



Parks, Natural Lands, Urban Forestry, & Trails NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2017 - ISSUE 3

PARKS PROGRAM

KYLE SHIELDS & TROY BAKER

As the weather changes and leaves begin to fall, many of our maintenance crews in Parks Districts have been picking up leaves throughout the Parks. In addition, irrigation crews have begun shutting down irrigation systems, bathrooms and drinking fountains. The snow removal teams have started changing over equipment attachments from mowers to snow plows, in preparation for snow removal.

Crews have been installing a drainage system at North Gateway Park, located at 900 North Beck Street. The drainage system will help reduce the spring water that spreads over the sidewalk from the natural springs in the area. With this repair, the spring water will be captured and directed to the drain. This will mitigate the frequent creation of swampy areas on the turf.

In District 2, we are still working on the removal of the Lindsey Gardens tennis courts. The project has been going extremely well and we anticipate the project to be completed within the next week.

This week staff will be conducting interviews for a new Graffiti Technician. Graffiti crews continue to receive a high number of service requests, regardless of weather, and are excited to hire a new member to their team.

Parks' Property Maintenance staff completed work at Artesian Well Park, removing sections of the wall and installing a top cap making the park more visible from the street and feel safer. In October this team spent two weeks installing the tennis court bubbles at Liberty Park and at Dee Glenn tennis center.

URBAN FORESTRY

TONY GLIOT

The North American Tree Climbing Championship was held in Liberty Park (October 20-22). By all accounts the event was a great success. Expert tree climbers from all over North America traveled to Salt Lake City to compete in the event, which served to qualify the top competitors for the International Tree Climbing Championship. Salt Lake City Urban Forestry played a vital role selecting and preparing trees for the event.

We want to extend a special thanks to two Urban Forestry team members (Cory Davis and Sam Arellano) who volunteered their time on all three days of the event to man the 'Kids Fun Climb Zone.' Cory and Sam shared their knowledge gave countless kids the opportunity to experience tree climbing!

Salt Lake City also experienced a brief but fairly strong wind event in October, resulting in significant damage to more than 20 public property trees. Urban Forestry Crews worked efficiently and responded quickly to all reports of tree damage.

The fall 2017 tree planting project is now complete. More than 400 new street trees have been planted in neighborhoods throughout Salt Lake City. With proper care, and a little bit of luck, the numerous benefits that these trees provide will endure for generations.

TRAILS AND NATURAL LANDS

LEWIS KOGAN

The Trails & Natural Lands Program has been collecting user data and existing conditions information in August and September, to assist with the development of a 10-Year Improvement Plan for the City's Foothill Trails System. Program staff and the consulting team from Alta Planning + Design recently conducted stakeholder workshops to refine a draft of recommended trail improvements. This draft layout will be released for public comment in November via an online mapping tool. The link will be provided on the project webpage: www.slcgov.com/TrailsPlan/. The public will be encouraged to provide feedback via the online mapping tool, which will be shared at various events and open houses through December.

Public input will be incorporated into the draft Foothill Trails Plan over the winter, prior to a comprehensive internal review. The final trails plan will incorporate recommendations for new trail development, decommissioning or abandonment of some social trails, trailhead improvements, wayfinding signage, trail management, and cost projections and schedules for trail construction and maintenance. The plan area extends from Emigration Canyon to North Salt Lake, and includes approximately 6,000 acres of open space land along the Bonneville Shoreline Trail. Please check the project webpage regularly for updates and opportunities to get involved!

PLANNING & DESIGN

NANCY MONTEITH

Parks and Public Lands has initiated construction at the Liberty Park Concession area. The improvements include new concrete paving surfaces, lighting and seating. In addition, the memorial wall will be replaced with a new wall that is inset with the existing memorial plaques.

Construction is about to begin at the new mini park at 337 South 400 East, associated with the Off-Broadway community garden at that location. The park includes an art fence with 24 unique designs by artists. Other improvements include planting, seating and a small paved plaza to create a small gathering space for the community gardeners as well as neighborhood residents.

The next step of the Comprehensive Needs Assessment for Public Lands will be to identify the total needs and estimated costs for maintaining existing level-of-service for the community. Level-of-service is defined by the quantity and quality of parks and amenities for a given population. Based on analysis of existing facilities, the Central City neighborhood has the least amount of parks and trails per resident of all the planning areas. Central City is also one of the City's fastest growing neighborhoods with a significant number of residential units added to the community every month. The needs assessment indicates that additional parks and facilities will be needed to meet the population growth of our community.

The City has opened up the constituent and internal application process for FY 2018-2019 Capital Improvements. Parks and Public Lands has identified more than five million dollars in immediate funding needs for improvements to our existing parks and open spaces. The anticipated funding available for the entire city in FY 2018-2019 is less than five million dollars resulting in only a select number of projects that will be funded.

CEMETERY

MARK SMITH

This month the Cemetery has performed 31 interments (burials) and no disinterments (removal/exhumations). Fall is here, and once again, the office staff have kept busy meeting with families and helping arrange the opening and closing of funeral services. This fall the Cemetery is filled with brilliant autumn colors and is still a beautiful place to visit before the winter weather hits.

Cemetery visitors have lessened as the weather changes, but the staff remains hard at work researching grave locations, landscape maintenance, conducting burials, and selling burial plots. After the snow falls, it is often difficult to identify headstones covered with snow so our field staff will assist visitors in locating graves throughout the Cemetery. Also during the winter months Cemetery maintenance staff remove snow from the plots ensuring funerals can still take place in a safe fashion.

From December 1st to February 28th the Salt Lake City Cemetery does not allow monument/headstone installations. Headstone removal is permitted if a burial is taking place, however it cannot be replaced until early spring. This policy helps ensure headstone installation doesn't damage Cemetery Grounds.

Cemetery maintenance staff have also been hauling excess soil from the Cemetery to Lindsey Gardens to assist in the development of the off leash dog park. So far, Cemetery staff have hauled 120 loads of soil in a 10 wheel dump truck. This totals to 960 yards of soil.

Remember, Cemeteries are for the living So come and visit often!

REGIONAL ATHLETIC COMPLEX

CHRIS LAUGHLIN

The Regional Athletic Complex (RAC), with the assistance of the Open Space Program, have begun using biological control as a method of pest management. Biological control is when one species is used to abate another. In this case, installation of habitats for various pest predators such as sparrows and bats will help to reduce the population of nuisance pests and insects. Installing habitats will encourage increased predator activity and feeding throughout the complex. The new method is expected to help control a high insect population problem at the Complex. Prior to new habitat installation pest/insect predators likely wouldn't have considered the RAC as a suitable home due to the manicured landscape. The predators that have been identified for habitat creation are not dangerous species and will not engage with people. Encouraging sparrows and bats to feed at the Complex will help facilitate a more complex ecosystem.

Kirsten Nelson, from our Open Space Program, has designed, constructed and installed the bird/bat houses. Kirsten will monitor and gauge the use of these habitats routinely and will be able to use this data for a wide range of purposes. It is possible the data will help contribute to research that helps answer the question "What kinds of habitats, placement, and designs are most successful in Salt Lake City?" In addition, these habits may be able to help us identify ideal habitat locations and/or features in order to improve chances of future habitat use.



www.slcparcs.com

(801) 972-7800

parcs@slcgov.com

Follow us on social media @SLCPPL