

Bingham Creek Regional Park Authority | Minutes

Date/Time: April 20, 2026 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Location: South Jordan City Hall/ Zoom option

Board Members		Attendance
Don Tingey	Chair	Online
Lars Erickson	Vice Chair	Online
Angela McGuire	Board Member	Online
Amber Brown	Board Member	Online
Sonia Lopez	Board Member	Online
Colby Hill	South Jordan Representative	In-person
Patrick Leary	Salt Lake County Representative	Online

Others Present: Blake Jackson, Ambra Holland, Eli Wolk

This meeting was conducted both in person and electronically via Zoom. Agendas, recordings, and meeting minutes can be accessed on the Utah Public Notice site at utah.gov/pmn.

A. Welcome, Roll Call, and Introduction: *Board Chair, Don Tingey*

Board Chair Don Tingey brings the meeting to order.

B. Public Comment:

Board Chair Don Tingey opened the public hearing. There were no public comments. Board Chair Don Tingey closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

C. Minute Approval:

C.1. BCRPA Board Meeting, March 16, 2026

Action Item: Approval

Action: A motion to approve the March 16, 2026, BCRPA Board Meeting minutes was made by Board Member Amber Brown and seconded by Board Member Colby Hill. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Park Maintenance & Operations:

D.1. New Event or Field Requests, *Patrick Leary, Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation*

No field use or event requests were submitted for review this month.

Elijah Wolk attended the meeting to discuss a sanctioned Ultimate Frisbee tournament planned for July 11–12, 2025. Mr. Wolk explained that he represents the Utah Ultimate Disc Association, an affiliate of USA Ultimate, and that he anticipated hosting approximately 12 teams on three full-size

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soccer fields. Mr. Wolk confirmed that he had submitted an application through Diane Booth and that he had liability insurance coverage through USA Ultimate.

Discussion followed regarding whether the event had already received preliminary approval at a previous meeting. Board Chair Don Tingey and Vice Chair Lars Erickson recalled prior board discussion and indicated the event was likely conditionally approved pending submission of all required documentation.

Board Chair Don Tingey instructed Mr. Wolk to follow up directly with Diane Booth and noted that the Park Authority should also be listed as additionally insured.

Mr. Wolk thanked the board and stated he was also participating in the tournament and hoped to compete successfully.

Action Item: Review and approve, as deemed appropriate

D.2. Park Maintenance & Operation and Financial Update. *Patrick Leary and Blake Jackson Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation*

Blake Jackson presented the operations and maintenance report. He stated the park had recently undergone spring fertilization and would receive another application in approximately four weeks. Maintenance crews also responded to a sprinkler valve issue over the weekend involving irrigation for trees. He reported crews had also completed delayed seasonal cutbacks and noted that rose bushes, previously a concern after last summer, were showing strong recovery and new growth.

Mr. Jackson reported that organized soccer activities had begun, and demand for field space was extremely high. He discussed the challenges of coordinating field layouts across leagues with varying requirements and field dimensions. He also explained the park was still working through issues involving soccer goals, as the original concept envisioned park-owned goals to allow better control over field placement. Some organizations were currently bringing their own goals to the facility.

Mr. Jackson also described problems encountered with newly purchased robotic field-painting equipment. Although designed to operate using GPS technology, moisture on the grass caused the plastic wheels to spin and malfunction, turning what should have been a short process into a two-day project. Staff may return to traditional painting methods if necessary.

Mr. Jackson provided additional detail regarding the increasing demand on the soccer fields and the challenges associated with maintaining healthy turf conditions while accommodating both organized league play and heavy public drop-in use. He explained that the original design concept for the large soccer field area included six separate field allotments, with the intention that two areas could periodically rest and recover while the remaining fields stayed active. However, due to the unexpectedly high demand for both scheduled league play and informal drop-in use, the entire field complex is now being utilized regularly, leaving little opportunity for turf recovery.

