

Salt Lake City

Public Lands

2019 Annual Report

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Public Lands

Parks | Trails & Natural Lands | Urban Forestry

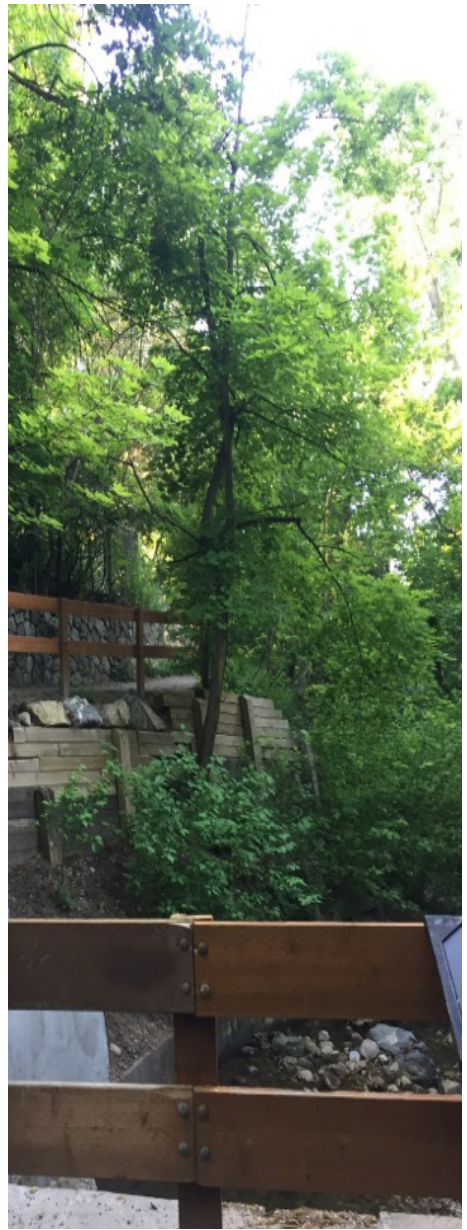


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Message From Director Kristin Riker

In 2019, Salt Lake City's Public Lands' team completed the City's first Public Lands Needs Assessment. The needs assessment documents the research, analysis, and findings from surveys, stakeholder meetings, and public tabling events that gives us an indication of existing and future needs and desires for parks and natural lands in the City. Public Lands uses the information daily to inform our decisions on many levels, including funding request to the Mayor and Council for installation of new amenities, improvements, and land acquisitions.

I've highlighted some important findings of the assessment below, however you can see the entire report and the statistically valid survey here:

www.slcdocs.com/parks/SLCPLNeedsAssessment.pdf

The recent population growth in Utah is among the most rapid in the nation. More people are moving downtown and looking for options to live, work and play. It is our job to make sure that access to nature and recreation opportunities remain at optimal levels so that the residents of Salt Lake City continue to experience the high quality of life that they report now.

The statistically valid survey conducted in 2017 reported that 81% of residents think that SLC currently provides adequate parks and recreation services. So we have to ask ourselves, will our green space acreage be enough to support the future growth of our City? The needs assessment calls attention to the impact our growth will have on our existing level of service (LOS). To maintain Salt Lake City's current LOS at 3.5 acres per 1,000 residents, we would need to add 94 acres of new parkland in the next 20 years to maintain our current level of green space per resident.

Another important point is that among all park users, 39% say that the primary reason they visit their most frequented park is because it is close to home. In fact, 97% of SLC residents think it's important to have a park within ten minutes walking distance of their home.



This tells us that a resident's proximity to a park matters. The distribution of parks, natural lands and trails was mapped and analyzed by walking distance and by bike and drive time. The Central Community, Sugarhouse, and Downtown planning areas have more gaps when you consider how a resident might get to a park or trail by foot, so acquisition strategies should target these areas.

The information and data in the needs assessment has laid the ground work towards developing our Comprehensive Master Plan. There is a real opportunity to address parks and natural lands as essential elements for better air quality, climate change mitigation, energy efficiency and environmental justice through the Master Plan. The Master Plan will help us answer questions and address considerations into the next five to ten years.

- How do we balance the perceived need for more playing fields with the general public's desire for passive parks?
- How do we best target our resources between the public's desire for improved maintenance for existing parks, natural lands and trails, and the need to provide additional park land?
- Is SLC willing to accept lower levels of service as the population continues to grow? If not, is the existing level of service adequate as a future target?

