

# Parks & Public Lands

# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2018

# PARKS AND PUBLIC LANDS



2018 - Fulltime staff members at staff appreciation event



2018 - Fulltime, seasonal, part-time, and intern staff members at staff appreciation event.

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# MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

## Creating Identity, Community Pride And a Connection to Nature

This annual report is one avenue in which Salt Lake City Parks and Public Lands is working to integrate green infrastructure into the dialogue on urban revitalization, public land investment, economic development and a healthy Salt Lake City. As an essential component of the city's infrastructure, the urban forest, parks, trails and natural lands produce measurable health, environmental and community benefits.

Many aspects of our public lands system cannot be quantified. The benefits of a walk in the park or the carbon deletion from vegetation growing in a natural area is not known. We do know that the trees and shrubs in our parks and park strips provide a lower cost, natural solution for treating storm water runoff, and management of air and water pollution, but it's difficult to calculate the savings. The same is true for savings in medical costs due to the benefits of exercise in a park and the community cohesion that can happen in parks.

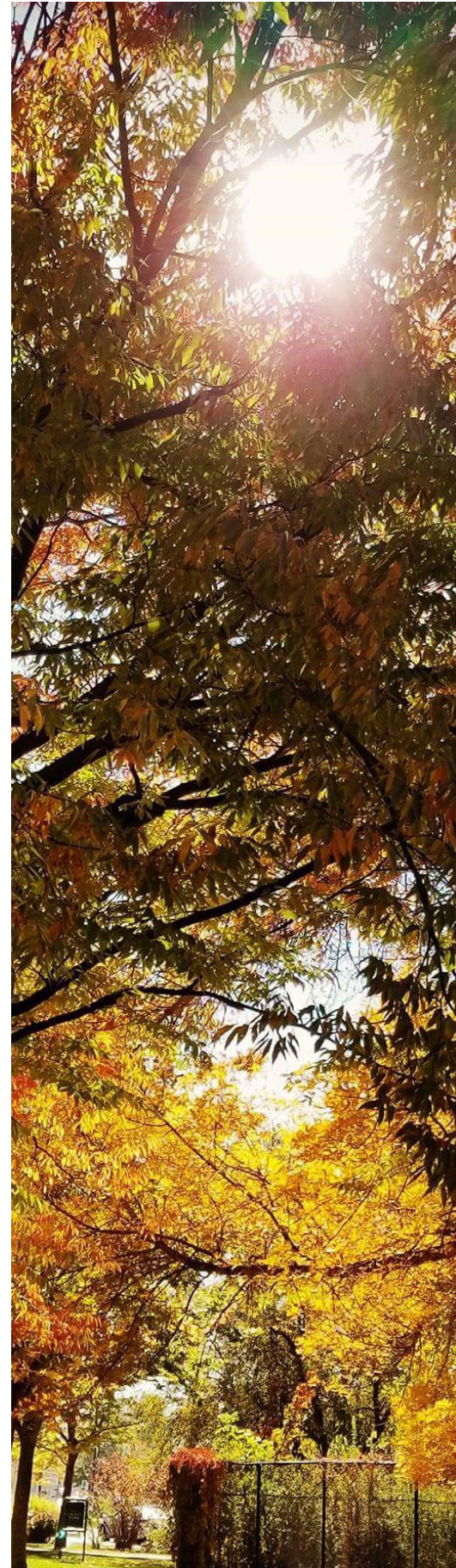
There are some well known methodologies for calculating park benefits, such as the sequestration of carbon emissions from trees. We know that every tree helps fight global warming by reducing the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. We can calculate that the 90,000 trees of Salt Lake City's urban forest reduced atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> by more than 25 million pounds in 2018, and filtered out or reduced more than 105,000 pounds of particulates and other pollutants from our air.

Though often not recognized, our parks play a major role in our tourism economy. Although visitation numbers and expenditures are not calculated for the majority of our parks, the Regional Athletic Complex (RAC) has tangible estimates. Visit Salt Lake estimated that tournaments held at the RAC totaled 22% of the City's athletic bookings and contributed \$19.6 million in tourist spending.

This report provides the numbers we can calculate that contribute to direct income, cost efficiencies and the social and health benefits as a result of your parks system.

What you will also find is how we are leveraging our public lands to create resilient natural areas that build community pride, identity and a connection to nature in our city. Each day Parks, Trails & Natural Lands and Urban Forestry crews work to improve this vital green infrastructure to enhance the livability of our city so that we can support a vibrant community for the families and young people who make this urban area their home.