Mr. Jackson noted that multiple organizations are using the fields simultaneously, including Salt Lake County recreation programs and various soccer clubs, all of which require slightly different field dimensions and layouts. This has resulted in staff needing to maximize nearly every available section

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of turf within the park to accommodate scheduling needs. He stated that although the park appears to have significant open space, the combination of organized leagues and informal use has created much heavier field demand than originally anticipated.

Discussion also focused on possible overflow use areas and safety considerations. Mr. Jackson explained that if additional field space becomes necessary, younger children may be relocated to grassy areas near 10200 South. Board Member Angela McGuire expressed concern about safety given the proximity to the roadway in that area. Mr. Jackson recommended installing temporary fencing similar to orange snow fencing to provide a safety barrier between play areas and nearby roadways. He emphasized that staff hope such measures will not become necessary, but acknowledged they have had to think creatively about ways to manage the high volume of recreational use.

Board Member Amber Brown asked how staff determine when fields require rest or recovery. Mr. Jackson explained that staff closely monitor turf conditions, particularly around heavily used goal areas where wear and tear are most visible. He stated that decisions would be based on whether the grass could adequately recover between uses. He further explained that some fields run north-south, while others run east-west due to spacing constraints, creating a patchwork arrangement within the larger soccer complex. Because this is the park's first full season of organized soccer use, staff are still learning how the turf will respond under sustained activity levels.

Mr. Jackson stated that maintenance crews are attempting to stay proactive by maintaining an aggressive fertilization and nutrient program to encourage turf recovery and growth. He noted that the park turf is still relatively new and only beginning to fully emerge from winter dormancy. He added that favorable weather conditions, including recent snow followed by warmer temperatures, were helping stimulate healthy grass growth. At the time of the meeting, he reported the fields were holding up well, though staff planned to continue evaluating conditions on a week-by-week basis throughout the soccer season.

Board Member Angela McGuire asked whether portions of the fields could be fenced off periodically to allow areas to rest and recover. Mr. Jackson responded that while such an approach would be beneficial in theory, it would be extremely difficult to enforce because the park remains open to the public. He explained that even after organized leagues conclude their seasons, substantial drop-in use continues, including teams and clubs practicing informally at the park. Because the fields are publicly accessible when not formally reserved, staff have limited ability to prevent people from entering closed areas, and temporary fencing would likely be ignored or removed by users.

The board also discussed the use and placement of soccer goals. Board Chair Don Tingey asked whether goals remained permanently positioned on the fields, noting that goal areas typically experience the greatest turf damage. Mr. Jackson clarified that the goals are not permanent and can be moved by the leagues using them. Staff have designated storage and staging locations for the goals, including a fenced area on the west side of the parking lot to help prevent vandalism and damage. He explained that leagues typically move the goals aside after games and often secure them together with chains. Mr. Jackson indicated that the ability to move the goals does help reduce concentrated wear and tear in specific areas of the fields.

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Board Member Colby Hill updated the board regarding recent action taken by the Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District, explaining that the district had officially moved to Level 2 drought restrictions. He stated that under the Level 2 designation, municipalities and other water users supplied by the district are being asked to voluntarily reduce irrigation and outdoor water usage by approximately 10 percent. Mr. Hill explained that South Jordan City was already developing its own water-reduction strategy and identifying areas where irrigation could be reasonably scaled back while still preserving important public assets and recreational spaces.

Mr. Hill raised the question of how Bingham Creek Regional Park should respond to the water conservation request, given that the park is one of the larger water users in South Jordan City due to its extensive turf areas and sports fields. He emphasized that the board should begin discussing a long-term strategy to balance conservation goals with protecting the park's infrastructure and recreational investments.

Blake Jackson explained that Salt Lake County Parks had also been directed by county leadership to develop drought response plans across all county-managed facilities. He stated that the county's strategy would focus on identifying passive turf areas or less critical landscaped sections where irrigation could be reduced more aggressively to preserve water for higher-priority assets. Mr. Jackson specifically identified the park's trees and athletic fields as the most critical assets requiring continued protection. He noted that trees represent a major long-term investment and are difficult and expensive to replace if damaged due to drought stress. Similarly, he explained that the sports fields require adequate irrigation to recover from heavy use and remain safe and functional for recreation programming.

