

Wheeler Farm Master Plan Update

Overall Master Plan

- This update to the overall master plan for Wheeler Farm includes the following:
- Improvements around the historic Farm House, historic buildings, animal and equipment displays (See enlargement plan.)
 - Improvements to the east side of Little Cottonwood Creek, to include new arboretum plantings and picnic areas. (See enlarged plan.)
 - Expanded parking in the north and south parking area to provide additional event parking.
 - New parking off 6600 South (just east of Little Cottonwood Creek) and a new pedestrian bridge from the parking lot across the Jordan & Salt Lake Canal.
 - A wider, more prominent pedestrian entry at the northeast side of the Activity Center to provide better visual cues to the main entry of the building.
 - New fruit orchard plantings south of the demo gardens near the Activity Center.
 - New grading in all of the pasture areas to provide adequate stormwater runoff.
 - A new Education Center in the southeast side of the main park area, to include adjacent demonstration gardens.
 - Update of amphitheater facilities, including reseeding of sloped seating area.
 - Restore stream banks along eroded areas of Little Cottonwood Creek

Historic Buildings & Farm Display (See area enlargement Exhibit)

- The historic building & farm display areas will be reorganized with a central pedestrian spine (or "Main Street") circulation route, with the following improvements:
- An accessible route on the central spine that provides an accessible surface that complements the historic nature of this area of the park (e.g. crushed granite, soil cement, etc.)
 - An expanded courtyard area at both ends of the spine and another at the center.
 - New blacksmith shop and country store/concessions building just north of the Farm House on the south courtyard. This concessions area is located at a prime entry point for most visitors and will provide a location for ticket sales to the programmed activities in the park.
 - Restore former store & blacksmith building to original use as a calf barn.
 - An existing tree row will form the east boundary of the pedestrian spine and a new row of trees will be planted on the west side to reinforce the circulation through the area.
 - Most animal pens will be located on the west side of the pedestrian spine and the water runoff (from storm or cleaning) will drain to the west behind the pens and away from pedestrian foot traffic.
 - The horse pasture areas will be regraded to provide proper drainage to a swale behind the animal pens.
 - Runoff from the animals and pastures will be collected in a single swale and run through a manufactured wetland area and piped to a wetland biofilter area for farm waste and runoff, before discharging into Little Cottonwood Creek.
 - A new maintenance area will be located to the north and east of the pedestrian spine, to include a maintenance/shop building, a wood shop, compost, storage buildings, and fuel tanks. Grading will be revised in this area to collect the runoff from this maintenance area so that any bio hazard spills can be contained before runoff enters Little Cottonwood Creek. The entire maintenance area will be screened from public view with a fence, wall, or heavy plantings.
 - A new wagon loading area will be located between the Milking Barn and the Machinery Display Barn. This new location will provide a separation between the pedestrian spine and the wagon route.
 - Open spaces between buildings along the pedestrian spine can be used for new display areas or new historic buildings that may be donated for display at the farm.
 - The pedestrian spine is anchored on both ends by iconic structures: the Farm House on the south and a yet to be determined building on the north. It is intended that the north anchor building be a building that has high cultural or historic attributes, or one that is detailed to be one.
 - Horse pasture area will include a new 10-12 stall horse barn, and new shade/wind shelters in each of the fenced areas.
 - Drain existing ice ponds and establish and maintain wetlands within footprint of ponds.
 - An accessible walkway with benches will be installed close to the former ice ponds. Defined rail fencing and pedestrian access points into and around the pond area will discourage heavy foot traffic on the lawn areas surrounding the pond. Interpretive signage will explain the process of ice harvesting and storage.
 - Terraced planting areas will be installed around the slopes of the pond, with heavy grasses, shrubs and perennial plantings to discourage use by water fowl.
 - A new covered bridge will be installed on the north bridge abutments to provide a visual statement that the park extends to the east of Little Cottonwood Creek.

Arboretum (See area enlargement Exhibit)

- The arboretum concept utilizes the property east of Little Cottonwood Creek to include the following amenities:
- A looped pedestrian circulation that connects across Little Cottonwood Creek using the existing bridge crossings and to a new parking area south of the Jordan & Salt Lake Canal.
 - Maintained lawn & picnic areas immediately east of Little Cottonwood Creek. The lawn areas will have informal picnic amenities for small groups.
 - The primary route around the arboretum is a paved or accessible route with connections back to the west side of the park.
 - Arboretum plantings will be concentrated around this loop, with interpretive and identifying signage for the plant materials and gardens. The concentration of planting areas will intensify the amount of maintained areas to reduce maintenance and watering costs.
 - Arboretum plantings will feature a mix of evergreen, deciduous and flowering trees as well as perennial and groundcover plantings.
 - Other areas outside of the maintained planting areas will transition to natural planting with minimal maintenance.
 - The wetland area just south of the arboretum loop will feature wetland plantings as well as reforestation with wetland species.
 - An accessible boardwalk will provide access into the wetland area with interpretive signage.



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Master Plan Update
Wheeler Farm, Murray, Utah