



FLOOD CONTROL
PARKS & RECREATION

Media Release

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Wheeler Historic Farm Flood Control Plan and Urban Canopy Revitalization

Murray, UT – In preparation for emergency flood response at [Wheeler Historic Farm](#) and surrounding properties, Salt Lake County Flood Control and Parks and Recreation are taking proactive measures to protect persons and property. Numerous trees are being removed and replaced to:

- Ensure the integrity of the dam embankment and detention basin located at the farm.
- Establish an urban forestry, outside of the dam embankment, to offer shade, oxygen, nutrients, and protection for generations of humans and animals.

These efforts align with the County's commitment to long-term planning to prepare for emergency flooding and changing environmental landscapes.

Background

More than 25 years ago, with the help of Federal funding, a detention basin was constructed to reduce the impact of flooding below Wheeler Historic Farm on Little Cottonwood Creek to prevent property damage and personal injury. Salt Lake County Flood Control along with Utah Dam Safety identified 120 trees adjacent to Little Cottonwood Creek and on detention basin that require removal to ensure the structural integrity of the dam embankment, to improve emergency water runoff management, and to revitalize the streambank.

Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation worked with Utah State University's Extension program to create a conceptual tree-planting plan that details replacement tree species and planting locations in areas that do not compromise the dam. The proposed nodes will provide outdoor educational opportunities and shade for visitors.

In preparation for Flood Control's tree removal efforts, clearing of downed trees and debris along the creek and on the dam embankment began in 2022. Due to the need to respond to emergency flood control activities, these efforts were temporarily paused through July 2023 and reconvened in September of 2023. The first batch of new trees were planted by [Tree Utah](#) and volunteers on September 2.

More information: slco.to/talking-trees

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