along the creek, while barred owls inhabited the riparian forest. The little blue heron was known to forage in Pease Park and the marshy, boggy habitat in Shoal Creek attracted least bitterns and Wilson's snipe. Barn owls roosted along the creek, which is an indication of the proximity to open country (Blackland Prairie) to the east. At the same time, canyon wrens and rufous-crowned sparrows, both species that are indicative of the Hill Country, were found on the bluffs.

Today, Pease Park is surrounded by urban areas and is cut off from both the open prairie habitats to the east and the Hill Country to the west. Also, the creek and associated riparian habitats have been degraded over time, largely due to the development of the watershed. Yet the park still acts as an urban oasis with substantial habitat, making it a great place to see birds and other wildlife. In recent years, birders have reported over 180 species of birds along Shoal Creek, with at least 120 of these species being reported in the Pease Park area.

Being located in central Austin, Pease Park provides many people with an opportunity to connect with nature on a daily basis. This is especially true during migration season when the bird community changes from day to day. Upwards of twenty different species of warblers alone could be encountered.



Riparian

Of all the park's habitats, the riparian areas have the potential to support the greatest diversity of birds including wintering, migratory, and breeding birds. The Shoal Creek corridor once contained more marshy, boggy habitat than can be found now. A major obstacle to restoring this kind of habitat is the creek's current altered hydrology, which scours the streambed during every flood.

The riparian understory shrub and vine tangles are extremely important for wildlife such as the eastern cottontail and wintering birds like the white-throated sparrow and orange-crowned warbler. The riparian understory also provides valuable nesting habitat for Carolina wrens and the white-eyed vireo.

Savanna

The open areas of Pease Park have the potential to attract wildlife throughout the year, but in most areas they lack the necessary vegetation, such as native bunchgrasses and flowering plants.



Woodland

Like the riparian areas, the woodlands are a great place to encounter wildlife. Fox squirrels and Texas spiny lizards can be seen during the day on the larger tree trunks. This habitat also supports a number of breeding birds, Red-bellied woodpeckers, blue jays, great-crested flycatchers, eastern screech owls, northern cardinals, lesser goldfinches, and Carolina wrens are some of the species that can currently be found breeding in Pease Park woodlands. Some, like the greatcrested flycatcher, eastern screech owl, and redbellied woodpecker, require nesting cavities. This is one reason that not all dead trees and limbs should be removed.

The woodlands are also a great place to see migratory birds. The more structural diversity in the woodland, the more diverse the wildlife will be. The oak canopy is especially important for insectivorous species, while greenbriar thickets and edge habitat will attract species such as the mourning warbler and yellow-breasted chat. These thickets also provide habitat for wintering sparrows like the white-crowned sparrow, Lincoln's sparrow, and fox sparrow.

Wooded Bluffs

The cliffs provide a unique set of microclimates and cover for certain species, including wildlife that may not be found elsewhere in Pease Park. Most notably, the crevices and cracks provide habitat for reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates, and mammals. During the right conditions and time of year, the cliffs would be the best place to find alligator lizards, the largest species of lizard native to Texas. Cliff chirping frogs are also present and western slimy salamander could be encountered.

The two bird species that are directly associated with this type of habitat have receded from the urban core: the canyon wren and rufouscrowned sparrow. Of these, the canyon wren is more likely to return, perhaps following habitat restoration.

The dramatically colored Painted Bunting is a target specie to attract by implementing the habitat restorations recommendations. Its presence in the park would be a gratifying indicator of restoration success.

Image: "Painted Bunting - Texas Hills_H8O2338-20" by Francesco Veronesi is licensed under CC BY 2.0

2.4.5 SENSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES

The Pease Park and Shoal Creek Greenbelt study area contains numerous sensitive environmental features that contribute to the area's natural beauty. Some of these features are protected by Volume III, Chapter 25 of the Code of the City of Austin; others are not specifically regulated but should still be treated with great care.

Chapter 25 of the code enumerates on "Critical Environmental Features" (CEF), which are deemed "of critical importance to the protection of environmental resources". Three types of CEF are found within the study area: springs, seeps, and canyon rimrock.

- Springs are places where groundwater erupts from the surface in specific areas with enough flow to create puddles and/or rivulets of water. A permanent spring, Buda Boulder Springs, is located just above the large boulder known as Split Rock on the west side of Shoal Creek, just south of 29th Street. As discussed above, this spring flows perennially and contains one rare troglobitic crustacean species, Caecidotea reddelli.
- Seeps are areas where groundwater percolates to the surface in a diffuse fashion, usually without enough flow to go beyond its specific location. Seeps have been identified in both the Hillside and North Ramble locations. As discussed above, these seeps are often wet but do not support any wetland obligate plants.
- Canyon Rimrock is defined by the City of Austin as rock substrate with a 60 percent gradient over a vertical distance of at least four feet and exposed for a horizontal distance of at least 50 feet. By this definition, large amounts of rimrock are exposed in the Bluffs, East Bank, and the northern half of the Ramble Scramble character areas.



The standard regulatory setback for wetland areas and CEFs is 150 feet, but it can be reduced through a WPD director's administrative variance, issued by the Environmental Review staff of the Environmental Resource Management division. Only certain types of development are allowed within a CEF setback, and mitigation may be required based on the guidance in Environmental Criteria Manual 1.3.0.

Shoal Creek is also a sensitive environmental feature that should be treated with care. The City of Austin Grow Zone calls for a minimum 25ft wide non-mown buffer along creek banks where passive restoration may occur, although the program acknowledges that a 300ft buffer is required for some riparian areas to be fully functional. The current management buffer to Shoal Creek is currently less than 25 feet in some areas and is no greater than 300 feet in any location. See Chapter 3 for management recommendations in this area.

A shimmering veil of rainwater cascades from the Bluffs after a rainstorm, evidence of the close relation of hydrology and geology in the region, as manifested in the park. Image: WRT

2.4.6 THREATS TO NATURAL AREAS OF PEASE PARK

Natural areas are dynamic, living systems that change over time. These changes occur with or without active management. Threats are anything which are causing or have the potential to cause the impairment or degradation of the size, condition, or landscape context of a natural area (TNC 2003). The subsequent threats created by invasive species and erosion within Pease Park and the greenbelt are issues that can be addressed by Pease Park Conservancy and PARD as part of the master plan implementation.

Invasive Plant Species

Invasive plants are one of the primary threats to the natural communities of Pease Park. To maintain ecological function and restore it where feasible, invasive plants will need to be removed and replaced with native plant communities. Invasive species are those that did not evolve in the ecosystem where they are found and cause economic and/or ecological harm. Their aggressive growth and spread can crowd out and replace native plants and can lead to a disruption of natural processes. The impact of invasive species can be very dramatic and ranks second only to direct habitat destruction as the principal threat to rare species, with 49% of imperiled species being negatively impacted (Wilcove 1998).

Some of the ways invasive plants threaten native communities include altering soil or water chemistry, altering natural processes such as fire and flooding, direct displacement through competition ("crowding out" of native plants), and changing the amount of light in or below the canopy or sub-canopy.

Invasive plants also impact native animals and insects by crowding out the native flora they rely on for shelter, protection, and food. A 2006 study in Austin found that sites with intact native plant communities had higher species richness and abundance than sites that were dominated by non-natives (Kalmbach 2006).

Thirty two plant species found within Pease Park and Shoal Creek Valley are considered invasive by the Texas Invasive Plant & Pest Council (TIPPC) and are negatively impacting the natural area of the property. The City of Austin's Invasive Species Management Plan rated the overall danger of individual invasive plants based on their impact, invasiveness, and distribution. See Appendix A6 for listing and further description of the impact of these plant species.

Erosion

Soil erosion is another threat to the natural areas of Pease Park. Unchecked erosion is unsightly and robs the site of its soil, and with it, the ability of the site to support a healthy plant community. Bank erosion along Shoal Creek is partially due to the high velocity water flow during storm events, but park use is exacerbating it. In areas where the Watershed Protection Department has armored the creekbanks with gabions, erosion is almost non-existent, but too often recreation use just above them has denuded the ground of vegetation. Off-trail recreation is the primary cause of non-streambank erosion, although some trail infrastructure is also causing minor erosion. Finally, water entering the site from surrounding neighborhoods is causing some major erosion issues in Custer's Meadow, although the Watershed Protection Department Shoal Creek Restoration project should mitigate this stress. Erosion types of erosion that are prevalent in the park include sheet erosion, rill erosion (the most frequently occurring), gully erosion, stream bank erosion, recreation-based erosion and mass movement.

2.5 CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY

While the natural beauty of the life-giving creek and its surroundings are the essence of Pease Park, the cultural resources are its collective memory. They are the evidence of the past activities and accomplishments of people and include buildings, objects, features, locations and structures with historic or cultural value. While each feature is of interest in its own right, it is the collective impact of the entire ensemble that grounds the park in its established appearance.

The park is loved by many in the rapidly growing city in part because Pease Park sits at the core of much of Austin's history. Studying the park, its geological features, its flora and fauna and its various built features gives us a view back in time. The evolution of the park can be traced from the geologic upheavals of the Balcones Fault to the Indians, the settlers, the territorial battles, to landowner Governor Elisha Marshall Pease who gave the original 24 acres to the city for a park, to present day, and the dedicated Pease Park Conservancy that has revived public interest in the park with improvements and visions for the future.

The inventory identifies the known cultural resources in the park, focusing on the built elements, and includes an assessment of the current physical condition with photographs, along with general recommendations for restoration and maintenance. (Refer to Appendix B2 for detailed recommendations.) This inventory is intended as an overview, with the recommendation that full historic preservation investigation be completed prior to actual restoration or rehabilitation.

Geological features of Pease Park such as the Cliffs, Split Rock and fossil beds are included in the natural resources inventory. The geological features are essential elements and should be incorporated into any interpretive opportunities as well as studied carefully at locations under consideration for new structures.

Cultural resources are distributed throughout the park, providing a framework of historic character. Dating mostly from the 1920s and 1930s, the bridges, gates, Tudor Cottage, walls and picnic tables establish a presence for the park that links it to the adjacent Old Enfield, Pemberton Heights and Judges' Hill neighborhoods.

The resources are described in order from south to north. (Refer to Appendix B1 for further detail.)



Fragments of native stone walls such as this at 29th Street are part of a parkwide "language" of site walls that roots the park in this location, lends character to the park, and can be extended throughout to reinforce its place in the city. Image: Clayton & Little Architects



2.5.1 KINGSBURY COMMONS



Entry Gate

The Pease Park Memorial Gate is a pair of uncoursed semi-dressed rubble limestone arches, flanking Parkway at the intersection with Kingsbury Street. Funded by Niles and Marshall Graham in honor of their grandsparents Governor E.M. and Lucadia Pease, and designed by Giesecke and Harris, the gates were built in 1926 as part of the Austin Kiwanis Club's beautification project. Construction drawings show wrought iron gates within the arches and lanterns atop the pilasters, neither of which are present in the existing structure. Historic documents also include a sketch depicting an arch with lantern between the two gates. New bronze plaques were installed by the Pease Park Conservancy in 2012.

The gate is in good condition and in no need of immediate work, but crowded by a stop sign and utility pole. No work necessary at this time. Future work may include addition of missing elements from drawings.



Kingsbury Commons Picnic Tables

The Kingsbury Commons picnic grove contains four rows of reinforced concrete tables and benches roughly 50 feet long. "While an exact date for the concrete tables and benches has not been pin-pointed, the construction date is estimated to be in the mid-1930s. The benches and tables bear a striking resemblance to concrete tables and benches in Zilker Park that date from the mid-1930s. The most distinctive aspect of the concrete tables and benches at Pease Park is the manner in which the table supports flare out at the base." (taken from memo titled "Back-up Information for National Register Permit: Pease Park Improvements" by Kim McKnight, Historic Preservation Specialist, PARD, dated August 25, 2011).

The tables and benches have benefitted from recent patching work and now appear in good condition. Clean and monitor for cracks.

From left:

The Stone Entry Gates define the character of the park at Kingsbury Commons, but now look haphazard due to accumulated site construction that has diminished their stature. Image: Clayton & Little Architects

The historic concrete picnic tables create a welcoming and generous image at Kingsbury. Image: Clayton & Little Architects

Stone Walls along Kingsbury Street

These are low limestone walls, uncoursed semi-dressed fieldstone, approximately 12" wide, with cement wash on top. Height varies but is generally 16-18". Assumed construction in 1930s. The discontinuous wall extends for several hundred feet along the curb of Kingsbury Street, with small openings (4'-5') occurring at somewhat regular intervals of 20'-25'.

Portions of the wall have been recently repaired and are in good condition. The new cement wash appears to differ significantly from the existing, both in color and texture. The portions of the wall not part of the recent repairs are in fair condition. There are numerous small cracks in the mortar and cement wash. At a few limited locations the cracks pass through the entire wall and several stones are missing.

Small cracks should be re-pointed. Large cracks will require a limited amount of select stone removal and re-installation.

Tudor Cottage

"The Tudor Cottage Restrooms building is one of the earliest buildings constructed in Austin as a park facility. The restrooms were designed in the mid-1920s. While the link is not yet fully substantiated, it is widely thought that Hugo Kuehne, a prominent architect, designed the restrooms. Kuehne designed the Oakwood Annex restrooms, the Zilker Caretaker Cottage, and several early park shelter houses. Kuehne was very active in the early development of Austin's park system.

"The iron-spot red brick, one-story restroom building has a rectangular plan and a steeply gabled wooden shingle roof. The gable ends feature non-structural decorative half-timbering and gable dormers with louvered vents puncture the west and east facades of the building. The gabled entry porches on both the east and west facades feature supporting wooden members in a distinctive pattern, which is influenced by the half-timbering decoration of the Tudor Revival Style.... The building is not currently in use." (taken from memo titled "Back-up Information for National Register Permit: Pease Park Improvements" by Kim McKnight, Historic Preservation Specialist, PARD, dated August 25, 2011.)

The exterior is in good condition, with recent brick repointing and a new roof. The interior is in poor condition. Adaptive re-use as a Community Room is recommended.



The Tudor Cottage and site walls are part of a unified ensemble of features. Images: Clayton & Little Architects



Tudor Cottage: Stone Walls

These are limestone retaining walls of varying heights (up to 6') that form walkways and terraces. Unlike the other low walls in this area, the uncoursed stone in these walls is not dressed at all and does not have a cement wash on top. Construction dates to the 1970s (taken from memo titled "Back-up Information for National Register Permit: Pease Park Improvements" by Kim McKnight, Historic Preservation Specialist, PARD, dated August 25, 2011).

The walls are generally in good condition, with evidence of earlier repairs, and some isolated cracking. It is recommended to remove some walls to accommodate adaptive re-use of Tudor Cottage. Existing walls require spot repointing and graffiti removal.



Stone Walls along East Side of Great Lawn

These are low limestone walls, uncoursed semi-dressed fieldstone, approximately 12" wide, with cement wash on top. Height varies but is generally 16-18". Assumed construction in 1930s. The discontinuous wall extends for approximately 300' between the great lawn and the creek. Wall sections are of varying length and gaps at the southern end, and more regular on the northern reach, where sections of wall are approximately 24' long with gaps of 4' between them.

The walls are in fair condition. Small cracks are evident throughout, with several areas of larger cracks (through wall) and several missing stones. It is recommended to rebuild damaged portions of wall, and conduct spot repointing and repair of cement wash throughout.

Limestone walls throughout the site help to shape spaces and define the park's visual identity, as well as serving as places to sit. Images: Clayton & Little Architects

Memorial

The memorial plaque is mounted on low stone block base dedicating the playscape at Kingsbury Commons to the memory of Juan Cotera and Brandon Shaw.

The plaque and base are both in good condition. Light cleaning is required for both plaque and base. The memorial should be retained in any park reconfiguration. When the playscape is relocated, the memorial should be relocated and integrated prominently in the new design.

Memorial Benches

There are several memorial benches throughout the park, three of them at Kingsbury Commons. The benches are of new painted steel construction on concrete pads, and typically feature a dedication plaque on the backrest of the bench. These are in good to excellent condition, with a few minor blemishes in the paint that should be touched up.

2.5.2 CUSTER'S MEADOW

Stone Culverts

There are numerous stone culverts throughout the park, of both historic and recent construction. Historic culverts are characterized by concrete pipe and uncoursed limestone rubble wingwalls, assumed to have been built in the 1930s. Recent culverts are characterized by plastic pipe and coursed ashlar limestone wingwalls. Culverts of all ages are in fair to good condition with small cracks along mortar joints as a typical condition. Spot repointing of the stonework is recommended.



Picnic Tables

Reinforced concrete tables and benches are located in six places in Custer's Meadow, some in shade and some in the open. While reminiscent of the tables at Kingsbury Commons, the legs of these tables and benches are markedly different, tapering to a waist and flaring out again, as opposed to the sloped sides of those at Kingsbury Commons. The footprint of these legs is a simple rectangle, as opposed to the pointed ends of those at Kingsbury Commons.

All of the tables and benches show evidence of recent repair work and are in good condition. There are isolated instances of graffiti which should be removed.

The concrete vernacular form and materials of the picnic tables reflect the CCC-era craft smanship and contribute to the Austinian Image of the park. Image: Clayton & Little Architects



Memorial Benches

There are several memorial benches throughout the park, two of which are at Custer's Meadow. The benches are of new painted steel construction on concrete pads, and typically feature a dedication plaque on the backrest of the bench. One of the benches in this area is unique in that the style and size of the bench is different from the others (though still painted steel on concrete pad) and the dedication plaque is mounted to the concrete base instead of the bench itself.

The benches are in good to excellent condition with a few minor blemishes in the paint that require touch up.

Stone Wall

Located at the corner of Parkway and West 24th St. is an approximately 6-ft tall uncoursed rubble limestone retaining wall with cement wash. It is in good condition with no major deficiencies evident and no need for action.

The concrete bridges such as the 24th Street Bridge are part of a larger Shoal Creek CCC-era history, whose context should be developed to frame the bridges as the important civic landmarks they are. Image: Ted Lee Eubanks

24th Street Bridge

The bridge was built in 1928 by the Austin Development Company, and widened in 1939 as a Public Works Administration project. The bridge and guard rail construction is reinforced concrete with exposed aggregate accents. This bridge is a contributing structure to the Old West Austin Historic District. The structural condition of the bridge was not evaluated. The concrete generally appears to be in good condition, but has been painted in many places to obscure graffiti. It is recommended to remove graffiti and paint and provide new lighting under the arch at the path.

2.5.3 LIVE OAK TERRACE

Stone Steps

A flight of eight, six foot-wide limestone steps is located on east bank leading down to Shoal Creek at the Live Oak Terrace. The construction is assumed to date from the 1930s. The condition is poor, with sides significantly undermined, and perimeter stones separated from the body of the stair. The bottom step is approximately 2-ft above current grade. It is recommended to stabilize the undermined sides, rebuild perimeter stones, retain the intact steps as is, and provide new boulder steps at base of stair.

Triangle Bench

This feature is a triangular stone bench built between three tree trunks assumed to have been built in 1930's. The bench sides are each approximately 5-ft long, 18" tall, and 20" deep, made of semi-dressed limestone rubble, with overhanging flagstone on top.

The bench is in poor condition, with two of the sides affected by massive upheaval, throwing the walls out of level and plumb. Several stones are displaced and some are missing. It is recommended that no major work be done to avoid further damage to the heritage trees. Repairs should be limited to replacing missing stones and securing displaced and loose stones. Do not correct for plumb and level.



The Triple Oak Stone bench represents idiosyncrasy, a hallmark of whimsy, the quality sought after as a part of a movement to define the city's unique character. Image: Clayton & Little Architects

2.5.4 GASTON GREEN



Lower Shoal Creek Bridge

Built in 1934 by the Park Division of the Texas Civil Works Administration, the bridge at Gaston Green was designed by L.A. Schmidt, Paul M. Enright, and Charles A. Millhouse. The bridge is flat (as opposed to arched) concrete and piers, with a guard rail of galvanized pipe between concrete piers. This bridge is a contributing structure to the Old West Austin Historic District. The structural condition of the bridge was not evaluated. The bridge was rebuilt due to flood damage in the early 200's. The concrete generally appears to be in good condition, but has been painted in many places to obscure graffiti, which should be removed.

Stone Walls

The low limestone walls are uncoursed semidressed fieldstone, approximately 12" wide, with cement wash on top. Height is generally 16"-18", subsiding into or buried by soil at the south end. There are 12 sections of wall, each approximately 24 feet long, separated by 5 foot gaps. At the center are two 24" square pilasters with remnants of a chain framing the trailhead. There is evidence of at least one prior round of repairs. The condition of the walls is poor, with much of the cement wash missing and areas of the wall are crumbled. It is recommended to rebuild fallen sections of wall, re-point throughout and repair the cement wash throughout.

Graffiti abatement is recommended for the Shoal Creek Boulevard bridge. Image: Clayton & Little Architects



Upper Shoal Creek Bridge

Built in 1934 by the Park Division of the Texas Civil Works Administration, the bridge was designed by L.A. Schmidt, Paul M. Enright, and Charles A. Millhouse. The bridge structure is a series of very shallow concrete arches spanning concrete piers. Piers for the bridge and guard have a stepped profile. While still simple, the bridge is much more decorative than the Lower Shoal Creek Bridge. The piers are hollow above the bridge level, and currently open with space that might have been designed to house a light fixture. The guard rail is made of galvanized pipe between the concrete piers.

The structural condition of the bridge was not evaluated. The concrete generally appears to be in good condition, but has been painted in many places to obscure graffiti. It is recommended to remove the paint and graffiti, provide planters, light fixtures or covers at the open piers and consider replacing pipe guard rails.

The upper Shoal Creek bridge is framed by hollow concrete plinths (at left) that appear to have been designed to house lights. It is proposed that the plinths be studied to determine if flood proof lights could be installed as gateway features. Images: Clayton & Little Architects

2.5.5 RAMBLE SCRAMBLE

Stone Walls

The walls are approximately 18" tall made of drystack stone, whose provenance is unknown. They are in good condition.

Memorial Benches

There are several memorial benches throughout the park, one at Ramble Scramble. The benches are of new painted steel construction on concrete pads, and typically feature a dedication plaque on the backrest of the bench. The benches are in good to excellent condition.

Janet Fish Pedestrian Bridge

Concrete pedestrian bridge was built in 2006 and remains in good condition.



