

BRIGHTON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 9th, 2024, at 6:30 pm

ATTENDANCE

Council Members: Keith Zuspan (Mayor Pro Tempore, and meeting chair), Lise Brunhart, Jeff Bossard, Carolyn Keigley

Staff: Polly McLean, Cameron Platt, Jane Martain, Kara John, Morgan Julian, Jim Nakamura, Kayla Mauldin, Curtis Woodward,

Partners: Cheryl Lenzer, Wayne Dial, Dustin Dern, Amber Broadaway, Mike Doyle, Barbara Cameron,

Public: Sheryl Facktor, JZ, Goose, Laurie Hilyer, Chad Smith, 801-979-2529, Amy Kelley, Kathy Anderson, Phillip Mervis, Mark Brinton, Spencer Shaver, Wendy Smith, Ulrich Brunhart, Ez is so hot, Jeff Mitchell, A, Spencer Shaver, Angela Bovo, Maggie, Angus Robertson

PUBLIC HEARING

OAM2023-001056: Title 19 (Zoning) Ordinance Amendment. On January 31st, 2024, Planning Commission, after holding a public hearing, recommended adoption of the entirety of the Title 19 Amendment with revisions which include grammar, formatting, or referencing revisions or other revisions as determined necessary to prepare the final drafts for adoption; and to include any non-substantive revisions as determined by the Town of Brighton's legal team. On April 9, 2024, the Town Council will hold a public hearing on the following remaining chapters: Chapters 19.04 (Definitions), 19.06 (Nonconformities), 19.08 (Enforcement), 19.10 (Procedures for Analyzing Taking Claims), 19.12 (Administrative Bodies Powers and Duties), 19.14 (Zoning, Zoning Map and Boundaries), 19.16 (Land Use Processes and Procedures), 19.20 (Appeals, Variances, and Exceptions), 19.22 (Parks and Open Space), 19.46 (Site Development Standards), 19.48 (Off Street Parking and Mobility Standards), 19.52 (Signs), and 19.54 (Dark Skies). In addition, Staff would ask that the Council review and consider updates to Chapter 19.24 (FR zones) and 19.42 (Specific Use Standards) due to some errors in the prior draft presented on February 13, 2024. Adoption of the above listed Chapters along with Chapter 19.32 (Commercial Zones) and 19.38 (FCOZ), adopted on February 13, 2024, and Chapters 19.02 (Title, Purpose, Applicability), Chapter 19.56 (Flood Plain Regulations) and 19.58 (Geological Hazards) adopted on March 12, 2024) will repeal and replace the existing Title 19. Staff recommend adopting the above Chapters and repealing and replacing existing Title 19. The Public Hearing will also include discussion the building height definition in 19.04 and Gross Square Footage in the FR zones, both of which staff recommends holding a public hearing but continuing the decision to the May 14, 2024, Council Meeting. Decision on Gross Square Footage and Building Height will be continued to May meeting. The report can be read here: [Staff Report Council April 9 Brighton Title 19 Code.pdf\(Review\) - Adobe cloud storage](#). Or packet pages 10-234.

Morgan Julian presented the remaining 10 chapters for the Title 19 Ordinance update. The purpose for the changes are to update Salt Lake County's code that Brighton adopted and to be more reflective of the community goals outlined in the General Plan. The project began in January 2023 and included public workshops. These chapters were recommended for adoption by the Planning Commission. The definitions and standards in the forestry zones will be postponed to next month. Chapters 19.04-19.20 have been condensed and reorganized for administrative purposes and to follow state code. They have

been reviewed by staff and two legal teams. Building height will be discussed but voted on at a later date. Chapter 19.4, Development Standards, is a new chapter that provides guidance for site development in addition to FCOZ, which will still prevail when it's more restrictive. This chapter distinguishes how to apply things like setback standards.

Off-Street Parking Mobility 19.48 adds standards for pedestrian pathways, biking, and bicycle parking. The portions removed from this chapter don't apply in Brighton. The requirement for pavement was replaced with "all-weather surfacing" to help with stormwater concerns. How much of the lot can be paved for parking needs to be determined.

The Signs chapter, 19.52, was updated to meet state code, and standards by the International Signs Association and Signs Research Foundation. Electronic messaging centers were not allowed in the previous code, or in this code, however, representatives from Solitude reached out in favor of permitting these sign types. The council could allow them in the FM zones, exclusively occupied by the resorts.

Chapter 19.42 cleans up Specific Use Standards and adds standards for residential facilities for persons with disabilities.

Staff recommends adoption of chapters 19.04, 19.06, 19.08, 19.10, 19.12, 19.14, 19.16, 19.20, 19.46, 19.48, 19.52, and to amend 19.24 Forestry Zones, and 19.42 Specific Use Standards. Staff also recommends repealing and replacing the existing Title 19 after a public hearing. The public hearing will also include discussion of the definition of height and gross square footage which staff recommends continuing the decision to May 14th.

Lise Brunhart recommended increasing the resolution on the map of 19.14.020 to improve the quality when it's zoomed in.

The public hearing was opened for the sections above excluding portions 19.04 and 19.24.

PUBLIC INPUT FOR HEARING

- 1) Amber Broadaway commented regarding electronic signs and shared images of plans for an electronic sign proposal at Solitude. Digital signage is a more secure way for them to communicate with guests. One mockup is a seven foot tall screen that can display images and video as well as text, but they would comply with whatever standards are adopted. The local vendor they've been working with has experience delivering products that comply to dark sky ordinances. A digital sign could inform guests about parking, roadside restrictions, welcome information, daily events, road closures, operating hours, celebrating employees, no dog reminders, summer fire hazards, avalanche info, and messages the town wants to disseminate.

It was noted that Brighton resort has a new electronic sign that is fixed to their new lift, however, the allowed use of that sign is being determined with the Forest Service. The town's policy should not be influenced by the existing sign, but determined based on what is best for the town.

- 2) Sheryl Facktor has started building so the changes don't affect her building. However, during their planning phase they followed the town council's endorsement at the time to help house local workforce. The grant program was to incentivize residents to make space available in their homes for employees through a subsidized housing program. With that direction, they designed

their home with an additional 12-1,400 square foot area for a local employee. They intentionally added a third garage for this reason. Limiting building size is directly contrary. The goal is unclear. Various interpretations are either to conserve water, size and massing, and to preserve neighborhood character. She noted how different the character is of each neighborhood. Silver Lake Estates is very different from Silver Fork in the way that one is allowed unlimited STRs and the other is limited. In Silver Lake Estates, they have a one acre lot for the same building size limits. They made it through 16 departments and FCOZ as well as their HOA review board. She doesn't understand what the town is trying to solve, it just seems like more hurdles.

It was noted that Sheryl's comment was ahead of the discussion for building size limitations and additional comments should be held until after that discussion in case some concerns are addressed.

Keith Zuspan moved to adopt chapters 19.04, 19.06, 19.08, 19.10, 19.12, 19.14, 19.16, 19.20, 19.46, 19.48, 19.52 as presented. Carolyn Keigley seconded the motion.

Jeff proposed to continue these chapters to the next meeting to all for more review. Lise Brunhart seconded the motion. The motion to continue these chapters passed unanimously.

Morgan Julian presented the following recommendations from the Planning Commission.

19.24.050, Gross Square Footage of the Combined Primary and Accessory Structures. The maximum gross square footage of the combined primary and accessory structures on a property shall be five thousand square feet.

19.04.020 (24) "Gross Square Feet" means the sum of all areas on all floors of any buildings. Gross Square footage shall include any detached and attached garages, other accessory structures, and finished and unfinished basements.

19.04.030 (14) "Building Height" means the vertical distance above the lowest original ground surface at any point on the perimeter of the building to the highest point of any roof.