The final plan will represent an effort to ensure that Salt Lake City's needs are aligned with our park system offerings, that our parks are equitably accessible and that for the next ten years, as our City continues to grow, we have a plan for our green public spaces.

Kristin Riker



Public Lands’ Commitment to Citywide Initiatives

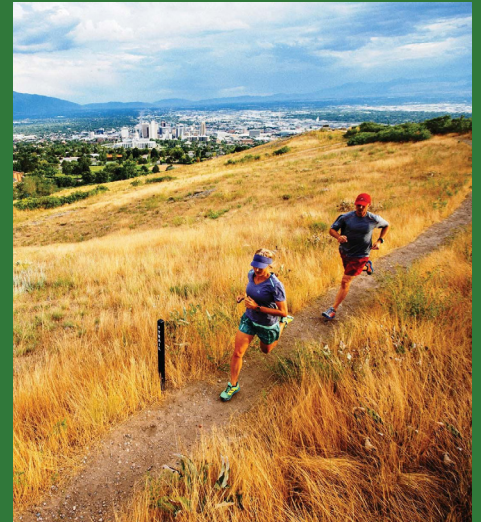
Salt Lake City Public Lands works closely with the community, stakeholders and other City agencies on initiatives that affect our parks, natural lands, trails and urban forest. The work being done at Public Lands can positively support Mayor Erin Mendenhall’s citywide priorities to improve our City’s air quality, expand access to opportunities for all residents, prepare for a resilient and sustainable future, expand supply of safe and affordable housing, and address the City’s growing homelessness crisis.

Improve Air Quality

The 1,000 Trees Initiative focuses on planting trees on the west side of Salt Lake City, where residents are disproportionately affected by poor air quality. Public Lands is exploring approaches to assist residents in long-term care for new trees. In addition, we are exploring expansion of the City’s tree canopy in parks, golf courses, and vacant properties.

Expand Access to Opportunities for all Residents

City-wide comparisons reveal that the Central Community and Downtown planning areas have the greatest number of residents, most projected growth and the least acreage of public green space. Public Lands will focus on increasing access to parks and open spaces, concentrating on areas of the City that are under-resourced and where growth potential is greatest. We are exploring approaches to reach this target by forming partnerships with public and private institutions, improving existing sites, and acquiring and developing property to create new parks.





Prepare for a Resilient and Sustainable Future

The Mayor has committed to rebuilding stronger, more resilient communities to protect against risks of a changing climate. Public green space resiliency is the ability of parks and natural lands to withstand, assist and recover from environmental events such as drought, flood and earthquakes. Planning for the long-term resiliency of our public green spaces is approached through our capital projects, designing and planning for stormwater retention, reducing urban heat island effect, and providing provide habitat for wildlife.

Expand Supply of Safe and Affordable Housing

The Mayor's plan to remove barriers to sustainable development and increase the quantity and quality of housing in our City will fundamentally reshape many of Salt Lake City's neighborhoods. Public Lands will work with the Mayor's Office, the Department of Community and Neighborhoods, Planning and others to ensure that public green space remains a priority in planning for large-scale neighborhood change.

Address the City's Growing Homelessness Crisis

Salt Lake City parks, natural lands and trails should be safe places to play, recreate, revitalize and celebrate in our communities. Public Lands will utilize capital funding to make improvements in design consistent with CPTED strategies to activate and create welcoming public spaces that reduce the likelihood of crime. Pioneer Park, Salt Lake City's only downtown park, is beginning to see changes with the installation of the multipurpose field and regular league use. Jordan Park is set to receive new construction that will improve circulation and offer community event amenities to draw in more activity. Public Lands will continue to advocate for park ranger presence to intervene, communicate and enforce park rules and create a feeling of safety for everyone in our parks.



Public Lands Workforce

The three Public Lands Divisions (Parks, Trails & Natural Lands, and Urban Forestry) are led by one administrative team. 104 full-time employees and 118 seasonal or part-time employees worked in our divisions in 2019.