Janet Fish Memorial

Bronze plaque mounted on limestone boulder, located just north of the Janet Fish Pedestrian Bridge.

2.5.6 BLUFFS

West 29th Street Bridge

Built in 1939 as a PWA project, replacing an earlier bridge at the same location. Designed by Carl G. Levander. Concrete beams are arched on the perimeter, but straight on the interior, and rest on concrete piers. The concrete guard rail is similar to that at 24th Street, but this bridge does not have exposed aggregate.

Condition: The structural condition of the bridge was not evaluated. The concrete generally appears to be in fair condition, with some limited spalling. Graffiti is present in accessible locations.

Recommendation: Remove graffiti. Spot patch concrete.

Stone Pylons

A row of short, rubble limestone piers on top of the bluff. Assumed construction in 1930s.

Condition: Poor. Some piers are cracked and out of plumb, others are almost completely crumbled.

Recommendation: Rebuild piers and install new steel guard rail for potential new overlook.



The soaring vaults of the 29th Street Bridge are the gateway to the Bluffs, and a significant architectural space on its own, worthy of attention and improvement. Image: Ted Lee Eubanks

2.6 RECREATION RESOURCE INVENTORY

2.6.1 FACILITIES

Although undocumented, recreation in Pease Park after its 1875 founding was apparently low key and unstructured until the 1920s, when the restroom in Tudor Cottage, picnic tables, play area, wading pool and field, and a grandstand and pavilion were built. The work of Janet Fish Long in 1960 to construct the Shoal Creek Trail provided improved access throughout the project area.

Since then a playscape, splash pad in the place of the former wading pool, basketball court, new bathroom and some benches have been added to Kingsbury Commons. Three volleyball courts were added to Polecat Hollow and picnic tables and benches have been added to Custer's Meadow. Additional benches are located along the Shoal Creek Trail, with exercise fixtures at Lamar Terrace. In all there are 19 benches, 39 picnic tables, 2 BBQ stations, 4 fitness stations and 1 restroom (which does not meet the needs for the current level of park use). 24th to 29th Street west of Shoal Creek is designated as a dog off-leash area

Reduced from 21 holes, the park previously included a 18-hole disc golf course. Heavy use on the course began to impact the environment, as confirmed in a report prepared by the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center PARD and the Watershed Protection Department partnered to initiate a restoration project to repair the damage and address other concerns. As a result of the impact and subsequent restoration, PARD made the difficult decision to remove disc golf from Pease Park to allow for the restoration of the watershed. The Pease Park disc golf course closed in late 2010. See Appendix I for further documentation of the condition assessment PARD decision and watershed restoration project. The Pease Park master plan was developed with this decision as a given.

2.6.2 RECREATION DEMAND

Latent demand is harder to assess, but there appears to be additional pent up and future demand given the nearby population growth in the service area, the park's high visibility and existing popularity, neighborhood plans that call for additional park amenities, and the likely increase in visitation upon completion of the Lower Shoal trail connection improvements.

Trails

The most popular use in the park is the trails system, specifically the Shoal Creek Trail (SCT) and to a lesser extent, the Lamar Boulevard sidewalk. Use for recreation and commuting, the SCT is experiencing additional commuter use as an alternative to driving on the increasingly congested Lamar Boulevard and other routes.

The trail lengths in the park include Shoal Creek Trail, 1.75 miles (decomposed granite, and concrete), Lamar Sidewalk, 1.6 miles (concrete), Secondary Formal Trails (natural surface),0.62 miles, Secondary Informal Trails, 0.39 miles, with 3 or more informal foot crossings, 3 trailheads and 1 pedestrian bridge at Kingsbury.



The splash pad is a popular play feature that replaced the historic wading pool. Image: WRT

Programs

The park is used continuously by a mix of nearby and other residents and students who walk, bike, jog, walk dogs, bird, picnic, play basketball, volleyball, kickball, softball, petanque, play on the playscape and splash park, or attend the annual Eeyore's Birthday Party, the largest and only special event that takes place in the park. PARD does not conduct formal recreational programs in the park. Numerous school groups use the park both as residents and as part of a statewide Capitol field trip destination. Other informal programmatic use include boot camps, bird walks, group picnics and ball games. Eeyore's Birthday Party is run by volunteers and generates revenue, part of which goes to the PPC for use in landscape restoration efforts. The staging of the event is carefully coordinated to avoid impact and accommodate people. (See Appendix K for staging layout.) The event volunteers clean the park afterwards and there has been no complaint about physical impact or degradation from PARD or PPC, although the visitation impact generates complaints from some neighbors.

Existing Use Pattern

At present the park appears to be functioning satisfactorily without excessive observed or reported over use or conflict. However, anticipated growth PARD standards and neighborhood plans list recreational features, such as picnic shelters, that do not currently exist in the park.

Challenges

Several conditions present challenges to be addressed in the master plan, in part due to the absence of comprehensive vision for the park. The restroom and splash pad are located in the floodway, the southern part of the park is well used but the northern part appears underused for a strategically central city park, and the visual character of the park does not respond to the important civic stature of the park's location, history and potential. Last, there is no specific plan for how and where to accommodate increase use or to enrich the Park's recreational potential.

Opportunities

Pease Park has the potential to accommodate significantly more visitors in the future. This master plan shows how the park can accommodate that demand. It also shows how the park could be developed to stimulate increased use with efficiency. Having such a plan allows for a proactive response to user demand within the vision and strategic framework.

The plan will also take advantage of the necessity of life cycle replacement to refresh and strengthen the functional and visual character of the park. Anticipated actions would be to replace aging facilities, and improve on their locations, quality, design character and durability.

Kingsbury Commons holds the highest potential to anchor the park's signature identity and serve as a real citywide civic landmark. Distribution of use northwards at logical places would help to disperse use and effectively accommodate more visitors without compromising the somewhat remote character of the park that people appreciate.

Planning for increased use can "induce" increased recreational use and consequently the popularity of the park. Balancing this inducement and responding to existing needs is a strategic task of PARD, the PPC and the community to address as a part of the implementation strategy.

2.7 CONNECTIVE INFRASTRUCTURE

2.7.1 STREETS

Lamar Boulevard (1.75 miles)

The civic frontage of Pease Park, Lamar Boulevard frames the park's east side. Built after the park's dedication, it was never conceived in concert with the park as a parkway in the classic sense. Lamar is designated as a bus and vehicle priority in the Downtown Austin Plan: Transportation Framework Plan.

The experience of Lamar Boulevard for motorists is pleasant, with the green of the park frontage making for a memorable route to and from downtown. Lamar Boulevard plays several roles in the life of the park – a major north-south commuter route bringing thousands of motorists into contact with nature and framing a dramatic view of downtown; the park's front door, providing motorists with a framed view of the park; frontage for business and other city uses along the street; and access to the park from the north and south. On the negative side, Lamar is an impediment to pedestrians and cyclists trying to reach the park from the east, a hot and exposed pedestrian and cyclist route, a source of noise and airborne pollutants and others directly discharged into the creek, and a corridor for the necessary but unattractive utility poles and lines that deface the view of the park.

- Functional Classification: Urban Collector
- Bike Plan: Lamar is currently a shared lane, recommended to be converted to a bicycle lane.
- Cap Metro: the 338 bus route has three stops at MLK, 24th and 29th Streets. (No other transit routes in the project area)

Kingsbury / Parkway (0.68 mile)

The neighborhood face of Pease Park, the streets were built after the Park on the original park property. Actually a single thoroughfare, the street provides local access for the Old Enfield and Pemberton Heights neighborhood streets and a frontage road for the Park. Cut-through and high speed traffic is a concern, and the city has proposed a traffic calming plan which includes four speed humps (per Transportation Department) on Kingsbury / Parkway. The streets lack sidewalks. Parkway begins in the south at Lamar Boulevard, and reaches the park on axis with the stone gates, and turns 90 degrees. This axial approach was originally the only access to the park prior to the construction of Parkway and the connection from Harrell Street to the gates. The alignment ends in a view of the park framed by the stone gates. This is the arrival space for Pease Park from the south, and the most compelling ceremonial arrival space in the park. The street occupies the park frontage at the gates, the park's doorway. The street dead ends to the east at the creek, providing parking for about twenty or so cars, and dumpster location. The front door to the Park deserves a higher quality frontage road and arrival space.

Kingsbury Street transitions to Parkway at Harrell Street, described below. Parkway extends to 24th Street. In the south end on the sloped length there are several asphalt dump piles, invasive vegetation and other signs of neglect.

• Bike Plan: not designated
Windsor Road (0.25 miles)

Windsor Road fronts on the upper reaches of Pease Park called the Windsor Hillside. No sidewalk is provide or desired by the neighborhood.

• Bike Plan: Currently Windsor is a shared lane, and is recommended to be converted to a bicycle lane.

Harrell Street (200 feet)

Harrell Street connects Windsor Road and Kingsbury Street, and has been closed to vehicular traffic. A popular pedestrian and cycle route, Harrell Street is considered a candidate for removal and redesign.

• Bike Plan: not designated, but biking community has spoken up for it to remain open to bikes.

Gaston Street

Gaston Street connects Pemberton Heights to Gaston Green in the Shoal Creek Boulevard area. Existing condition does not have sidewalk or bike lane. Pemberton Heights has requested a sidewalk.

• Bike Plan: Currently a wide curb lane, recommended conversion to a bicycle lane.

15th Street

15th Street marks the southern extent of the parkway character zone of Lamar/Shoal Creek. The dramatic overpass creates a visual cue to the entry into the parkway zone. 15th Street is a major route designated as a bus and vehicular priority street. The city urban design department has designated 15th at Lamar Boulevard as one of the major city gateways. This includes a proposed pedestrian beacon crossing.

- Functional classification: Urban Collector
- Bike Plan: Existing share lane, proposed to remain the same.

Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard (MLK)

Functional Classification: Urban Collector MLK is the seam between the capitol district and the UT campus and is a major commuter and business corridor.

- Cap Metro: Route 338 Bus Stop
- Urban Trails Classification: On-Street All Ages Network
- Bike Plan: Existing wide curb, proposed to be converted to a bike lane



The existing Shoal Creek Trail bridge connects Lamar Boulevard with Kingsbury. It should be replaced with a widened bridge to accommodate two-way bicycle traffic. Image: WRT

21st Street

21st Street is a neighborhood street for which the neighborhood has requested pedestrian improvements to make it a more attractive alternative to the very busy 24th and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

 Bike Plan: Currently a shared lane, recommend to be converted to a bicycle lane.

24th Street

24th Street is a major east west connector linking the center of the UT Campus to the park and West Austin. The intersection at 24th Street is the most daunting and challenging of the Lamar Boulevard crossings.

- Functional Classification: Urban Minor Arterial
- Cap Metro: Route 338 Bus Stop
- Bike Lane: Currently shared lane, recommended conversion to bicycle lane.

29th Street

29th Street defines the northern limits of the UT campus. There is no significant gateway or trailhead development at Lamar Boulevard.

• Bike Lane: Current and proposed condition includes a bike lane

• Urban Trails Classification: Existing Enthused and Confident Network

31st Street

31st Street is the beginning of the park frontage condition along Lamar Boulevard, and is important because the Shoal Creek Trail leaves publicly owned Creekside property at this point due to a gap in ownership.

• Bike Plan: Current and recommended bicycle lane.

Challenges include the car oriented system and impact of traffic on the quality of the park experience, the impediment that the streets and intersections can be if not designed as "complete streets".

Opportunities include the strong neighborhood connectivity that the street system provides, as long as it can be improved for pedestrians and cyclists; and the chance to create attractive city and park gateways at the intersections.



The intersection of busy Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Lamar Boulevard presents a forbidding challenge to pedestrians, bicyclists and the disabled. A shaded gateway and signature bus shelter will provide a welcoming "landing" for those trying to reach the park from the east. Image: Clayton & Little Architects

2.7.2 STORMWATER



Stormwater runoff on the east side of the park is directed to Shoal Creek by 72 inlets, pipes and 46 end walls. Within the park is .41 miles wastewater lines to remain and .43 miles of wastewater lines to be removed as a part of the Shoal Creek Restoration Project. Stormwater runoff from Lamar Boulevard washes sediment and toxic volatile organic compounds into the creek with no filtration or delay.

Challenges include the volume rate and quality of water reaching the creek and the limited area to intercept it to filter and detain the runoff.

Opportunities include taking advantage of the few locations where it is possible to capture pavement runoff, to augment the work being done as part of the Shoal Creek Restoration Project.

2.7.3 UTILITY LINES

Over two miles of overhead utility lines run along the west side of Lamar, cross the park in a few points, and also run along the Kingsbury Commons frontage. The poles and lines diminish the quality of the view into the park and to the downtown as seen from Lamar Boulevard. The lines also prevent placement of street trees to shade the sidewalk and street, filter pollutants, and buffer the park from the traffic. Austin Energy has no plans to bury or relocate the lines, but is willing to consider burial or relocation if there is funding and if the land owners agree. Ideally the length of Lamar Boulevard would be buried, as noted in the West Austin neighborhood plan. Two areas of focus are the frontage along the length of Polecat Hollow, and the Kingsbury Commons gateway area.

The primary challenge is the cost of burial or relocation. The opportunity is to bury the lines and plant trees or open up uncluttered views of the park.



From right:

One of the many pipes conveying stormwater to Shoal Creek, Each is an opportunity to determine if the pipe could be removed, daylighted, or otherwise improved for ecological and visual enhancement. Image: WRT

Looking south on Lamar sidewalk, showing the sidewalk to be widened to multi-purpose trail standards. All utility poles should be removed and the lines buried in the long term, with the Polecat Hollow segment first. Image: WRT



VISION APTER 3





PUTTING IT TOGETHER

The Vision sets the course for the master plan recommendations and is the outcome of the inventory and public process. The vision distills the input from the Foundation for Planning into a vision statement, four goals for culture, nature, recreation and infrastructure and their supporting objectives and actions.

3.1 VISION AND GOALS

VISION

PEASE PARK AND SHOAL CREEK GREENBELT IS...

- a green, urban oasis whose natural waterway, Shoal Creek, its forest, open spaces and cultural history are protected and enhanced,
- a safe, well-maintained and beautiful destination that is easily accessible for all, and serves the adjoining neighborhoods and all Austinites, and
- a hub of Austin's trail system, where people gather as a community to enjoy recreation and respite.





GOALS: THE PEASE PARK MASTER PLAN ADDRESSES THE FOUR MAJOR COMPONENTS OF THE PARK.

PRESERVE AND ENHANCE THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.

2 preserve and enhance the cultural environment.

3 PROVIDE APPROPRIATE RECREATION.

3.2 OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

The goals form the framework for action and are supported by the objectives and actions listed below.

PRESERVE AND ENHANCE THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

RESTORE ECOLOGICAL PROCESSES

- Support the re-establishment of native vegetation, where appropriate, through plantings and seeding that includes groundcover, understory and canopy species
- Increase the diversity of and widen riparian areas to improve water quality in the creek and water absorption outside the creek
- Use vegetation and grading to increase storm water absorption and utilization where appropriate
- Manage and/or remove invasive species as appropriate
- Revitalize soils where depleted, compacted or washed away

ENHANCE THE VISITOR EXPERIENCE

- Formalize visitor experiences with the creek to create access, views and to reduce informal trampling, erosion and degradation
- Use plantings to help guide and enhance the visitor experience
- Use vegetation to frame views of the creek and other amenities, while screening views and noise of unsightly and loud elements, such as Lamar Boulevard
- Create protocols for re-establishing vegetation in areas heavily impacted by human and pet traffic
- Create areas of botanical interest, aesthetic appeal, and identity

CREATE SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES

• Plant and seed appropriate native and adapted species taking into account soils, terrain, impacts, and solar orientation

- Use Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES) documentation as a guide for making landscape decisions
- Create efficient landscapes that return value through shading, water absorption, soil creation, water purification and aesthetic appeal
- Restore lawn areas with native grass blend
- Capture gray water and/or storm water for irrigation
- Protect and preserve heritage trees
- Protect Shoal Creek, and the seeps and springs that drain to it
- Create five-year management plan with best practices and prioritization of tasks
- Minimize floodplain development

PROTECT AND PRESERVE HERITAGE TREES

- Develop interpretive plan with a strong emphasis on the ecology of Shoal Creek
- Incorporate volunteer activities into long-term management plans and tasks
- Promote citizen science to increase general awareness and document biodiversity
- Utilize volunteer monitoring for early detection of invasive species



Live Oaks are the sentinels of the park. Image: WRT

PRESERVE AND ENHANCE THE CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT

DEVELOP UNIFIED PARK CHARACTER SENSITIVE TO THE PARK'S DESIGNATION WITHIN THE OLD WEST AUSTIN HISTORIC DISTRICT ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PRESERVE/RESTORE HISTORIC AND CULTURAL FEATURES

- Preserve and adaptively re-use the Tudor Cottage
- Restore stone walls, pylons, benches
- Explore options for better integrating entry into the Park

PRESERVE/RESTORE HISTORIC BRIDGES

- Add lighting
- Remove graffiti
- Seek official designation for historic bridges and develop a restoration and maintenance plan

PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC ART

INSTILL A SENSE OF STEWARDSHIP

- Develop interpretive plan with a strong emphasis on the history of Pease Park
- Incorporate volunteer activities into long-term management plans and tasks



Evidence of increasing stewardship, volunteers cleaning up park debris Image: Austin Parks Foundation

PROVIDE APPROPRIATE RECREATION

CREATE OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT WITH NATURE

- Add natural play opportunities for children
- Create creek play opportunities
- Create creek overlooks

MAXIMIZE POTENTIAL OF PLAY

- Add amenities to enhance existing play equipment
- Create imaginative playscapes
- Provide multi-generational play
- Tie play elements into overall park character
- Maximize recreation functionality and carrying capacity
- Distribute play opportunities throughout the site

PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR FITNESS

- Add multi-generational fitness stations
- Add flexible space for exercise boot camps, yoga, and other community programming
- Define fitness walk/loops

ADD/ENHANCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR COURT AND FIELD GAMES

- Enhance baseball field, basketball court, volleyball fields
- Add petanque courts

ACCOMMODATE SPECIAL EVENTS

- Accommodate staging for large events
- Add a gathering place near the creek



ENHANCE COMFORT

- Add seating and picnic areas
- Add shade trees and trellises
- Add water fountains and restrooms
- Add opportunities for food (temporary and/ or permanent), considering food truck parking and electricity needs

PROVIDE SECURITY

- Maximize visibility for surveillance, in balance with restoration objectives)
- Add lighting in high use areas at activity areas (Refer to Chapter 4)
- Include dog leash policy as part of comprehensive adaptive management review.

DEVELOP TRAIL SYSTEM AND MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

- Ensure ADA accessible path options throughout the park
- Shared use paved, Excursion decomposed granite (when not in floodplain) and Hiking – mulch

INSTILL A SENSE OF STEWARDSHIP

- Develop interpretive plan
- Coordinate public/private partnership

Petanque is a popular sport that is flexible as to its playing surface and location. Image: Pease Park Conservancy

PROVIDE AND ADVOCATE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT USE AND ACCESS

PROVIDE SAFE ACCESS TO THE PARK AND CREATE VERSION DOWNTOWN'S GREAT STREETS APPROPRIATE TO THE PEASE PARK AREA ("GREAT PARKWAYS")

- Motorists:
- Provide adequate parking for everyday traffic
- Coordinate adequate offsite parking and shuttle transportation and/or parking for larger events
- Bus riders:
 - Add bus shelters with signature, unique appearance
 - If a city-wide bus circulator reemerges, advocate for stops at the Park
 - Advocate for UT shuttle bus stops
- Pedestrians:
 - Widen sidewalks along Lamar Boulevard
 - Slow/calm traffic around the west side of the park
 - Add/enhance pedestrian crosswalks
 - Realign/relocate pedestrian bridge to Kingsbury Street
- Bicyclists:
 - Widen Shoal Creek Trail to accommodate bicyclists
 - Consider bicycle when making trail material decisions
 - Add bicycle racks and B-Cycle station(s)

PROVIDE ACCESS TO PARK AMENITIES

- Provide ADA paths
- Add ADA bridge from Polecat Hollow to Custer's Meadow and ADA bridge from Polecat Hollow to Big Field
- Add low water crossings across creek

PROVIDE GATEWAYS TO WELCOME PEOPLE TO THE PARK

Add pedestrian, vehicular gateways and transit gateways

MANAGE STORM WATER

- Make Pease Park a mode of excellent parkrelated stormwater management
- Daylight storm drains/explore rain gardens on east side of Shoal Creek
- Remove concrete encasements in creek

PROVIDE SIGNAGE

• Add identity, way-finding, interpretive and regulatory signage

CONSIDER LIGHTING POSSIBILITIES

• Gateway, Use-areas and trail lighting

PROVIDE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- Provide wi-fi hotspot
- Provide smart system for efficient lighting and irrigation

INSTILL A SENSE OF STEWARDSHIP

- Develop interpretive plan
- Coordinate public/private partnerships



The dark green highlighted areas indicate where dogs are allowed off-leash. All other areas in the park, dogs are required to be on a leash. Image: WRT



RECOMMENDATIONS 4



RECOMMENDATIONS 4

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BLUEPRINT FOR ACTION This chapter is divided

into park-wide recommendations that cover the systems and features throughout Pease Park, design recommendations for the design character of specific features and then detailed recommendations that describe the specific places, or rooms within the Park.

4.1 PARKWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

Parkwide recommendations for natural resources, cultural resources, recreation and infrastructure are described below.

4.1.1 NATURAL RESOURCES

Parkwide natural areas management recommendations are organized within a process-oriented framework that recommends natural recovery and self-repair of damaged or diminished areas with realistic management objectives. When these techniques are applied in a steady, incremental and adaptive manner, the desired outcomes will be to repair primary ecological processes; create healthy, complete plant communities and create resilient landscapes that enhance the user experience. The summary below and on the accompanying map is a very general overview of the comprehensive, specific and detailed recommendations and supporting rationale found in Appendix A1.

Adaptive Management and Process Approach

Adaptive management is an iterative process that allows land management practitioners to learn about the particular site over time, as circumstances change, and adjust methods accordingly. Implementing the recommendations below will create a resilient landscape with naturally evolving and adaptive plant communities with rich biodiversity and manageable areas to implement and evaluate results.