It is the duty of the planning commission to make recommendations to the council based on the general plan. One of the goals in the general plan for future land use in Brighton is to regulate single family and multifamily uses to reduce the impact on land and adjacent properties. Under actions related to this goal, the plan calls for the adoption of a maximum size for single family residences. This stems from two main concerns noted by residents, public representatives, and other stakeholders. The two main concerns were that these large homes are out of character with the town of Brighton's traditionally small residential cabins, and that they have the capacity to use more water than the smaller cabins, which is concerning for the limited water supply in the town. Over the years, the building size of single-family homes has increased. Between 1990 and 2009, we saw the largest growth. The average building in 2000-2009 was nearly 3,500 total square feet, and the footprint was 2,500. The increase in building size has been a concern for Brighton's local water companies, and the planning commission because there's a limited supply of water in the canyon. There are also limited water shares allotted by these companies. In addition to servicing all existing residents in their systems, these companies must also anticipate servicing remaining water shareholders who have not yet built a single-family dwelling. The capacity to supply water has been stressed for the last couple of decades. The water companies believe

that housing size could play a role as a capacity stressor. The larger the house size, the more capacity it has for greater water use. The amended definition of building height standards is ubiquitous among other jurisdictions. It is common to measure building height from original grade to top of roof and it is more straightforward for both applicants and plans examiners. It also limits building mass. The existing definition allows a building with a pitched roof to exceed the height limitation of 30 feet. This has allowed property owners to build homes that include third floor loft areas which increase building mass as well as gross square footage. The Planning Commission believes restricting how the building height is measured, as well as incorporating accessory structures in the calculation of gross square footage, will reduce the potential for homeowners to convert these spaces into living spaces in the future, which subvert the intent of these limitations to mitigate future capacity stressors on the water supply. In addition to reining in a trending increase to building mass, planning staff finds that these recommendations are in line with the town of Brighton's general plan and is within the scope of the town's legislative authority to implement such standards. Staff finds that the proposed maximum gross square footage for single family homes still far exceeds the average gross square footage of single family homes in the town. In addition, it is similar to other jurisdictions that have implemented similar types of limitations. The planning commission recommends that the council consider adopting these recommendations next month.

Polly McLean noted that the council remanded the gross square footage calculation back to the planning commission. Unfortunately, there were only three members at that meeting. They decided to increase the limit to 5,000 square feet rather than excluding garages after discussion that homeowners can have flexibility to decide how to allocate space.

Jeff Bossard questioned whether garages are included in the total square footage for property tax assessments. It was clarified that garages and basements are included, but they are assessed at a different rate. His concern with the height maximum is for homes on a slope and the need for roofs to be steep enough to shed snow, especially after 887 inches of snow last year. The pitch must be 5-12 at least but 6-12 or more is ideal which increases the roof height. He noted Park City has a 28-foot restriction so that homes don't block neighbors' views, but we don't have the same need in Brighton.

Morgan explained that FCOZ design standards allow for step backs for homes on slopes. This means that each story can step back/ up the slope rather than building a block house with each story upon itself. A step back changes the measurement starting point to change with the natural grade of the topography.

It was noted that the planning commission discussion for the height restriction was to prevent people from adding lofts later on to the part under the pitched roof, which could exceed square footage maximums.

Jeff expressed the public input pointing out that the various neighborhoods have different characteristics and expectations for size and style. Even the water companies have different capacities, so one size restriction does not fit the entire canyon. There are other ways to limit water use than by square footage.

Morgan explained all the neighborhoods have the same zone, so we would need to rezone the neighborhoods or apply overlay zones. She explained that the maximum size does not make it a standard size. In Silver Fork where lots are smaller, they will further be restricted by limits of disturbance

and set back standards, so homes may not meet the maximum. In Silver Lake Estates, lot sizes are bigger and can accommodate the maximum size. Their HOA also has a 5,000 square foot max.

Carolyn addressed the notion that people could pay more for additional water usage, but it's more important to know how much water there is available before we allow people to excessively drain the tank. The supply needs to be preserved for the lots that have not yet been built and connected to the system. Everyone with a water share pays fees whether they have a home built or not and water needs to be kept available for when they decide to build.

For reference, there were 4 planning commission meetings that discussed single family building requirements. They were in February 2023, March 2023, and building height was discussed in October 2023, and March 2024. This item was continued to May 14th, 2024 for action. Keith Zuspan opened the public hearing to allow public comment regarding chapters 19.04 and 19.24.

PUBLIC INPUT FOR HEARING: RECORDING 1:08.17.

- 1) Chad Smith also did not have time to read the proposed ordinance in entirety. He doesn't think the one size fits all building maximum will work for all properties in the town, especially in neighborhoods that are mostly built out with a bigger size and style already. In Silver Lake Estates, there are only 3 homes left to be built and it wouldn't be fair to them to be limited unlike their neighbors. By restricting these homes, it doesn't save water as intended. It goes against the goals and makes a disparate, unequal, non-cohesive character for the neighborhood. He agreed with Jeff Bossard on the trouble with the building height restriction of 30 feet and the need for roofs to be steep enough to allow snow to shed. This requirement has unintended consequences. If a home is restricted to 30 feet tall, then it requires changing a house from an economic rectangle to multiple blocks spreading down the hill which also adds multiple roof lines that can cause ice dams. It is not ideal for safety and maintenance. It requires additional staircases to reach each block.
- 2) Spencer Shaver, the Executive Director for Save Our Canyons, commented that Save Our Canyons advocates for a limits of disturbance approach rather than gross square footage when considering increasing residential dwelling size limits and gross square footage in FR zones. Because of the positive impact this model has on preserving riparian habitats, flora and fauna and protection of our watersheds. The limits of disturbance model allows for maximizing open space in areas zoned for residential dwelling, allowing wildlife to move freely while not using roads. In addition, scaling maximum limits of disturbance for a particular area based upon the total footprint of the property in question will reduce impacts to natural landscapes, vegetation, and wildlife habitats. The appeal of living in Big Cottonwood Canyon is due to its open space and undeveloped natural landscape. The more development that is allowed under zoning ordinances which don't maximize open space, the protection of flora and fauna or water resources, the more those characteristics which draw residents to the Town of Brighton will degrade over time.
- 3) Angela Bovo commented that she learned recently that our water laws in the canyon have not been revisited since the Treaty of Guadalupe. She asked everyone in this meeting to go home tonight and look in the mirror and remind ourselves we're all capable of change. We're all capable of working together. We're all capable of thinking things new. We're all capable of creativity and innovation. And it's time for us to stop looking down at the ground and start looking up. We can conserve water. We're going to have to conserve water when we think Mars like. We have to remind ourselves it hasn't been working. We're at a place right now with our Great Salt Lake, and it's going to take everybody doing everything we can and more. So,

whatever is already, let's all remind ourselves that if we keep thinking that's the only way, and that's the only solution, that's what we're limited to. We're not going to have the time to preserve our resources. So tonight, I'm asking everybody here, dig deep. Go home, look at yourselves in the mirror, remind ourselves, we worked hard together tonight. Thank you, everyone for the hard work you've put in and remind ourselves we've just started, we need to work hard and innovative on water laws.

- 4) Phillip Mervis commented that if we're worried about water then we must limit short-term rentals. If there are 10 people at a cabin every weekend or every day of the ski season, that's going to use more water than a single-family home. We'll need to limit these businesses if it's impacting water availability. Building size doesn't matter in terms of water usage, but the number of bathrooms and how many people are staying does matter. The only reason to limit building size is to reduce the limits of disturbance for the benefit of wildlife, as Save Our Canyons mentioned. He's experienced the FCOZ process twice over three years and has been through the building department over one year. It's already so difficult to build in the canyon that we don't need more limits.
- 5) Wendy Smith commented on the height limits and agreed with the points Jeff Bossard made. Regarding character, an unintended consequence of limiting height is that people may choose flat roofs. Although they may work better for contemporary designs, they don't seem to be encouraged in the code proposals. Being able to shed snow helps reduce damage from snow loads. Regarding square footage, although we think it's good to encourage garages, the definition of gross square footage shouldn't include the size of the garage. People use their homes in very different ways. The small cabins were for seasonal use only. Some people view their property as second homes while others live here full-time. It should be considered how water is used differently by different sized homes.
- 6) Bryan Reynolds commented that rather than having many relatively strict guidelines could we move toward giving the planning commission more discretion. Similarly to how we've allowed them to review stream setbacks and make a determination on what can be allowed. The ordinance should establish guidelines and then allowances can be made when warranted. Slopes, garages, and height could all be considered independently by the planning commission.
- 7) Tara Paras noted that we live in an era of instant gratification over long term sustainable solutions. She asked why we can't create overlay zones and encouraged considerations for that.

WRITTEN:

- 8) Todd and Tamara McIntyre
We are writing regarding the proposed Title 19 Zoning Ordinance Amendment to be discussed publicly 4/9/24.
We understand one of the issues regarding the Title 19 Zoning Ordinance Amendment addresses the standards that limit single-family building size as they relate to water usage. We agree water usage is a very important issue; but we don't believe total square footage is an accurate indicator of water usage. We may like to add a garage to our house in the future, but that would not mean our home consumes more water. Perhaps there should be an exemption for unlivable space? And what about people who want to add an ADU? Such an addition could help with employee housing and reduce automobile traffic, but the proposed ordinance could disincentive such options.
Thank you for your time and consideration. We appreciate the work you do to keep our community thriving, safe, and enjoyable.

