



Parks, Natural Lands, Urban Forestry, & Trails NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2018 - ISSUE 6

MEETING IN THE MIDDLE: COMMUNITY PARK NEEDS



TRAILS & NATURAL
LANDS TOTAL ACRES

1,694

REGIONAL LANDS
(138 ACRES)

3 LOCATIONS

COMMUNITY LANDS
(1,367 ACRES)

34 LOCATIONS

NEIGHBORHOOD
LANDS (189 ACRES)

9 LOCATIONS

In 2016 a group of employees contacted the Public Lands office with a unique request. This group worked in an office adjacent to Cottonwood Park and hoped to have pickleball courts installed in the park. We learned that every morning prior to work and during every lunch period they were playing pickleball. So much so that they had to start using a sign-up sheet so they could take turns.

Unfortunately, funding was not available for new courts and it could take several years to apply for and potentially be awarded funding. Public Lands' staff members asked the group where they were currently playing Pickleball in the park, hoping

to aid them by keeping the area clean and open for play. They had been using an asphalt basketball court with chalk drawn lines as their court.

Excited to see activity in the park, staff members agreed to help the group by painting permanent pickleball lines with leftover paint from the Graffiti Removal Program. They were thrilled.

Fast-forward to 2018 two years later. Public Lands just completed a project to resurface the basketball court with a new concrete pad. This space will now act as a multi-use court for pickleball and basketball. It will be the first space in the Northwest Quadrant to serve as a public pickleball court.

KICKING OFF SUMMER AT THE REGIONAL ATHLETIC COMPLEX

In May the Regional Athletic Complex hosted three large tournaments. The first event was with the Utah Youth Soccer Association (UYSA) which is comprised of 195 in-state teams. The UYSA works to promote, develop and govern youth soccer throughout the state in order to provide educational and developmental opportunities for all of their members. The Regional Athletic Complex has been home to this tournament since 2016.



The National Collegiate Lacrosse Tournament by the Men's Collegiate Lacrosse Association (MCLA) was hosted at the Regional Athletic Complex. MCLA is very large organization comprised of over 200 teams in two divisions across 43 states and two countries. This was a great opportunity for the Regional Athletic Complex and Salt Lake City.

The third event was the US Ultimate Frisbee Tournament. The tournament utilized eight fields and consisted of players between the ages of 14-19. In 2017 Utah was one of just six states who began hosting middle school ultimate frisbee leagues and the Regional Athletic Complex was excited to continue the tradition into 2018.

PUT A LEASH ON THE PUP AND BE SURE TO CLEAN UP

Parks and Public Lands staff consider Memory Grove Park to be one of the great jewels of the city. The park is nestled into the corner of the valley with the intention of remembering Utah's war veterans. Unfortunately, due to the parks close proximity to the Freedom Trail, which is an off-leash area, the park has a reputation as a place for dogs to run un-leashed (i.e. an off-leash dog park). That is not the case.

Signs placed throughout the park are meant to provide leash rules, however, they are often ignored or go unnoticed by the general public. Within the past year Public Lands has received numerous complaints about how the park has lost the peaceful feeling it once had due to consistent off-leash activity. Additionally, there have been several incidents of aggressive dog behavior in the park. Without the capability to enforce the rules staff members began brainstorming new ways to communicate the rules

An idea sprouted for a way to get people to really see the signs and possibly respond positively by following the rules. Several colorful signs were created that are unlike the typical city sign, each with a unique saying about the City's on-leash rules. It is our hope that these signs will communicate the rules in a fun and friendly way:



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: MEREDITH ANDRUS, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT INTERN

Meredith is currently a second-year Graduate student studying Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning at Utah State University. She attended Brigham Young University where she received her undergraduate degree in Conservation Biology. After graduating from BYU, she started working at Glover Nursery where she developed a love for design that led her to attend USU.

