

STORIES FROM THE SKY NO. 3

Shoal Creek & Pease Park

I flew my drone up the creek and stitched the photos into one view. AIVE Atlas Geo helped place it in QGIS, turning what I could see from above into a map for visitors: a troll's memory, a donkey's birthday party and a steel raven, from Kingsbury Commons to 29th Street.

AERIAL VIEW TO VISITOR MAP

AIVE ATLAS GEO

OGIS PLUGIN

PEASE PARK • 1100 KINGSBURY ST

OPEN DAILY 5 A.M.-10 P.M. • PEASEPARK.ORG

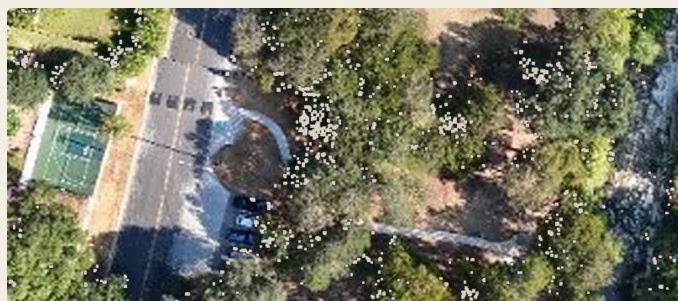


Welcome & Ways In

Shoal Creek runs about 11 miles from north Austin down to Lady Bird Lake. My drone followed its best-loved stretch: Pease Park, given to the city by Gov. Elisha M. Pease and his wife in 1875, and the Shoal Creek Trail north to 29th Street, Austin's oldest hike-and-bike trail. From the air it is a ribbon of live oak and white limestone between Lamar Boulevard and old West Austin. I could see how lawns, trail approaches and parking lots fit together. **AIVE Atlas Geo helped georeference the stitched view in QGIS.** That placed image became the base for page 3: ways in, eight stops and a former troll site marked for visitors.



A · THE LAWN AT KINGSBURY COMMONS



B · LIVE OAK MEADOW LOT, FROM MY DRONE

A Kingsbury Commons

1100 KINGSBURY ST · SOUTH END

The main way in, past the park's 1926 limestone gates. An 18-space lot (2 accessible) sits at the door, with street parking on Parkway south of Kingsbury.

C Gaston Green

OFF LAMAR, NORTH OF 26TH · NORTH END

The 34-space north-end lot, where Shoal Creek Blvd leaves Lamar. Closest to the off-leash area, Lamar Terrace and Mystic Raven.

B Live Oak Meadow

2208 PARKWAY · WEST SIDE

A small lot and street parking on Parkway between Kingsbury and 24th St, a few steps from the meadow and the creek's stepping stones.

D By Bus or Bike

CAPMETRO ROUTE 5 · LAMAR BLVD

Route 5 stops along Lamar at 12th, MLK, 24th, 29th and 31st. On weekends, the ACC Rio Grande garage on W 12th St is free to park in.

SEEN FROM ABOVE. USEFUL ON FOOT

The overhead view makes it easier to see which entrance leads to which lawn, crossing and stop.

HOURS

Pease Park is open daily, 5 a.m.–10 p.m.

ADDRESS

1100 Kingsbury St,
Austin, TX 78703

DOGS

Off leash only between 24th and 29th Streets; leashed everywhere else.

ONLINE

peasepark.org ·
shoalcreekconservancy.org

The Creek from Above

Stitched from my drone flight and placed in QGIS with AIVE Atlas Geo. Left: Kingsbury St to the Lamar bend. Right: the bend past 29th St. North at top; both halves share one scale.