9) Dan Knopp

I would like to put forth a public comment for tonight's meeting, I apologize we are in transit. I have tried to completely stay out of all things planning commission not attending meetings or functions. I honestly can't decide if this is the right decision for the community, but I thought I should let them do their work without my hand on the scale.

That said I feel that I need to clear the air a bit.

I honestly believe we have an amazing group of very committed individuals, who understand the challenges of living where we do. They have worked hard to gather information and opinions of our community.

I have been contacted by many in our community expressing concern that we are moving a little quickly to put our imprint on how we live in these mountains, what I keep hearing is we are behaving a bit like an overreaching homeowner association. Let's be careful. My worry is the neighbors who show up at outreach events don't necessarily represent the community as a whole, we almost need to propose something to get a real reaction from the community. Let's be careful and take our time and get it right.

Please consider the input we see from the community tonight. Everyone has an opinion, let's try to thread the needle and get it right.

I feel this applies to planning & zoning and STR.

10) Chad Smith:

Town Goals Require Differentiation

I notice that a Key Finding by staff, leading to their recommendation, is that "The drafted ordinance furthers the goals of the General Plan." This is true, broadly speaking, especially for certain areas of our town. But Brighton is a multi-faceted town, with nuances that are contemplated in our General Plan. I believe, along with many others, that these complexities are not adequately addressed by the amendments being made at this time. Whether restricting square footage, building height, limits of disturbance, setbacks, etc, it seems that a "one size fits all" approach has been taken, with little consideration or accommodation for the differing neighborhoods and areas within our town. This doesn't seem appropriate.

I submit that if blanket limitations are to be applied to the entire town, without consideration of these areas of differing character, that they need to be the absolutely lowest-common-denominator restrictions. Not based on town averages, or even "generous averages" that might be desirable throughout the town. We need more precision, so that our restrictions don't end up being inappropriately tight for some areas and yet inappropriately loose for others.

Brighton's General Plan even mentions Character Areas (starting on p.61), saying that they "have potential to evolve into a unique area when provided specific guidance" and "require attention suitable to its uniqueness." The General Plan also says (p.62): "It is important to identify areas of growth or change in the General Plan for a couple of reasons. [...] it can provide a variety of housing types that may be necessary to support diverse populations, it can reinforce community character based on historic town patterns, it creates predictable guidance for private property owners."

I don't believe the proposed code changes encourage areas of various character to maintain different housing types. I own property in a Character Area that has been identified as an "area of growth or change." Our neighborhood (Willow Loop Road) consists of 24 buildable lots. Only 3 of these lots would be subject to new restrictions now being put in place. The others were either built under the old FCOZ rules or have already started their process, such that they are

also subject to older, more lenient rules. Requiring the last 3 of 24 lots to build in a more restrictive way (with size, height and LOD) does the opposite of ensuring the stated goal of consistent neighborhood character and cohesion. It unfairly would impose hardships and loss of opportunity to those who can't do what the homes all around them were able to do. And to the extent that water may also be a driving concern here, our street has its own private water company and source, so it doesn't make sense to change the rules for that reason either. (Our water company plans to manage any unexpected supply shortages with price tiering based on actual usage, not via unfair restrictions on the last 3 lots to build, who will still be paying the same amount for their water share, regardless.)

Details on Our Specific Issues

Our family's specific concerns are not only the changes being proposed for action at this next town council meeting. There have also been amendments adopted over the last couple of months that have already caused unanticipated and unfortunate consequences for the building of our home. I understand that it is complex to approve large-scale changes to entire sections of code, and so some of these were included in omnibus approvals with the intention to revisit and revise certain provisions that may not be quite right as initially approved. I appreciate the council's pragmatic approach to fine tuning this code as more information comes in. I do think it would be beneficial for you to know a couple of issues we have already had, wanting to make (what we thought were) minor tweaks to our FCOZ-approved plan. These are changes we want to make after last winter, in order to make our home more safe and durable during heavy snow years. (Goals we know the town wants to support!) Although not a big deal under the old FCOZ rules, Jim Nakamura has told us that these changes are now problematic or impossible.

Two examples:

- We wanted to change our roof to be steeper than the 2.5/12 pitch on our approved plan. Last winter made us realize that we should shed rather than retain snow. With the new way that the 30' height restriction is calculated we now can't do that, and because it's already been added to Brighton code we would need to appeal for a waiver. But we don't have time for that because our FCOZ approval is set to expire soon. As a result, Jim Nakamura told us that, ironically, we'd have been in a better place if we hadn't yet received our FCOZ approval.
- We want to expand a section of our foundation by 2', underneath what is currently designed to be a cantilevered section in the floor above. (After last winter, we now view cantilevering as an unnecessary point of potential failure under snow weight.) But this change would add 40 square feet to our home. Even though we'd still be within our HOA limits of 5000 sq' not including garage space, we would be over the limits currently proposed by Planning Commission. If this size restriction is approved, even temporarily, we will not have time to appeal for a waiver here either.

I hope these actual examples are helpful in illustrating why so many people view the new regulations as inappropriately restrictive in ways that are unfair and cause inequity within specific communities in our town. I believe they will also cause administrative difficulties for the town and applicants trying to gain appropriate waivers for their existing non-conforming homes. I understand why many restrictions are appropriate for our town. Our town has great values; things like community character, cohesion, fairness, sustainability, property rights, etc. This is just not the way to achieve our goals.

Our Ask

Please don't adopt Section 19 as written. These new restrictions, particularly for size, height, setbacks and LOD, are too onerous and inappropriate for our 90% built out neighborhood. It would be unfair for us, considering the character of our already-established area and the fact that we rely on our own water company.

11) Hello! This is Wendy Smith, lots 8 and 10, Willow Loop Road.

First I want to say thank you for your time and efforts to serve us. You've had a lot on your plate in working to make Brighton be the best Brighton we can be!

I've spent some time with the General Plan in an effort to better understand and inform my thoughts.

Regarding the proposed maximum size for single family homes: I understand Brighton General Plan indicates a goal to "limit the size of single family homes". And that there are a variety of reasons for this. Page 155 of the general plan addresses some of those reasons and includes links and references to a specific website "sustainable city code".

<https://sustainablecitycode.org/brief/establish-maximum-size-of-single-family-residences-5/> .

It's important to note that after making the case for limiting the size of single family homes, the same site says this:

"A municipality can further tailor the requirements based on individual neighborhoods, rather than residential zones as a whole. For example, if a neighborhood has always had larger homes, new large homes could continue to be permitted. However, neighborhoods with smaller homes could have a more restrictive size limit that would help retain the character of the neighborhood and provide many of the economic and environmental benefits discussed below. In this way, developers can still replace old homes, but only if the new home does not increase the impact on the community and environment."

The Brighton plan identifies many different areas in Brighton--including Silver Fork, Forest Glen, Brighton Loop, etc. My neighborhood is in the Brighton loop (p. 64), specifically Willow Loop Road. On Willow Loop road, besides being limited by topography, slopes, wetlands, building height (i.e. all things FCOZ), we have an HOA restriction of 5000 sq ft WITHOUT garage included. That is appropriate for our neighborhood. Lots developed in the past and the very few remaining lots currently under development (or about to be developed) have been purchased, designed, and built under those rules. It's consistent with the character of our neighborhood to build up to 5000 WITHOUT garage included. Not to mention, we also have our own water company.

If the Council really wants the same size limit for all areas, it seems that we need to identify the area/neighbor with the largest homes appropriate for that area/neighborhood and then make that number the limit. (This would also help Brighton have fewer non conforming homes).

Ultimately, the better solution would be to set different maximums for different neighborhoods/areas, though I understand this would require more work.

You should know that these current proposals are causing a real time problem for us as we have made significant investments under prior rules and our plans don't quite fit the new proposal (garage not included in our sq ft, roof slope can't be adjusted slightly along the folcrum to give us a better pitch for shedding snow--both things things that were okay just weeks ago) and we don't have time to go through a waiver process.

I'm running out of room here to address the height/set back/LOD restrictions, but we are already dealing with very limited building pads in most cases in Brighton. And FOCZ already has significant restrictions.

Specifically, for the height change, the proposal may lead to more flat roofs which tend to work with a more contemporary style. Not to mention flat roofs have to be specially engineered for our heavy loads. Finally, limiting height more than we already do does not encourage the Brighton chalet style.

Call to action: I know the Town Council is not voting tonight. Where our neighborhood is so close to build out and has its own water company, please carve us out of these new restrictions.

12) Tara Paras:

April 6 , 2024

RE: Proposed Title 19 Zoning Ordinance Amendment to be discussed publicly 4/9/24

From: Tara Paras Resident in Silver Lake Estates

Dear Mayor Dan Knopp and Esteemed City Council Members,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my concerns and pose some questions regarding the proposed Title 19 Zoning Ordinance Amendment that is scheduled to be discussed publicly on April 9th, 2024.

