



# Public Lands

Parks | Trails & Natural Lands | Urban Forestry

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## December 2019

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### New Cemetery Sexton Hired

We are pleased to announce the promotion of 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 brings extensive knowledge and experience to his new role, in which he will be managing one of Salt Lake City's most important historical landmarks.



**Keith Van Otten**  
New Cemetery Sexton

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### Jordan Park Survey

Salt Lake City's Parks Division is considering two improvements at Jordan Park:

1. Removing the softball field (including the backstop, diamond, & benches) that is to the west of the skate park and opening the area as a grass, multi-use field.
2. Removing the unused pool house.

[Learn more about this project by clicking here.](#)

Please take our survey by clicking on the button below to provide feedback about this project.



[Click Here to Take the Survey](#)

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## Madsen Park Survey

Salt Lake City's Parks Division is considering three improvements at Madsen Park:

1. Removing the backstop.
2. Removing interior fencing that separates the field from the playground and basketball areas.
3. Removing the berm (elevated strip of land) to increase visibility into the north section of the park.



[Learn more about this project by clicking here.](#)

Please take our survey by clicking on the button below to provide feedback about this project.

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## Volunteer, Outreach, & Education Coordinator

The Trails & Natural Lands Division has hired Katie Riser as its new Volunteer, Outreach & Education Coordinator. Katie comes to the Division with a wealth of experience at the National Ability Center, where she worked as a Program Coordinator, Program Manager, and most recently Operations Manager. She brings extensive volunteer experience with a wide range of local organizations and non-profits.

Katie is a graduate of Westminster College, where she earned a BS in Psychology and a Minor in Outdoor Education & Leadership. After being awarded the State of Utah Women's Basketball 3A MVP, Katie played collegiate basketball for the University of Alaska Anchorage before transferring Westminster College. Now, Katie enjoys spending as much time outdoors as possible. You will regularly find her on the trail - skiing, mountain biking, climbing, trail running or sharing her outdoor passions with others.



Contact Katie at [Katelynn.Riser@slcgov.com](mailto:Katelynn.Riser@slcgov.com) if you are interested in volunteering with the Trails and Natural Lands Division.

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## Foothill Trails Plan Phase 1 Out to Bid

Approximately 15 miles of trail improvements identified in [SLC's Foothills Trail System Master Plan](#) are currently out for bid, with construction expected to occur in 2020. These include new hiking and biking trails at the Popperton Preserve, a hiking trail in lower City Creek above Memory Grove, a new mountain bike trail descending into City Creek, and others.

The Foothills Trail System Master Plan establishes recommendations to improve the quality, safety, accessibility, and environmental sustainability of recreational trails in the city's Foothills Natural Area. More information about Phase I trail improvements can be found in Chapter 6 of the Plan.



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## Trails & Natural Lands Division Surveying Unique Plants in Foothills

The Trails & Natural Lands Division's Ecological Resources team has been busy surveying and mapping unique trees and shrubs in the city's foothill open spaces.

One of the team's most interesting observations has been the occurrence of low-growing woody trees and shrubs like Cliffrose and Netleaf Hackberry more than a century old. While these plants may be only several feet off the ground and have a woody stem that may be only 4-6 inches in diameter, it is apparent that many individual plants have been slowly growing on steep and rocky slopes in the foothills since before the first pioneers arrive in the Salt Lake Valley.

Survey and mapping work carried out by the Division helps the City better understand the unique ecology of the Foothills Natural Area, and work to protect these unique plants that are an important reminder of our natural heritage.



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Interested in Volunteering? [Click here.](#)