At present she is working on a Master's thesis that is researching the effect climate change has on native vegetative strata along the Wasatch Back. More specifically she is mapping the shift in vegetation as it relates to temperature, elevation, and projected climate fluctuations. The preliminary studies have shown a theoretical increase in elevation of up 1000 feet. This summer Meredith is utilizing her big-picture understanding and plant expertise on site specific analysis and planning in our parks and open space. She is working with Public Lands staff to identify park improvement opportunities that incorporate public desires, address maintenance needs and improve our public landscapes.

Aside from her love of learning, Meredith is an avid plant lover, and a travel enthusiast. While she does not have a favorite plant (because that is like trying to pick a favorite child!) *Platanus acerifolia* comes pretty close. The best place she has ever traveled is either Sintra, Portugal or Toledo, Spain. Although that may change with future plans to travel to Italy in the coming year!

SLC CELEBRATING ARBOR DAY FOR 30 YEARS

2018 marks the 30th straight year that Salt Lake City has been recognized with a Tree City USA Award!

This recognition, which is awarded by the National Arbor Day Foundation, requires that a City has a forestry program, a tree ordinance, a commitment to tree care spending, and an annual Arbor Day observance.

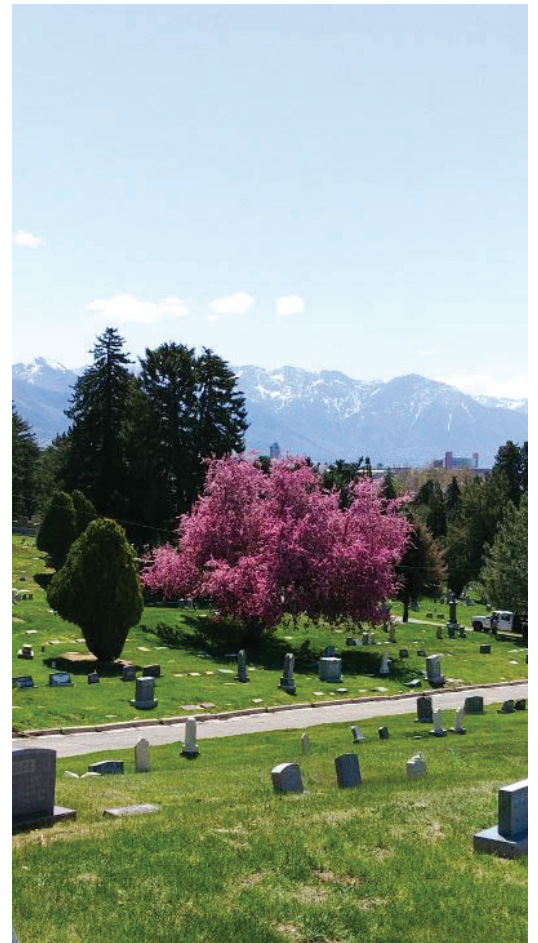
This year, the Urban Forestry Division celebrated Arbor Day at the 'Bend in the River' open space property, with kids from the Sorensen Unity day care class.

The kids helped plant three new trees and were treated to a tree climbing demonstration by one of the City's expert Arborists. Salt Lake City Mayor, Jackie Biskupski, came to the celebration to read an official proclamation declaring April 27, 2018 as Arbor Day in Salt Lake City!



MEMORIAL DAY AT THE SLC CEMETERY

This month cemetery staff performed 56 interments and two disinterment. The seasonal crew members and full-time staff members spent much of May preparing for Memorial Day. This included adding new sod to more than 300 graves. On Memorial Day weekend, it is estimated that approximately 300,000 people visited the Cemetery (throughout the four day weekend). Staff members were especially excited that they only received seven work order requests from the general public. To them, this meant the SLC Cemetery was in a condition worthy of the families who have loved ones buried there.



EVENTS THIS MONTH
JUNE 15 - LIBERTY PARK
JUNE 27 - FAIRMONT POND
JUNE 29 - 337 POCKET PARK



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