Upon reviewing the details presented in the previous meeting, I find myself compelled to seek clarity and understanding on several aspects of this proposed ordinance. What is the real agenda here for this ordinance?

1. Water Usage: While I appreciate efforts to conserve water, I am concerned about the effectiveness of the proposed approach. It seems that limiting square footage in order to conserve water will not adequately or fairly address this issue. Especially since we have many properties in the canyon that are only used a handful of times every year versus homes that are occupied between 90 days to 365 days a year. Perhaps a more comprehensive strategy, involving data collection on actual water usage and

implementing measures such as metering and tiered pricing for excessive usage, could be more effective in promoting conservation without unfairly penalizing property owners.

2. Fair Housing Act: I was troubled to hear suggestions that the ordinance may be geared towards attracting specific demographics to our area such as familial status. Specifically trying to inspire families to move to the area. Such actions could potentially violate the Federal Fair Housing Act, and I urge caution in ensuring that our policies uphold principles of fairness and non-discrimination.

3. Neighborhood Conformity: I seek clarification on the intent behind promoting conformity of neighborhoods in terms of appearance. Are we targeting specific neighborhoods, and if so, are they part of historic districts or governed by HOAs? I believe that any efforts to enforce conformity should be approached with sensitivity to individual neighborhood characteristics and with respect for property rights. As we know our town is not an HOA or a Designated Historic District, so where do we cross the line of infringing on people's property rights?

4. Affordability: It is my understanding that the proposed ordinance may have unintended consequences on housing affordability. By restricting the size of new constructions, we risk exacerbating supply and demand imbalances and potentially driving up housing costs. I believe it is crucial to carefully consider the economic impacts of such measures on property values and affordability for both existing and prospective homeowners. This does the exact opposite of making things more affordable. You are causing a supply and demand issue by inflating the price of larger homes in the area, depleting the value of vacant lot owners that have not yet built to not conform to their area and possibly making them lose a ton of value, and you are also inflating the value of existing homes by doing this as well since there will be a scarcity factor.

5. Additional Considerations: I would appreciate any additional information or insights you could provide on the broader objectives and potential implications of the proposed ordinance. I would also recommend that if you are trying to put different zones within the canyon that we see how other cities are doing things. For example, Park City has multiple different Historic Zones, an Estate Zone, Single Family Zone, etc. Until we have our ducks in a row should we really be making blanket ordinances for all of Brighton? Could we look at the bigger picture here for all? Furthermore, I would like to bring your attention to discrepancies in some of the information provided at the recent Planning Commission meeting, when relevant precedent from similar municipalities was requested. Specifically, the town attorney indicated that zoning regulations in Park City Historic District restricted maximum square footage in a similar way and to a similar degree. Correcting such inaccuracies is essential for making well-informed decisions.

After hearing this, I pulled up the Zoning in Old Town Park City (and keep in mind this is a historic district with small lots). The building footprint, not total square footage, is limited in correspondence to the lot size. They demonstrate a formula for it, but it is based on lot size. They do have a maximum footprint if the lot is above 18,750 square feet, but that maximum is 4500 square feet. So, if someone in Park City Historic District wanted a 9000+ sq foot home, depending on how they configure it based on the Footprint they could. And again, this is a footprint restriction and not a maximum square footage restriction, and it's also in one of the most heavily regulated historic districts in Utah. They are way more reasonable than what is being proposed in this ordinance. I believe that the lack of this sort of information may have influenced the voting of the planning commissioners. Correcting such inaccuracies is essential for making well-informed decisions.

Lastly, I share concerns raised about the voting process during the planning commission meeting, particularly regarding the decision to proceed with voting despite the absence of a full commission. There were only 3 planning commissioners at the planning commission meeting, where the Attorney advised that it would be unusual for them to vote with so few of them attending. There are a total of 5 planning commissioners and two alternates but only three were in attendance. Ensuring transparency and adherence to proper procedures is vital for upholding the integrity of our decision-making process.

In conclusion, I believe it is imperative that we approach this proposed ordinance with careful consideration, considering its potential impacts on our community and the principles of fairness, affordability, and sustainability. I am committed to working collaboratively towards finding solutions that address our shared goals while safeguarding the interests of all stakeholders. Let's work towards a better solution and not a very rapid, irrational, and irresponsible decision.

Jeff Bossard moved to close Public Input and go back to the regularly scheduled meeting. Lise Brunhart seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Carolyn Keigley moved to continue sections 19.04 and 19.24 to the May Town Council meeting. Jeff Bossard seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. STR Subcommittee meeting date: April 29th, 2024 at 6:00PM.
- b. Planning Commission meeting date: 4/17/24 for Conditional use approval for a Verizon Wireless communication facility (60' tall monopole).

PUBLIC INPUT

Carolyn Keigley commented on behalf of a resident that emailed her asking for speed bumps on the guardsman pass road for uphill and downhill to prevent cars from racing in either direction as is common. There have been crashes at the hairpin turn where cars park to access the Forest Glenn neighborhood. Keith Zuspan thought this is something Mayor Knopp could bring up with the UDOT director since the road is their jurisdiction.

MINUTES

Jeff Bossard moved to approve the minutes for the Town Council Meeting on March 12th, 2024, and Lise Brunhart seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

UPD

Cheryl Lenzer provided a verbal and written report:

For the month of March the Town of Brighton had 170 calls. That number is significantly less than the previous years. By comparison in March 2023, which was the big snow year, there were 285 calls. In March 2022 there were 272 calls. I would like to think the numbers are due to all of the changes to parking and our policing services that are the reason for that number. The types of calls were mostly traffic related. There were 4 Traffic Accidents, 1 Hit and Run, 3 Canyon Vehicle Assists, 3 Traffic Enforcement, 1 Canyon (non SAR) Rescue, 3 Citizen Assists, 3 Camping in the Watershed, 2 Disorderly, 3 Skier Collisions, and 10 Ski Thefts at the resorts. Officers issued 12 Citations – 11 were Traffic Related the other was for Morals. 18 Parking Notices were written.

Please mark your calendars for June 8th. The Drop 13 road race will be held on that date. It is a half marathon that has the race start just below Solitude. I do not have the ops plan yet but I don't believe it will be much different than in the past. I hopefully will have it prior to next months meeting where more details on how it will effect your travels that morning will be shared.

Detective Cheryl Lenzer C.O.P/Fraud/Property Crimes

Special Operations/Canyon Patrol and Rescue

Unified Police Department

Dispatch 801-840-4000

UFA

Dustin Dern shared the Quarter 1, 2024 report. Call volume was 227, with 138 of those emergent. That is 61%. Among those calls was the structure fire in Silver Fork. The highest EMS response was 101 trauma calls. There were some false alarms, and wiring problems, but the overall call volume was still up from previous quarters. Brighton's apparatus responded to most calls. They've continued to bring ambulances up from the valley from Midvalle, Cottonwood Heights, Holladay for all medical calls to keep a crew in the canyon. The plat map shows most calls are at the resorts, but as summer approaches, calls begin to come from the popular hiking trailheads such as Donut Falls.

Recruit camps are going well. They are eight weeks in and graduation will be May 15th. Friday will be Fire School 101, and Jeff Bossard is participating at the training center in Magna. They're receiving 13 new apparatuses coming after a long wait on supply chain delays. The community pancake breakfast will be September 21st, 2024 from 8am to 11am. Last month had 68 responses and 52 of those were emergent, and again, trauma was the leading response.

SKI RESORTS

Solitude

Amber Broadway reported that the pond skimming event is this weekend. There will be a "spring mobile bump off" competition at the end of April. Spring hours are 9-5pm Friday-Sunday, and 9-4pm

Monday-Thursday. Closing weekend is projected for May 12th. They've hosted a lot of great music, and the Redbull Cascade free ride event, which was great. This is the last weekend of the UTA buses. This is also the last weekend of reservation parking, which largely improved the experience this winter.

Brighton

Mike Doyle reported that night skiing will close this Saturday night. Regular operations will end April 28th, and they will reopen May 3rd through the 19th for the melt down on the Crest lift. It will be on Crest lift this year. April 26th will be a crawfish bowl and jazz band at the Millie Challet from 2-6pm. There will be a concert at the Sidewinder on the 27th.

BUSINESS

Revised and Restated Interlocal Cooperation Agreement Between Public Entities Governing the Unified Police Department of Greater Salt Lake. Pages 235-277.

Polly McLean recommended authorization of the mayor to sign the interlocal based on the prior resolution to join the Unified Police Department.