Integrating Natural Areas Management with Recreational Programming and the User Experience

To balance Pease Park's use and enjoyment with the preservation and restoration of natural areas, the Park was divided into two management types according to the dominant use.

	Riparian	Savanna, Lawn, and Developed Areas	Woodland
Recreation- dominated Rooms	Specific crossings and access points only	Kingsbury Commons, Big Field, Polecat Hollow, Custer's Meadow, Gaston Green, East Bank and Lamar Terrace	None
Natural Area- dominated Rooms	Wooten Woods, Caswell Shoals, Ramble Scramble, Lamar Slope, and the Bluffs as well as edges of Custer's Meadow, Polecat Hollow, Big Field and Gaston Green	Edges of Custer's Meadow, Polecat Hollow, Big Field and Gaston Green	Windsor Hillside, North Ramble, Hillside, East Bank, Ramble Scramble slopes and Bluffs.



Defining the Elements of Natural Areas Management

Invasive species, erosion, and soil compaction have degraded Pease Park and the Shoal Creek Greenbelt environment. In order to restore the landscape and prevent further damage, invasive plants will need to be removed where possible to create increased native vegetation and habitat. Erosion is a major issue throughout the Park associated with creek flows, stormwater, trail design, slopes and user disturbance. The impact of trail construction use, especially in steep and riparian areas, can be reduced by improved trail construction. Erosion from runoff from adjacent streets and upland areas can be reduced by installing rain meadows and swales where possible to slow the water as it enters the site (as in the restoration project for Custer's Meadow and Polecat Hollow). For smaller issues, there is the potential to armor the nick points of erosion, create dispersion and slow down the water in the immediate area. The soils of the Park have been degraded with substantial loss due to erosion as well as compaction due to human use. Degraded soils can be improved with the use of mulch and Dillo Dirt. (Note that substantial increases in soil nutrients may give growing advantage to non-native plants rather than the native plants highlighted in this plan.)

Plant Communities and Habitat

The vegetation of the Park and greenbelt restores habitat for other organisms and creates the structure for the rooms. Once the degradation of an area has been controlled, restoration of native vegetation can begin, which in turn creates habitat for humans, plants, and wildlife.

Establishing and Caring for Native Flora Attention to planting and seeding, trees and tree care, and understory and ground cover plants is critical to creating sustainable plant communities. *Planting and Seeding:* Seeds and plants should be obtained from Texas, preferably Central Texas, to insure that plants are viable for use in the Pease Park environment. The plants should be chosen based on the following criteria:

- Native to the Central Texas area;
- Available through the local nursery trade or native plant society groups;
- Successfully used in restoration projects within Central Texas and/or they add diversity to the current and future plant palette at Pease Park and the Shoal Creek Greenbelt;
- Listed in the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's descriptions of the vegetation types found at Pease Park;
- Recommended for this or similar projects by arborists, ecologist, or land management professionals.

Trees and Tree Care: Part of the appeal of Pease Park for users, and a significant part of its ecological value, comes from the many majestic trees found throughout the Park. Guiding principles to secure the health and vigor of new plants are to prepare for success, plant the right tree in the right place, use the smallest size tree practical, practice naturalistic planting design and care for the trees. By applying these principles, natural regeneration, seeding and live planting can create more canopy cover throughout the Park. The creation of stable woodlands, where feasible, will result in a more aesthetically pleasing, shaded environment that is ecologically functional.

Understory and Groundcover Plants: Healthy understory and groundcover species are critical to the long-term health of the Park, specifically areas that are prioritized for preservation or restoration of riparian or upland forest. Understory (plants that are three to ten feethigh plants) and groundcover (plants that are zero to three feet high) help to stabilize soil,
> retain moisture, add biodiversity and complete the native forest structure. Understory also block visibility, which is a concern in urban park security. In recreation-focused areas, canopy and groundcover may be the primary vegetative structure. A balance must be struck between visibility and a healthy full ground-to-canopy forest. The plan generally categorizes upper slopes away from high use areas and riparian edges as natural forest, but with significant provision for view management to achieve safety objectives.

> In places where simply limiting trampling and/or mowing is not effective to increase understory and groundcover, basic elements of restoration will include proper soil preparation, good timing, proper seeding rates, selection of the right plant for the right place, and proper planting practices.

Restoring Plant Communities

Establishment of native flora will occur within a range of different plant communities and habitats of the study area. As described above these areas are divided into those in which natural area management information limits recreation and those in which natural area management supports recreation. The descriptions below address the restoration of the riparian, woodland, savanna and lawn areas.

Riparian Zone Restoration: The creek bed is an incredibly dynamic, sometimes violent environment. The natural regeneration of trees in these areas, along with the re-planting of trees is a top priority. A combination of fast and slow growing trees should be selected to add biodiversity. Candidate species include sycamore and black willow for fast results in the short term, and bald cypress and American elm to create the desired long-term condition of a cathedral canopy shading the creek.

Supplemental actions to support riparian restoration include: planting understory and groundcovers for soil stability, filtering water and creating richer habitat for wildlife; implementing "grow zones" along with supplemental seeding and planting; using plants of a significant size to channel and direct pedestrians. Due to the high potential habitat value, the creek bed should be continually evaluated to determine if the extreme fluctuations of water flow from flooding to drought are sufficiently abated to warrant dedication of resources to increase diversity by planting.

Savanna and Lawn Natural Area Management: Several changes to current lawn management practices are recommended to increase their sustainability and habitat value, reduce the cost and impact of lawn mowing and provide an aesthetic framework for the image of Shoal Creek as a Hill Country creek in the city. It is recommended to limit the cost and impact of the intensive maintenance that lawn demands by concentrating it only in high use and high visibility areas, and converting other areas to savanna or woodland. Management practices will convert unused lawn at the margins of use areas (in places such as Live Oak Terrace and Custer's Meadow) to savanna, riparian or upland woodland. For conversion to savanna, native grass species with a mix of Texas wildflowers will be planted for seasonal interest and to shade out Bermuda grass. Sun-loving plants that are endemic to the Blackland Prairie found in the eastern portions of Austin will be planted, reinforcing the regional context of the creek. In the long term, management practices will explore converting large lawn areas to native turf mixes.

Enhancing Wildlife Habitat

Pease Park and the Shoal Creek Greenbelt already serves as a refuge for wildlife in the highly urbanized Shoal Creek Watershed. Over 180 animal species have been documented in the study area and the immediate surroundings. The habitat at the Park has been substantially impacted by its urban surroundings and its many human uses, yet there is considerable potential to increase its habitat value in select areas. Three actions to increase habitat value are: to protect and encourage native riparian trees such as black willows, bald cypresses, and cottonwoods; to create patches of habitat that include shelter and food sources; and to increase shelter for wildlife through nesting boxes, purple martin houses, water sources and other ways to supplement natural structures.



4.1.2 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Cultural resources include the historic and contemporary structures in the Park. Historic structures include the Tudor Cottage, CCC bridges at 24th Street, 29th Street and Gaston Green, and supporting features such as the Kingsbury picnic table and low stone walls at several locations in the Park.

In addition to the historic structures, new structures are required to serve park needs. Locations, general programs and design character for new structures have been defined in the master plan in this section, in the Room-by Room Recommendations and Design Character. New structures include picnic pavilions, bathrooms, a "folly," bus shelters and three new pedestrian bridges. Refer to the Design Character section for further discussion of the approach to the architectural design character of Pease Park.

Existing and Proposed Buildings and Bridges of Pease Park Kingsbury Commons

- Tudor Cottage (existing)
- Kingsbury Pavilion: restroom, storage, mechanical equipment and picnic shelter
- Pedestrian Bridge: on Shoal Creek Trail from Lamar Boulevard to Kingsbury

Polecat Hollow

- Pedestrian Bridge: connecting Kingsbury and Polecat Hollow on Pease Park Loop Trail
- Picnic Shelter
- Potential Restroom
- Bus Shelter

Custer's Meadow

- Picnic Pavilion
- Pedestrian Bridge connecting Polecat Hollow and Custer's Meadow
- 24th Street Bridge (existing)
- Bus Shelter on Lamar Boulevard at 24th Street

Gaston Green

- Shade Pavilion
- History Hut Folly
- Potential restroom
- Shoal Creek Boulevard Bridges (existing)

Lamar Terrace / The Bluffs

- Restroom / Overlook
- Shade Pavilion
- 29th Street Bridge Activity Space (existing)
- Cliff Overlook
- Bus Shelter

Tudor Cottage Renovation and Revival

Adaptive Re-Use and Renovation Actions Located near the hub of park activity, the cottage is an ideal place for activities and events. The Tudor Cottage will be restored for flexible use with the interior renovated as a single large room for small conferences, community meetings, lectures and gatherings with generous outdoor terraces blending with the landscape.

Proposed Renovations

- Minor exterior repair including spot repointing of brick
- Upgrade electrical and plumbing system
- Install HVAC system
- Re-use existing concrete slab for finished floor.

- New ceramic tile walls
- Restore pressed tin ceiling
- Replace existing screen louvers with operable windows
- Provide replacement door hardware and make thresholds accessible
- Provide new interior and exterior lighting
- Provide new kitchenette with sink and refrigerator
- Incorporate interpretive information/displays

Site Integration Improvements

Tudor Cottage sits above the largest expanse of open play area at the Park. The Cottage will be made more usable and well integrated into the Park by building terraces that extend the usable area into the landscape. Site improvements include expansive terraces to the south, west and north, and a mid-level terrace to the north that connects to the trail below. The grass slope to the south will remain.

Proposed Site Improvements

- New accessible path from designated parking to the Cottage with extended patio to the south for connection.
- Expand patio to west for exterior support.
- Build mid-level north terrace with stone retaining walls and steps to tie park path below to Tudor Cottage level above.
- Open north wall to external north patio for light, ventilation and visual connection to the Park.
- Include interpretive display on the history of Pease Park

Usability of the Tudor Cottage can be significantly enhanced with the expansion of adjacent usable space. The proposed terraces at cottage level will provide seating and event space and to the west a place for a catering kitchen and/or food trailer parking. The renovated Cottage will accommodate lecture style seating for 50 and conference/banquet style seating for 22 in the 20-foot by 28-foot space.



A view of the renovated Tudor Cottage and new terraces, seen from the north. Image: Clayton & Little Architects



Kingsbury Pavilion

The renovation of Tudor Cottage as a viable, rentable event facility creates additional demand for restroom space in addition to the existing park use. To accommodate convenient restroom access for the Cottage and the proposed relocation of the existing restroom use out of the flood plain, a new structure is proposed immediately to the north of Tudor Cottage. The new structure, the Kingsbury Pavilion, will house restrooms, tool storage, a mechanical room for the Park's splashpad and picnic areas with expansion potential. The Kingsbury Pavilion will be a linked chain of support elements woven between the trees on the existing hillside.

History Hut

This relatively small park building reintroduces the historic concept of the Park Folly, made popular by Capability Brown in 18th century England. The original folly was a whimsical structure found unexpectedly in a park to simply delight and spark the imagination. The History Hut will be the location for telling the story of the Park and to delight the imagination. It will be located at Gaston Green, providing an additional feature to attract people to the mid-park area.

Lamar Restroom Building and Overlook

A new restroom building will be located at Lamar Terrace across from the Lamar Senior Activity Center at West 29th Street and Lamar Boulevard. The sunken level of Lamar Terrace also provides a natural spot for an overlook with restrooms beneath.

Picnic / Shade Pavilion

Up to five potential proposed pavilion locations are proposed at Polecat Hollow, Custer's Meadow, Live Oak Terrace, Gaston Green and Lamar Terrace. The shade pavilion is skeletal in design to be transparent and blend into the Park, and will be made of steel for minimal maintenance. Deep eaves will provide shade and protection, and the floor will be stone pavement.

Bus Shelters

Several bus stops along the Park edge provide the opportunity for a specially designed bus shelter to improve the experience of bus riders and to help mark the architectural identity of the Park. Four bus stops along the eastern edge of Pease Park are the key points where the Park meets the city. The simple shade structure and adjacent site development will contain all the necessary technical elements of a bus stop as noted in the gateways recommendations in Connective Infrastructure.



29th Street Bridge

The dramatic architectural character of the 29th Street Bridge provides the opportunity to create an event space below. Recommended actions are to light the bridge, clean the space and consider improvements to allow for its use.

New Pedestrian Bridges

Three pedestrian bridges are proposed to better connect the areas of Pease Park, provide ADA access and reinforce the Park's proposed architectural identity. The Kingsbury Bridge is proposed to replace the existing non-compliant bridge with a wider version compliant with city trail standards. In doing so, the creek crossing point will be shifted south on Lamar Boulevard to align with the proposed crossing at 15th Street and align on axis with the Tudor Cottage. The Kingsbury-Polecat Bridge and Polecat-Custer Bridge will connect MLK and Polecat Hollow to the Shoal Creek Trail. The bridges should be designed with a distinctive character and a family resemblance to the proposed buildings. (Note: depending on trail use and other factors, a high water crossing bridge at Janet Long Fish Bridge may be required.)

Interpretive Plan

Telling the story of Pease Park is essential to building understanding of the value of the place, animating the experience of being in the Park, and helping to enlist the support of the community. The wealth of local natural and cultural knowledge about the Park should be collected and formalized into a clear narrative. The plan will drive the content and approach to interpretation, enabling evaluation of communication methods such as physical exhibits or cell phone / web-based media. As noted in the Introduction, a full interpretive plan should be developed prior to any further investment in interpretation.

Public Art

Public art should be considered an integral component of the Park and to avoid the negative consequences of improper selection or placement of art, sometimes referred to as plop art. Pease Park could be viewed as a stepping stone between downtown and its public art program and the newly energized Laguna Gloria museum. A special art integration planning process should be conducted to determine an intentional approach. The program should address thematic categories such as integral architectural/craftsperson art (proposed for the new buildings in the Park), freestanding sculpture in the sculpture park mode, and environmental art that may be connected directly to the environment and have a life cycle or decay.

4.1.3 RECREATION RESOURCES

The recreation component of Pease Park is approached as a multidimensional, integrated intergenerational system. Recreation connects people with other people, nature, culture, fitness and education. Within this integrated system, the paths and trails provide access to the facilities that provide recreational focal points.

The recommended approach is based on public input, staff review, the inventory and examination of related plans and analysis of existing equipment. It balances development of facilities to accommodate recreation use and addresses the impact that increased visitation will have on the Park. The recreation development concept is to increase the enjoyment of the Park for more people by adding low key facilities, concentrating high impact activity in a few areas and dispersing activity throughout the Park to areas that are currently underused. Like the natural areas management plan, the plan for provision of additional facilities is to take an adaptive approach and monitor and respond to need.

In general, recreation relates to the physical and ecological character of the Park. Developed, active and social recreation is focused in the open, level areas near park entrances and passive, nature-based contemplative recreation is focused along the creek and along the wooded slopes.



Example of a higher quality playscape. Image: Stephen Stimson Associates. Hardberger Park.

Facilities

Activity Hubs

More intense social, organized active use and facility development is focused in five areas called activity hubs that are located near street access by car, bus, cycle or foot. The five hubs are Kingsbury Commons, Polecat Hollow, Custer's Meadow, Gaston Green and Lamar Terrace.

Each hub will be developed with a cohesive design language and will include the following common features:

- Connection to a park gateway
- Shade structure
- Expanded special pavement area
- Trailhead
- Open Lawn Area
- Shade trees
- Signage
- Signature walls
- Lighting
- Trash and recycling
- Water fountain
- Bicycle racks
- Signature planting
- Public art
- Stormwater feature
- Energy generation

Additional facilities unique to the location, mostly at Kingsbury Commons:

- Multi-use buildings: Tudor Cottage and History Hut
- Picnic grove
- Multiuse field
- Playscape

- Splashpad
- Ball field
- Multi-use Court(s)
- Basketball Court(s)
- Volleyball Courts(s)
- Petanque Court(s)
- Seating areas
- Memorial garden
- Treehouse
- Off-Leash dog area

Nature-Based Recreation

Nature-based recreation is provided by trails throughout the park that connect to access points to the creek (and the ability to walk along the creek bed in low water), and natural surface trails on the wooded slopes. Nature based recreation has the potential for a significant increase in interest as habitat improvement progresses and an interpretive plan is developed. Bird watching and fossil finding are examples of activities here. Among the facilities under consideration for nature-based recreation is an accessible park-scaled treehouse.



The Shoal Creek Trail, as a park trail between 29th and 31st Streets, continues along the Bluffs as a more rugged backcountry adventure experience. The smoother "through route" will be directed along Lamar Boulevard. Image: Scott Swearingen

Community Health

Community health is addressed by providing extensive pedestrian and bicycle routes of varying challenges as well as play and exercise equipment for fitness. Mental health is addressed by fostering contact with nature and people of all ages in a varied range of social settings. Varied social experiences include: solitude at overlooks or isolated benches and natural areas; gatherings at picnic pavilions and the Big Field; picnic grove parties; school trips; Eeyore's Birthday; low-key performances in the Polecat Hollow bowl; and the proposed programmatic link to the Lamar Recreation Center.

Education and Interpretation

Education is related to the interpretive plan for the Park, which can provide the script for education at all levels and ages. Bird watching and elementary school field trips can be enhanced and made more meaningful through interpretive planning and the proposed habitat improvement actions. The proposed History Hut could be a focus of interpretive programming and education.

Trails

The recommended trail plan builds on the existing conditions. The system is a hierarchy from urban on-street and sidewalk routes, major paved multiuse trails, park trails of varying surfaces to "backcountry" hiking trails of natural surface. This system provides access along Shoal Creek and Lamar Boulevard for park users, through bicyclers, walkers and commuters. Trail users of all abilities are accommodated in the system with some limitations. Linked to the city streets by gateways and recommended intersection crosswalk enhancements, the system is fully integrated into the adjacent neighborhoods. Major recommendations include: gateways and trailheads; additional on- street sidewalks; paving all of Shoal Creek

Trail in concrete; adding two bridges; adding small loop trails at activity hubs; and additional "backwoods" hiking trails.

See Design Character for description of trail design.

Major Trails

Shoal Creek Trail is the primary artery and will continue to grow in use and popularity as the lower Shoal Creek project links Pease Park more directly to Lady Bird Lake. Because the trail has intensive use and lies within the floodplain it is the master plan's recommendation to pave the trail with porous or non-porous concrete at a typical 12-foot width to reduce post flood maintenance and assure more reliable use. This recommendation will have to be further reviewed by PARD. The use of concrete for this dominant feature in the narrow park affords the opportunity to consider it as a linear plaza and designed as a special feature. In many locations the width of the trail may have to vary depending upon existing conditions such as geologic outcroppings and heritage trees.

Lamar Boulevard sidewalk will be widened to 12 feet where possible to accommodate bicycle commuter traffic. This is intended to reduce the pressure on Shoal Creek Trail to accommodate all of the high speed commuters and throughbicyclists, which is a user conflict issue with recreational bicyclists and walkers. Additionally, efforts to bury or relocate power lines along Lamar Boulevard would allow for shade trees to be planted, which would address a frequent community criticism of the hot Lamar Boulevard sidewalk route, especially for north-bound bicyclists.



Other Park Trails

- Kingsbury Commons, Hillside, North Ramble: natural surface hiking trails should be field checked and realigned or closed if necessary
- Windsor Hillside: hiking trails for birding
- Polecat Hollow: Loop through Polecat Hollow connecting MLK, volleyball courts, picnic pavilion, the terraced bowl and mesquite grove.
- Caswell Shoals: 24th Street Underpass as part of restoration project
- Custer's Meadow: New sidewalk along Parkway/24th Street, Connector path from Custer's Oak to Bridge

- Wooten Woods: creek crossing and overlook access
- Live Oak Terrace: access to pavilion and overlook
- Gaston Green: improved loop around pavilion, sidewalks along Shoal Creek Boulevard and Gaston Road
- Lamar Slope: access routes to overlook and low water crossing
- Ramble Scramble: hillside hiking path connection from 29th Street to Janet Long Fish Bridge
- Lamar Terrace: looped path around lawn area
- Bluffs: improved segment of path



The Shoal Creek Trail shows signs of over use. Insert Caption (Image: Scott Sweringen)

4.1.4 CONNECTIVE INFRASTRUCTURE

Connective infrastructure includes the connections to the public right of way, and the systems that impact the park: gateways, streets, storm sewers and utility lines.

Gateways

The public image of Pease Park is defined at the street edge and focused at intersections. The development of architecturally compelling gateways at key points along the park perimeter will create an established presence for the park and help to frame it as a work of civic design.

Pease Park and the Shoal Creek Greenbelt have a meaning and role in the "DNA" of Austin that began with Edwin Waller's first city plan, and continue to play a key role in the contemporary urban form of Austin. The Shoal Creek stream valley and the public land within it create a natural threshold marking the edge of west Austin and downtown. Also, Pease Park is not just a line on a map, it is a space unto itself, with increasing civic value, and has a beginning and end along and across the valley. To take advantage of this condition and do justice to the urban design opportunity, a system of gateways is proposed at key intersections and park access points. The gateways mark the passage from district to district, define the park edges and let people know they are "there." The gateways are tuned to the roles they play, different scales they serve and modes of travel. This system of gateways dovetails with the city's urban design initiative to develop a citywide set of gateways, one of which is located at Lamar Boulevard and 15th Street

Civic Gateways

Civic gateways function at a vehicular scale for those passing through, and mark the entry into the parkway zone and the east-west valley crossings. Improvements need to be made in the right-of-way outside the park. Locations include Lamar Boulevard at 15th and 31st Streets, and at the cross streets 24th and 29th Streets. The 15th Street Gateway is already under conceptual development by the city as a part of its citywide gateway program. The gateway marks both the entry to downtown and the parkway zone. Civic gateways also coincide with several major pedestrian crossings. Standard elements include monumental features such as pylons or walls, planting, signage, associated design features, such as grading and drainage (as is the case at 15th Street) and pedestrian / bicyclist features such as crosswalks, timed lights, flashing lights, striping, material change, ADA compliance and median enhancements.

Vehicular Gateways

Vehicular gateways mark the access into Pease Park and the Shoal Creek Greenbelt for visitors by car. Improvements need to be made in the right of way and on park property. Locations include Kingsbury Street and Shoal Creek Boulevard. Standard elements include architectural features (e.g., the stone gates and WPA bridges), signage, parking (porous), signature walls, lighting and planting.