Administration

14 Full-Time Employees

- Customer Service
- Planning & Design
- Project Management
- Public Relations & Communication
- Technology Support

Parks

66 Full-Time Employees

- City Cemetery
- Graffiti Response
- Greenhouse
- Irrigation & Plumbing
- Parks Maintenance
- Property Maintenance
- Events Coordination
- Regional Athletic Complex
- Warehouse Operations

Natural Lands

9 Full-Time Employees

- Natural Lands Restoration
- Volunteer Coordination
- Open Space Maintenance
- Trail Maintenance
- Outdoor Education
- Property Acquisition

Urban Forestry

15 Full-Time Employees

- Park and Neighborhood Street Tree Maintenance
- Tree Planting
- Tree Preservation during Construction
- Tree Health and Safety Service Coordination & Consultation



Asset Summary

Parks

Total Acres: 690

- **2** Regional Parks - 207 acres
- **15** Community Parks - 280 acres
- **19** Neighborhood Parks - 149 acres
- **42** Mini Parks - 24 acres
- **3** Special Event Parks - 30 acres

Trails

- **70.7** Miles of Trails
- **3** Bike Parks
- **1** Regional Paved Trail
 - ▷ Jordan River Parkway Trail
- **1** Regional Dirt Trail
 - ▷ Bonneville Shoreline Trail

Park Amenities

- **19** Baseball Fields
- **9** Softball Fields
- **29** Multi-Use Fields
- **71** Tennis Courts
- **14** Pickleball Courts
- **18** Basketball Hoops
- **12** Sand Volleyball Courts
- **16** Reservable Pavilions
- **78** Playgrounds
- **33** Restrooms
- **9** Dog Parks
- **3** Skate Parks

Urban Forestry

- **21,300** Park Trees
- **65,076** Neighborhood Street Trees
- **26,500** Vacant Planting Site
- **25,221,000** Lbs of Carbon Dioxide Sequestered

Regional Athletic Complex

Total Acres: 120

- **15** Multi-Use Fields
- **1** Championship Field
- **6** Fields with Lights

Natural Lands

Total Acres: 1,694

- **4** Urban Streams
- **1** Historic Nature Park
- **1** Bird Refuge
- **2** Wetland Preserves
- **9** Miles of River
- **2** Square Miles of Natural Grassland

City Cemetery

Total Acres: 122

- **9.5** Road Miles
- **125,372** Burials to Date
- **24,000** Graves Remaining

Urban Forestry

21,205

Parks Trees

65,144

Neighborhood
Trees

26,000+

Vacant Planting
Sites

\$5.07M

Total Yearly
Eco Benefits

4,390

Service Requests

4,082

Trees Pruned

1,341

Trees Planted

813

Trees Removed

944

Stumps Removed

1,498

Emergencies
Mitigated

502

Permits Issued

6

Events Attended

727

Building Plan
Reviews

14,807

Completed Work
Records

City Cemetery

406

Burials
Performed

24,000

Graves
Remaining

310

Monitored
Headstone
Placements

125,372

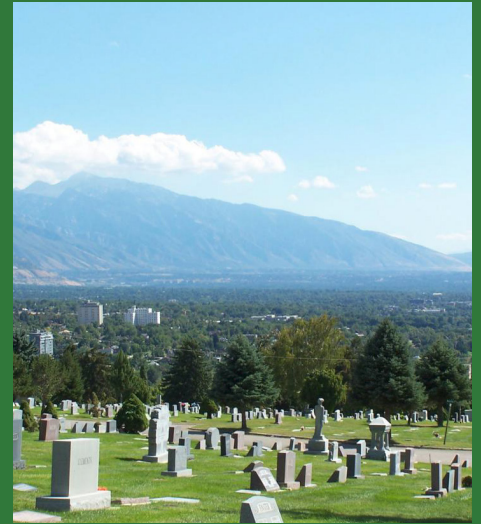
Total Interments at the
Cemetery, to Date



In December 2019, Salt Lake City Public Lands was pleased to promote Keith Van Otten as our new City Cemetery Sexton.

Keith joined the City in 2008 and has served in the roles of Irrigation Supervisor and Property Maintenance Supervisor. As Irrigation Supervisor, he oversaw the central control irrigation system as well as the plumbers and irrigation technicians. As Property Maintenance Supervisor, he supervised the Siemens Energy Savings project which converted over 800 light fixtures to LED lamps and added over 100 irrigation locations to central control to increase efficiency and cost savings.

Keith replaces Mark Smith, who served as sexton for over 20 years before passing away in July of 2019. Keith is excited to carry on the fantastic work that Mark was performing as manager over one of Salt Lake City's most important and historic landmarks.