Carolyn Keigley moved to authorize the mayor to sign the interlocal agreement with the Unified Police Department of Greater Salt Lake. Lise Brunhart seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Carolyn Keigley: Aye

Lise Brunhart: Aye

Jeff Bossard: Aye

Keith Zuspan: Aye

PUBLIC INPUT

Chief Jason Mazuran from UPD expressed gratitude for the support. They won't let us down, they'll do a great job and have a great plan. Chief Morse, Chief Doyle, and Detective Lenzer all do a great job.

Carolyn Keigley is a wonderful board member and represents Brighton well. Polly and Nate have also given great support.

CHAT BOX COMMENTS

00:08:20 phillip mervis: Is she talking as there is no volume on the zoom

00:08:46 Kayla Mauldin: I can't hear either

00:08:48 amykelley: I cannot hear anything

00:08:51 amykelley: yes now

00:08:52 kevin: No audio since the beginning

00:20:21 amykelley: we cannot hear

00:58:54 phillip mervis: EVERONE NEEDS TO MUTE THERE TVS

01:03:38 amykelley: its very hard to hear the side comments and discussion online

01:04:49 Kathy Anderson: Carolyn-we can't hear you.

01:07:43 phillip mervis: Water use comes from short term rentals. Ban them and we can all drink forever.

01:17:55 A: 🙌

01:22:07 A: We Share the mountains with everyone

01:56:28 Amber L. Broadaway / Solitude: we can't hear

01:56:50 Chad Smith: Can't hear...

01:57:03 Chad Smith: Thanks!

02:09:17 Laurie Hilyer: Can't hear her

02:10:16 Sheryl Facktor: Please speak into a microphone so we can hear

REPORTS

Mayor's Report

Mayor Knopp provided a written report:

Couple of big things: Rocky Mountain power will start in May with the underground project. With much pleading and cajoling we are also doing most of the secondary power. That means the lines that feed off the primary main, not the individual service lines will be buried. There will be a program to do individual service lines later. They will likely start at Pinetree, where they left the road. They will go through Pinetree, then come back out to the highway for a bit and go back into Silver Fork and up Silver Fork drive [which they promised they would not do. We just paved it. They will do a full mill and replace it when they are done]. There will be several branches that go off the main line, this will substantially harden our entire system and go a long way helping with power outages and fire susceptibility. Hopefully this will help with insurance issues. They also have a bit of work around Solitude and Brighton, with minimal disruption. This project has been four years in the making, with a cost of over \$24M. They will be contacting individual property owners to obtain easements. If they cannot obtain easements, they will go overhead with hardened lines that will still be susceptible to downing by trees. Please talk to your neighbors and stress the importance to the community as a whole. The contractor is very good to work with and we have a very open line of communication, so if you have any questions or concerns please work through me.

Secondly, the LCC EIS. As many of you know, it is in four lawsuits at this point. UDOT's stand [I'm not speaking for them, but as I understand it] they will not commit any taxpayer dollars until they come to some agreement, so the entire process is stalled with a couple of exceptions. They will likely go ahead with the purchase of the property at the gravel pit, the owner is at the table. And funds have been allocated to do a project at the mouth of the canyon to do some traffic improvements, extra lanes, and other smoothing.

Also, we are working with WFRC and UDOT to reallocate funds from LCC to our BCC TAP. The funds are in limbo. This needs to go before the UDOT board of trustees. I feel confident that when we show a shovel ready project, we have a good chance of success.

We are also working with CWC to get UDOT and the plaintiffs in the lawsuit in the same room and start a dialogue to get phase one moving. The plaintiffs seem to be on board, we need to get UDOT to realize that something is better than nothing, at least we could start while we fight about next steps.

It was a good meeting with the neighborhood nodes people, I promise, I made them laugh with some stories from back in the day. I think this grant is a worthwhile process. Please, everyone, participate and give input.

We are home tomorrow.

Dan

Council Members' Reports

Carolyn Keigley reported she spent a lot of time on the trails project to connect our communities and she has done outreach to areas that have already done this.

She's glad we ratified the UPD agreement. All of the SLVLESA townships also chose to go with UPD, which speaks volumes for the trust we have for UPD and what they can offer. The UPD model in our town will be changing. In the past Canyon Patrol patrolled our town as well as the entire

canyon. Canyon Patrollers in the old model had the patrollers rotating throughout the different Salt Lake County Canyons on a daily basis. Canyon Patrol is state mandated to be under the County Sheriff. On July 1 of this year the Sheriff's office will be separating from UPD. Therefore, Canyon Patrol will not be working within the Town of Brighton's boundaries nor in the Emigration town in Emigration Canyon as both of these towns elected to stay with UPD. In the reorganized UPD model the Town of Brighton will be operating out of the Holiday Precinct and we will be sharing The Chief Precinct, Justin Hoyle, detectives, a Lieutenant, a Victims Advocate, and a Sergeant. Brighton will have 5 to 6 officers assigned to our town and these officers will always stay in the town boundaries. BCCA and BI recommended that our town have a meet and greet in the future so that our community will be able to get to know our officers. She thanked the UPD officers who have been providing data. There was a proposal for funding for Butterfield Canyon, and the southwest and southeast unincorporated Salt Lake County areas. Carolyn requested data showing the need for additional funding for this area. She shared a document summarizing the data. It breaks down the calls and cases according to area. It reflects the Town of Brighton, lower BCC, LCC, and Butterfield. It spans from 2021-2023. It also shows how many officers are assigned to each area. Brighton is getting 2,000 calls. If you add the lower canyon, it's almost 3,000 calls. LCC was 683 calls. Emigration is 673, and Butterfield is 27. The pattern is consistent across the years, although Butterfield increased to 224 last year. She explained there can be multiple calls for one case, and cases vary in size and difficulty. Regarding officers, the model has been to rotate them among the various areas throughout each day. The county sheriff is asking for as many officers in Butterfield as in BCC. Looking at the Forest Service document, it shows visitation for the various areas. LCC had 6,000 compared to 15,000 in BCC. This emphasizes that we are a busier canyon, and need support, both in officers to respond to incidents and in financing.

Jeff Bossard thanked Carolyn for her careful work on the law enforcement split. The Mosquito Abatement board met yesterday, and he acknowledged how well the organization is run. They discussed raising salaries and reviewed policy manuals. He looks forward to fire school on Friday, and he is the safety person at his school, so was able to get this training approved.

Lise Brunhart reported attendance at the UTA board of trustees meeting. They are very organized and wages and salaries going up. Ridership has increased but they didn't address transportation in BCC. Today she attended the meeting of municipal councils. It was noted that the number of opioid deaths have gone down, but benzodiazepine use has gone up. They also discussed the lawsuits on the Gondola.

Keith Zuspan reported we currently have \$317,000 in Zion's account. The PTIF has \$4.126M. The MSD is working through the process to convert the townships to cities and towns, effective next month. They are working to change each entities budget from a calendar year to a fiscal year. WFWRD is looking forward to the snow melting so they can get our glass recycling pod installed at the compactor site. Keith spoke with the MSD concerning construction of our package shed at the Brighton Loop and want to ensure it can tolerate snow loads. Besides the basic layout and construction, we'll need to satisfy the permit requirements for electricity. Jim Nakamura will come up and inspect the location. The dumpsters at the mouth of the canyon have been returned in a slightly different spot. It is now on the portion of the parking lot that is UTA land vs. SLC Public Utilities land where it was previously located.

Emergency Management Report

Nothing to report this month.

BCCA Report

Nothing to report this month.

PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a. Resolution adopting the Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. For discussion and possible action.
- b. Continuation of title 19
- c. Adopt revisions to the fee schedule.
- d. STR subcommittee meeting recommendations

CLOSED SESSION

Jeff Bossard moved to go into closed session for a discussion of pending or reasonably imminent litigation, personnel matters, and/or sale or acquisition of real property pursuant to per Utah Code §52-4-205. Lise Brunhart seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURN

Jeff Bossard moved to close the Closed Session and Lise Brunhart seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Jeff Bossard moved to adjourn the regular meeting and Lise Brunhart seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:37pm.