Pedestrian Gateways

Pedestrian gateways into Pease Park and the Shoal Creek Greenbelt provide an additional level of accommodation and amenity to address the scale of the individual on foot or by bicycle. Improvements would be made within Park property. These include Windsor Gateway (Harrell Street), Kingsbury pedestrian bridge, Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Polecat Hollow, Custer's Meadow at Custer's Oak and 24th Street, and Ramble Scramble on 29th Street.



Standard elements include detailed planting, park-specific signage for direction and interpretation.

- Signature walls
- Lighting
- Seating
- Trash and recycling

Trail Head / Trail Node - Standard Elements

Trailheads and trail nodes provide orientation and information about the park. Trailheads will be built on park property, merged with gateways, typically slightly inside the park and removed from the public right of way. Trail nodes will be freestanding locations where the Shoal Creek Trail intersects other important trails such as at the Hillside hiking trail. Standard elements include signage/way-finding, trash cans and recycling, in addition to seating.

Bus Shelter - Standard Elements

Bus stops are portals to the park and important local civic spaces that are small monuments to Austin's environmental commitment. The existing bus stops along Lamar Boulevard will be developed with new architecturally distinctive shelters at each southbound bus stop. Existing bus stops are located at Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, 24th and 29th Streets, and a proposed stop is located at Shoal Creek Boulevard immediately north of the west -bound 15th Street off-ramp.

Each bus shelter will be developed in the same language as new Pease Park structures. Standard elements include an expanded special pavement area, seat walls, signage, lighting, trash and recycling, a water fountain, a shade structure, a storm water capture feature, bicycle racks, a B-Cycle station, native planting, and an emergency phone.

Parking

Parking is available at the Kingsbury Street lot (22 spaces); along Kingsbury and Parkway (71 spaces); at Custer's Oak (8 spaces); and Gaston Green (20 spaces). Parking for the major event, Eevore's Birthday is handled via off-site parking and remote lot shuttles. The amount of parking was cited as a concern, therefore limited parking availability may become an increasing concern as the park grows in use due to population increase, the completion of the Shoal Creek Trail, and improved amenities. Pressure for parking outside the streets may trigger concern from neighborhoods, and placement of parking within the park will impinge on natural and recreational areas. To respond to this without building more parking, it is recommended to continue advocacy for Shoal Creek Trail improvements up and down stream, improved neighborhood connections for local walkability and bus access via a downtown/ UT circulator. It is also recommended to pursue a shared use agreement for parking on lots along Lamar Boulevard. South 19th Street is a dead end street that could be converted to parkpriority parking. PARD and PPC will work with neighborhoods to monitor parking demand and develop cooperative responses as need arises.

Streets

Lamar Boulevard, Kingsbury Street, Parkway, Gaston Street and the cross streets are recommended for further evaluation as "Great Parkways," an approach to standards that is modeled on the Great Streets program. The standards should embody the best practices of green and complete streets that are relevant and appropriate to this setting adjacent to a park. See Detailed Recommendations for further detail.

TYPICAL SECTION AT LAMAR BOULEVARD





TYPICAL SECTION AT PARKWAY





Stormwater

The 72 stormwater inlets and 46 headers, or discharge points, should be examined to determine how many can be diverted to bioswales and rain basins in the manner of the Shoal Creek Restoration Project. Diversion of runoff reduces water runoff volume and rate, improves groundwater recharge to help sustain planting, and adds an educational and aesthetically interesting visual feature. The Shoal Creek Restoration Project proposes shallow infiltration basins in Custer's Meadow, a precedent that could be applied to several other locations including the Big Field and Polecat Hollow.

Overhead Utilities

To open unobstructed views, allow for shade trees and reduce clutter in key focal points of civic importance, the utility lines should be buried and the poles removed. Initial discussions with Austin Energy concluded that this was feasible and the project would include other "attachers" to the poles.

Lamar Boulevard View Corridor Remove the poles and lines to improve the view

of downtown from the park and into the park from Lamar Boulevard. Advocate for longterm removal of all line and poles by burial or relocation. Pursue a short term plan to bury the entire 1,480-foot length of Polecat Hollow with the special focus on 480 linear feet.

Kingsbury View Corridor Remove the utility lines and poles from the intersection of Kingsbury Street and Parkway.

Interior Routes

Evaluate the cost benefit and alternatives for relocating or burying lines that traverse the park.

4.1.5 SHOAL CREEK

The health of Shoal Creek is central to the sustainability of the greenway and the park, and by extension the adjacent neighborhoods and the city. Water quality and quantity are issues that extend beyond the project area, and will require close partnership with the City and Shoal Creek Conservancy to address. Building on the Shoal Creek Restoration Project and previous stabilization projects, the actions of the master plan extend and complete the restoration efforts along the entire length of the creek within the project area. The plan looks inward to improve the recreational use of the creek with access points for overlooks and crossings, new bridges from which to view the creek and facilitate disabled access. The plan acts in the short term to continue restoration and looks to the longterm goals for the watershed of volume and flow rate reduction and improved water quality. Pease Park should be the model for watershed-wide actions to fix the creek. Towards this end, every effort is made to capture and filter stormwater entering the Park form offsite storm sewers and sheet flow, to stabilize and re-vegetate the creek bank with the goal of establishing a cathedrallike canopy of trees to shade the creek and paths to allow flood waters and rain to infiltrate on-site and to continue the advocacy for eventual total removal of the sewer line.

Natural Resources

Riparian Zone

The riparian zone is at the heart of Pease Park and the Shoal Creek Greenbelt and ties together all of the other landscape character zones. Much of the park and greenbelt area is part of the floodplain and floodplain terrace and would naturally be wooded without human intervention. For areas outside of active recreation and/or infrastructure areas, this is what is recommended from the creek's edge extending out to the trails on each side of the creek or until a major slope is encountered—i.e., everything in the floodplain terrace not used for recreation.

Invasive species are common in this zone, with large stretches of giant cane (also referred to as Arundo), as well as Ligustrum (numerous species including Chinese privet, Japanese privet, and others), Chinese tallow, and Chinaberry. These issues will be addressed from the Gaston Bridge south by upcoming Watershed Protection efforts. North of Gaston Bridge invasive species control is a priority management activity. It is critical that user access is formalized at multiple points along the creek and vegetation complements this hardscaping to direct users to the creek without trampling new growth or established understory within the riparian zone.

Major Objectives

- Provide formal access points and low water crossings to focus recreational impacts to specific areas.
- Increase width, diversity and overall density of riparian woodland.
- Support the work of Watershed Protection Department, PARD and the Forestry Division
- Manage invasive species.
- Utilize barriers and interpretation to allow vegetation to establish in highly used areas.
- Increase plants with known wildlife appeal to improve habitat and increase wildlife viewing opportunities.

Management Recommendations

Native Planting and Seeding

- Modify and implement the City of Austin Grow Zone practices except at formal access points.
- Identify areas where natural regeneration or species diversity is low and plant additional riparian trees.

Manage Revegetation

- Remove invasive species as they arise.
- Selectively remove (or thin) undesirable trees to provide adequate space for desirable, less common trees. This work will reflect the goals of the City of Austin Watershed Protection Department and Parks and Recreation Departments.
- Selectively remove (or thin) undesirable trees to provide visibility along trails. This work will reflect the goals of the City of Austin Watershed Protection and Parks and Recreation Departments. Existing erosion control mats are inhibiting tree generation.

Invasive Species Management

 Giant cane is the species of greatest concern in this area, along with Chinese tallow, Chinaberry, Chinese privet, and Japanese privet. Invasives will be controlled from the Shoal Creek Bridge southward as part of the Shoal Creek Restoration Project. Efforts by Pease Park Conservancy and partners for the next year can focus on areas north of the Gaston Bridge.

Erosion Control

• Large patch removal may require use of erosion control fiber mats. Where this is the case the area should be sown with native grasses. Per existing issues, and with the approval of the Watershed Protection Department, holes should be cut in the mat for plantings with a spacing no less than 6 feet.

Recreation Management

• Recreation access to the creek should be formalized to reduce trampling and erosion.

Flood Preparation

 A flood event may destroy or severely alter restoration work and should be considered a potential reality for any work in the riparian zone. This should be taken into account when looking at the time of year work is being completed, type and size of plant material, as well as supporting infrastructure.

Cultural Resources

Historic street bridges and modern pedestrian bridges are the major features on the creek. Proposed pedestrian bridges are described further in Design Character. Flooding impact and the hydraulic impact of the bridge crossings is the greatest concern, with stabilization of bridge abutments and adjacent landscape as a result of scour being the major issue for the landscape. Walls, steps and culverts dot the banks of the creek and are treated as opportunities for attractive access points and celebrations of the entry of rainwater.

Recreation

• Along with Shoal Creek and the Lamar Boulevard sidewalk, the creek is a natural passage through the park in low water. The necessity of crossing at bank level provides an opportunity to view the creek, and low water crossings and overlooks allow people new ways to see and experience the creek.

Infrastructure

- The sanitary sewer in the creek bed is an unsightly feature that defaces the rock shelves and fossil beds and alters the creek flow in low water. Its construction is reputed to be a possible contributing factor in the loss of water from the creek bed due to infiltration into fractured bedrock. Its continued physical presence may be a necessity, as the impact of removal may be worse than abandoning it in place. A portion of the active sewer is being removed as a part of the restoration project. In the long term, the plan recommends continued advocacy for the total abandonment of the line in the creek bed, and exploration of ways to reduce its visual impact.
- The plan recommends a long term effort to daylight, divert, or otherwise retrofit storm sewers, particularly from Lamar Boulevard, to reduce pollutant load, velocity, and volume of runoff.

4.1.6 LAMAR BOULEVARD

As noted elsewhere, Lamar Boulevard, the Shoal Creek Greenbelt and Pease Park work as a system to form a greenway that is dependent on the health of each component. The future of the creek depends on larger watershedwide conservation efforts, but adjacent Lamar Boulevard is a significant contributor to degradation of water quality, heat island effect, noise and air quality. With 75,000 vehicles per day, Lamar Boulevard is a commuter route that is already stressed to capacity at times and a barrier to those walking or bicycling.

The improvements recommended in the plan address all of these issues, and recognize that there may be some easy short-term successes and also longer term strategic advocacy efforts needed to effect any significant environmental change.

Among the big ideas to improve Lamar Boulevard include diversion of stormwater to filtration and infiltration beds, burial of utility lines to allow for street trees that would cool those on Lamar Boulevard sidewalk, reduce heat island effect, help clean air, absorb some of the vehicle noise, screen some of the view of vehicles from the park. and frame a beautiful view to downtown. Additionally widening the sidewalk and improving the crosswalks could make the park more accessible and pleasant to walk and bicycle to. Last, creating architecturally compelling gateways at intersections along its length would mark the greenway a civic feature worthy of Austin's growing success.

As it is, this length of the Lamar Boulevard corridor with the Park and creek is a special space in Austin. If these actions take effect, Lamar Boulevard/Shoal Creek/Pease Park could combine to be a great parkway.

As a public right-of-way outside the jurisdiction of PARD, these actions would require coordination among PARD, Great Streets, Watershed Protection Department, Austin Energy, with the consent of affected landowners.

Action Summary

Nature Daylighting / Bioswales

Street Tree Plantings

Recreation

NA

Culture

NA Infrastructure Widen Lamar Boulevard Sidewalk to 12' (15th - 29th) Widen Lamar Boulevard Sidewalk to 8'/10'/12' (29th - 31st) Lamar Boulevard Sidewalk Overlooks Bluffs Overlook 24th St Signalization 29th St Signalization MLK Bus Stop Parkside 24th St Bus Stop Parkside 29th / 31st Bus Stop Parkside MLK Intersection Improvements 24th St Intersection Improvements 29th St Intersection Improvements Overhead Utility Burial at Polecat Hollow **Reclaimed Water** Purple Pipe Connection from City System to

Pease Park

Natural Resources

- Advocate for powerline burial and planting street trees along the length of Lamar Boulevard, an action dependent on the burial of utility lines and improvements in the public right-of-way outside of Park jurisdiction.
- In the short-term, examine the east side of Lamar Boulevard in concert with landowners to advocate for more street trees. See Infrastructure for discussion of irrigation in the Park and on the street.
Cultural Resources

• Lamar Boulevard is part of the history of the city and is treated as a cultural resource of importance, part of the system that includes the historic CCC-era bridges. Concrete pylons between 31st and 29th Streets are the only specific cultural features along Lamar Boulevard. They are recommended to be preserved and restored.

Recreation

• Widen the Lamar Boulevard sidewalk where possible to accommodate increase commuter use.

Infrastructure

- Improve intersections and gateways (addressed in Parkwide Recommendations).
- Work with Austin Energy and other land owners to bury or relocate utility lines along as much of Lamar Boulevard as possible, focusing on Polecat Hollow (and Kingsbury).
- Study the stormwater drainage system contributing to Shoal Creek to determine

which discharge points could be diverted to infiltration basins or retrofitted with vortex grit/pollutant cleansing drainage inlets or other methods of reducing volume, velocity and pollution.

- Irrigation: The viability of planting in Pease Park and along Lamar Boulevard depends on water. Even with the use of native species with proven drought tolerance, irrigation is needed at the outset of planting. For short-term irrigation during the initial establishment period it is possible to tap into the public potable water system depending on application to Austin Water Utility.
- Reclaimed water, delivered via a spate system called purple pipes is not available near the Park at this time. Initial long-term plans to extend the system towards the Park. PARD and PPC should team with neighborhoods to advocate for extension of the reclaimed water system to the Park. Piping would most likely be in the Lamar Boulevard right of way with laterals into the Park.



Tomorrow

4.1.7 KINGSBURY STREET / PARKWAY

Kingsbury and Parkway are the neighborhoodscaled companions to Lamar Boulevard. Traffic calming, stormwater runoff and safe pedestrian access are the major concerns. The street functions as a cut-through and as such is somewhat hazardous at times for pedestrians, especially neighborhood children and parents with strollers. New sidewalks and ways to channel stormwater are key to its improved function as a neighborhood park frontage street.

Action Summary

Infrastructure

Remove bollards to allow for Parking Sidewalk, Overlooks and Parallel Parking

Natural Resources

- Provide street trees to reduce the heat island effect and make the pedestrian access more pleasant.
- The restoration project will channel runoff to filter pollutants, reduce erosion and infiltrate runoff. Explore other areas where these measures could be applied on the slopes to improve water quality.

Cultural Resources

• Reconstruct the buried CCC-era stone walls. The walls are part of a consistent architectural language of park edges that is important to the heritage of the Park and to the community perception of the Park as a special civic precinct. The walls on the sloped section have been buried by successive paving operation that have raised the grade to the point where only the top courses of stone are visible.

Recreation

• NA

Infrastructure

- Provide 6-foot sidewalks on both or either side of Parkway south of the gates.
- Provide a continuous 6-foot sidewalk on the west side of the street north of the gates.
- Study the area along Tudor Cottage, which is very restricted, to verify the best treatment along that stretch. Provide crosswalks at the gates, Winsdor gateway, Rainbow Bend, and 24th Street.



Tomorrow



Tomorrow



4.2 **DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS**

The master plan provides general direction for the design character of Pease Park and the Shoal Creek Greenbelt. The design process will refine the broad ideas presented here with more specific images and products. All recommendations must follow City, State and local codes and ordinances. In addition to compliance with prevailing regulations, as a base level of sustainability, green design is a broad given at the outset of the discussion of built form and management. It is recommended that construction projects actively enroll in or at least follow the precepts of LEED and Sustainable Sites Initiative, which has been led at a national level by the University of Texas at Austin School of Architecture and the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

The Park is already shaped in various ways by its geology, hydrology and historic and contemporary influences. There is such an eclectic mix of styles it is not possible to derive one overarching style or form that should dictate the design of new improvements. The historic influences are the Tudor Cottage, with its pitched roof, brick and timber detailing, and the CCC-era bridges with their neoclassical concrete form, the tradition of stone craft on the gates and the low walls, and the precast concrete picnic tables. Paving materials are limited to concrete and decomposed granite.

The overall Park composition we see today was not driven by a predetermined form. The location and arrangement of features is casual and appears to have responded to simple concepts of convenience and logic, such as the siting of the cottage above the flood plain. Very little documentation exists from which to draw conclusions about the designers' intentions beyond what we see on the site.

The facility program that evolved during the master planning process recommends new structures, trails and other features. The cumulative effect of these features will alter the image of the Park, so a clear concept of and rationale for the new look is needed to create a coherent built image. The design team took the challenge of helping to shape the Park in the context of Austin's citywide design tradition, PARD's design tradition, the neighborhood design tradition, and the intrinsic spirit of the Park.

Seeking inspiration for guiding principles to shape the character, the team examined the site's geology, hydrology, vegetation and the architectural traditions of the city, including that of craftsmen and artisans and current public open space design. The team concluded that the specific idiosyncrasies of the place dictate the need to evolve a new aesthetic that is drawn from the land, influenced by the people.

Stone is the core of the site's identity. It is the site's very visible skeleton, seen in the two limestone formations that form the bluffs and the creek bed. The Shoal Creek Valley is tangible evidence of the land's location along the Balcones Fault, the region's defining landform. The hydrology of the site as evidenced by the creek and its flow provides a counterpoint to the rugged stone. Together the rugged, crystalline stone and the fluid, dynamic creek drives the overarching design character of the Park.

The buildings, site walls and paths will shape the Park's character. The new buildings are straightforward rectangular forms made of steel and stone that relate to the monumental presence of the stone features in the Park – the bluffs, Split Rock and the creek bed. The buildings also relate to the urban conditions along the Park's edge at the streets, where the CCC-era monumentality and civic form dictated the concrete bridge designs.

Together, the two systems work together by looking inward to the wilds of the Park and its driving force, the creek, and outward to the civic form of the streets and neighborhoods around the edges of the Park. The four components of the built realm of the Park are described below: the paths that provide access through the site, the buildings that house the activities, the site features that support the exterior spaces and the furnishings.











4.2.1 Path System: Evoking a Braided Channel

The paths are conceived in a fluid pattern that recalls the turbulence and fluid dynamics of the stream, forming in concrete the patterns found in water – the eddies and pools and riffles of the creek. The path form relates to the shoaling aspect of the creek, in which deposits of rock and sediment build up and split the flow, diverting it into turbulent eddies.

- The main path, the Shoal Creek Trail, is proposed as the major flow, with smaller paths diverging from the main stem and reconnecting downstream. This pattern serves the path user by allowing alternative routes through the Park, such as side trips to an overlook or stream crossing that come back together again.
- Some of these side trails are mere feet away and some cross the stream on stepping stones or bridges forming a larger braided

pattern that connects with the Lamar Boulevard sidewalk and other paths.

- Materials will vary to suit the location. The bulk of the path system will be the Shoal Creek Trail, paved in concrete with a special textured finish such as a salt finish. The path will be edged with smooth-surfaced stone with rough-split edges. Side trails will be concrete, asphalt or stone pavers depending on the setting.
- Where possible out of the flood way, decomposed granite will be used to keep the sense of rusticity that makes the Park an attractive urban refuge.
- Natural surface paths, stone, soil or mulch, will be the choice on hillsides. Steep areas that are unmaintainable otherwise will be paved in concrete, as is the case in the North Ramble.
- Special areas such as the entry plazas at the five hubs will be paved in mortared stone in a pattern to be determined.



An interconnected set of braided trails enhance existing trail experiences while providing new thoroughfares to create a variety of new park experiences. Braided trails also connect parts of the Park which have never been connected.



4.2.2 The Structures

The buildings in the Park include the existing Tudor Cottage, new pavilions with potential locations designated for future phased construction at Kingsbury Commons, Polecat Hollow, Gaston Green, Live Oak Terrace and Lamar Terrace. Restrooms will be located at Kingsbury Commons and Lamar Terrace. The History Hut will be located at Gaston Green and bus shelters will be located along Lamar Boulevard.

The design character of the structures take a cue from the standards of the National Historic Preservation Act, which, paraphrased, states that new structures in the vicinity of historic structures should be built in a way to contrast and not attempt to mimic the historic structures. The overall intention of the design of the new structures is to create a family of buildings and site features that have a cohesive look and feel, and help to unify the site and establish a subtle, consistent and elegant architectural identity for the Park.



The new structures proposed for Pease Park are simple in form and materials and will follow these parameters:

- New built elements are proposed for Pease Park on an as-needed basis only. Our overarching goal is to allow the natural beauty of the Park to shine and to create new structures that relate specifically to each unique site, assuming a complementary, informative and supportive role. Each site has its own opportunities and specific solutions at each location.
- Pease Park became a reality in the 1920s, the heyday of Tudor revival style architecture and the era of the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) which resulted in some of the most beautifully handcrafted park buildings in our country. It is this platform of craftsmanship that informs our vision for the new structures at Pease Park.
- The buildings must have humility, as nature is the true art of this park. The elements of the earth will be used: stone and steel only. The new building form evokes elements of the shingle style of architecture, with either sawn limestone shingles or steel plate.





Sawn limestone and metal shingles are proposed to symbolically connect the new structures to the residential motif of the Old Enfield and Pemberton Heights neighborhoods.

Images: Clayton & Little Architects

- Native limestone will be used, with either a rough-hewn or sawn-smooth finish. Steel will be used in its early hand-wrought form as well as steel plate, structural steel and stainless steel.
- The new buildings are low, simple and will be consistent, readily recognizable structures of function within the park. The exterior will be limestone or steel plate, depending on the location. The dark gray steel siding will be employed in locations adjacent to the wooded, green areas of the Park. The tan limestone exterior will be utilized in more open areas to blend with the lighter colors of the bluffs, outcroppings and pathways. A large scale shingle style profile will be used for siding at new structures, whether stone or steel.
- Flat roofs are utilized to create minimal visual impact when nestled into a hillside as proposed at Kingsbury Pavilion. This structure will be faced with steel plate siding, so that its darker color will blend with the hillside. This structure will be a linear grouping of support elements for nearby activities, including restrooms, equipment storage and picnic pavilions.

- The plan dimensions for the various structures will follow an approximate 25foot module. Each component (such as restrooms, storage building, picnic shelter, or shade structure) can stand alone or be joined with any other component as the specific location and needs dictate. The dimensions can be adjusted as needed to fit the specific site.
- New structures will be designed with efficient and current construction methods, The detailing in steel or stone will reflect the craftsmanship of artisans in Austin today. Reminiscent of the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps, these modern details of workmanship will tie a new structure to its unique site as well as create a unifying thread throughout the Park.
- The architectural palette includes an aspect of whimsy in the form of the History Hut, in the spirit of the Urban Trails Plan.