Regional Athletic Complex

\$12.5 Million

Economic Impact to
Salt Lake City*

\$457,950

Annual Revenue

25%

Of Out-of-State Events
in SLC were held at the
RAC

201 Days

Open Season
(28.7 Weeks)

31 States/

3 Countries

Places Teams Came From

2019 Tournaments:

- Men's Collegiate Lacrosse Championships
- UYSA Soccer State Cup
- High School Boys Rugby National Championships
- Aloha Tournament (Lacrosse)
- Legends Western Invitational (Lacrosse)
- Pioneer Rugby
- La Roca Soccer Tournament
- Barcelona Youth Soccer Camp
- Peaks Rugby
- Peruvian Soccer Association Tournament
- NAI7's Rugby Event
- Real Salt Lake Soccer Showcase
- Victors Tires Soccer Tournament
- Ultimate Frisbee Regionals
- Mayor's Cup (Soccer)
- Desert Premier League (Soccer)
- Ultimate Frisbee Ski Town Classic
- Special Olympics (Soccer)
- Utah Youth Rugby Pink 7's

Reservations:

- 6483 Reservation Hours
 - ▷ 1205 League games played
 - ▷ 2036 Tournament games played
 - ▷ Over 100,000 Visitors
- 19 Tournaments
 - ▷ 10 Local
 - ▷ 9 Out of State



*Economic Data Estimated
by Visit Salt Lake

Volunteers

1,273

Total Volunteers

3,321

Total Volunteer Hours

20,709

Lbs of Weeds Pulled
at Purge Your Spurge
Event in April '19.

Our Volunteer program helps citizens become actively involved with Parks and Public Lands. Volunteer opportunities increase stewardship and encourage a stronger sense of community responsibility. Our volunteer staff members work hard to ensure people of all ages have a chance to connect with the City for recreation and hands-on learning while contributing to their favorite neighborhood resources. Volunteer participants leave with a better understanding of our natural world and increased drive to support public open spaces in the future.