Mr. Jackson stated that while irrigation reductions could likely occur in non-essential turf areas, the county did not intend to significantly reduce watering on the primary soccer fields due to the high level of recreational activity there. He noted that county leadership strongly supported protecting these core recreational assets even while participating in overall conservation efforts. He further explained that the county's approach would likely involve reducing irrigation percentages in selected passive areas to offset the need for maintaining more consistent watering levels in heavily used areas of the park.

Board members discussed the increasing pressure on the soccer fields due to high usage levels and acknowledged that reduced watering could negatively impact turf recovery. Board Member Colby Hill suggested the board may eventually need to evaluate whether recreational usage levels should also be adjusted if drought conditions worsen, particularly because turf requires sufficient irrigation to recover from the wear associated with league play and public use.

Discussion also focused on the possibility of future drought escalation. Blake Jackson asked what additional restrictions might occur if the district were to move to a Level 3 drought designation. Board Member Colby Hill responded that while current reservoir storage levels still provide a multi-year water supply, another low-snowpack winter could result in more severe mandatory restrictions in future years. He noted that future drought levels could involve stricter irrigation limitations rather than the current voluntary reduction requests.

Mr. Jackson emphasized the importance of planning proactively rather than reacting to worsening conditions later in the season. He stated that while a 10 percent reduction was manageable, staff

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also needed to begin considering how the park would operate under more severe restrictions if conditions deteriorated in future years. He requested additional information regarding South Jordan City's drought response plans so county staff could incorporate similar long-term planning strategies.

Additional concerns were raised regarding the quality and availability of water later in the summer season due to the reduced mountain snowpack. Blake Jackson explained that lower snowpack could impact not only the quantity of available water but also water quality later in the year. Board Member Colby Hill added that secondary irrigation systems and canal supplies may also become increasingly limited if Utah Lake levels decline significantly during the summer months, potentially forcing municipalities to rely more heavily on potable water supplies.

Board members expressed general agreement with the proposed conservation approach and supported prioritizing irrigation for trees and critical recreation areas while reducing water use in less essential portions of the park. Board members voiced support for preserving the park's long-term investments while remaining mindful of responsible water conservation practices. Board Chair Don Tingey requested that staff continue providing regular updates on drought conditions, water-use strategies, and any future operational impacts related to irrigation restrictions, so the board could remain informed and prepared to respond proactively if conditions change.

E. Future Park Development:

E.1. 4800 W Tunnel Mural Art, Sub-Committee update

Board Chair Don Tingey provided an update regarding the 4800 West tunnel mural project. He reported the mural subcommittee had met with an artist and was continuing to move forward with planning efforts. The next committee meeting was scheduled for the following Tuesday.

E.2. Future Small/Medium Project(s), Board

Board Member Angela McGuire presented a detailed update from the small projects subcommittee and explained that she, Board Member Amber Brown, and Vice Chair Lars Erickson recently conducted an on-site visit to evaluate potential improvements that could enhance the park experience while remaining relatively modest in cost and implementation. During the visit, the committee focused on identifying projects that would improve comfort, usability, and recreational enjoyment for both families and spectators utilizing the park's playground and athletic facilities (Exhibit A).

One of the first concepts discussed by the committee was the possible addition of cooling or misting features near the playground and soccer viewing areas. Board Member Angela McGuire explained that the idea originated from observing the high level of activity occurring at the park during warmer months and recognizing the limited opportunities for visitors to cool down, particularly parents, children, and spectators attending soccer events. The committee discussed the possibility of small misting structures or cooling stations that could provide relief from the summer heat while also enhancing the family-friendly atmosphere of the park.

Board members noted that the proposed features were envisioned more as small-scale cooling amenities rather than large splash pad installations. However, after further discussion regarding

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ongoing drought conditions and recent water conservation measures announced by Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District, concerns were raised about both the optics and practicality of introducing new water-related recreational features during a period of requested conservation. Board Member Colby Hill commented that while water usage from small misters may not be significant, the public perception of adding water amenities during drought conditions could send conflicting messaging. Board members generally agreed that although the concept had merit, it may not be the appropriate time to pursue water-based improvements.