Kristin Riker  
SLC



# PUBLIC LANDS WORKFORCE

## 3 Divisions & Admin

**102** FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

**118** SEASONAL & PART TIME EMPLOYEES

### Admin

**14** Full-Time Employees

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

### Parks

**69** Full-Time Employees

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

### Natural Lands

**8** Full-Time Employees

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

### Urban Forestry

**11** 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

## Park Amenities

- 18 Baseball Fields
- 3 Softball Fields
- 32 Multi-Use Fields
- 71 Tennis Courts
- 14 Pickleball Courts
- 18 Basketball Hoops
- 12 Sand Volleyball Courts
- 15 Reservable Pavilions
- 61 Playgrounds
- 32 Restrooms
- 9 Dog Parks
- 3 Skate Parks

## 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

## Urban Forestry

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

## Trails

- 70.7 Miles of Paved and Unpaved Trails
- 3 Bike Parks
- 1 Regional Paved Trail (JRPT)
- 1 Regional Dirt Trail (BST)

## Regional Athletic Complex

Total acres: 120

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

## City Cemetery

Total acres: 122

- 9.5 Road Miles
- 124,959 Burials



Photo By James Alarid

# URBAN FORESTRY

Trees Pruned  
**2,961**

Completed Work Records  
**17,974**

Trees Planted  
**1,130**

Stumps Removed  
**1,249**

Trees Removed  
**1,240**

Service Requests  
**3,391**

Emergencies Mitigated  
**540**

Forestry Permits Issued  
**510**

Community Events Attended  
**6**

Building Plan Reviews  
**685**



Photo By Eric Loertscher  
Memory Grove Park

# CITY CEMETERY

Published the book "*Images of America Salt Lake City Cemetery*." A percentage of the proceeds will be returned to the Cemetery.