Example of integral ornamental ironwork serving both an artistic and functional purpose. Image: Clayton & Little Architects



LARGE RESTROOM CONCEPT SKETCH

A family of new structures will establish a consistent park-wide design character that complements but does not replicate the Tudor Cottage. Images: Clayton & Little Architects



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Top: The Pavilion at Tudor Cottage will provide restrooms, picnic space as well as storage and mechanical. Bottom: The History Hut will be a focus of interpretation and a general purpose structure. Images: Clayton & Little Architects

4.2.4 Site Features

The tradition of well-built site features was begun with the construction of the Kingsbury stone gates and low border walls found in several areas of the park. This tradition will be extended throughout the site in the form of low understated walls used in strategic locations such as the Park entrances. The walls will reflect the historic tradition and confer a civic gravitas on the gateways and other focal points of the Park.

- Steps and ramps with crafted railings at locations such as the Windsor Gateway will further reinforce the sense of permanence and generosity of the Park's construction.
- Site lighting and furnishings such as picnic tables, benches, bicycle racks, water fountains and trash cans are important supporting elements that should be selected as a complementary group to help unify the Park and reduce the maintenance of disparate products.
- Lighting at major entrances should be carefully laid out and designed and the fixtures selected in coordination with the other site features and buildings.
- Play equipment is a key component, especially at Kingsbury Commons where a new playscape and splash pad is planned. In keeping with the Families and Children Task Force Report, it is recommended to explore the range of current state of the art products, and to consider a philosophy of play that is more fully integrated with nature throughout the Park.

- Play, studied as a system, could be a defining characteristic of the Park not overwhelming it, but infusing it largely with opportunities for nature play both serendipitous and planned, with a creative life that captivates children.
- The Families and Children Task Force and the Nature Play and Learning Area Guidelines Project, among other reports, provide inspiration and guidance to take play at Pease Park to the next level of creative vision – while still keeping the standard fundamentals like water, swings and slides, whose consistent popularity transcends trends and research.
- Signage is needed to identify the Park, provide direction, location names, regulations and interpretation. Signage for Pease Park should relate to the overall Shoal Creek greenway and the city's park-wide signage standards.



Examples of spontaneous and programmed nature play that connects children with their environment. Images from left clockwise: Jenny Kable, "Play Outside," Old Growth Forest Protection, Bellemeade Plantation

4.2.5 ART

Public art should be considered and planned for so that it can be either consciously excluded if that is the public and administrative mandate, or if not, be accommodated thoughtfully.

- The process of art inclusion should be carefully managed with clear goals and performance ideas, a master plan, policy or guidelines, a clear sense of carrying capacity and a designated process and committee structure to review art proposals.
- The range of art, from free-standing pieces on a permanent or rotating basis, to integral architectural or landscape pieces, to environmentally integrated pieces, provides different opportunities to engage with the Austin arts community. It is not the scope of the master plan to define the parameters of art inclusion.



Public art in the park can take many forms, and should be overseen closely by a responsible expert committee, with a set of guiding principles providing consistency in decisions. Images from left, clockwise: "Wind" by Neil Goodman is licensed under CC BY 2.0; "Brackenridge Park Broadway Entrance" by George Schroeder is licensed under CC BY 2.0; "Storm King Wall" by Andy Goldsworthy image by iwantcheese is licensed under CC BY 2.0

4.2.6 THE LANDSCAPE

The landscape itself is the art of the Park, to paraphrase a local resident. The natural landscape, its wooded canopy on the steep slopes and the riparian corridor account for a large percentage of the Park which needs to be continually managed to keep invasives at bay, and to plant and replace shade trees and understory plants, all towards the goal of creating a stable, healthy ,forested corridor. This is the subject of the landscape restoration and management plans.

- The designed landscape is nested within a healthy forest context. The big picture of the park landscape is a solid canopy of shade trees with open spaces at key areas, managed as groomed lawn. These areas may also have more ornamental plantings, such as at the Kingsbury memorial garden.
- The healthy forest consists of a shade tree canopy, understory trees and shrubs, and woody and herbaceous groundcover.
- The middle landscape is the transitional landscape that blends aesthetics, habitat value and maintenance ease. In many cases it is recommended to be a savanna or taller grassland that does not require frequent mowing and has a strong visual presence.
- The edges between these three landscapes: forest, savanna and lawn are the crux of the Pease Park aesthetic. The maintenance plan will set the edges that mowers will follow, in such a way as to compose a garden like boundary between lawn and savanna, and between savanna and forest.
- The landscape of the Park should look like a work of art, perform ecological function

like a backcountry preserve, be composed primarily of native species, be clear and easy to maintain, and be a pleasant and stimulating place to spend time in.

• Public expectations should be managed with educational programs to describe the advantages of decreased energy and water consumption and increased habitat value resulting from reducing and converting from lawn in select locations.

The buildings and other site features will be integrated into the landscape by careful siting, orientation, topographic grading, site design, and planting design.



Example of a designed edge framing and composing a groomed, mown lawn and wildflower meadow. Image: WRT

4.3 DETAILED RECOMMENDATIONS

The actions needed to preserve the natural and cultural resources and transform the recreational and infrastructural features of the Park are described at the scale of the rooms of the Park. The recommendations begin with Shoal Creek, the streets, and then the rooms within the Park, starting from Kingsbury Commons in the south to the Bluffs in the north. Because of Kingsbury Common's importance and relative complexity, the rationale and specific actions in this room is covered in depth. The discussion of each room includes an introduction, action summary and detailed narrative categorized by nature, culture, recreation and infrastructure. The action summary lists the actions in the implementation matrix.

RECOMMENDATIONS



4.3.1 KINGSBURY COMMONS AND BIG FIELD

Kingsbury Commons is the most important entry and activity space in the Park. It is the focal point, and "the capital" of the 15th-31st Street open space. It is a beloved part of the neighborhood, the citywide collective memory and civic DNA. Although "Commons" is a New England term, for the purpose of the master plan, it serves to describe the sense of deep community connection and popular use in this green space. Kingsbury Commons is a pleasant, busy, exciting place to be when the many different user groups are all present. On any given day, there are family and commuter bicyclists, school groups in the play area, children frolicking in the splash pad, joggers and dog walkers on the paths, basketball players, boot campers and others. It is tempting to consider Kingsbury Commons and all its physical features as inviolable. Nothing is truly broken, people are using the area contentedly and it is getting incrementally better with the growth of over 100 trees planted by the

Trees for Pease initiative. Further, almost every feature has a story and attachment that suggests it should not be touched.

But this case for action argues that now is exactly the time to look back to the origins of the Park and decide what the best future is for this place. As noted before, there is no "legacy plan" for the Park to refer to; it must be created based on the best available information and intentions.

This is the chance for Pease Park to have a more memorable and fitting "postcard" entry at Kingsbury Commons, one befitting the Park's historic and civic legacy in a way that will not just accommodate but truly serve to inspire future generations. It should also be a place that still feels of the neighborhood and contains all the shade, places and activities that make it a beautiful, fun and pleasant place to be in. Pease Park can be both a signature park that is a symbol of the city, as well as a pleasant place for neighbors and other park users to quietly enjoy.



Existing Kingsbury Commons



Proposed Kingsbury Commons

Action Summary

Nature

Kingsbury Commons

Street Tree Plantings

Tree Care/Replacement Plantings

Tree Spade / Relocate Trees in Viewshed

Riparian Reforestation

Signature Plantings

Big Field

Sustainable Lawn Establishment Signature Planting

- Riparian Restoration
- Tree Care

Culture

Tudor Cottage Adaptive Re-Use Tudor Cottage Terrace Picnic Table / Stone Wall Repairs Historic Gate Bump-Outs / Framing

Historical Interpretation

Recreation

Restroom Potential Relocation / Rebuild Splash Pad Potential Relocation / Rebuild Basketball Court Relocation / Rebuild Overlooks and Trail Connections Playground Pod Development Children's Nature Play Treehouse

Petangue Court

Baseball Field Improvements / Restoration

Infrastructure

Kingsbury Parking Lot

- Pave Shoal Creek Trail
- Entry Improvements

New Pedestrian Bridge to Shoal Creek Trail at 15th St.

Pave Shoal Creek Trail

ADA Bridge Connection to Polecat Hollow

ADA bridge connection to rolecat holic

Trail Node

- Waterline / Water Fountain
- Overhead Utility Burial
- Parkway Sidewalk Connections
- Stormwater Storage Tanks

Recommendations Narrative Natural Resources

The Kingsbury Commons area is currently the most heavily used place in the Park and will continue to be a central focus of the Park in the master plan. Natural area management should support the recreational activities by providing a healthy and safe regenerating tree canopy along with signature plantings as appropriate. In addition, all areas that are not needed for recreation should be actively managed for tree planting and woodland restoration.

Major Objectives

- Provide for health of existing trees and ensure they are safe for the public.
- Signature plantings where appropriate around park infrastructure.
- Increase the overall tree canopy where it supports recreational activities.

Management Recommendations

Tree Care

- Numerous hazard trees were identified in arborcultural report in Appendix A4. Recommendations for these trees should be implemented immediately to mitigate potential safety concerns.
- Trees planted over three years ago need to have the berms placed around them raked back out into the existing lawn and irrigation should be set back to the canopy edge to encourage their roots to expand further out.
- Trees planted within the past decade need to be pruned to encourage a healthy, strong form.
- Signature Plantings
- Native plants can be used in this area to show their diverse, aesthetic character in more formal settings, providing a "please touch" connection with nature.

Native Planting and Seeding

• Where appropriate, expand the tree canopy to provide additional shade and relief from summer temperatures, prepare for the next generation tree canopy, and replace trees removed or substantially pruned.

BIG FIELD

Big Field is a Bermuda grass field with park infrastructure and trail-lined trees. Currently the lawn goes to the top of the creek embankment in most areas, with only a small riparian buffer on the bank slope. It is recommended that portions of the Bermuda grass lawn east of the existing Shoal Creek trail be converted into a riparian woodland and that the woodland be expanded to all of the areas not needed for recreation in order to provide shade and relief from summer temperatures.

Major Objectives

- Provide for health of existing trees and ensure they are safe for the public.
- Transform eastern edge of big field into a riparian woodland.
- Maintain health of Bermuda grass field.
- Increase plants with known wildlife appeal to improve habitat and increase wildlife viewing opportunities.

Management Recommendations

Tree Care

- Same recommendations as those for Kingsbury Commons area.
- Native Planting and Seeding
- See Riparian Zone section regarding the widening of the riparian zone.
- Place areas east of the existing Shoal Creek Trail into the Grow Zone program.

Turf Care

- The City of Austin should continue to care for the Bermuda grass lawn using PARD's best management practices.
- Alternative native turfs may be considered as PARD has evidence of their efficacy and affordability as recreational ball fields.

Cultural Resources

- The historic structures the Kingsbury Gates, Tudor Cottage, CCC picnic tables and walls

 will be preserved. A new building - the Kingsbury Pavilion - will house the relocated restroom and tool storage space, the splash pad mechanical room, and a picnic space.
- Provide a new bridge wide enough to accommodate two way bicycle traffic at Kingsbury Street / Commons as noted below.
- See Parkwide actions and Design Character for further description of the structures.
- Preserve memorial plaque and integrate with new planting.

Recreation

Critical Features to Preserve at Kingsbury Commons

Evaluation of Kingsbury Commons began with understanding what is sacred and must remain, what is wrong and must be changed, and what could be changed if necessary. The collective memory of Pease Park inheres in the space itself and its historic structures, the Tudor Cottage, Stone Gates, CCC picnic tables and site walls. The character of the space is defined by the open space, studded with shade trees and surrounded by deep shade, provided in part by massive heritage Live Oaks and Cedar Elms. The famous Shoal Creek Trail and the play areas provide ways for people to reach and enjoy the Park.

The Case for Reasonable Change at the Kingsbury Commons

Many individual features of Kingsbury Commons are in need of attention. None of these are critically urgent, and many – viewed in isolation - could be put off into the future. It is the collective impact of these many individual actions to remedy these concerns that raises the question of timing: when is the right time to take action?

The State of the Commons

In general, the cumulative impact of incremental well-intentioned actions has created a place of great value. However, the incremental approach has also created a place that is a record of actions taken in the absence of a broad vision for what the place should be. It is not broken. but neither does it act and look like the legacy Park it began as. In Kingsbury Commons, the "neighborhood park look" has overtaken the civic district park look. This could be and has been suggested as a perfectly fine outcome and grounds for perpetuating what it there and how it looks now. We respectfully disagree. The master planning process is a chance to consider the long term vision for this space and evaluate how both civic and neighborhood qualities can be accommodated. Some of the challenges are:

- The Tudor Cottage is an under-utilized and sentimental landmark. It has the potential to serve as a community common space. If so, the storage space it now houses will be displaced and must be accommodated nearby.
- The Stone Gates are stranded in a leftover area of street signs, misaligned curbs, and lost opportunities to respect their architectural character.
- Occasional but consistently speeding vehicles travelling down the Kingsbury hill place an threatening un-neighborly pressure and risk on the intersection of the two streets.
- The view of the existing Kingsbury parking area, with the barrier and dumpster, detracts from the quality of the Park.
- The presence of many utility poles and utility wires degrades the quality of the entry view of the Park, especially from Parkway.
- Limited lighting is provided by a utilitarian street light mounted on a utility pole.
- The popular play equipment is at the end of its life cycle and is ready for replacement. New options exist.

- The pedestrian bridge over Shoal Creek is deemed by the City to be too narrow for safe comfortable for free flowing two way bicycle traffic. This may not seem of concern at the present, but due to increase use as noted below, will become a "pressure point" over time.
- The entry view down the sidewalk leading from the bridge to the picnic area is of the street and parking, not the park.
- Park Signage has accumulated over the years and could be consolidated and simplified.
- The restroom and splash pad building were designed simply to accommodate their functions and do not contribute a sympathetic or coherent architectural character to the Park.
- The buildings occupy the prime view shed from the Parkway entry. Their presence takes the place of possible open space which could accommodate use that would further animate the space.
- The restroom and splash pad building have been built in the flood plain. They have not suffered terribly as a result, but do not represent a good practice (e.g., water purification chemical storage and public facilities in the flood plain) for the long term.
- The splash pad was installed in the former children's pool in a city program to address water depth safety issues. Water play is a valued feature of the Park and must remainsomewhere. While a significant investment in itself, the new pad does not represent an irretrievable commitment to the future of Pease Park, and in its present location and configuration should not be considered a fixed asset in major long term decisions. If the pad were to be removed, the equipment and fixtures could be salvaged and relocated out of the flood plain at Kingsbury or to another PARD park.

- Due to erosion on large parts of the Shoal Creek Trail and the attendant hazard and cost of upkeep, the trail has been designated for hard surface paving in concrete, pervious or otherwise. It could be paved in place, but should be shifted to allow more space in the lawn area.
- The Shoal Creek Restoration project will enhance the creek banks, but a clear and civically scaled overlook and creek access is not part of that project (which was missionfocused on environmental quality, not civic design values and recreation).
- The Commons and Polecat Hollow are not connected via an ADA (wheelchair) compliant or even a reasonable able bodied route: a bridge would help.
- The city has designated 15th Street as a major civic gateway in its urban design program. Proposed improvements place greatly increased aesthetic emphasis on the 15th Street / Lamar Boulevard intersection right next to Kingsbury Street / Commons. The plans also include a pedestrian crossing via signalized beacon, south of the existing bridge. There is an opportunity to capitalize on this project.
- Per Don Gardner, consulting arborist, the mature trees near the play area are declining in health. Some need to be removed, some need pruning.
- The Trees for Pease are still young enough to consider transplanting via tree spade. If any trees might be relocated due to their

role in a larger long term vision, the sooner the better.

- Potable water use for irrigation will reach a limit and eventually be further restricted, placing more pressure on the need to use reclaimed water. There is a strong movement to extend the reclaimed water supply to Pease Park. The irrigation system for the Trees for Pease is not designed for reclaimed water, and will have to be replaced once the system is in place.
- Bicycle use in general is on the increase and the popular Austin B-Cyle program is flourishing. There is little or no designated bicycle parking, and no Austin B-Cycle station in the Park, but there is interest in providing them.
- For the greatly and rapidly increasing number of downtown residents, Pease Park and the Shoal Creek Greenway is the complement to the Lake, and warrants further attention to quality and detail due to inevitable increased visitation and use impact.
- The designed quality of Pease Park in general and Kinsgbury Commons in particular warrants improvement in light of the vast investment in downtown commercial and office space. Further, the eventual connection of the Shoal Creek Trail from the lake to 5th Street will tap into a regional pedestrian flow that will increase park use: the Park is no longer an isolated local space.

Taken individually, these conditions could be remedied incrementally over a ten-plus year period with little major impact. However, the accumulated number of potential actions raises the question as to how and when to address these. Is it better to take these on one or two at a time in favor of the status quo, or take this opportunity for a major project executed in one corrective effort? The action plan below assumes that a viable approach is one or a few projects within a grounded vision that keeps the "sacred" pieces intact and changes but does not eliminate the features of lesser historic value.

Kingsbury General Design Principles

- Make the Kingsbury Commons entry of the Park worthy of Pease Park's stature as a major, historic Austin park and civic landmark. Other park gateways at MLK, 24th St. Custer's Oak, Rainbow Road, former Harrell Streets, Gaston Green and Lamar Terrace will also be developed as significant park entries at a more public civic/street scaled level.
- Keep the same number of or increase shade trees that make the Park bearable in hot weather. Consider selective relocation of some recent trees.
- Keep the "sacred" structures that define the Park: Tudor Cottage, Gates, picnic tables, walls.
- Simplify: Remove and relocate the recent bathroom and splash pump/buildings built in the flood way and in the center of the entry view shed.
- Take advantage of the need to pave the SCT to shift to the east and expand the lawn.
- Take advantage of the goal of creating free flowing two way bicycle traffic on the substandard existing bridge to improve the Lamar Boulevard entry.

- Keep the equivalent surface area of play surface, courts and splash play. Consider redesigning the play area as a higher amenity creative/nature play area, or simply replace equipment with newer models. Keep basis popular features no matter what (e.g., swings and slides)
- Shift the splash pad away from the Shoal Creek trail to the play area, which will become increasingly busy, to a location more protected, with a balance of sun and shade.
- Keep but shift the features in need of improvement: Shoal Creek Trail, bridge over the creek, splash/play features.
- Move the recently built bathroom and filter/ pump /chemical structure out of the flood way and combine in a single structure at the base of the slope at the edge of the Ramble north of the Cottage.
- Since the Shoal Creek Trail will be paved, shift it closer to the historic walls to increase the Big Field area.
- Consider a tree house here or elsewhere in the Park.
- Retain or enhance the function of the Park to support Eeyore's Birthday.

Recommended Action Plan Entry

- Install new sidewalks along Parkway curb lines leading to gates to allow safer and more generous approaches to the Park.
- Historic Gates sidewalk curb/paving/ planting improvements to make a setting befitting their historic significance.
- Intersection of Parkway / Kingsbury: traffic /entry plaza improvements to slow traffic and mark the Park entry and unify the space between the gates and Park as an "entry foyer" to the Park.
- Parking lot improvements: improve the barrier, provide for dumpster, allow access for service truck access, and add shade trees on west side, capture stormwater before it runs over the edge to the creek.
- Build new widened special bridge, or relocate existing bridge, to reinforce the Park entry from Lamar Boulevard, by lining up the bridge with the City's proposed 15th Street Crossing and Tudor Cottage.

Park

- Much effort within PARD and Pease Conservancy went into selecting, planting, and establishing trees on an ongoing basis. Although some trees, due to location and species type, should be selectively relocated to reflect the goals of the master plan, some should be retained to support investments already made in this area. Relocating a significant amount of trees will require time and money to both move and re-establish the trees. This adds an additional stress to trees, so this should also be considered moving forward.
- With the above in mind, relocate some existing, recently planted trees to allow for new entry configuration. Increase tree density on each side of vista, keeping a small view corridor through the trees. Keep existing major trees in lawn area. While not within the scope of the master plan, the final design of the Kingsbury Commons area will require a specific tree-by-tree review to determine which trees might require relocation, which are optional, which should remain in place, and where new trees could be added. It is assumed that major existing trees would remain unless unavoidable conflicts arise.

- Tudor Cottage demo interior, re-finish as open multifunction space, develop terrace to north, and ADA access ramp from south.
- Relocate Restroom and Splash Equipment / construct new restroom / storage / picnic shelter and splash pad.
- Re-configure play area to allow for splash pad and perimeter walk. Keep a shady setting for a diverse range of activities, and consider the option of a non-traditional playscape in keeping with Pease's special stature.
- Entry Terrace: create generous and welcoming stone paved enlarged sidewalk (think of the "landing pad" for guests and the bus drop-off for events such as Eeyore's).
- Activity Lawn: create a simple, shaded and welcoming lawn area without the clutter of the bathroom and utility building. Consider excavating a shallow (e.g., 1-2 maximum) depression to capture and infiltrate rain and floodwaters.
- Construct Shoal Creek Trail shift to the east closer to the wall, dodge major trees, and make it so that the wall looks like part of the design.
- Construct new trail node at north end, to connect via a new bridge to Polecat Hollow, Lamar Boulevard sidewalk and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.
- Replace the street lights inside the Park with limited new park-appropriate pedestrian scaled ornamental lighting.
- Provide an orientation kiosk(s) that consolidates and attractively accommodates park signage, map, guidelines, and other user amenities, such as schedules and park alerts.

Infrastructure

- Relocate poles and bury some or all utility lines in entry area.
- Use porous paving or biofiltration in the parking area to reduce polluted runoff into the creek.

4.3.2 WINDSOR HILLSIDE

Steep and wooded Windsor Hillside is a buffer for both park and community. Due to its natural conditions, landscape restoration and the provision of hiking trails for birding and alternative access from Windsor Road to Kingsbury Street / Parkway are the only actions proposed.