The committee also explored ideas for increasing passive recreational opportunities within the park by utilizing the existing berms and hillside areas overlooking the soccer fields. Board Member Angela McGuire explained that the committee discussed installing porch-style or scenic swings along the hillsides to create comfortable viewing areas where visitors could relax while watching games or simply enjoying the mountain views and open space. She noted that the concept was inspired in part by similar installations observed at other parks, including a family park in Lehi that incorporated hillside swings overlooking recreational areas.

Board members responded favorably to the proposal and discussed installing several individual swing structures along the berms. Board Chair Don Tingey commented that the swings could become a unique recreational feature that would complement the park's leisure-oriented atmosphere and better utilize the elevated viewing areas. Discussion also included potential concerns regarding durability, safety, and procurement requirements. Board Member Angela McGuire asked whether custom design work would be necessary for the swings and their support footings. Vice Chair Lars Erickson recommended working through established playground or recreation vendors who could provide engineered, off-the-shelf products with installation specifications already included. The board discussed obtaining estimates through approved vendors and coordinating with Salt Lake County purchasing processes. Board Chair Don Tingey indicated he would work with Board Member Colby Hill, Blake Jackson, and county staff to begin exploring pricing and procurement options for the proposed swings.

In addition to the larger conceptual projects, the committee also identified a smaller immediate improvement opportunity involving the playground swing area. Board Member Angela McGuire explained that during the site visit, the committee observed older children attempting to use toddler bucket swings because there were limited swing options available for larger children. Based on those observations, the committee proposed replacing several of the toddler swings with standard belt swings or potentially adding a larger group-style swing to better accommodate a wider age range of park users. Blake Jackson stated that modifying the existing swings should be relatively straightforward and feasible from a maintenance standpoint. Board members generally agreed this would be a practical improvement that could quickly address an observed recreational need.

Board Member Sonia Lopez then shared feedback she had personally received from park visitors regarding the lack of shade over portions of the playground area. She explained that several families had approached her while she was visiting the park and expressed concerns about playground equipment becoming excessively hot during the summer months. She noted that many newer parks in warmer climates have begun incorporating shade structures over playgrounds to improve comfort and safety for children and caregivers.

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The board discussed several possible shade options, including shade sails and pavilion-style structures. Board Member Angela McGuire asked Vice Chair Lars Erickson about potential costs associated with installing shade over the playground itself. Mr. Erickson estimated that larger permanent shade structures could potentially exceed \$100,000 depending on size and scope. Board Member Colby Hill noted that South Jordan City had previously installed shade sails at another park at a somewhat lower cost by utilizing city crews for portions of the installation work. Although no decisions were made, board members agreed that additional shade would likely be a beneficial long-term enhancement for the park and could continue to be explored as part of future phases of park development and funding opportunities.

E.3. Wasatch Garden's update

Board Chair Don Tingey then reported on discussions with Wasatch Gardens. He stated the organization was undergoing leadership and organizational changes and intended to revisit community engagement efforts later in the year. He indicated Bingham Creek Regional Park could still be considered as a potential future location for a Southwest Valley garden concept.

E.4. ZAP application (Park Master Plan) discussion

The board next discussed updates regarding the Zoo, Arts, and Parks (ZAP) grant application process. Board Chair Don Tingey informed the board that Salt Lake County had officially opened the ZAP grant application period, with applications due May 22, 2026. He explained the park's recent master planning work positioned the project favorably for funding opportunities. Board Member Angela McGuire noted that many of the board's recommendations had been incorporated into the updated master plan, including concepts for interactive play areas, splash pad elements, garden spaces, and the mountain view area.

Discussion also occurred regarding a proposed "administration building" identified within the planning documents. Board Member Angela McGuire stated the board had not previously prioritized such a facility. Board Chair Don Tingey agreed to follow up for clarification and noted that the board had previously discussed, instead, potential pickleball courts, a dog park, and other phased recreational improvements.