GEOREFERENCED WITH
AIVE ATLAS GEO
QGIS PLUGIN



STOPS

- 1 Historical marker
- 2 Tree House
- 3 Eeyore's grounds
- 4 Former troll site
- 5 Live Oak Meadow
- 6 24th Street Bridge
- 7 Gaston Green
- 8 Mystic Raven

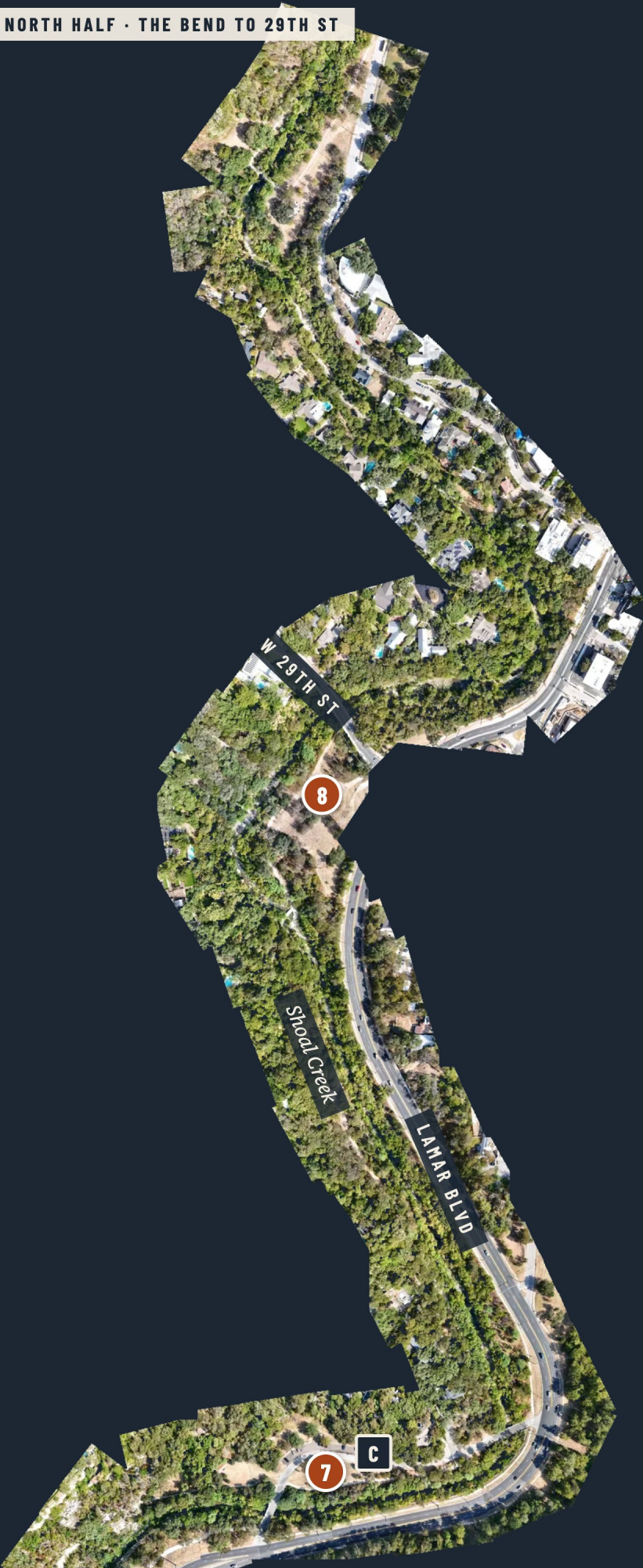
WAYS IN

- A Kingsbury St lot
- B Live Oak Meadow lot
- C Gaston Green lot

▲  ≈ 100 M / 330 FT

Pins are approximate. Page 3

NORTH HALF · THE BEND TO 29TH ST



The South End

The park's story, the new commons, the party lawn and a troll's empty clearing.



1 • KINGSBURY ST ENTRANCE

Pease Park Historical Marker 1971

The state marker tells the park's story. Gov. Elisha M. Pease and his wife gave Austin this 23-acre site on Shoal Creek on May 20, 1875. It was already known as the post-Civil War camp of Gen. George A. Custer and 200 federal soldiers, and it sat mostly wild until about 1913.