Outdoor Education Programs

Trail Trekkers

114 Participants
12 Programs Conducted
70 Miles Hiked

Hooked at First Fish

86 Participants, 8 Programs Conducted

Family Nature Night

200 Participants
18 Programs Conducted

Merit Badge Programs

130 Participants
14 Programs Conducted

Nature Story Hour

344 Participants, 24 Programs
Conducted

Community Science Night

11 Participants
9 Programs Conducted

Out of School

Into Nature

358 Students Engaged
56 Programs Conducted

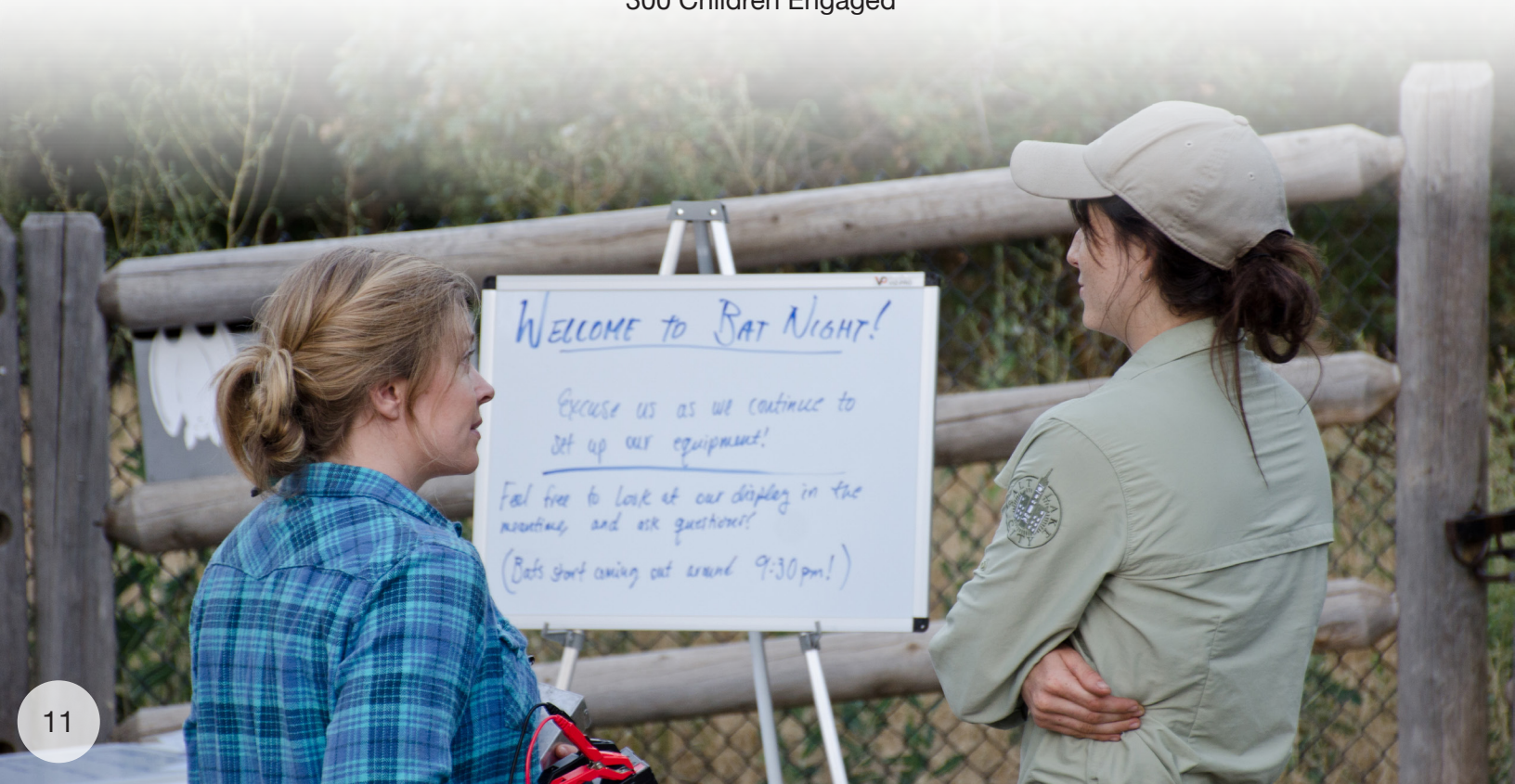
Summer Day Camps

58 Participants
6 Programs Conducted
60 Total Hours

Children's Outdoor

Bill of Rights

300 Children Engaged





Park Reservations

Athletic Fields

Fields available for reservation between April 1 - October 31:

32

Multi-Use Fields

21

Baseball / Softball Fields

6

Sand Volleyball Courts

Special Events

130

Special events held in parks & natural lands through Dec. 31, including:

42

Special Event Races (5k & 10k)

48

Free Expression Events

36

Filming Permits

Most Used Fields

Sunnyside Park

West Field - 602.5 Reserved Hours

Fairmont Park

Middle Field - 531 Reserved Hours

West Field - 540 Reserved Hours

6

Fields closed due to over-use. Fields that are over-used must be closed to prevent permanent or long-term damage to the turf.

Pavilion Rentals

There are 16 pavilions available for reservations located in 11 parks.

1143

Pavilion Reservations. Liberty Park was the most popular destination for pavilion rentals.

25

Weddings in parks. 12 were held in the International Peace Gardens

Graffiti Response

Graffiti Incidents Responded To:

920 January

627 February

1,061 March

1,241 April

1,338 May

1,169 June

1,398 July

1,227 August

1,266 September

1,180 October

975 November

752 December

13,154 TOTAL

The Graffiti Removal Program will remove graffiti from all residential, commercial, and public domain property within Salt Lake City. To report graffiti visit:

<https://www.slc.gov/request-report/>

or call 801-972-7885.



2019 Completed Project Highlights

Off-Leash Dog Park Improvements: Use and demand for off leash dog park areas within Salt Lake City continues to increase. In 2019, SLC Public Lands made significant improvements to four off leash dog parks within the City. These parks included, Fairmont, Jordan, Herman Franks and Rotary Parks. Improvements included installation of new dog water fountains, benches, durable surfacing, dog agility features and shade structures.

9Line Bike Park Public Art Project: The City's 9Line Bike Park received two new public art projects that were funded by the Salt Lake City Arts Council. These murals, painted by local artists Josh Scheurman and Charlotte Pili, have provided some much needed color and vibrancy to the 9Line Bike Park, which has quickly become a well-loved amenity in the Poplar Grove/Glendale Neighborhood.

Wasatch Hollow Improvements: SLC Trails and Natural Lands completed restoration improvements on a newly acquired property within the Wasatch Hollow Preserve. The project was funded in part by the State of Utah's LeRay McCallister Conservation grant program and will eventually provide northern trail access into the Wasatch Hollow Preserve. Funding for Phase II of this project was recently allocated by SLC City Council.