Action Summary

Nature
Signature Plantings
Invasive Species Remova
Upland Reforestation
Culture

Historical Interpretation

Recreation

NA

Infrastructure

Windsor Gateway

Hiking Trails

Recommendations Narrative

Natural Resources

Windsor Hillside is part of the slope forest and woodland vegetation found on the steep slopes on the western portions of the study area and is disconnected from the main body of the Park. This area has a high density of invasive plant species, including the largest catclaw infestation in the study area. It also contains a closed section of Kingsbury / Street Parkway that is called for restoration in the master plan with a new pedestrian walkway. This area is not considered a high priority at this time because of its isolation and lack of use.

Major Objectives

- Ensure land management efforts are in line with desired programming.
- Control invasive species and restore native habitat.
- Restoration of area surrounding the Kingsbury Spur.

Management Recommendations

Invasive Species Management and Restoration

• Invasive species control in this area should

be low priority relative to the rest of the study area. It is an infrequently visited part of the Park and the high densities and steep slopes will require extensive native plantings associated with erosion control measures, making the work more labor and cost intensive than the rest of the Park. Invasive control in this area may be best accomplished by contractors rather than volunteer staff.

- Woody material can be chipped and used on site. Material inappropriate for chipping will need to be removed.
- Invasive control work may require the creation of brush berms along contours or the use of erosion control fabric.
- Native plantings should take place as soon as possible after invasive plant removal.

Restoration of Kingsbury Trails

 A full restoration plan should be created that includes erosion control, infrastructure/trail improvements, seeding, and planting. The plan will reduce long-term erosion problems, reduce invasive species impacts, lead to more robust native flora and fauna, and in general lead to a more successful project.

Cultural Resources

NA

Recreation

• Provide natural surface hiking trails built to standards for drainage and grading to limit erosion.

Infrastructure

- Redevelop Harrell Street as Windsor Gateway, an attractive civic scaled access point from Old Enfield to the Park. The traffic barriers and asphalt will be removed. The slope exceeds the maximum ADA compliant slope of 1:12, but the route does not lead to any accessible places of public accommodation.
- Replace the street surface with broad terraced steps with an adjacent sloped surface for bicycles and strollers. Small stone terraces will be located at the streets and midlevel. Low seat walls will frame the upper and lower terraces.
- Restore the areas with native vegetation including shade trees to limit invasives and cool the ascent of pedestrians and bicyclers.



Proposed Windsor Hillisde

4.3.3 NORTH RAMBLE AND HILLSIDE

The North Ramble and Hillside is a transitional space between the Windsor Hillside and the Park. The Ramble's natural surface trails will be examined to determine the best routing and construction. The landscape will be managed as a transitional parkland as noted below. The access from Windsor Gateway should be coordinated with grading and the existing landscape to avoid erosion. The exceptional Capitol and University of Texas Tower view corridors will be maintained.

Action Summary

Nature Invasive Species Removal Upland Reforestation Signature Plantings

Culture

Historical Interpretation / Capitol View Node Recreation

Pave Shoal Creek Trail (Unpaved Section) Repave Shoal Creek Trail (remove old paved trail and install new Shoal Creek Trail) Trail Connection to Windsor Gateway Hiking Trail Improvements Seep Stonework

Infrastructure

NA

Recommendations Narrative

Natural Resources

North Ramble and Hillside are part of woodland vegetation type. It is beautiful open woodland that is representative of the eastern edge of the Edwards Plateau. The area is an oak, juniper, and Texas ash woodland with seepage in some areas after rains as a result of the underlying Del Rio clays. Both areas experienced major tree damage during storms in 2008. Dead trees were mulched on site and cedar logs that were used as check logs to control erosion can still be found on the ground. A major tree planting effort took place and was largely successful despite the record setting drought of 2011. Irrigation is present. In addition to the planted trees, a large amount of natural regeneration has taken place, primarily Texas ash, cedar elm and hackberry in North Ramble and the southern tip of Hillside. The Hillside area is impacted by numerous informal trails and informal recreational areas. Recreational areas and trails should be formalized where needed and the rest should be retired. Where natural regeneration is effective, additional plantings should be considered to increase diversity. Where there is a lack of natural regeneration, saplings should be planted to promote regeneration of the canopy and add diversity. The northern portions of this area serve as an example of initial restoration success at Pease Park

Cultural Resources

- Maintain the capitol view corridor.
- Maintain view to UT Tower.

Recreation

- Connect the trail system from Windsor Gateway to Kingsbury Street, and from the Tudor Cottage to the Shoal Creek Trail node. Additional trails other than these should be carefully evaluated to avoid redundancy and unnecessary impact.
- Construct a stone "frame" at the seep south of Custer's Meadow and provide seating as a special feature in the woods.

Infrastructure

• NA



Proposed North Ramble and Hillside

4.3.4 POLECAT HOLLOW

With its open expanse of lawn, mesquite grove and volleyball courts, Polecat Hollow is the most visible image of Pease Park along Lamar Boulevard. The land was filled, reportedly during construction of Lamar Boulevard, and the fill will be removed during the restoration project. A new set of infiltration swales near the mesquite grove will filter water diverted from Lamar Boulevard, making this feature the most visible evidence of commitment to cleaning the creek water. The proposed plan increases the amenities available for park users and connects Polecat Hollow to Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard (Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard), and, via new bridges, to Kingsbury Commons and Custer's Meadow. The bridges are part of the new "Pease Park Loop" linking Kingsbury Commons, Polecat Hollow and Custer's Meadow. A new terraced bowl will connect to the creek from the trail.

Action Summary

Nature

Riparian Restoration Sustainable Lawn Establishment Farthwork for Stormwater Infiltration Basins Signature Plantings Culture Historical Interpretation **Picnic Shelter** Recreation Volleyball Court Improvements Terraced Bowl Fitness Stations and Picnic Tables Children's Nature Play Public Art **Excursion Trail** ADA Bridge Connection to Custer's Meadow **Overlooks and Trail Connectors** Infrastructure Austin B-Cycle station

Polecat Hollow/ Rainbow Road Utility Line Burial Consider Additional Parking Consider Additional Restroom if needed in future Water service line / Drinking fountain

Recommendations Narrative Natural Resources

This area is primarily turf with a riparian edge on the western side and Lamar Boulevard to the east. It includes the volleyball court as well as the mesquite grove just north of the intersection of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Lamar Boulevard. The implementation of the Shoal Creek Restoration Project currently underway will substantially alter Polecat Hollow with major changes to the creek bank as well as the installation of swales. In addition, the master plan calls for substantial changes in user patterns in this area with a formal park entrance from the Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard intersection, a terraced bowl, and two new pedestrian bridges connecting to Big Field and Custer's Meadow. Natural area management should support the restoration and recreational uses in the area while focusing on the expansion of the riparian zone, signature plantings to enhance and define the user experience, creation of creek access points, and invasive species monitoring.

Major Objectives

- Provide support for Shoal Creek Restoration Project as necessary.
- Transform western edge of field into a riparian woodland.
- Signature plantings where appropriate around park infrastructure.



Proposed Polecat Hollow

Management Recommendations

Support for Shoal Creek Restoration Project

• Support restoration efforts through additional planting and seeding to increase diversity and further enhance and define the user experience.

Native Planting and Seeding

- See Riparian Zone section regarding the widening of the riparian zone. Expand the Grow Zone in this area to include 50 feet or more next to Shoal Creek.
- Provide a veil of riparian vegetation along the terraced bowl with a focused area of direct water access at the lowest point.

Signature Plantings

• Native plants can be used in this area to show their diversity and capacity in more formal settings.

Tree Care

• Maintain and care for the mesquite grove through appropriate pruning and ensure planned swales do not negatively impact the grove.

Stormwater

• Explore a shallow infiltration basin in and south of the Hollow to capture rainfall and surface runoff.

Cultural Resources

• Provide a new picnic shelter and pedestrian bridges to Kingsbury Commons and Custer's meadow.

Recreation

- Provide a new tree-shaded, stone terraced bowl on the slope created by the Shoal Creek Restoration Project, integrated with a new pedestrian bridge to Custer's Meadow.
- Provide a new walking trail from Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard gateway connecting the Kingsbury Commons bridge, volleyball courts, picnic pavilion, terraced bowl, Mesquite Grove and liking with the new 24th Street underpass trail.

Infrastructure

• Provide new park gateway at Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, integrating a new bus shelter and the features described in the Parkwide recommendations gateways section. The gateway will be a trail node for the Polecat loop trail and the Kingsbury Commons bridge trail. The Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard crossing, gateway, bridge and Big Field node should be aligned to be clearly welcoming and encourage cross connections.



Tomorrow



Today

4.3.5 CUSTER'S MEADOW

Custer's Oak is among the most iconic features in the park. The Shoal Creek Restoration Project will capture and filter stormwater from Parkway and reduce/ remove /relocate parking from around Custer's Oak. The plan recognizes the low key popularity and heritage value of this place and proposes modest improvements in the form of an improved pedestrian node at the Oak, gateway at 24th Street sidewalk, a picnic pavilion, and connecting trails to a bridge to Polecat Hollow.

Action Summary

NatureInvasive Species RemovalRiparian RestorationTree CareSignature PlantingsCultureHistorical InterpretationRestore Tables /CulvertsPicnic PavilionRecreationChildren's Nature PlayRepave Shoal Creek Trail (remove old paved

trail and install new Shoal Creek Trail) Excursion Trail

Overlooks and Trail Connectors

24th Street Bridge

East Side Trail Connections

West Side Trail Connections

Sidewalk Connection from Bridge to Parkway

Infrastructure

24th Street Bridge Lighting

Recommendations Narrative Natural Resources

Custer's Meadow is a major access point to the Park and greenbelt and serves a number of recreational purposes. The area has been stressed by human and pet traffic, stormwater flows, bank erosion, and invasive species. The Shoal Creek Restoration Project will dramatically reshape this area through bank stabilization, rainwater meadows, invasive species control, impervious pavement reductions, and landscape plantings. The master plan will support and complement this work by ensuring the plantings between the trail and the creek are of appropriate size to direct user traffic, expanding the riparian zone to include the entire area between the creek and trail, creating formal creek access points, and invasive species monitoring (catclaw has been found and removed from the area).

Major Objectives

- Support Shoal Creek Restoration Project.
- Invasive species monitoring and management.
- Increase riparian zone to trail edge and ensure plantings direct user experience.
- Support health of existing trees.
- Formalize creek access points.
- Increase plants with known wildlife appeal to improve habitat and increase wildlife viewing opportunities.



Proposed Custer's Meadow

Management Recommendations

Support for Shoal Creek Restoration Project

• Support restoration efforts through additional planting and seeding to increase diversity and further enhance and define the user experience.

Invasive Species Management

- While invasive species as a whole in this area should be a medium priority, controlling the giant cane on the edge of the meadow is a high priority. The rain gardens WPD will be installing will be great habitat for giant cane, and the disturbance associated with new construction makes them especially prone to invasion. Controlling nearby infestations is one way to help prevent an infestation from occurring.
- Continue to monitor for new invasive species issues with a focus on potential catclaw populations.

Native Planting and Seeding

- In order to insure riparian restoration integrity, plantings should focus on tall grasses, shrubs, and forbs with a riparian canopy with the intent of focusing pedestrian access at certain defined locations for paths, picnic tables and overlooks. This is a revision of the current Shoal Creek Restoration Project design which calls for native short and mid-size grasses. High human and pet use will potentially trample smaller plants and revert the area back to its current condition. Preference should be given to grasses and forbs that grow taller than 18 inches.
- Where native plantings are to take place under trees with significant root exposure, a layer of compost should be applied to protect existing tree roots.
- Unauthorized recreation should be deterred from sensitive areas—such as those between the creek and trail—as the areas recover and plants become established. This can be accomplished through hardscape and planting choices that can focus pedestrian access to defined paths, picnic tables and overlooks. In some cases, newly planted or restored areas may require temporary construction fencing and signage to allow the vegetation to fully establish.

- Canopy trees should be planted in this area to provide shade for trail users and increase the width of the riparian zone. While natural regeneration will happen along the bank and could eventually happen once mowing and trampling are reduced, because of the major impacts currently existing, and a desire for a greater diversity of species than would happen by natural regeneration alone, live tree plantings are recommended.
- Increase plants with known wildlife appeal to improve habitat and increase wildlife viewing opportunities.

Tree Care

- Four trees in Custer's Meadow were identified by Don Gardner for action in Appendix A4. They pose safety risks, and actions detailed in his report should be undertaken as soon as possible.
- As noted in the native planting section, a layer of compost and mulch should be spread under the drip lines of trees with exposed roots.

Cultural Resources

- Preserve Custer's Oak (provide arboricultural care)
- Provide a shade pavilion in the north end of the room.
- Provide an architecturally significant bridge to Polecat.

Recreation

- Provide a trail connection between Custer's Oak and the proposed Polecat bridge, and a link from the proposed Parkway sidewalk to the Fossil Bend Overlook.
- Develop the Fossil Bend Overlook with stone paving and flood-proof stone benches, and provide a terraced route to the fossil beds in the steep bank.

Infrastructure

• In the long term provide an improved pedestrian gateway of civic architectural stature at the west side of the 24th Street bridge.


Tomorrow



Today

4.3.6 CASWELL SHOALS

Caswell Shoals is the narrow space between the creek and Lamar Boulevard. The restoration project provides a trail connecting the Lamar Boulevard sidewalk under the 24th Street Bridge to eliminate pedestrian /vehicle conflicts at the very busy 24th Street intersection. The master plan efforts in this room are devoted to creating a pedestrian park gateway at 24th and Lamar Boulevard, natural area restoration and lighting the bridge.

Action Summary

Nature		
Invasive Species Removal		
Riparian Restoration		
Upland Reforestation		
Signature Plantings		
Culture		
Historical Interpretation		
Recreation		
Overlooks & Trail Connectors		
Infrastructure		
NA		

Recommendations Narrative Natural Resources

Caswell Shoals contains riparian areas east of the creek just south of 24th Street with steep slopes at Lamar Boulevard to its east and on its southern end. It consists of relatively flat, open woodland with Bermuda grass on the floodplain terrace. The Shoal Creek Restoration Project will restore the structural bank of the creek in this area. In addition, a bicycle path is planned to traverse the area from north to south running under the 24th Street Bridge through the middle of the area and into Polecat Hollow. Groundcover and understory plants are still recovering from the area's use as a fairway for disc golf. Small trees have been planted in the southern portion and hand watered with moderate success. In addition, a great deal of dead trees have been removed through volunteer efforts.

This zone is an excellent location for the expansion of the riparian forest for visual appeal from Custer's Meadow, to buffer Custer's Meadow from Lamar Boulevard, create shade for the new bicycle path, expand the riparian zone, and reduce mowed areas. Bald cypress trees are recommended on the stream bank along with sycamore and willow. Pecans are recommended at the base of the slope leading up to Lamar Boulevard. In between, cedar elm, green ash, box elder will likely naturally regenerate, but we recommend some bare root seedlings of these along with other species selected from the list in Appendix A5 to increase diversity and facilitate establishment. In addition to canopy trees, understory and groundcover planting and seeding should take place with both color and wildlife attraction in mind. This area is recommended as a high priority within the Pease Park Master plan because of its visual significance and potential of success. Improvements to this area should immediately follow the completion of work in the area and warranty period of the Shoal Creek Restoration Project, which will include a temporary irrigation system available for at least three years.

Major Objectives

- Continue to reforest open areas to create and expand a closed canopy riparian forest that includes a diverse set of canopy, understory, and herbaceous native species.
- Increase plants with known wildlife appeal to improve habitat and increase wildlife viewing opportunities.
- Create vegetative buffer along Lamar Boulevard.
- Manage invasive species.



Proposed Caswell Shoals

Management Recommendations

Invasive Species Management

- Invasive species control in this area will be a mixture of both passive and active management depending on the species to be controlled.
- Catclaw removal is a high priority. Only a few small infestations have been identified here and it is important to treat them before they become large problems.
- Bermuda grass control can take a passive approach by shading. Tree planting will eventually create enough shade to weaken this grass. Some shaded areas already have a healthy understory of native plants primarily Canada wild rye and straggler daisy. Where sunny areas are disturbed during infrastructure improvements, planting of trees, understory, and/or bunch grasses that will shade out the Bermuda is recommended.

Native Planting and Seeding

- Planting should focus on species that can overtop the Bermuda grass.
- Identify areas where natural tree regeneration is not occurring or occurring at low density and increase tree diversity using the species recommended in Appendix A5 to create a closed canopy riparian forest.
- Canopy trees along Lamar Boulevard right-of-way should be complemented by ornamental trees such as Mexican plum, redbud, and Mexican buckeye that will add visual interest.

- Increase through seeding and live planting species that benefit wildlife, improve habitat, and increase opportunities for wildlife sighting with special attention to areas around trails, park infrastructure, and the creek.
- Irrigation will be present for this area for the next three years through the Shoal Creek Restoration Project and should be utilized for the live plantings in the area flowing the warranty period of the Shoal Creek Restoration Project.

Cultural Resources

• NA

Recreation

• Develop creek overlook.

Infrastructure

 Provide a pedestrian park gateway at the southwest corner of Lamar Boulevard and 24th Street, per gateway standards described in the Parkwide recommendations.



Tomorrow



4.3.7 WOOTEN WOODS

Wooten Woods is the beginning of the wilder north portion of the greenbelt. Heavily affected by flooding, the area is defined by the grove of cedar elms and the arching canopy over the Shoal Creek Trail. Improvement will support the Shoal Creek Restoration Project to stabilize the soil, revegetate the area and pave the Shoal Creek Trail.

Action Summary

Nature
Invasive Species Removal
Tree Care
Riparian Reforestation
Signature Plantings
Culture
Historical Interpretation
Stone Culvert Restorations
Recreation

Tables / Seating / Dog Waste Stations Repave Shoal Creek Trail (remove old paved trail and install new Shoal Creek Trail) Overlooks and Trail Connectors

Infrastructure

NA

Recommendations Narrative Natural Resources

Wooten Woods is dense oak/hardwood forest that includes flat areas next to Shoal Creek and steep slopes that lead to neighborhood properties. One of the identifying features of this area is a gorgeous grove of cedar elm and live oak just north of 24th St. The groundcover and understory in this area are substantially degraded from previous disturbances that include disc golf and flooding. These previous disturbances are exacerbated by current informal, off-trail recreation and pets. Understory restoration as well as bank stabilization is part of the Shoal Creek Restoration Project and will substantially enhance the area. The master plan will complement these efforts by increasing canopy, understory, and groundcover diversity in the restored area, creating formal creek access points, and creating formal and/or informal barriers to allow for plant establishment in highly used areas.

Other issues in this area include: trees in need of care identified in the arborcultural report in Appendix A4, paving of main trail, removing giant cane and Chinese tallow from the erosion control project at the northern end of the area, and removing catclaw, bamboo, and Chinaberry from the fence line in the southern portions of the study area. This area of the Park is considered a high priority in the master plan because of its high use, its great aesthetic appeal, and the need to repair damage from overuse.



Proposed Wooten Woods

Major Objectives

- Complement Watershed Protection Department's efforts in the area to add diversity through tree, understory, and groundcover plantings and seeding.
- Manage Wooten Woods to allow for natural tree regeneration.
- Ensure planned user trail alignments will allow for sustainable circulation patterns and formalize creek access.
- Post interpretation explaining restoration process and erect temporary barriers to allow for the re-establishment of groundcover and understory vegetation in areas heavily impacted by human and pet traffic.
- Increase plants with known wildlife appeal to improve habitat and wildlife viewing opportunities.

Management Recommendations

Tree Care

- Several unsafe trees were identified in Don Gardner's Trees of Pease Park report in Appendix A4. They need to be addressed as soon as possible.
- A live oak with hypoxylon has been identified in Wooten Woods. At the moment the tree appears to be dealing with the fungus well, but it will require annual monitoring for disease stress.

Invasive Species Management

- Catclaw removal is a high priority. A catclaw infestation is beginning to expand on the west side of the trail near the 24th Street Bridge. Treating this infestation before it spreads is essential.
- Giant cane and Chinese tallow removal along the hillside in the northern portions of the area will need to be undertaken with great care in a way that will not disturb any existing soil or harm slope reinforcements. Professional contractors should be used for treatment, follow up care, and planting to insure success and lack of harm to slope stabilization work already completed.

• All other species are of moderate concern and should follow protocols outlined in Appendix A6.

Native Planting and Seeding

- To complement the efforts of the Shoal Creek Restoration Project in this area, additional planting are recommended to ensure the establishment of a robust herbaceous and understory layer that can withstand floodwater. Understory native grasses should be prioritized for both native plantings and seeds.
- Pease Park Conservancy—through interpretive signage and physical barriers where necessary—must ensure new plantings are not trampled by park users. This can be done in a positive, creative manner that allows for buy-in and compliance from a large percentage of park users.
- When the trail is paved by upcoming park efforts, disturbed areas will need to be planted. Unlike most plantings, areas recovering from trail damage may require soil aeration (decompaction) and the addition of soil/organic matter brought in from other areas.

Cultural Resources

• NA

Recreation

- The Shoal Creek Trail will be paved as a part of the Shoal Creek Restoration project.
- Integrate the proposed fully-designed Shoal Creek Trail and braided side trails with the trail being built in the Shoal Creek Restoration Project.

Infrastructure

• NA



Tomorrow



Today

4.3.8 LIVE OAK TERRACE

Live Oak Terrace is the narrow space between the creek and Lamar Boulevard north of 24th Street to Shoal Creek Boulevard. Like Caswell Shoals and Lamar Slope it is important as a riparian buffer and as a part of the park with high visibility from Lamar Boulevard. A path, restoration efforts and picnic amenities are recommended.

Action Summary

Nature

Riparian Reforestation

Signature Plantings

Culture

Repair Historic Walls and Stone Bench Triangle Stone Step Restoration

Recreation

Picnic Tables / Seating / Dog Waste Stations Shade Shelter

Overlooks and Trail Connectors

Infrastructure

NA

Recommendations Narrative Natural Resources

Live Oak Terrace, just south of the Shoal Creek Bridge and north of 24th Street between Lamar Boulevard and the creek, is currently mowed to the creek's bank with mature live oaks dispersed throughout. The trees appear to be in good health. This area is currently underutilized from an ecological and recreational perspective. We recommend increasing the riparian area through implementing the Grow Zone policy along the creek's edge. Natural regeneration should be complemented by plantings to increase diversity. The result will be a more functional riparian area, reduced mowing needs, and increased visual interest along Lamar Boulevard.

Major Objectives

- Increase visual interest along Lamar Boulevard with native ornamental trees.
- Establish Grow Zone near the creek extending 50 to 80 feet from the edge of the creek.