Burials Performed  
**435**

Graves Sold  
**173**

Monitored Headstone Placements  
**326**

# REGIONAL ATHLETIC COMPLEX

## Economic Impact to Salt Lake City

**\$19.6 Million**

Data estimated by Visit Salt Lake

## Annual Revenue

**\$574,725**

\$35,920 Per Field  
\$11,145 from Field Lights

## OPEN SEASON

**201** Days | **28.7** Weeks

## AVERAGE FIELD USAGE

**16.9** Hrs/Field/Week | **315** Games/Field

## HOSTED TEAMS FROM

**31** States | **3** Countries

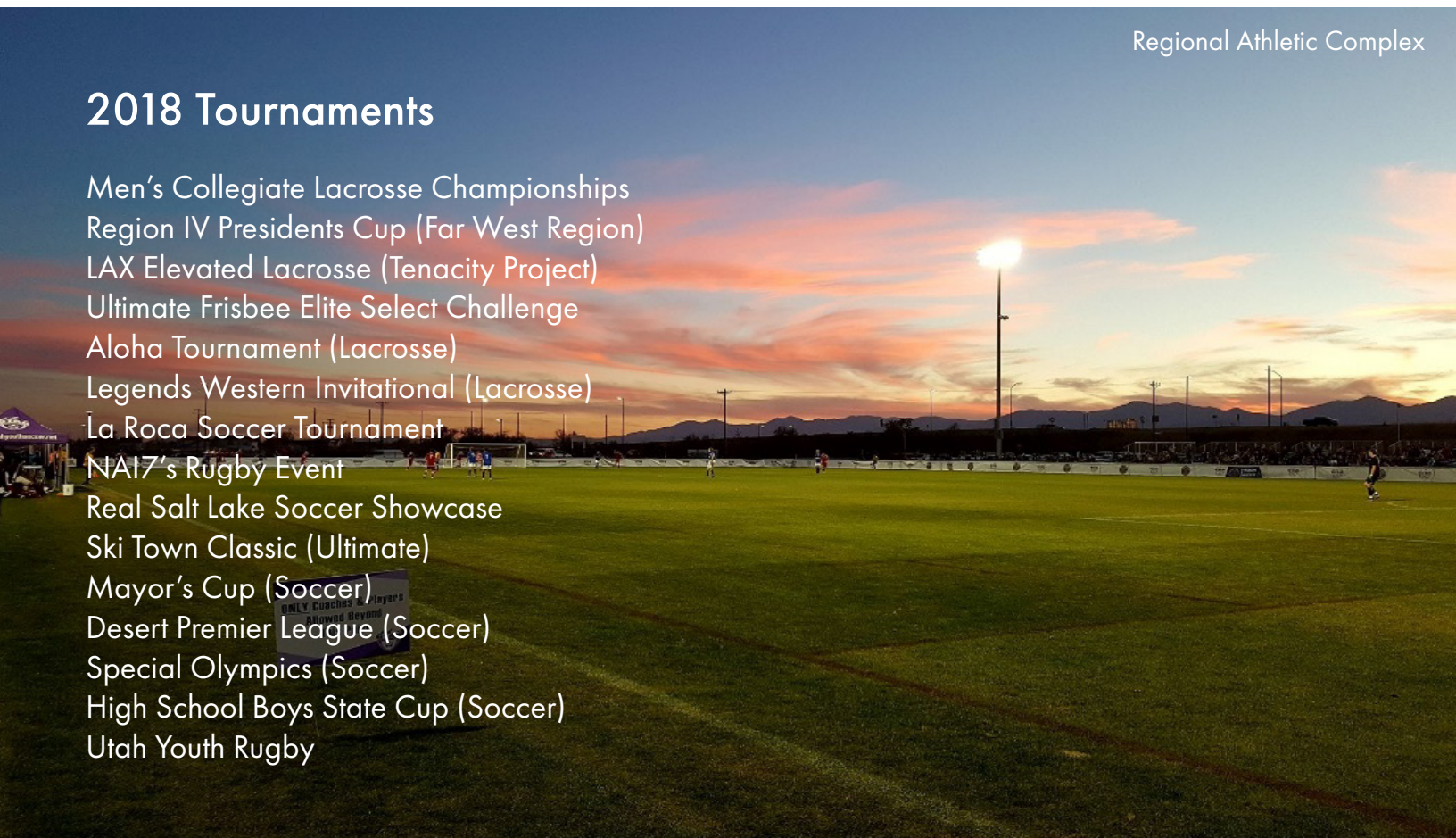
## SCHEDULING

**22%** of athletic events scheduled in Salt Lake were scheduled at the RAC

Regional Athletic Complex

## 2018 Tournaments

Men's Collegiate Lacrosse Championships  
Region IV Presidents Cup (Far West Region)  
LAX Elevated Lacrosse (Tenacity Project)  
Ultimate Frisbee Elite Select Challenge  
Aloha Tournament (Lacrosse)  
Legends Western Invitational (Lacrosse)  
La Roca Soccer Tournament  
NAI7's Rugby Event  
Real Salt Lake Soccer Showcase  
Ski Town Classic (Ultimate)  
Mayor's Cup (Soccer)  
Desert Premier League (Soccer)  
Special Olympics (Soccer)  
High School Boys State Cup (Soccer)  
Utah Youth Rugby





# VOLUNTEER EVENTS

If you're interested in volunteering with Parks and Public Lands contact our volunteer coordinator at (801) 972-7809

Hunter Drill Team Service Project



**62**

**Small Events**

[Less than 30 Participants]

**28**

**Large Events**

[More than 30 Participants]

**3**

**Stewardship Events**

[City Sponsored]

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.

## STEWARDSHIP EVENT SUMMARIES

### PURGE YOUR SPURGE EVENT

April 2018 - 112 Participants - 10,300 Lbs of Spurge pulled

### PANCAKES AND PUNCTURE VINE EVENT

September 2018 - 88 Participants - 1,027 Lbs of Puncture Vine Pulled

### RIVERFEST

September 2018 - 800 Attendees gathered at the International Peace Gardens to celebrate the Jordan River.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- One-Time Volunteer Events
- Adopt-A-Spot Partnerships
- Community Service
- Friends of Parks Groups

## VOLUNTEER EVENT PARTICIPANTS

**2,863**

## LOGGED VOLUNTEER HOURS

**7,223**

# OUTDOOR EDUCATION PROGRAMS

## HIKING MERIT BADGE

**38** Participants Engaged

**7** Programs Conducted

**3** Merit Badges Earned

## SLC NEIGHBORHOOD NATURALIST

**45** Participants Engaged

**3** Programs Conducted

## K-12 WORKSHOPS

**21** Teachers Attended  
Workshops  
(**650** Students Impacted)

**4** Programs Conducted

## SUMMER DAY CAMPS

**67** Students Engaged  
(Ages 8-12)

**5** Programs Conducted

## FAMILY NATURE NIGHT

**134** Families Engaged

**17** Programs Conducted

## NATURE STORY HOUR

**78** Students Engaged

Partnered with Day Riverside  
and Marmalade Libraries

## OUT OF SCHOOL INTO NATURE

**574** Students Engaged

**120** Programs Conducted



Information gathered from pre and post program surveys revealed a 17% increase in students who reported they would rather visit a park than see a movie.