F. Stakeholder Relationships

F.1. Stakeholder relationship update, Sonia Lopez, Board Member

Board Member Sonia Lopez provided an update regarding stakeholder relationships, public outreach efforts, and social media engagement for Bingham Creek Regional Park. She reported that recent social media posts highlighting the newly completed mural artwork in the restrooms had generated significant positive public feedback and engagement, particularly on Instagram. She stated that community members responded very favorably to the colorful artwork and appreciated seeing visible improvements and creative elements being added to the park. She noted that the mural posts helped create excitement and increased awareness about ongoing enhancements occurring at the facility.

Ms. Lopez explained that with warmer weather and increased recreational activity beginning at the park, she planned to spend more time onsite capturing photographs and video content featuring park

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users, soccer activities, community events, and general park activation. She stated that her goal was to showcase the park as an active and vibrant regional destination by highlighting families, organized sports, and community gatherings occurring throughout the season. Board Chair Don Tingey encouraged these efforts and noted that images showing the high level of public use and recreation would help communicate the park's value and success to the broader community.

Ms. Lopez also stated she intended to highlight scheduled events and ongoing improvements through future social media posts and invited board members to share any historical information, interesting facts, or park-related stories that could be incorporated into future content. She explained that adding background information and educational elements could help strengthen community connection and increase public interest in the park.

The board then discussed social media performance and public engagement trends. Board Member Angela McGuire observed that the park's Instagram account appeared to receive substantially more interaction and engagement than its Facebook account. Board Member Sonia Lopez agreed and explained that Instagram currently appears to be more user-friendly and more effective at reaching the park's audience, while Facebook's algorithms make posts more difficult for users to consistently see unless they actively search for them. She stated that she attempts to increase visibility by tagging park locations and sharing content through personal networks when appropriate.

Discussion also addressed the potential expansion of social media platforms. Board Member Sonia Lopez mentioned that short-form video platforms such as TikTok could potentially generate even greater public engagement and provide opportunities for more interactive content, including behind-the-scenes videos featuring park maintenance staff, project development updates, and construction progress for future improvements. However, Board Member Amber Brown noted that some government entities face restrictions on TikTok use. Following the discussion, the board generally agreed to continue focusing efforts primarily on Instagram and Facebook at this time.

The board also discussed ideas to increase public interaction and visibility within the park. Board Member Sonia Lopez suggested incorporating QR codes or signage at the park to direct visitors to the park's social media pages, provide information about features such as the restroom murals, or encourage visitors to share photos using designated hashtags. She explained that such features could help strengthen the park's online presence and encourage greater community participation and awareness.

In addition, Board Member Sonia Lopez offered to assist with future public communication efforts regarding drought conditions and water conservation messaging. She stated that if the city or board wished to provide educational information to park users regarding irrigation reductions or conservation efforts, she could coordinate social media posts to help communicate consistent messaging to the public. Board Chair Don Tingey responded that he would coordinate with city staff so that future conservation-related messaging on the park's social media platforms would align with municipal communications and outreach efforts.

G. Public Stewardship:

G.1. Park Authority Monthly Financial Report(s)

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Board Chair Don Tingey briefly reviewed the financial report and stated financial accounts remained in good standing. He noted the park's certificate of deposit would mature during the month and funds would likely remain temporarily in a money market account while final county payment details were resolved.

Informational Items:

- G.2. Next meeting (May 18) agenda item(s) discussion, *Board*
- Field Requests | 4800 W Tunnel Mural | Small Projects update | ZAP Application update
- G.3. Future meeting(s) agenda item(s) discussion, *Board*
- Field Requests | 4800 W Tunnel Mural | Small Projects update | ZAP Application update

Board Chair Don Tingey provided an update regarding the Bingham Creek Regional Trail project. He stated construction on the first phase connecting the park to Mountain View Corridor was expected to begin later in the summer. He further reported the state had prioritized the future extension from Mountain View Corridor to Copperton, with completion anticipated by 2029. Additional funding had also been secured to improve neighborhood connectivity along the route.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned following board approval.

This is a true and correct copy of the April 20, 2026, Bingham Creek Regional Park Authority Meeting Minutes, which were approved on May 18, 2026.

EXHIBIT A