Pioneer Park: A new multi-use field was constructed at Pioneer Park. The purposes of this field are to help meet the growing demand for multi-use fields within the City and to better activate Pioneer Park as a Salt Lake City's only downtown park. Soccer and rugby leagues were happy to have this resources during the summer of 2019, and field reservations for 2020 are almost full.



2019 Completed Project Highlights, Continued

9Line Trail Safety Improvements: Safety improvements along the 9Line Trail between the Jordan River and Redwood Road were completed in 2019. These improvements provide users with new crosswalks to make trail users more visible and reduce traffic speeds along intersecting streets. Newly constructed sidewalks and neighborhood bike byways adjacent to the 9Line Trail will also improve connectivity to the existing trail network. Landscaping and irrigation improvements along the corridor will continue into 2020.

Foothill Trail Master Plan: The Foothill Trail System Master Plan was completed in 2019 and recently adopted by SLC City Council. This plan establishes a 10-year phased approach to improving and expanding the current recreational trail experiences for people of all abilities, consistent with the goal of creating trails that are environmentally sustainable, enjoyable, accessible, safe and low-maintenance. This is the first master plan for the Foothills Natural Area and it covers from the North Salt Lake boundary, south to Emigration Canyon. Funding for Phase I of the implementation of this plan has recently been secured and construction is anticipated for 2020.

Jordan River Parkway Trail Lighting Upgrades: SLC Trails and Natural Lands Division has recently completed upgrading all of the existing Jordan River Parkway Trail Lighting. New LED lighting will improve energy efficiency and increase visibility along the corridor during evening and night hours.



Public Lands Performance Metrics

Following several strategic planning meetings in early 2020, Public Lands divisions and programs have committed to tracking the following performance metrics to measure our success moving forward:

Administration

- Developed parks acreage per 1,000 population
- Natural lands acreage per 1,000 population
- Percentage of land within 1/2-mile walking distance of park, natural land, or trail
- Community Engagement
- User satisfaction for all Public Lands divisions and programs

Parks Division

- Ratio of maintained acres per maintenance FTE
- Maintenance budget per acre
- Number of developed park acres

Regional Athletic Complex

- Field Utilization per week average (Calendar Year)
- Reservation hours (Calendar Year)
- Revenue (Fiscal Year)
- Economic Impact (Calendar Year)
- Ratio of maintained acres per maintenance FTE
- Maintenance budget per acre
- Number of developed park acres

City Cemetery

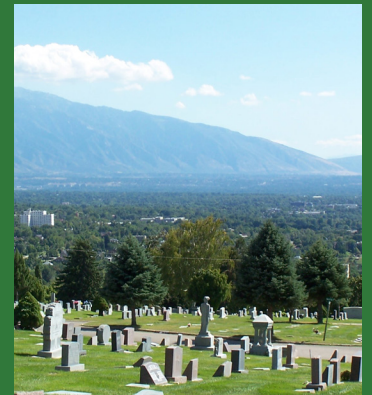
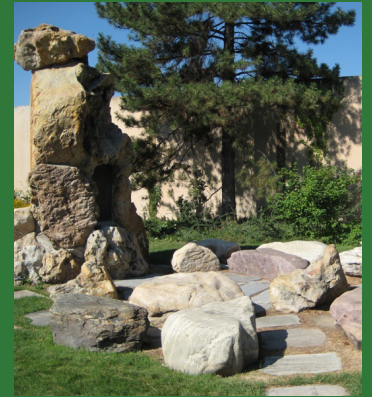
- Number of graves sold
- Number of burials performed
- Ratio of maintained acres per maintenance FTE
- Maintenance budget per acre
- Number of developed park acres

Trails and Natural Lands Division

- Natural resources staff per acre
- Trails staff per system trail mile
- TNL assets, project areas, or focus areas formally adopted by partner organizations
- Percentage of properties with formal restoration or enhancement plans
- Number of properties monitored for vegetation condition
- Number of native species planted in SLC public lands
- Percentage of weed-impacted acreage treated for noxious invasive weeds
- Number of projects completed vs. projects ongoing
- Percentage of Foothill Trails System completed
- Percentage of programs targeting engagement with under-represented groups
- Number of people participating in interpretive programs or activities with interpretive components hosted by TNL or formal partner organizations
- Number of interpretive programs and activities by Council District
- Number of Public Lands with nature programs

Urban Forestry Division

- Ratio of trees planted to trees removed
- Number of trees pruned annually
- Percentage of urban wood recycled





Public Lands

Parks | Trails & Natural Lands | Urban Forestry

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