### Scout Merit Badge

Scouts are provided a free opportunity to earn a hiking merit badge by learning safe hiking practices and completing nearly 70 miles of hiking in Salt Lake City.

### Family Nature Night

Free events hosted in Salt Lake City parks and natural areas that provide fun activities to help families learn about Salt Lake City's unique natural environment.

### Out of School Into Nature

Teachers walk students to nearby parks and natural areas where they can learn about nature in Salt Lake City with a nature education specialist.

### Summer Day Camps

Summer days camps are offered in the summer months, during school break, four days per week for 2.5 hours to youth between the ages of 8-12.

### K-12 Workshops

A free opportunity for professional educators to learn how to manage students in Salt Lake City's open spaces by utilizing natural spaces as outdoor classrooms.

### Neighborhood Naturalist

In 2018, Trails and Natural Lands partnered with the Natural History Museum of Utah to promote citizen science projects. Occurring at different parks throughout Salt Lake City, residents can bring a smart-phone or tablet to document different species through an app called i-Naturalist.

# PARK RESERVATIONS

## ATHLETIC FIELDS

Fields available for reservation between April 1 - October 31 include:

**32**

Multi-Use Fields

**21**

Baseball / Softball Fields

**6**

Sand Volleyball Courts

## SPECIAL EVENTS

**224**

special events held in parks & natural lands through Oct. 31, including:

**27**

Special Event Races (5k & 10k)

**42**

Free Expression Events

**24**

Filming Permits

Redwood Meadows Park



To make a reservation or inquire about a special event contact customer service at (801) 972-7800

## MOST USED FIELDS

### Fairmont Park

Middle Field - **486** Playing Hours  
West Field - **444** Playing Hours

### Sunnyside Park

Middle Field - **404** Playing Hours

**9**

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 **15** pavilions available for reservations located in 10 parks

**1,046**

Pavilion Reservations

**Liberty Park** was the most popular destination for pavilion rentals

**15**

Weddings in Parks

**9** of the 15 weddings were held in the International Peace Gardens

Guadalupe Park



# MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

## Thank You, 2018 Donors!

- Pioneer Park Coalition
- Share Parents Tree Donation
- Tree Utah Donation
- Mark Miller Subaru
- Avenues Baseball
- Deb Sawyer
- Clif Bar
- Comcast Foundation
- Utah Youth Soccer Association
- Bio-West
- Burton Lumber
- Genuine Parts
- Cotopaxi
- Sephora
- FatBoy
- Playspace Design

## Needs Assessment

In 2018, as part of the Parks Needs Assessment, a statistically valid survey was conducted. Here is a snapshot of observations made based on the survey data:

- **97%** of residents feel that it's important to have a public park within **walking distance** of their homes.
- **59%** of residents visit public parks 2-3 times per month or more.
- Residents say that the most important reason they visit public parks is because it is **close to home**. Secondary reasons include **trees**, **enjoyable atmosphere**, and **exercise**.
- Approximately **57%** of residents use Salt Lake City trails at least **monthly**.
- **Exercise, walking/jogging, connection to nature, and hiking** are the top four reasons for using trails.
- **89%** of residents said they felt safe in public parks during the day and 64% said they **felt safe** during the night.
- **62%** of residents support measures to **conserve water** in public parks by either using less water or reducing lawn area within the city.



## Ongoing Projects

- Jordan Park Bike Polo
- Jordan River Parkway Improvements
- Genesse Trailhead Improvements
- Rosewood Dog Park Improvements
- City Creek Daylighting Feasibility Study
- Miller Park Improvements
- Fisher Mansion
- RAC Field Lighting
- Jordan River Par 3 Trails & Master Plan
- Warm Springs Restroom Rebuild
- Bridge To Backman Design & Construction
- Fairmont Park Lighting and Recreation
- Three Creeks Confluence
- Rosecrest Trailhead
- Warm Springs Park Design
- Redwood Meadows Playground
- City-Wide Off-Leash Dog Improvements
- RAC Maintenance Building Construction
- Artesian Well Design & Construction
- RAC Restroom Construction
- Natural Lands Signage Installation
- Pioneer Park Improvements

# 2018 COMPLETED PROJECTS

Parks and Public Lands continually makes improvements to the city's parks, natural lands and amenities in order to maintain a vibrant system of public space for the community. Improvements include repair and replacement of existing amenities such as replacement of aged playgrounds or other amenities that do not meet safety requirements. Improvements also include new amenities that reflect changing community interests such as the 900 South Pump Track, constructing new trails and off street pathways, and creating new parks for our growing community. When prioritizing projects Public Lands staff evaluate amenities to identify maintenance issues, visit community council meetings, conduct public outreach, and collaborate with other departments in the city.