Management Recommendations

Native Planting and Seeding

- Stop mowing within 50 to 80 feet of the creek.
- Allow for natural regeneration of trees in Grow Zone area.
- Manage woody invasive species as they attempt to cross into buffer zone. If passive restoration is failing, develop a planting plan.
- Increase the diversity of trees, understory, and groundcovers in the riparian zone through planting and seeding after the completion of the Watershed Protection Department's work in the area including bald cypress and sycamore.
- Increase understory trees with aesthetic interest along Lamar Boulevard including: Mexican plum, Mexican buckeye, and redbud.

Cultural Resources

- Provide a shade pavilion with picnic tables under the trees.
- Restore/relay the stonework in the triple oak.

Recreation

• Provide a path connecting from Lamar Boulevard sidewalk to the proposed shade pavilion and an overlook.

Infrastructure

• Explore daylighting the stormwater pipes and or sheet draining into the right of way lawn in areas where the sidewalk is routed to the west to cross Shoal Creek Boulevard.



Proposed Live Oak Terrace

4.3.9 GASTON GREEN

Gaston Green is the fourth activity hub located at the base of Gaston Street and the two Shoal Creek Boulevard bridges. It is the gateway to Pemberton Heights and a popular place for dog owners. Recommendations are to restore the landscape where possible, increase the park amenities in this area and improve the image by select paving and curbing.

Action Summary

Nature

Riparian Reforestation Signature Plantings Invasive Species Removal Sustainable Lawn Establishment Tree Care Culture

Historical Interpretation Bridge Lighting Restore Historic Walls and Benches Shade Shelter History Hut

Recreation

Repave Shoal Creek Trail (remove old paved trail and install new Shoal Creek Trail) Tables /Seating / Dog Waste Stations

Infrastructure

NA

Recommendations Narrative Natural Resources

Gaston Green is a major access point to the Park. It is a Bermuda grass field with a road and parking lot in its center. Natural area management in this area includes care for several trees that require removal or extensive pruning due to safety concerns, invasive species control, and expanding the riparian and woodland areas around the parking lot and recreation areas.

Major Objectives

- Invasive species management.
- Increase riparian and woodland zones with native plantings.
- Remove or repair existing hazardous trees.
- Signature plantings where appropriate around park infrastructure.

Management Recommendations

Tree Care

• Several hazardous trees were identified in the trees of Pease Park report in Appendix A4. Actions identified in the report are a high priority as the trees could present safety concerns.

Invasive Species Management

- In general, invasive plant management in this area should be a low priority. The area does not have many natural areas. However, the large Chinaberry at the southwest edge of Gaston Green should be a medium priority for removal. It produces copious amounts of seed in an area that is not currently heavily infested with Chinaberry.
- Other major invasive species include Ligustrum and bamboo that should be controlled as detailed in Appendix A6.

Native Planting and Seeding

• Native plantings in this area should provide additional shade and expand the riparian and woodland areas where it does not impact recreation.



Proposed Gaston Green

Cultural Resources

• Provide a shade pavilion and the History Hut, the proposed park folly.

Recreation

- Provide a loop path around the improved lawn area with ample flood proof seating.
- Work with dog owners to determine the right fit between the lawn area and use patterns to sustain the lawn where possible.
- Integrate the proposed fully-designed Shoal Creek Trail and braided side trails with the trail being built in the Shoal Creek Restoration Project.
- Relocate the Shoal Creek Trail to the west edge of the Shoal Creek Boulevard to provide more space for riparian buffer and reduce erosion.

Infrastructure

- Provide a sidewalk along Gaston Street.
- Provide curbs and paving on Shoal Creek Boulevard with pervious paving at the parking lot.
- Explore lighting the concrete piers in the north bridge.



Tomorrow



4.3.10 EAST BANK

East Bank is the publicly owned area east of Lamar Boulevard along the steep slope leading to west campus. It is a dramatic landscape as seen from Lamar Boulevard and provides a notable backdrop that strongly defines the parkway experience. It is cut off from the Park due to the high volume of traffic on Lamar Boulevard and restrictions that prevent a traffic signal for a safe crossing at this point. East Bank also includes the level area used for Christmas tree sales and the PARD Annex. Recommendations focus on landscape management and stormwater.

Action Summary

Nature

Upland Reforestation Invasive Species Removal Earthwork for Stormwater Infiltration Basins

Culture NA

Recreation

NA

Infrastructure

28 ½ Street

Recommendations Narrative Natural Resources

East Bank is separated from the main portion of the study area by Lamar Boulevard. East Bank will provide a transition area between the nearby neighborhoods and the Park through the addition of street trees and treatment of storm water before it enters Shoal Creek. The Shoal Creek Restoration Project calls for rain gardens to slow storm water as it moves towards Shoal Creek.

Major Objectives

- Tree planting along Lamar Boulevard
- Manage invasive species.

Management Recommendations

Native Planting and Seeding Increase woodland area on eastern edge of Lamar Boulevard for diversity and aesthetic interest.

Invasive Plant Management

Area is heavily infested with invasive species and should be controlled using methods outlined in Appendix A6.

Cultural Resources

The PARD Annex is a prominent presence in the community for park management. The building and site should be studied for application of potential green building measures at the next capital renovations cycle, with the intent of make the Annex a symbol of municipal green building.

Recreation NA

Infrastructure

Explore a shallow stormwater infiltration basin in the lawn area west of San Gabriel, and infiltration swale along the base of the slope on Lamar Boulevard.



Proposed East Bank

4.3.11 LAMAR SLOPE

Lamar Slope is the very narrow and steep land between the creek and Lamar Boulevard north of Shoal Creek Boulevard and south of 29th Street. Due to its limited width it functions primarily as a riparian buffer and sidewalk passage. The steep bank allows for interesting overlook opportunities.

Action Summary

Nature

Invasive Species Removal Riparian Reforestation

<u>Culture</u>

Overlooks & Trail Connectors Recreation

Overlooks & Trail Connectors

Infrastructure

NA

Recommendations Narrative

Natural Resources

Lamar Slope was altered substantially during the bed and bank improvements implemented on this stretch of the creek in approximately 2009. The area is narrow and has substantial slopes moving down from Lamar Boulevard to the creek. In the northern sections there are mature trees near Lamar Boulevard. Where previous bank stabilization took place there is a lack of woody species regeneration on the floodplain terrace with immature stands of native and non-native trees running the length of the creek. In the southern portions of this area a small floodplain terrace was revegetated with native grasses and trees after serving as a staging area for the bank stabilization. It is unclear why, but it appears numerous trees in the area perished. One possible explanation is heavily compacted soils due to the previous construction activities. This area would naturally return to a riparian woodland in the presents of a healthy seed bank and appropriate soil conditions. Supplemental seeding and planting are recommended here along with soil amendments and decompaction. A more complete evaluation of the soil should be made to determine if mechanical ripping of the soil is necessary to enable woody species establishment. The erosion fabric from previous

work is inhibiting tree sapling regeneration as seen in Ramble Scramble. Making cuts in the erosion fabric (made in consultation with the Watershed Protection Department) and planting of saplings within the cuts will enhance the regeneration of riparian canopy trees. This area offers numerous opportunities for improving the user experience through shading for the Lamar Boulevard sidewalk, aesthetic improvements for drivers and pedestrians, and increasing the vegetative buffer between Lamar Boulevard and the Shoal Creek Trail. In addition, because Lamar Slope is not part of the Watershed Protection Department's current Shoal Creek Restoration Project, work can begin immediately. For these reasons this area is considered a moderate priority.

Major Objectives

- Manage invasive species.
- Floodplain terrace to become part of the riparian woodland.

Management Recommendations

Native Planting and Seeding

- Increase the riparian vegetation cover by cutting approved holes in erosion fabric, allowing for natural regeneration, and planting saplings.
- After evaluating and treating soil compaction, plant trees in southern portion of this area including bald cypress and sycamore at the creek bank with a variety of other riparian trees listed in Appendix A5. Temporary irrigation will likely be needed in this area.

Invasive Species Management

- Bastard cabbage is the most serious invasive species threat in this area. Mow when in flower. Its capacity for growth in this area should decrease with added canopy and increased shade.
- Remove invasive species along the creek.

Cultural Resources

• NA

Recreation

• Provide overlook(s) at two points.

Infrastructure

• NA



Proposed Lamar Slope

4.3.12 RAMBLE SCRAMBLE

The Ramble Scramble is the steep space opposite the Cliffs between 29th Street and Shoal Creek Boulevard. Largely undeveloped except for the Shoal Creek Trail, it is an urban wild that, with the Cliffs, defines the rugged north greenbelt segment. Restoration and pedestrian access are the two major recommended actions.

Action Summary

Nature Invasive Species Removal Upland Reforestation Riparian Reforestation

Culture

Historical Interpretation Stone Wall Restoration Elevate Janet Long Bridge

Recreation

Tables and Dog Waste Stations Children's Nature Play Repave Shoal Creek Trail (remove old paved trail and install new Shoal Creek Trail) Hiking Trails Overlooks & Trail Connectors Park Gateway at 29th Street Infrastructure

NA

Recommendations Narrative Natural Resources

Ramble Scramble is the west side of the creek from Gaston Bridge north to 29th Street. It includes riparian areas at the creek and sloping woodlands where the area widens to the west. In the northern sections there are significant boulders and cliffs much like what is found in the Bluffs area as a result of the composed Buda limestone. Split Rock and Buda Boulder Springs as well as numerous cliffs can be found here. These aspects are all considered critical environmental features and are a unique component of the park area. Buda Boulder Springs is one of the protected locations in the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve system designated to protect invertebrate species of concern. As in the Bluffs area, restoration occurring here should include plant species unique to the escarpment area. Any trails in this sensitive area will require careful planning. Yard debris from neighbors and homeless encampments are also issues that need to be addressed.

The central portion of Ramble Scramble has a substantial bamboo infestation. Past control methods have been largely unsuccessful due to lack of follow up treatments. In addition, large Chinaberry and Ligustrum have been removed from a significant area west of the trail and south of the Janet Fish Bridge. From the east side of the trail to the creek there are relatively young woody species, both exotic and native, creating a thicket that obscures views of the creek. In some areas the erosion control fabric is inhibiting plant regeneration. This area is considered a high priority area in the master plan because of previous efforts and ongoing interest. Efforts should focus on the ongoing work to remove



Proposed Ramble Scramble

the bamboo infestation, establishment of native vegetation, removal of Ligustrum, creation of view windows to the creek, increasing wildlife food sources, and the live planting of native tree saplings through cuts in the existing erosion fabric.

Major Objectives

- Restore natural area currently infested with bamboo (this is ongoing work).
- Manage invasive species throughout the zone.
- Create window views of the creek through the riparian corridor generally through invasive species management.
- Establish riparian trees where they are being inhibited by the erosion control fabric.
- Increase plants with known wildlife appeal to improve habitat and increase wildlife viewing opportunities.

Management Recommendations

Invasive Species Management

- Follow Appendix A6 management recommendations for bamboo. Begin treatment in spring and treat several times throughout the spring and summer. Follow up removal with plantings. On steeper slopes take measures to ensure that erosion is limited through creation of brush berms along contours or the use of erosion control fabric.
- Management of other invasive species in this area (Ligustrum and Nandina are two of the worst culprits in this zone) especially in southern portions of the area.

Native Planting and Seeding

• The bamboo-infested area will require tree, understory, and groundcover planting to

outcompete any remaining bamboo and to jumpstart the restoration process. Seeding mix should be dominated by shade tolerant grasses the first year as these will provide the most competition against bamboo. If successful, shade tolerant forbs and wildflowers can be added in subsequent years.

- Seeding and planting of larger areas where invasives have been removed. This is necessary in areas where there is not a native seed bank or the area is large enough that getting more desirable plants in would foster a more aesthetically pleasing, ecologically sound plant community. This is particularly the case approximately 300 feet south of the Janet Fish Bridge to the west of the trail where previous removal of Chinaberry and Ligustrum have left a substantial hole in the canopy that will be filled by invasives again if natives are not given a competitive advantage. Irrigation may be necessary in this area.
- Between the 29th Street and Janet Fish bridges, plant trees and shrubs that are characteristic of the rocky cliffs of the Edwards Plateau. The planting list can include: Lindheimer's silktassel, Mexican buckeye, scarlet buckeye, rusty blackhaw viburnum, Spanish oak, lacey oak, and escarpment black cherry.
- Increase plants with known wildlife appeal to improve habitat and increase wildlife viewing opportunities.

Trail Management

• A number of informal paths leave the main trail and go into the Split Rock area. They are not heavily used, and some go to homeless encampments. The area near Split Rock is extremely steep, though, and off-trail use in this area could be dangerous and lead to substantial soil erosion. As Ligustrum

and other woody species are removed they should be used to block these paths as discussed in the erosion section above.

• This section of the trail contains few views of Shoal Creek. Clearing small views that act as windows to the creek will provide visual interest without encouraging off-trail traffic. Removing Ligustrum may provide enough openings. In other locations, pruning of native vegetation may be required. As a general rule, any pruning of native species in this area to create views should focus on branches between 3 and 12 feet above the ground. Leaving some low branches to discourage visitors from leaving the trail is essential.

Human Impacts

- Yard debris entered the greenbelt from various neighbors in this area. Pease Park Conservancy should work with neighbors to ensure these practices have stopped or will not continue.
- Regular surveys around Buda Boulder Springs should be made to ensure homeless encampments are not impacting the area immediately around the springs and degrading the water quality of this protected feature.

Cultural Resources

• NA

Recreation

• Provide a hiking trail carefully routed to provide maximum interest and a sustainable alignment.

Infrastructure

• Provide a low key pedestrian park gateway/ trailhead at 29th Street west of the bridge abutment.

4.3.13 LAMAR TERRACE

Lamar Terrace is the fifth activity hub recommended for improvement to make it a more welcoming and interesting place for recreation. Located opposite the Lamar Senior Activity Center, it provides an opportunity for recreation for seniors in an intergenerational setting. It is a gateway space for UT students, the first connection to the green belt from campus via 29th Street. It is also the location of the service access for the crosstown sewer line, and requires accommodation for service access for Austin Water Utility.

Action Summary

Nature

Invasive Species Removal

Riparian Reforestation/ Bank Stabilization Sustainable Lawn Establishment

Signature Plantings

Culture

Shade Shelter Restroom / Overlook Historical Interpretation 29th St Bridge Bridge Lighting Bridge Event Space East Side Trail Connections

Recreation

Children's Nature Play Fitness Stations & Dog Waste Stations Repave Shoal Creek Trail (remove old paved trail and install new Shoal Creek Trail) Overlooks & Trail Connectors Excursion Trail Petanque Court Infrastructure

NA

Recommendations Narrative Natural Resources

Lamar Terrace is a large open field at the corner of 29th Street and Lamar Boulevard that moves down to the creek. It is an underutilized access point to the greenbelt. The Master Plan calls for a new restroom and shade pavilion. Natural area management should focus on expansion of the riparian zone to the trail edge as well as signature plantings where appropriate.

Major Objectives

- Invasive species management
- Increase the riparian zone
- Signature plantings where appropriate around park infrastructure.

Management Recommendations

Invasive Species Management

- Several Chinese tallow have been planted along Lamar Boulevard. Eliminating these seed sources should be a medium priority.
- View windows to the creek should be identified and created primarily through the removal of invasive species.

Native Planting and Seeding

• The area between the trail and Shoal Creek should be placed in the Grow Zone Program, with natural regeneration being allowed to take place. Supplemental plantings to increase diversity should include bald cypress along the creek bank as well as other species listed in Appendix A5.

Signature Plantings

- Native plants can be used in this area to show their diversity and capacity in more formal settings.
- Trees appropriate for Lamar Boulevard should be planted to replace the removed Chinese tallow.



Proposed Lamar Terrace

Cultural Resources

- Provide a shade pavilion on the west edge of the central lawn.
- Provide a restroom built into the east slope with an overlook pace on the roof.
- Improve the space beneath the 29th Street bridge for possible use for events.
- Evaluate a high water crossing bridge at the Janet Long Fish bridge.

Recreation

- Provide a loop path around a central multipurpose lawn.
- Provide buffer planting along Lamar Boulevard but allow views in for safety.
- Provide ample seating around the perimeter of the central lawn.
- Provide space for a petanque court.
- Explore opportunities for intergenerational fitness and play stations.
- Provide a route for the Shoal Creek Trail to connect to 29th Street to bypass the narrow Cliffs segment.

Infrastructure

- Provide a major civic park gateway and pedestrian gateway with Austin B-Cycle station.
- Provide access for Austin Water Utility with reinforced turf.
- Remove barrier and shift service access to the shallow slope south on Lamar Boulevard.



Tomorrow



4.3.14 BLUFFS

The Bluffs are the defining feature of the north greenbelt and a landmark unto itself. Recommendations focus on preservation and developing safe and alternative ways to experience the Bluffs.

Action Summary

Nature

Invasive Species Removal

Upland Reforestation

Riparian Reforestation/ Bank Stabilization

Restore Pylons/Culverts

Historical Interpretation

Recreation

Children's Nature Play

Infrastructure

Shoal Creek Retaining Wall / Guardrails Overlooks & Trail Connections

Recommendations Narrative Natural Resources

The topography visible from the trail as it goes through the Bluffs character area is some of the most dramatic found within the study area. A walk through the Bluffs is a lesson in the geologic history of Central Texas that can be accentuated through appropriate interpretation. This area has numerous invasive species infestations within the riparian zone and at the base of the Bluffs. Management will focus on replacing these invasive plants with appropriate natives and increasing overall diversity in the area. This area of the Park is similar to the steep canyons found in the Balcones Canyonlands on the eastern edge of the Edwards Plateau. As a result, some of the plant recommendations below are unique to this type of habitat. Off-trail recreation and the trail's proximity to the creek are degrading the vegetation in some areas. Through further plantings, a defined creek access point, and some realignments of the trail, the user experience can be enhanced while improving the ecological integrity of the area. Creek and bank stabilization has not occurred in this stretch of the study area and is not currently being considered by the Watershed Protection Department, although it may at a later date (bed and bank improvements stop at the Janet Long Fish Bridge). Because of the uniqueness of this area within the park and within Austin the area is considered a high priority area within the master plan.

Major Objectives

- Manage invasive species.
- Prune back poison ivy from the trail area.
- Restore floodplain forest to the west of the trail, plant species characteristic of the Balcones Escarpment.
- Prevent off-trail recreation.
- Increase plants with known wildlife appeal to improve habitat and increase wildlife viewing opportunities.

Management Recommendations

Invasive Species Management

• The most problematic species in this area are Ligustrum (privet) and Japanese honeysuckle. While many of the Ligustrum may be removed with weed wrenches, chemical control should be favored in steep areas to reduce the potential for erosion. Control work should be accompanied with native plantings.

Native Planting and Seeding

• Areas to the east of the trail should use tree plantings from the riparian zone species list in Appendix 5.



Proposed Bluffs

- To the west of the trail, add upland species, but also plant trees and shrubs that are characteristic of the rocky cliffs of the Edwards Plateau. The planting list can include: Lindheimer's silktassel, Mexican buckeye, scarlet buckeye, rusty blackhaw viburnum, Spanish oak, lacey oak, and escarpment black cherry.
- The rocky ground will most likely accommodate only small plants such as bare root seedlings or 1-gallon containers.
- Increase plants with known wildlife appeal to improve habitat and increase wildlife viewing opportunities.

Recreation Management

- Decommission informal trails and restore impacted areas.
- Create a defined creek viewing and interaction area to dissuade off-trail use in other areas.
- Move main trail away from creek edge where possible.

Cultural Resources

- Develop an overlook platform from the Lamar Boulevard sidewalk reaching into the tree canopy.
- Restore the concrete pylons on Lamar Boulevard.

Recreation

- Provide a safe segment of trail along the pinch point with low overhang.
- Grade, repair and stabilize the gravel surface of the trail in the level area to keep the backcountry feel of this segment.
- Provide a custom designed handrail along the trail.

Infrastructure

- Explore the structure of the storm sewer outlet to determine if it could be improved as a cascade.
- Provide a pedestrian gateway at 31st Street.



Example of a canopy overlook in a parklike setting. (Image: Morris Arboretum)



Tomorrow



Today



IMPLEMENTATION R 5



IMPLEMENTATION R 5

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HOW DOES THE MASTER PLAN STACK UP?

In keeping with Pease Park's location at the edge of the downtown Austin planning area, the Pease Park Master Plan follows the principles defined in the Downtown Plan.

Ten Guiding Principles for Downtown Austin's Parks:

 MEANING AND SIGNIFICANCE - Build on the positive existing patterns of use within and around the open space, and celebrate the distinct history, culture, and identity of the place.
 ATTRACTIONS AND DESTINATIONS - Create multiple activities

and features that can attract a diversity of people, and establish a constituency of stewards.

3. FLEXIBILITY AND ADAPTABILITY - Allow the space to respond to daily, weekly, and seasonal fluctuations over time.

4. POSITIVE EDGES/"FRAME" - Promote a form and pattern of development at the edges of the public space that provide positive activity and spatial definition.

5. CONNECTIONS - Design streets and pathways as an extension of the public space itself.

6. DESIGN EXCELLENCE - Procure the highest levels of design professionalism capable of creating successful, world-class public spaces.

7. PUBLIC ART AND ARTFUL DESIGN - Introduce public art that raises community consciousness and reinforces an authentic sense of place.

8. GREEN DESIGN - Promote the highest levels of sustainable design and green construction.

9. STRONG MANAGEMENT - Establish appropriate governance that can facilitate successful programming, maintenance, and security.

10. SUSTAINABLE FINANCING - Secure adequate levels of funding to assure ongoing high quality maintenance and operations.

From Downtown Austin Plan, adopted 2011

Implementation addresses the governance of the Park, the capacity of the City to take action, the estimated order of magnitude costs of the Park with prioritized phasing, natural areas management, use management, safety and future horizons for planning beyond the scope and time frame of this document.

5.1 GOVERNANCE

Pease Park and the Shoal Creek Greenbelt are City owned and dedicated as parkland (important clarification for state law protections and regulations). PARD operates and maintains Pease Park and the Shoal Creek Greenbelt. The PPC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and the "Adopt-a-Park" partner for Pease Park. Since 2008, the PPC has led efforts to improve the area's landscape, including planting 500 new trees and restoring historic features in the park, such as the Tudor Cottage, Memorial Entry Gates constructed in the 1920s and the picnic tables installed by the Works Progress Administration. PPC has established a permanent financial endowment at the Austin Community Foundation. It is meant to be a "trust fund" for the Park to supplement what the City can spend on its care. The endowment is presently valued at \$200,000.

