

Zion Canyon Visitor Bureau

The Zion Plein Air Event will be held from November 3 - 8, 2025. Zion Forever Project and Worthington Gallery will co-sponsor it again this year. They are still looking for a few homes for the artists during their stay; the contact is Tiffany Stauffer at ZFP.

Friday, June 20, was the busiest day in history for the Zion National Park Visitor Center. Matthew Watson from Greater Zion reported that the Transient Room Tax increased as of July 1, with the addition of the state TRT tax. The County increase is one year out. Greater Zion is running ads to promote the Suntran shuttle to visitors.

ULCT Housing Advisory Group

In their interim session, the Legislature talked a lot about ADUs and what should be decided locally rather than at a state level. Those discussions are ongoing.

They are also talking a lot about small houses on small lots.

The tactics still “in play” in the state housing plan include division of sales tax in the state that disincentivizes housing and residential exemption with respect to rental properties.

A tool kit is being developed to help municipalities with creating “missing middle” housing. There will be a special legislative session in September, but housing items will probably not be included on the agenda.

Conservation in the Zion Region Meeting

Representatives from Zion Forever Project, the Nature Conservancy, The Conservation Fund, the Virgin River Program, Town of Rockville, Town of Springdale, Utah Division of Wildlife, and Virgin River Land Preservation Association met to discuss conservation easements, projects, etc., in the SR-9 corridor. The purpose was to document these items for the Corridor Management Plan.

Gavin from The Conservation Fund said the land at Kolob Terrace formerly slated for a large glamping resort was recently sold, and the new owner seems conservation minded. He doesn't want overnight stays.

The Nature Conservancy owns five properties in Washington County; the one best known to us is Sheep Bridge, but they also own a couple of easements in Rockville.

Zion National Park Visitor Use Management Subcommittee

Analyses of the Grotto area and the Kolob Terrace areas show that visitation is within the allowable levels for a desired visitor experience. This does consider the permit system for Angels Landing, so that will continue for the foreseeable future.

The Narrows, on the other hand, is overcrowded.

We are supposed to make a recommendation by August but are asking for an extension to February 2026.

Dept of the Interior's Strengthening Coordination with National Park Gateway Communities Webinar: Implementing Secretary's Order 3434

Mayor Barbara Bruno
Council Department Report
August 2025

Executive Order 3434: Enhance coordination and partnerships with gateway communities; deepen collaborative planning; commitment to meaningful engagement; institutionalize shared stewardship (signed by Secretary Doug Burgum on June 25, 2025) Every Park must designate a Gateway Community Coordinator, who will hold quarterly coordination meetings (beginning Fall 2025). They will incorporate community input into planning, engage in technical and financial assistance, and integrate into Employee Performance Plans

There will be no big changes (timed entry, reservation systems) in the current busy season
Send questions to: OIEA@ios.doi.gov

ZRC Update

SITLA has selected a buyer for their parcel on the La Verkin Mesa but are not naming it at this time. There is supposed to be a small component of affordable housing.

Washington County Mayors' Meeting

Bridgette Butynski with the County Emergency Operations group gave an update on the Forsyth fire (Pine Valley). The fire is at 99 percent containment, but there is a spot on the top of the ridge that they can't reach. Firefighters are up there every day watching for hot spots. There will be some smoke throughout October (or even November), but the fire should not move outside the area of containment.

Bridget also talked about the evacuation process. They have created an interactive map so people can type in their address and find out if they are in an evacuation area. This should be helpful for the whole county in the future. There will be some county-wide education on this. Zach Renstrom from the Water Conservancy District showed a graph showing that this is the second-driest year on record. However, our reservoirs are in good shape with water levels. He also talked about the impact the ash and burnt organic materials will have on the rivers downstream. Some of the endangered fish will die, which could change what we're allowed to do in the Virgin River. This will mostly likely be downstream from us.