FIND IT • On Kingsbury St just west of Parkway, by the main entrance.



2 • KINGSBURY COMMONS

The Tree House 2021

A \$15 million makeover finished in 2021 turned the park's south end into Kingsbury Commons: a big lawn ringed by elms and oaks, a splash pad fed by a natural seep and the restored 1926 Tudor Cottage. The showpiece is the Tree House, a 40-foot ring of woven steel mesh up in the canopy.

FIND IT • Walk in from the Kingsbury St lot; the ring sits in the trees at the lawn's west edge.



3 • KINGSBURY COMMONS LAWN • EVERY APRIL

Eeyore's Birthday Party Est. 1960s

Every spring Austin throws a party for Winnie-the-Pooh's gloomiest donkey. UT English student Lloyd Birdwell and classmates started it in the mid-1960s, and it moved to Pease Park in 1974. Expect drum circles, a maypole, costumes and a live donkey, with proceeds going to local nonprofits.

FIND IT • The party fills the south end around Kingsbury Commons, usually on the last Saturday of April.



4 • NORTH OF KINGSBURY COMMONS • FORMER SITE

Malin's Fountain 2024-2026

Danish artist Thomas Dambo and about 150 Austin volunteers built Malin in 2024; an 18-foot troll of reclaimed wood, offering water to the creek's wildlife. She burned on May 21, 2026. **Pin 4 now reads 'Former troll site'**, so visitors find her story without expecting the sculpture.

FIND IT • Take the trail north past the Tree House; the clearing is up the hill on the left, near the creek.

Up the Creek

Old oaks, a 1928 bridge, the north-end green and a steel raven on the way to 29th Street.



5 • OFF PARKWAY • WEST BANK

Live Oak Meadow

Big shade oaks over open grass, including one giant, low-slung live oak that is a favorite for climbing and photos. From above, I could see the meadow beside the Parkway lot. The map connects that way in to the creek, where stepping stones cross at low flow and swales grow spring wildflowers.

FIND IT • Park in the small lot at 2208 Parkway; the meadow is right below it.



6 • W 24TH ST OVER SHOAL CREEK

The 24th Street Bridge 1928

Built in July 1928 in just 28 days to bring home buyers across the creek to new West Austin neighborhoods, this decorative concrete arch was once called one of the most beautiful bridges in Texas. In 1939 a Public Works Administration project widened it, adding arched walls to keep its look.

FIND IT • North of Live Oak Meadow, the trail ducks right under the arch.



7 • NORTH OF 26TH ST • OFF LAMAR

Gaston Green

The north end's lawn, parking loop and trailhead, where Shoal Creek Blvd leaves Lamar and crosses the creek. Dogs may run off leash anywhere between 24th and 29th Streets, and this open green sits right in the middle of that stretch.

FIND IT • The 34-space lot sits just over the bridge from Lamar.