Submitted by Kara John, Town Clerk

Areas	2021 calls	2022 calls	2023 calls	2021 cases	2022 cases	2021 cases
Brighton	2,087	2,362	2,151	608	528	520
lower BCC	851	806	756	311	292	264
total BCC	2,938	3,168	2,907	919	820	784
LCC	683	657	516	395	380	359
Emigration Canyon	683	657	516	190	174	170
Butterfield Canyon	27	82	124	24	36	58

officer allotment	CP rotated	USFS contacts trails
	6 in other canyons	
	rotated 22	
	rotated 22	15,200
	rotated 22	6,007
1.5		
3		

Watershed Report

2023



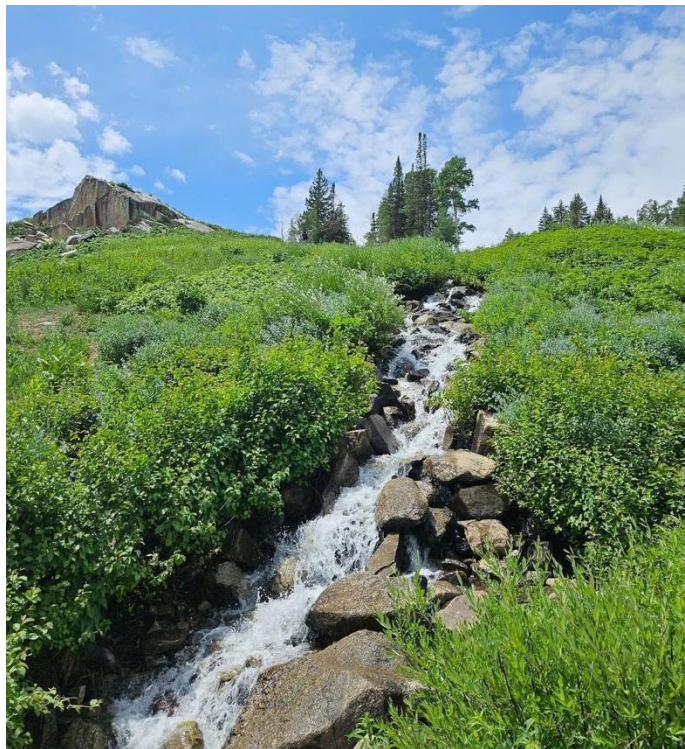
Red Pine Lake from above

Salt Lake Ranger District
Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest



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Small waterfall along Twin Lakes Access Road

Introduction

The Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest sees 13.5 million recreationist visits a year, with a large percentage occurring on the Wasatch Front. Over 1.6 million people live on the Wasatch Front, in or near Salt Lake City, nestled against the Salt Lake Ranger District (SLRD). Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons offer visitors diverse, quality recreation opportunities year-round in wilderness, on trails, in campgrounds and picnic areas, and at ski resorts. Dramatic peaks and ridges dominate the skyline, while picturesque lakes and waterfalls are sprinkled throughout the canyons. Visitors' recreational experiences range from hiking, sightseeing, rock climbing, trail running, family-friendly outings, wildlife viewing, mountain biking, sledding, skiing, etc. These canyons are a critical part of Salt Lake City's protected watershed, providing culinary water to the city.

To balance vital watershed protections and diverse recreational opportunities in Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons, the SLRD and Salt Lake City Public Utilities (SLCPU) work together. SLCPU provides funds for the SLRD to educate visitors and ensure recreational activities do not harm the watershed or forest. These visitor interactions range from education to enforcement, prioritizing opportunities to teach visitors about watershed protections. For the 2023 season, this partnership helped staff Park Rangers and Trail & Wilderness Backcountry Ranger patrols, several of who are certified as Forest Protection Officers (FPO). These teams rotated through Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons focusing on areas with high visitation, but also interacting with visitors at less busy locations.

This report provides an overview of the SLRD accomplishments for the 2023 season. Overall statistics are provided on visitor contacts from: Little Cottonwood Canyon, Big Cottonwood Canyon, and Trails & Wilderness Backcountry Rangers crew. Mill Creek patrol statistics are included for comparison as it is one of the "Tri-Canyons" and offers recreational opportunities prohibited in the watershed (i.e. dogs and swimming). Forest Service Park Rangers and Trails & Wilderness Backcountry Rangers members rotate through all 3 canyons to better understand the recreation opportunities and challenges. This experience enabled the Forest Service to provide helpful information (i.e. alternative recreation opportunities and locations). This report provides insight from the various canyons, season accomplishments, and recommendations for the partnership's continued success.

Statistics

Visitor Contacts & Incidents

The following chart provides overall numbers per patrol group, such as the number per crew, total contacts for the season, and the sum of incidents issued (warnings and violations) per regulation. Mill Creek numbers are included for comparison but are not in watershed totals.

	FPOs	Contacts	Dogs	Swimmers, Waders	Closed Area	Illegal Campfires	Bikes	Other
Little Cottonwood Park Rangers Friday - Monday July - October Partial SLCPU funds	1-2	6007	16	10	42	41	0	E-Bikes, Photography
Big Cottonwood Park Rangers Friday - Monday May - October Partial SLCPU funds	2-3	15,200	200	57	22	23	2	Domestic Pets, E-Bikes, Photography
Backcountry Rangers Saturday - Sunday <u>ADD DATES</u> Partial SLCPU funds	0-2	2878	10	13	0	3	1	Fireworks, wildfire, RC cars, drones, graffiti
Mill Creek Friday - Monday May - October No SLCPU funds	2	7580	(Off- leash) 163	0	0	77	18	E-Bikes
Watershed Totals <i>(not including Mill Creek)</i>	7	24,085	226	80	64	67	3	

Visitor Counts

Visitation statistics are obtained via trail counters placed along trails. These trail counters emit an infrared beam that is “broken” when a visitor passes the counter. These “breaks” register a count or “visit.”

Trail counter data shows visitation numbers and trends, helping quantify how many people enjoy their public lands and how important watershed education is!

Methods

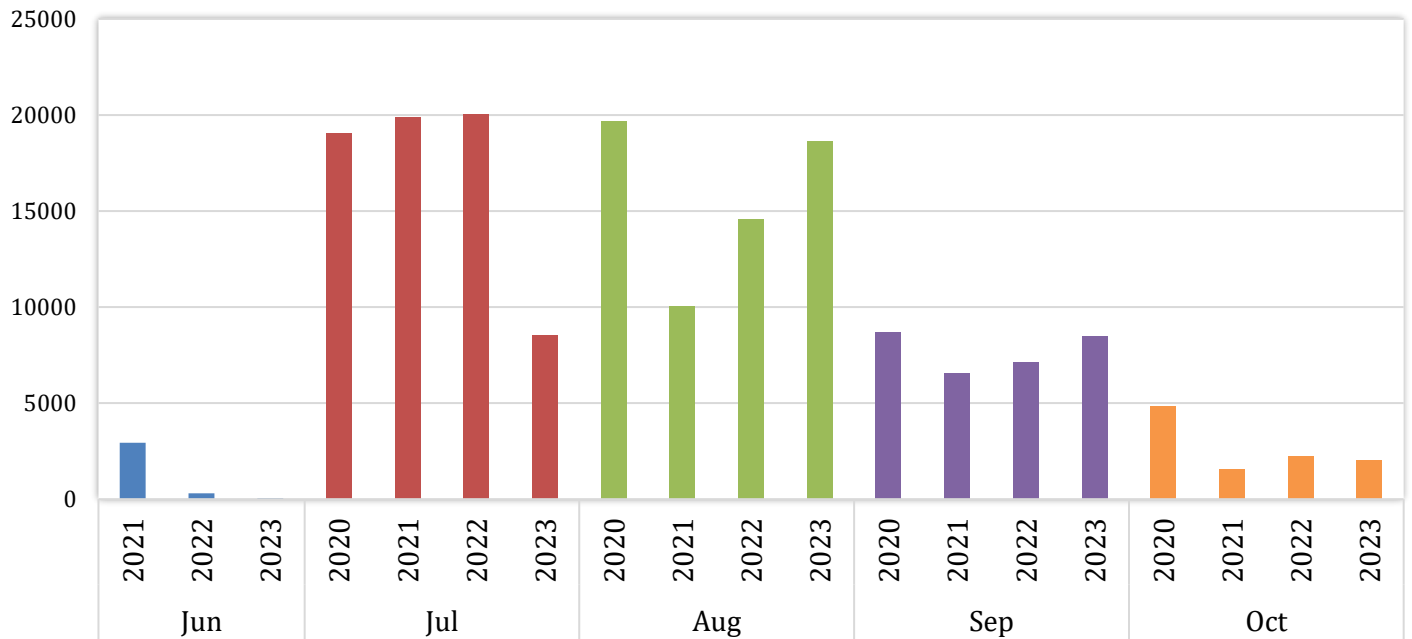
Trail counters count visitors coming *and* going when they walk by a counter on the trail. To more accurately measure visitation, these totals are divided by 2 to count total visitors on an out-and-back trail.

Low visitation in early spring (June) and late fall (October and November) are often related to winter conditions (cold, wet weather and/or icy, muddy trail conditions). For example, spring 2023 followed a record-breaking snowfall the winter before, delaying the normal access to trails (i.e., the opening of the Alta Summer Road was delayed a couple months, which is apparent in the visitation numbers to Cecret Lake). November totals are included for lower elevation trails to demonstrate visitation occurs year round, often regardless or because of weather!

