



DEPARTMENT of
PUBLIC LANDS

Public Lands Director Update – Thursday, October 2nd

Dry Creek Fire Update

At 4:35 p.m. on September 30, a grass fire near Dry Creek Canyon (approximately 2 N Medical Drive) was reported.

As of 6:00 p.m. on October 1, the fire has burned approximately 89 acres of light, flashy fuels in steep terrain at the head of the Dry Creek drainage on the lower west slopes of Black Mountain. Recent rain assisted the roughly 40 state firefighters and a Type 3 helicopter, which transported equipment and conducted water drops over the past 36 hours. The fire is currently 90% contained, with full containment expected by the weekend.

Popperton Park was used as a fire camp and staging area through Wednesday and has now reopened to the public. Local trail closures remain in effect while cold-trailing efforts continue. TNL, Parks, and Park Rangers all assisted in the response.

Cemetery

The Cemetery is preparing for the burial of President Nelson of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Staff are adjusting operations and have received support from Urban Forestry and the Streets Division to prepare for this high-profile event.

Rosewood Park Partnership

- Salt Lake City and the Salt Lake City School District are teaming up to make sure West High School students have a great place for sports and activities while their school is being renovated. Rosewood Park (1400 N. 1200 W.) will serve as their temporary home field.
- West High School will use the Rosewood facilities for sports practices, games, and activities until 2032 and may be extended for an additional year.
- The park will remain open to the public with the Cricket Pitch unaffected and the public may use the baseball and softball fields when not in use by the school district.
- The inter-local agreement was recorded on Monday.

Internal Operations

- On September 10, the Public Lands leadership team hosted the annual burrito breakfast, prepping and serving all full-time, seasonal, and part-time employees. The event was well attended and provided an opportunity to show our appreciation as the summer season winds down.
- In September, the department conducted an employee survey. We received a record number of responses, and the input will directly shape how we support staff and continue to improve our services to both our internal and external customers. Survey results are currently under review.