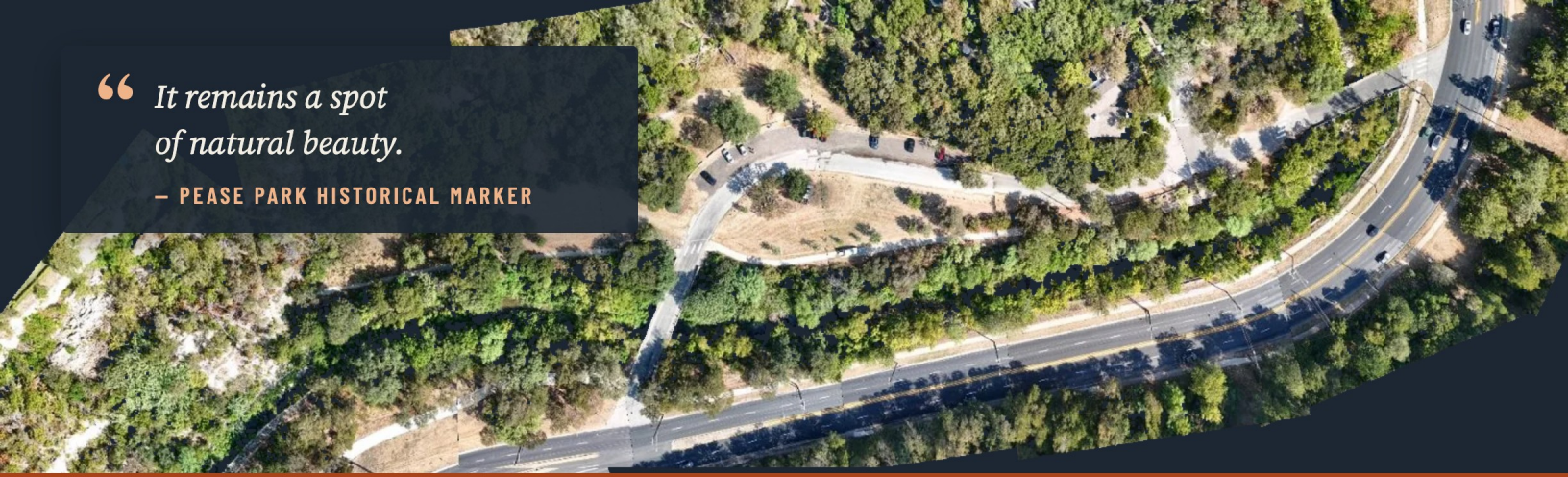


8 • LAMAR TERRACE • 29TH & LAMAR

Mystic Raven David Deming, 1983

A 22-foot steel sculpture that suggests a human figure, a machine and the spirit of a bird. Made in 1983 for Congress Avenue, it was restored, repainted matte black and installed here in 2017, beside a lightly mowed wildflower meadow.

FIND IT • At the meadow's corner near 29th St and Lamar Blvd.



“ It remains a spot
of natural beauty.

— PEASE PARK HISTORICAL MARKER

PLAN YOUR WALK

A Walk Up the Creek

*Roughly a mile and a quarter one way, Kingsbury St to 29th St.
Allow one to two hours.*

- A Start at Kingsbury Commons**
Park at 1100 Kingsbury St, past the 1926 gates.
- 1 Pease Park Historical Marker**
Read the 1971 marker by the Kingsbury St entrance.
- 2 Tree House, then Eeyore's lawn (3)**
Climb into the canopy, then cross the party lawn.
- 4 Malin's former site**
North on the trail, up the hill on the left.
- 5 Live Oak Meadow**
Follow the trail north to the big oaks.
- 6 24th Street Bridge**
Walk under the 1928 arch, then take the Lamar sidewalk north.
- 7 Gaston Green**
Rejoin the trail at the north-end green.
- 8 Mystic Raven**
Finish at Lamar Terrace; Route 5 runs back south.

FROM FLIGHT TO VISITOR MAP

See. Overlapping drone photos reveal how the creek, lawns and ways in fit together.

Place. AIVE Atlas Geo helps georeference the stitched view in QGIS.

Update. Use that view with site information to revise visitor labels. Pin 4 is now 'Former troll site'.

GOOD TO KNOW

Shoal Creek rises fast. Stay out of the water when it runs high or after rain.

Dogs may be off leash only between 24th and 29th Streets.

The troll site is a burned clearing now. Tread lightly.

Pins are approximate, placed by eye on the drone map.

A MAP THAT CAN CHANGE WITH THE CREEK

Fresh flights can renew the map base; site information can update the stops and ways in for the next visitor.

Drone flight and aerial map: Alex Nguyen. Tree House photo © 2021 Pam Penick; other ground photos: Pease Park Conservancy and various social medias. Georeferencing done with the help of the AIVE Atlas Geo QGIS plugin. Facts from Pease Park Conservancy, Shoal Creek Conservancy, the City of Austin, The Contemporary Austin, Eeyore's Birthday Party, the Living New Deal and Texas Standard.