Projects are funded through several financial sources including the city's general fund, impact fees assessed on new development, national, state and local grants, and community donations. Project funding request applications are submitted once per year by Parks and Public Lands and the public to the Salt Lake City Citizen Board and the Mayor. Final approval is made by the Salt Lake City Council as part of the annual budget.

## 337 Pocket Park Garden

The 337 Garden created a new pocket park adjacent to a community garden. The park serves as a welcoming place for people to experience community gardening. The site has two "u-pick-it" plots for visitors to enjoy harvesting fresh vegetables. Public Lands partnered with the Salt Lake City Arts Council to integrate public art into the project. The pocket park is surrounded by an art fence that includes 24 unique art panels created by 18 local artists. Adjacent to the site is one of the most popular community gardens located in Central City Community Council District, operated by our partner, Wasatch Community Gardens. This project was completed in June, 2018.



Photo By Logan Sorenson  
337 Garden Pocket Park

## Fairmont Park Pond Improvements

The Fairmont Park Pond Improvement Project addressed flooding and erosion issues by creating a landscape that is resilient to changing water levels. An existing concrete walkway on the north side of the pond was removed and a boardwalk, appropriate for emergent wetlands, was constructed closer to the pond. This design ensures the natural spring flooding can be captured and directed to the pond. The boardwalk improves pedestrian and bicycle movement through this section of the park. In addition, improvements connect the northwest bridge to a deck area with benches on the east edge of the pond. This project included the following landscape and amenity improvements: elevated boardwalk, benches, new trees & shrubs, improved pond access locations, irrigation adjustment, interpretive signage, bank stabilization with boulders and wetland vegetation, pond dredging to accommodate a community fishery. This project was completed in June, 2018.



Fairmont Park Pond

## Liberty Park Concessions Improvements

This project redeveloped the plaza around the concessions building in Liberty Park to improve accessibility and connectivity. This helps create a welcoming space to support amusement area visitors and provides new seating areas and plantings. Improvements include new paving, seating, lighting and planting. The project also enhances the WWI memorial with new plantings and reset the plaques. The redesign of the area resulted in stronger connections to Tracy Aviary, the pool, and the central promenade in the park. This project was completed in May, 2018.



## ADA Playground Surface Improvements

The following parks received new surface material to bring the playgrounds into ADA compliance:

- Warm Springs Park
- Miami Park
- Sherwood Park
- Jordan Park (West Playground)
- Modesto Park
- Fairmont Park (South Playground)
- Liberty Park (Delta Playground)
- Inglewood Park
- Laird Park (*Includes a newly constructed sandbox*)
- Davis Park
- Popperton Park

## Liberty Park City Fleet Fueling Site (Phase 1)

The Liberty Park maintenance yard is heavily used by many Salt Lake City departments for refueling city equipment and vehicles. An upgraded fueling site was installed with a drain, oil/water separator and bio-swale to mitigate potential fuel spills. Additional funding has been requested in a CIP application to pave the area which will improve drainage in the event of a fuel spill.

## Glendale Park Improvements

This project included the installation of a new water efficient irrigation system and landscape improvements. A new youth U10 field was developed. This project was completed in October, 2018. Additional funding has been awarded for improvements to be completed in Spring 2020.

## Gateway Community Garden

This garden opened in Fall 2018, through a partnership with Wasatch Community Gardens, SLC Sustainability Dept., and Parks and Public Lands.

## Parks Needs Assessment

Public Lands just completed a Comprehensive Needs Assessment for Salt Lake City. The project analyzed and evaluated existing parks and natural areas and assets managed by Public Lands in order to articulate future system growth and development needs. Spatial analysis identified service gaps in the parks and natural lands network; analyzed site and amenity location and quantity to identify areas of the city lacking sufficient green space and amenities; evaluated demographics to understand how and where the city is growing; and completed a statistically valid survey to identify residents' values and priorities. Project findings will be used to inform future planning and funding efforts. In 2019, Public Lands will begin planning for a new Comprehensive Public Lands Master Plan. The final report can be found on the Public Lands Projects website.



Scan the QR code to visit our project webpage to learn more about Salt Lake City Parks and Public Lands ongoing projects.





Design by Mia Caselli



# Parks & Public Lands

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our website.