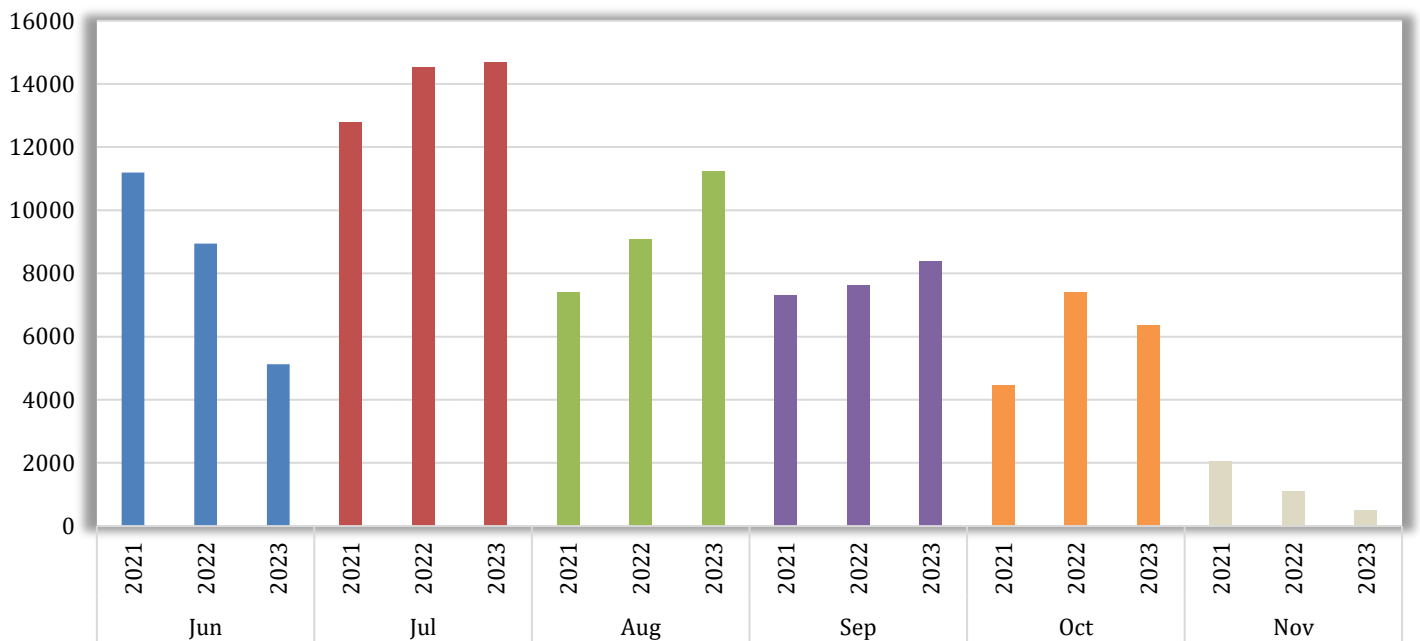
The x and y axis lines (visitor counts and date ranges) may vary per graph.

Little Cottonwood Canyon

Secret Lake Visits - Months by Year (2020 - 2023)

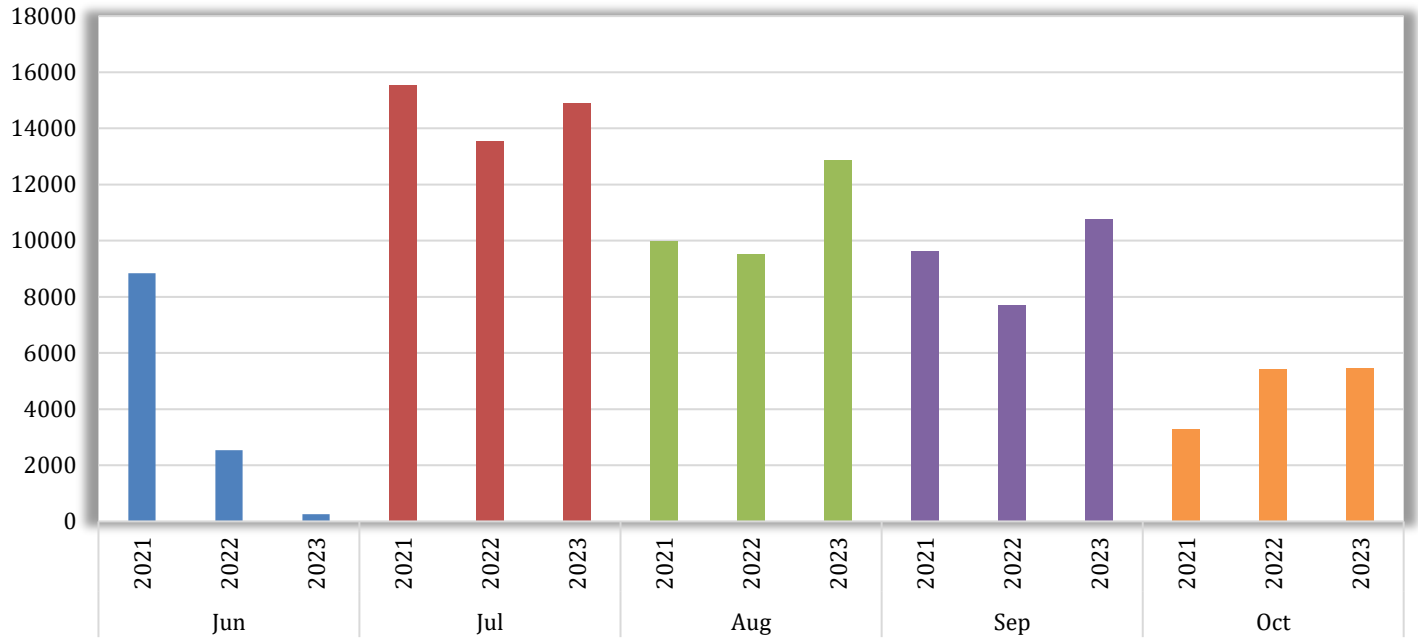


White Pine Visits - Months by Year (2021 - 2023)

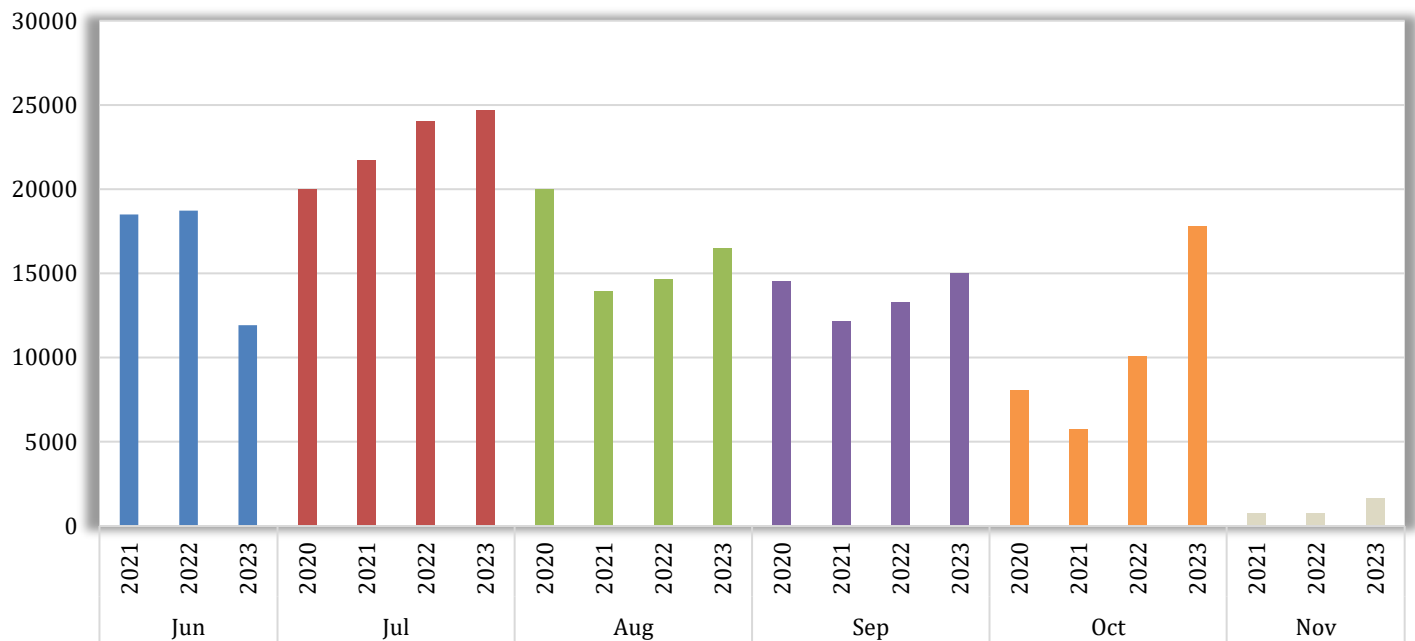


Big Cottonwood Canyon

Lake Mary Visits - Months by Year (2021 - 2023)



