



DEPARTMENT of **PUBLIC LANDS**

Public Lands Updates **Parks, Natural Lands, Urban Forestry & Trails Advisory Board** **Thursday, February 5**

Urban Forestry:

The Urban Forestry Division is proud to report that operational efficiency and a lot of hard work over the last 8 months has enabled the Division to catch up on all backlogged tree maintenance work that has been requested by our residents. As a result, the Urban Forestry Division is able to direct operational resources to proactive tree maintenance work for the first 3 to 4 months of this year. To take advantage of this opportunity, the Urban Forestry Division will seek to complete the pruning of all median island and city facility parking lot trees throughout the entire city (as well as pruning a significant number of trees in the City's most used parks). Additionally, the UF Division has developed work orders for contracted crews to proactively prune neighborhood street blocks (over the next 3 months) in every City Council District. This is, by far, the most efficient and beneficial way to maintain the urban forest, and will result in healthier and more structurally stable street trees.

Parks:

The 2000+lb Liberty Bell from Memory Grove has been removed so that it's wooden support structure can be renovated. The Parks Facility Maintenance group is collaborating with City engineers as they work their magic for an efficient turnaround of the sturdy structure. We will send pictures as the installation nears.

Park Ranger Program:

Rangers have partnered with the Public Lands events team to have Rangers lead all volunteer events. The first one was a JRT cleanup on Tuesday, 1/20 and went very well. Looking forward to the increased collaboration enhancing our capacity at these events and providing more of an educational/interpretive element that deepens the connection to city public lands.

Trails & Natural Lands:

The Jordan River Water Trail vegetation maintenance project will start up again on January 19 and should run through the spring until completed. In the fall, Diamond Tree Experts was contracted to clear invasive, dead, dangerous, and overgrown vegetation along the river's banks for 9 weeks from 1700 South River Park to 1300 South and 3 Creeks in Glendale and an additional 2 blocks in Rose Park along the Cornell Wetlands. The cleanup removed over 200 truck loads of debris which has improved the ecological health of the river corridor and vastly improved sight lines to increase safety along the Jordan River Trail. The goal for 2026 is to complete the cleanup of the rest of the City's riverbanks, beginning at 2100 South and heading north week by week until finishing at the City's boundary around 2400 North by the RAC. This is estimated to take 4-5 months. Trails & Natural Lands has partnered with the Urban Forestry Division, Parks Division, and the Utah DNR's Forest, Fire, and State Lands, which owns and

manages the river in leading this initiative. The funding for this project was seeded with TNL maintenance budget which was leveraged for a \$57K grant from Jordan River Commission and \$666K grant from Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation.

Golf:

The Bonneville, Forest Dale, Glendale, Nibley Park and Rose Park golf courses continue to open on a rotating schedule during the unseasonably warm and dry weather. Course staff are monitoring ongoing damage to turf from play and opening schedules may be altered on a case-by-case basis if needed. Demand continues to be high from resident and visitor play. Motorized carts typically will not be let out during weather of this type. Course opening status is listed daily at slc-golf.com.