5.2 MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The master plan provides a conceptual framework for the development of Pease Park and the adjacent Shoal Creek Greenbelt for the next 20-30 years. The plan's implementation guide provides a list of suggested priorities and estimated costs for the recommended improvements.

The master plan, developed through a community-based process, provides a blueprint of park development and moreover, is a tool that can be used to leverage contributions from the nonprofit and private sector for improvements. The City will likely play a role in coming years through the Capital Improvements Program, which is the voter-approved bond program that addresses major capital projects. Currently, there are no public sector funds allocated for the implementation of the master plan. The Conservancy has expressed its intent to actively raise private funds to assist the City in funding approved projects in the Park.
5.3 ORDER OF MAGNITUDE COST ESTIMATE / PHASING PRIORITIES

Listed below are a series of explanations and assumptions for the Order of Magnitude Cost Estimate / Phasing Matrix for the Pease Park Master Plan. This contains two sections: 1) Project Phasing and 2) Order of Magnitude Cost Estimate.

The Order of Magnitude Cost Estimate / Phasing Matrix is split up into two parts: 1) Inside the Park boundary and 2) Outside the Park boundary. Inside the Park projects include trails, natural resources, cultural resources, and recreation. Outside the Park boundary projects are infrastructural. These infrastructural projects are outside the Park proper, but benefit the Park through improved access and environmental enhancements. Infrastructural projects include Lamar Boulevard enhancements (street trees, sidewalks, stormwater management), Parkway/ Kingsbury Street enhancements (street trees, sidewalks, stormwater management), neighborhood connectivity, reclaimed water infrastructure (purple pipes and storage tanks), and offsite storm water filtration. (Refer to Appendix J for full detail.)

Phasing

- The Master Plan will be a long term project with an implementation time frame of up to 20-30 years. The specific projects have been divided into three phases for each of the landscape character rooms: 1) Phase 1, 2) Phase 2, 3) Phase 3.
- 2. All projects and recommended phasing are subject to prioritization by the Pease Park Conservancy, PARD and the Technical Advisory Group. Projects can shift from one phase to another if needed.
- 3. The phasing plan will also be dependent on available funding and resources.

ORDER OF MAGNITUDE COST ESTIMATE

Inside the Park

Landscape Character Zone	Total	
	Low Range	High Range
Kingsbury Commons	\$4,195,060	\$6,458,202
Big Field	\$865,674	\$1,560,780
North Ramble & Hillside	\$296,148	\$466,716
Windsor Hillside	\$411,240	\$774,180
Polecat Hollow	\$2,220,420	\$4,328,370
Caswell Shoals	\$101,568	\$202,722
Custer's Meadow	\$629,280	\$1,012,920
24th St Bridge	\$563,040	\$935,640
Wooten Woods	\$405,720	\$661,020
Live Oak Terrace	\$196,650	\$383,640
Gaston Green	\$985,941	\$1,637,232
East Bank	\$68,310	\$164,220
Ramble Scramble	\$1,033,620	\$1,672,560
Lamar Slope	\$82,800	\$193,200
Lamar Terrace	\$1,121,250	\$2,028,600
29th St Bridge	\$455,400	\$759,000
The Bluffs	\$359,490	\$757,620
Reclaimed Water	\$871,200	\$1,742,400
TOTAL	\$14,862,811	\$25,739,022

Outside the Park

Landscape Character Zone	Total	
	Low Range	High Range
Kingsbury Commons	\$489,900	\$897,000
Gaston Green	\$55,200	\$82,800
East Bank	\$34,500	\$55,200
Lamar Parkway	\$4,335,960	\$7,990,200
Parkway / Kingsbury	\$996,360	\$1,835,400
Reclaimed Water	\$1,400,000	\$4,200,000
TOTAL	\$7,311,920	\$15,060,600

5.4 NATURAL AREAS MANAGEMENT

The desire to preserve the natural environment was made clear during the public engagement process. Participants placed "Preserve and Protect the Natural Environment" of the Park at the top of the list of priorities. Further evidence of care in stewardship can be seen by the huge volunteer effort already put into the Park by Pease Park Conservancy volunteers and their partners. To continue to protect and enjoy this amazing, dynamic natural resource, active management is necessary. The master plan's guidelines and concepts lay out some of the information needed to work towards the goal of preserving and protecting the Park. The following section outlines elements that can break the site into practical pieces for land management tasks, a land management schedule that prioritizes tasks over the next five years, monitoring recommendations to insure a clear understanding of resources and time invested and allow for a feedback loop of success, metrics to understand how the complex system of management is working towards overall multi-year goals and resources for building greater capacity of the core volunteer group that has carried out so much work at the Park already.

Tasks by Landscape Character Area

As part of the master planning process Pease Park has been divided into landscape character areas to optimize the user experience, determine land management needs, conceptualize park improvements and define needed tasks in each area that facilitates implementation. The areas can be seen in section 4.1.1 and the tasks are described by area in Appendix A2: Land Management Tasks by Landscape Character Area. This set of tasks per area can be thought of as the master plan's "to do" list for natural area management.



Volunteer effort has enabled the planting of hundreds of trees to help renew the Park's urban forest canopy. Image: Pease Park Conservancy As described on the previous page, the areas have been put into two overarching groups: 1) areas where natural area management informs passive recreation and 2) areas where natural area management supports recreational programming. This was determined by the land management zones-riparian, woodland, savanna, and/or lawn-which make up the majority of each area. In addition, the riparian zone has been made into its own character area that can be thought of as a ribbon connecting the Park from end to end. While there are discrete lists in Appendix A5 that can be accomplished in the coming years, the document must remain dynamic and adapt to successes seen throughout the Park, new information from related projects, changes in weather patterns, the availability of resources and/or changes in user preferences.

Schedule

Restoration and land management are not an event, but ongoing processes. A five-year land management schedule can be found in Appendix A3: Land Management Recommended Schedule. It is a flexible schedule suggesting the need for adaptive management techniques that alter activities based on what is working best and what is seen as the highest priority based on the needs of Pease Park Conservancy and its partners, degradation concerns, or the potential to build on previous successes. While the actual schedule will, by necessity, change due to the results of treatments and the availability of resources, the schedule can serve as a baseline of important tasks that should be considered for completion in the coming years. In 2018 to 2019 it is recommended that the entire document be revised to look forward an additional five years.

Monitoring

Monitoring is an important step in judging the effectiveness of management. Monitoring at Pease Park is recommended through geographic, photographic, and narrative descriptions that include annual photopoints, early detection evaluation, and land management documentation and evaluation. (See Appendix A7 for Stewardship Activity, Invasive Management forms, and A8 for Landscape Management Photopoints.)

Metrics

To document progress and measure success, the master plan recommends adopting some of the following metrics:

- 30% decrease in mowed areas over 5 years
- 75% reduction in 20 highest priority invasive species populations in 5 years
- 50% increase in riparian zone area in 10 years
- Increase overall canopy cover in the study area to 80%
- 20% increase in species count overall in the next 10 years



The Pease Park Conservancy tends to the Park's cultural as well as natural resources, in this case the stabilization of the Tudor Cottage. Image: Pease Park Conservancy

Stewardship and Capacity

Pease Park Conservancy and its partner organizations have a long history of community involvement at Pease Park with over 10,000 volunteer hours put into the Park to date. The land management tasks within Appendix A2 are designed with the input and thoughts of groups that can facilitate the work. By complimenting the volunteer efforts with paid land managers, Pease Park Conservancy, and others will find greater success in their efforts and use their resources more efficiently. For example, volunteers can pull Ligustrum, cut invasive trees less than 6 inches in diameter, and stockpile the cut material as a defined land management activity. Professionals can follow the volunteers to cut larger invasives, paint stumps with herbicide and chip waste material into mulch. Volunteers can then spread usable mulch and prepare the area for planting.

As there is great interest and large strides have been made thus far at Pease Park, there are likely volunteers who are interested in learning more about natural area management, trail care, invasive species, mapping, and erosion issues that are affecting the Park. Pease Park Conservancy is encouraged to promote local educational programs including capacity building programs for its volunteer group to help develop a larger set of leaders within the core group. Activities that should be immediately encouraged by Pease Park Conservancy to its volunteers include:

- Invasive plant identification and treatment training the Invaders of Texas Program at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, http://www.texasinvasives.org/invaders/
- Capital Area Master Naturalists training, http://txmn.org/capital/
- Native Plant Society involvement in Central Texas for educational programming and native plant material sources, http://npsot.org/wp/austin/

- Central Texas Trail Tamers for trail construction, evaluation, and maintenance, http://www.trailtamers.org/
- Travis Audubon for bird identification, habitat maintenance and restoration, http:// travisaudubon.org/
- Contributing to Citizen Science (ebird. org and inaturalist.org). Observation can be attached to the new place created for this project "Pease Park and Shoal Creek Greenbelt" (http://www.inaturalist. org/places/pease-park-and-shoal-creekgreenbelt) and can contribute to many projects that will further extend interest and observations in the study area including the following Texas and Parks and Wildlife and Texas Master Naturalist projects: Herps of Texas, Mammals of Texas, Birds of Texas, and Plants of Texas. Note that the results of these efforts and those of others using ebird and inaturalist in the study area can be used as a live feed, guide, and checklist made available on the Pease Park Conservancy website and through other interpretive devices.

These programs and initiatives provide interested volunteers with a means to further their personal knowledge and commitment to the work at Pease Park. In addition, participation in the programs is a great way to cultivate a larger, informed volunteer base.

In addition to programs outside the Conservancy, it is recommended that a body of knowledge is created through writings and documentation that are shared with volunteers within the organization. Over time, these documents can serve as a curriculum to help train interested volunteers at Pease Park and to create a set of highly informed volunteers that can act as crew leaders. This increase in capacity further leverages resources to complete the many land management tasks needed at Pease Park to preserve and protect the natural environment and enhance the user experience.

5.5 USE MANAGEMENT: LIMITS OF ACCEPTABLE CHANGE AND CARRYING CAPACITY

PARK MANAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIP

All parks experience varying degrees of competing interest, budget limitations and expectations of appearance, function and experience. Park agencies are pressed to balance the different positions and priorities in terms of fiscal, social and physical impact. To address this aspect of management, the plan recommends a framework to evaluate, monitor and take action on the physical and human side of the Park. It is rarely possible for park agencies to manage each park's interests to the degree necessary to manage the many issues that arise, especially in popular urban parks. The presence of a conservancy provides a partnership opportunity to resolve or, if not possible to resolve, funnel focused concerns to the City.

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

A partnership agreement or memorandum of understanding/agreement is necessary to establish the ground rules for what the partner entity is required or able to do, and what is not possible. Such agreements may include financial provisions and right of entry to implement privately funded and managed projects on public land.

BALANCING PEOPLE WITHIN NATURE WHILE REACHING THE FULL POTENTIAL

Pease Park has the capacity to serve more people, but only to a certain extent before increased use degrades the Park's environmental and experiential quality. This is called carrying capacity and is a relative concept. As the first plan for Pease Park, it is recommended that a conclusive procedure be put in place to evaluate carrying capacity on an ongoing basis.

THE BASIS FOR MANAGEMENT: RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP AND VISITOR EXPERIENCE

Park stewardship addresses the quality of the place and what people can do in it. To establish a baseline for park stewards and the public, some form of agreement is needed about the expectations for the physical quality and social experience. In the case of an established park such as Pease, there is a long record of maintenance and use that predisposes expectations. This master plan is an opportunity to set a baseline for future stewards and park users to refer to as the park environment and pressures for use evolve.

While there is no absolute in terms of the natural and social conditions in the Park, a regular objective forum to review and discuss conditions will help to identify and track issues of concern before they reach a crisis.

- Establish a Baseline of Resource Stewardship and Visitor Experience.
- Establish a working committee of stewards and users to review the Park's performance annually.
- This could include PARD, PPC and user groups/advocates, such as neighborhoods, cyclists, dog owners, and seniors.
- Identify critical issues to track as indicators of park quality.
- Identify evaluation points for issues of sufficient concern to warrant monitoring.

Pease Park is designated as a District Park for which PARD stipulates specific functions. Long-standing use patterns have created a pattern of expectations for how the Park should look and function. New pressures affect the Park, and current uses are growing. There is continual pressure or opportunity for change, counterbalanced by expectations of historic conditions. Certain user groups are important stakeholders based on their representation in and around the Park. An objective forum for discussion would help provide a mechanism for regular communications, review and, conflict resolution.

EXAMPLE OF IMPACT/CONFLICT ISSUES

Trail Use: volume, user conflict, trail quality experience

Potential Indicators:

- Resource Degradation: erosion, bare earth, compaction, vegetation damage, vandalism, and fecal coliform
- Visitor Experience Degradation: collisions, verbal altercations, attacks: growling/ barking/biting, noise level, overcrowding, safety/assaults, theft, trash

Taking Action

If the above instances of degradation trigger a management change, actions to address the problems might include administrative efforts such as user education and enforcement, or physical measures such as hardening, defined as a structural approach, e.g., build a hard surface trail to eliminate erosion and vegetation impact, erect a fence, or remove a trail,

Metrics: Baseline and Thresholds for Action

In cases of high stakes concerns with a likely outcome of conflict in the absence of resolution, an agreed-upon trigger for action is needed. The degree to which park interests agree to impacts is defined as the limits of acceptable change. This allows the group to define what impact is acceptable until action is taken. Examples include: patches of erosion of XX square feet or more, XX broken branches, and XX damaged trunks.

5.6 SECURITY

The increasing popularity of the Park as a key part of Austin's focus on physical health and outdoor lifestyles, coupled with the increase of trail use of all kinds has drawn more people to the Park and helped to provide a passive police presence. In addition, the range of programming from school groups, picnickers, families, kickballers, volleyball players, birders, petanque players to fitness "boot camps" and yoga classes have all contributed to the increased safety of the Park.

The layout and design of gateways, paths, parking, and gathering places in Pease Park will reinforce user and neighbor safety according to best practices. For instance, given that shade trees are essential for enjoyment of outdoor spaces, some sight lines will be obstructed by tree trunks. In high use areas, where possible, sightlines will be clear. Sightlines in important areas for habit enrichment, such as riparian edges and upper wooded slopes, will be less clear. The best way to assure safety is for people to keep using the Park for its intended purpose during the hours of operation, and to accommodate easy after hours surveillance. To the extent possible, programmed and unprogrammed activities should be accommodated in the Park. Programmed activities especially those requiring some form of approval can be encourage to occur at low use periods to fill in the absence of casual users. Specific existing uses can be encouraged to make use of the "backwoods" and creek area such as birding, nature walks and on-leash dog walking in an effort to "populate" and thus passively police the Park.

Police Presence, Enforcement, Park Ranger Presence, Informal Policing

In addition to formal law enforcement, several non-law enforcement approaches to public safety can be applied to the park design: programming, defensible space, eyes on the street, passive policing and crime prevention through environmental design.



Bird watching helps occupy the Park in the early morning. (Image: WRT)

Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED)

CPTED is an established multi-disciplinary approach to deterring criminal behavior through environmental design. CPTED strategies rely upon the ability to influence offender decisions that precede criminal acts. The four CPTED principles include Natural Surveillance, Natural Access Control, Maintenance, and Territorial Reinforcement.

Accommodating Surveillance

The gateways provide logical points of entry leading to a continuously accessible paved route open to police, rangers, emergency and maintenance vehicles.

Pease Park Application: The recommended gateway plan addresses entries and access to the site.

1. Natural Surveillance

"See and be seen" suggests that a person is less likely to commit a crime if they think someone will see them do it.

Pease Park Application: Allow clear sightlines across major use areas and from key access points.

2. Natural Access Control

Use of walkways, fences, lighting, signage and landscape to clearly guide people and vehicles to and from the proper entrances. The goal is not necessarily to keep people out, but to direct the flow of people while decreasing the opportunity for crime.

Pease Park Application: Use the concept of gateways to clearly define park entries; provide paths through all areas of the Park to foster use throughout the Park and deter camping and illicit activities, provide lighting at key points in the five activity hubs.

3. Territorial Reinforcement

Creating or extending a "sphere of influence" by utilizing physical designs such as pavement treatments, landscaping and signage that enable users of an area to develop a sense of proprietorship over it. Public areas are clearly distinguished from private ones. Potential trespassers perceive this control and are thereby discouraged.

Pease Park Application: Use paving, planting and fences where needed to demarcate the limits of public park ownership, increase and improve design quality to emphasize park entrances.

4. Maintenance

Maintenance is important both to keep up an intact and attractive physical condition and because the presence of staff and volunteers fosters a culture of concern, as well as a deterrent to crime.

Pease Park Application: Continue the partnership among PARD, PPC and SCC to mutually reinforce maintenance.

 CPTED and the "Broken Window Theory" The Theory suggests that one "broken window" or nuisance, if allowed to exist, will lead to others and ultimately to the decline of an entire neighborhood. Neglected and poorly maintained parkland is a breeding ground for criminal activity.

Pease Park Application: Facility maintenance –literal replacement of broken windows and other features, graffiti removal, light replacement. Grounds maintenance: clearly define and compose what gets mowed and what is managed as "natural" area.

5.7 FUTURE HORIZONS

THE VISION BEYOND THE HORIZON

The "to do" list for Pease Park and the Shoal Creek Greenbelt is extensive. Even so, it is only the first step in an even larger civic perspective. The master plan responds to the needs of the Park itself and reaches beyond to the adjacent streets to tie them into the greenway concept. While this plan stops at the right of way, several big picture influences are beyond the scope of this master plan but may have a significant influence in the future. These influences include population growth, climate change, success and greenway plan.

OPPORTUNITIES DUE TO GROWTH: THE LAMAR OF THE FUTURE

Austin may continue to grow, and if so, at some point the development rules surrounding the Park may change. The most likely influences of continued growth may be the extension of growth pressure along the Lamar Boulevard corridor, further development pressure from the University of Texas, the State Capitol complex and downtown. If so, park stewards and advocates should look to the opportunity to shape the Park's frontage along Lamar Boulevard into a more engaging park edge. The current development pattern is a pastoral suburban pattern with single use buildings set back in lawns or behind parking lots. If there is impetus to increase commercial mixed-use density, for example, the addition of retail space or residential upper floors could make a new and more animated face for the Park, creating a connection and reason for residents in the neighborhoods atop the bluff to come to Lamar Boulevard and experience the Park.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND CANOPY

If heat and drought continue in the current pattern, the increasing impact on trees and availability of water will further stress the Park's tree canopy. At this point, the master plan takes the position that, for the near and mid term, the commitment to preserving and expanding the Park's tree canopy is the best course of action to serve residents. It is hoped and planned that recycled water will be available to sustain the planting and establishment of trees. It is also planned that an aggressive and concerted watershed-wide stormwater management program, including the beneficial effects of an increased canopy in terms of moisture retention and heat island mitigation, will gradually increase the creek's base flow and available moisture and reduce the severity of flooding. The community will reassess the Park's future along with other municipal concerns if heat and drought overwhelm the canopy and outstrip the community's ability to adapt park management. Further engineering and scientific analysis is beyond the scope of this plan, and more rightly the purview of the Shoal Creek Conservancy. In the short-term, it is the position of this plan that it is plausible to sustain and increase the canopy. In the mid-term, there is an uncertain race between increasing heat and drought on one hand, and the ability to conserve and reuse water on the other. The efforts of the community to date point to sufficient awareness and interest in adaptation to make it plausible to continue advocacy for a robust tree canopy in the Park.

COPING WITH SUCCESS

The City's sustained rapid growth plus the attractiveness and convenience of the improved Park may draw visitation to the tipping point of overwhelming the Park's ability to sustain itself as envisioned. The master plan is conceived as the skeleton or armature that can be built upon, expanding the trails and adding features as demand necessitates. In that scenario, use could be capped, limited, or accommodated. Assuming increased use would be accommodated, the Park master plan should be re-examined. In the context of the current plan, future accommodation could take the form of "hardening": additional paved surfaces, paving and widening trails, barriers such as fences to channel circulation and limit impact, acceptance of expanded active use area. as well as separation of uses (such as bicyclists and pedestrians) and the possible restriction or elimination of some uses.

The master plan proposed in this document is a first step from the low-intensity park to a park of higher capacity. More paths are provided to channel use and avoid erosion, more facilities are provided to accommodate more people, and use is dispersed to increase capacity and diffuse impact. The next step would urbanize the Park further and provide more ambitious conservation measures to mitigate the impact of additional facility construction. The increased intensity of use would trigger more attention to the physical design of the additional facilities to shape a bolder and more architecturally distinctive park.

A BIGGER VISION: THE SHOAL CREEK GREENWAY

To make a significant difference in the Shoal Creek watershed's hydraulics and water pollution reduction, ambitious planning and watershed management strategies will be required on a watershed-wide basis. Additionally, the greenway as a corridor within the watershed has been studied in the past and requires an updated plan to address the present and future conditions that have evolved since the first greenway plan was completed in 1998. An updated plan could explore water quality and quantity measures, linear recreation, adjacent neighborhood connections and interaction, and a unifying aesthetic vision to guide decisions at a park-bypark scale.

Such a greenway plan could bring together the work done on lower Shoal Creek with the Pease Park Master Plan and upstream efforts yet to be determined. Specifically relevant to this master plan would be consideration of a unified planning approach to the string of parks along the creek, and the associated public facilities. In the Pease Park Master Plan vicinity alone, the associated facilities include the Lamar Senior Activity Center, PARD Annex, Caswell Tennis Complex, House Field / Park, Austin Recreation Center, 9th Street BMX course, Duncan Park, lower Shoal Creek corridor, library and Shoal Beach at Lady Bird Lake. Upstream are more of the greenbelt, Seider Springs and Northwest Park. Ideally a concerted plan would bring together all the parks along the creek in a unified strategy. This would help place the actions of Pease Park in the context of the overall greenway, and also help further inform the Pease Park plan. For instance, a comprehensive greenway plan could coordinate a unified approach to capture stormwater at the Lamar Senior Activity Center, Caswell Tennis Courts, House Field and the Austin Rec Center in a way such as the PARD Annex runoff in the Watershed Restoration plan.