Donut Falls Visits - Months by Year (2020 - 2023)

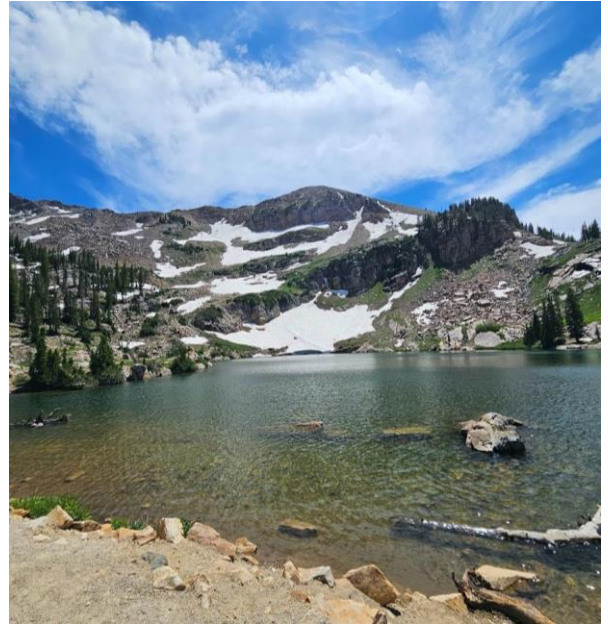


Park Rangers: Little Cottonwood Canyon

Typically, 1- 2 Park Rangers staffed Little Cottonwood Canyon each day. One ranger focused on the Albion Basin area, while the second ranger visited other popular locations throughout LCC. Scheduled work occurred Fridays - Mondays, generally 8am-6pm, though hours shifted to cover the “golden hours” (until 8pm) in July and August. Due to high snow levels, patrol dates in alpine areas began in July.

Accomplishments

- Two employees in the canyon increased visitor contacts on popular trails and in areas less frequented by Park Rangers!
- Albion Meadow closure efforts are effective
 - Ropes along trails discourage off trail travel
 - Photo pull-offs allow visitors to take photos with flowers while not trampling plants
 - Stationing an employee at the start of the Albion Meadows trail ensured each hiker heard important educational messaging
- Most dogs are turned away by the Fee Booth; most dogs encountered had an Alta permit. Owners were reminded to pick up all waste and were suggested to hike less-visual areas
- An overnight patrol to Red Pine Lake allowed employees to interact with backpackers and early morning hikers; 16 illegal fire rings were restored to a natural setting
- A large, elaborate structure along the Little Cottonwood Trail was deconstructed



A sunny day at Cecret Lake

Recommendations

- Increase watershed signage rules (especially no wading/touching water at Cecret Lake)
- White Pine experiences high visitation levels and could benefit from increased Forest Service presence to provide interpretive tabling and patrols to Gloria Falls
- Coordinate with Snowbird to host an educational table at Oktoberfest 2024, educating visitors about the National Forest that they are in

Park Rangers: Big Cottonwood Canyon – add new signs at Cardiff

Typically, 2-3 Park Rangers staffed Big Cottonwood Canyon, with 2 rangers in the Silver Lake area, and 1 ranger near Cardiff Meadow and Donut Falls areas. Patrols occurred Friday – Monday, from 8am through 6pm, with additional staffing during the “golden hours” (until 8pm). Staffing in Big Cottonwood occurred from May through October.

Accomplishments

- Park Rangers posted informational detour signs around Silver Lake while segmental boardwalk construction occurred throughout the season (altered access to Twin Lakes and Lake Solitude for several months)
- Park Rangers and Cottonwood Canyon Foundation Naturalists were stationed in and out of the Visitor Center providing naturalist education, explanation of rules, and enforcement. Park Rangers stationed themselves at points of interest and roved the boardwalk to engage with visitors.
- Successfully implemented Donut Falls detour around washouts and bridge damage (via signage and ropes) directing people to hike the road
- Cardiff boardwalk and new natural sections of trail were completed, connecting the highway parking to the upper Dontu Falls trailhead.
 - Coordination efforts to design/implement new signs in the Cardiff Meadow
- Pop-up interpretive tables at Cardiff and Donut Falls trailheads led to increased education regarding plants, animals, watershed rules
- Patrols to other lakes like Lake Mary, Twin Lakes, Lake Solitude, Lake Blanche and Dog Lake proved beneficial, especially to highlight watershed education
- New signs emphasizing watershed rules (no dogs in cars, no swimming, wading, water play) were put up around Cardiff and at Donut Falls
 - Metal “No Dogs Allowed” signs were placed at the entrance to Silver Lake Visitor Center parking and at the entrance to Donut Falls trailhead parking
 - No swimming/wading signs were installed hot spots along Big Cottonwood Road

Big Thanks to the Watershed Team for the new signs

Recommendations

- Continued signage emphasizing dogs are not allowed in the canyon (not even in cars)
- Signage explaining the new construction of Silver Lake boardwalk may be helpful
 - Completion dates
 - Types of wood, treatment used
 - product selection (wood vs Trex)
- Interpretive tables provide a friendly educational opportunity to explain rules by getting visitors engaged and excited about the area. Hosting these on weekends, especially at Cardiff or the Donut Falls trailhead, is vital.



New Boardwalk at Cardiff Meadows

Trails and Wilderness: Backcountry Rangers

The trails and wilderness's Backcountry Rangers crew had 1-3 FPO Backcountry Rangers on trails over 13 weekends, holidays (July 4, Labor Day, Columbus Day) and festivals (Wildflower Festival). Patrols in Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons occurred on all major trails and alpine lakes and a few less popular areas such as Maybird Gulch, Days Fork, Broads Fork, and a few more!

Accomplishments

- Trails logged out (>30 trees) with chainsaws and crosscut saws
- Ten incident reports written for watershed violations
- Managed 76 hours of volunteer watershed education patrols with Kristin Thomas (nearly \$2500 in volunteer labor)
- Lead interpretive talk with Wasatch Mountain Club on the history of the watershed
- Installed 4 new trails maps (2 at Blanche Lake, 2 at Red/White Pine)
- Updates signs on all wooden trails kiosks in BCC and LCC
- Installed hiking signs along Donut Falls trail
- Scouted Donut Falls, White Pine, and Maybird bridges for replacements
- Scouted alignment for new Gloria Falls trail

Recommendations

- Better, fewer, simpler signs at each trailhead
 - Focus on: No dogs, No swimming – both with images
- New no dog and no swimming road signs at the bottom of Big and Little Cottonwood
 - Big and simple text
 - Replace electronic UDOT sign with permanent sign
- Reduce overall signage and concentrate on a few large focal point signs
 - Reduce temporary signs
 - Secure posts for larger, permanent signs
- Solution for the end of the Donut Falls trail



Simple message and image

Conclusion

The successful SLRD - SLCPU partnership provides critical watershed education to thousands of visitors a year. This effort protects the watershed while providing diverse recreation opportunities to millions of visitors. This report highlights the impressive accomplishments our teams achieved and acknowledges what more we can do, especially as these areas remain popular with new and longtime visitors.

Recommendations from all SLRD crews:

- Continue to streamline signage with consistent messaging throughout the canyons
 - Coordinate SLCPU, SLRD, UDOT messaging (i.e. “dogs not allowed in canyon”; try and incorporate “not even in cars” in messaging)
 - Signs in foreign languages, especially Spanish, to accommodate diverse visitation
- Continue adequate staffing to allow Forest Service education and presence throughout Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons
- Continue extended “golden hour” patrol during peak wildflower season in Little Cottonwood and fall colors season in Big Cottonwood
- Remain focused on educating photographers (photography pamphlet, educational conversations) as a great opportunity for photographers to share resource protection messages with their colleagues and clients.

THANK YOU!

Thanks to Salt Lake City Public Utilities for their continued commitment to this partnership and passion for watershed protection through visitor education.

And of course, much gratitude is owed to the enthusiastic, dedicated Forest Service and Watershed employees who provide positive and informative visitor contacts to protect our watershed, wilderness areas, and public lands.



Woodsy Owl hangs out in Little Cottonwood Canyon at Alta Kids Day