



75 YEARS
Est. 1946

SL SALT LAKE
COUNTY

PARKS & RECREATION

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

slco.org/parks-recreation

Dear Friends of Parks & Recreation

2021 was an exciting year for Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation because we celebrated 75 years of improving lives through people, parks, and play, and, in May, we returned to full operations after more than two years of modified operations due to COVID.

We experienced pre-2019 recreation admission numbers, golf rounds continued to soar, and increased utilization of our parks, trails, and open spaces was seen around the valley.

In October, we officially opened Magna Regional Park, a much needed and highly anticipated outdoor recreation resource for the northwest portion of the valley. Seeing and connecting with Magna residents, community partners, and our elected officials to celebrate this community gathering space was a great reminder of why we do what we do.

We're able to do what we do because of the many talented people we employ. From full-time, to part-time, to seasonal/temporary, all our employees are integral to fun and professional delivery of our services.

Like many employers, we struggled with recruitment, especially seasonal workers. Thanks to the continued support from Community Services leadership, Mayor Jenny Wilson, and the Salt Lake County Council, we were able to increase hourly rates for seasonal employees and convert a few of these positions into full-time, benefitted career opportunities.

Throughout 2021, and the pandemic, our team has done what they always have done: adjusted the game plan to ensure a positive experience for everyone.

Martin Jensen, Salt Lake County Parks & Recreation Director



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75 YEARS

75 Years of People, Parks, and Play

On May 11, 1946, Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation was formed by community-minded citizens committed to managing and coordinating the rapid-growth of recreation activities countywide and to building and maintaining parks, trails, and open space throughout the valley.

75 years later, we continue to strive to fulfill our mission of improving lives through people, parks, and play.

Tree Planting Celebration | May 14

Mayor Jenny Wilson recognized Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation's 75-year milestone, and kicked off a summer-long series of commemorative celebrations and activities, with a tree planting event at Evergreen Park in Millcreek on May 14.

Tree Utah, in partnership with Ivory Homes and community volunteers, provided and planted several new trees in the park to mark the occasion. Acquired by Salt Lake County on May 11, 1946, Evergreen Park, the first park in our system, launched one of the largest parks, trails, recreation, and open space management organizations in the region.





LOCAL, NATIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation received local and national recognition in 2021:

- **Best of Utah:** Tanner Park and Jordan River Parkway
Salt Lake City Weekly staff and readers
- **Best Public Recreation Center:** SLC Sports Complex
Salt Lake City Weekly readers, *Best of Utah Body and Mind 2021*
- **December Trail of the Month:** Jordan River Parkway
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
- **Safe Season Aquatic Safety Award:** Aquatics professionals
StarGuide ELITE



DRAPER RECREATION CENTER OPEN HOUSE

Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation's newest recreation center, Draper Recreation Center, located at 657 South Vestry Road, celebrated one year of operation on July 1. The 60,000 square foot facility opened with modified operations in July 2020 and began operating at full capacity in May 2021.

The open house included tours of the campus as well as complimentary one-day passes for the first 300 tour participants. The event concluded with an outdoor showing of the Walt Disney animated feature *Cars*, presented in partnership with Utah Film Center.



WELCOME TO THE TEAM

EXPANDING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

An increased interest in outdoor and indoor recreation requires strategic public involvement and community engagement. This year, we added an associate director position to the leadership team to strengthen these efforts countywide.

We also created a dedicated outdoor programs team and hired two full-time outdoor program coordinators to plan and deploy guided and educational activities in our parks, trails, open spaces, and more.

LIZ SOLLIS, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Liz Sollis is a communications strategist with more than two decades of community engagement, public relations, and government expertise. Her years of employment in public, private, nonprofit, and retail sectors guide her collaborative, person-centered approach to positive customer, partner, and employee experiences. Liz and her team lead internal and external communications, marketing, branding, and relations. A Salt Lake County native, she and her family are regular users of Parks and Recreation programs, facilities and parks.



DAVID WOOD, OUTDOOR PROGRAM COORDINATOR

David grew up in Salt Lake City with an abundance of trails in his backyard. He has been passionate about the outdoors from a young age and always gravitated to recreation employment, even while completing his higher education. David's work experience includes being a summer camp and after-school program counselor, an educator with an emphasis in outdoor environmental education and winter sports, a fly-fishing guide, and a ski instructor. His passion for the outdoors and his background in outdoor programs will be a great asset to the community.



HILARY MCAVOY, OUTDOOR PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Born and raised in Utah, Hilary grew up in an outdoorsy family who regularly recreated in Southern Utah, the Uintahs, Wyoming, and Colorado. Hilary's employment experiences, internships, and higher education have all centered around outdoor recreation. She has worked as a summer camp multi-sport instructor, axe throwing coach and manager, Fort Laramie National Historic Site park ranger, outdoor education fellow, and 4-H outdoor program assistant and staff assistant. Hilary is thrilled to connect individuals and communities with Salt Lake County's great outdoors.



BOARDS & LEADERSHIP

Our dedicated board members supported us through a challenging year and continued to provide valuable expertise through online meetings.

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Carl Fisher	Chris Hill	Connie Burgess	Bryce Dunford
Jaren Cooper	Jerry Cordova-Ong	Kristi Swett	Lynette Wendel
Mont Millerberg	Soren Simonsen		

DIMPLE DELL REGIONAL PARK ADVISORY BOARD

Lori Haglund	Emily Montgomery	Patrick Weber
Nancy Hobbs Orme	Marc Perry	Claire Larson

SUGAR HOUSE PARK AUTHORITY BOARD

Landon Allred	Holly Nichols	Siv Ghaffari
Lucy Hansen	Taylor Weavil	Sarah Sherer

OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Joel Karmazyn	Nate Blouin	Rhetta McIff
Paula Swaner Sargetakis	Chris McCandless	J. Kael Weston

SALT LAKE COUNTY MAYOR

Jenny Wilson

COUNTY COUNCIL

David Alvord, *District 2*
 Jim Bradley, *At Large C*
 Arlyn Bradshaw, *District 1*
 Steve DeBry, *District 5*
 Laurie Stringham, *At Large A*
 Ann Granato, *District 4*
 Aimee Winder Newton, *District 3*
 Richard Snelgrove, *At Large B*
 Dea Theodore, *District 6*

DEPUTY MAYOR

Erin Litvack

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Holly Yocom, *Director*
 Robin Chalhoub, *Associate Director*

PARKS & RECREATION

Martin Jensen, *Director*
Associate Directors
 Andrew Keddington, *Administration and Finance*
 Doranne Pittz, *Recreation*
 Jerry Brewster, *Golf*
 Liz Sollis, *Community Engagement*
 Patrick Leary, *Parks, Trails, and Open Space*
 Walt Gilmore, *Planning and Development*



2021 BY THE NUMBERS



1,338,690
Drop-ins at
Recreation Centers



392,597
Golf Course
Rounds



2,975
Child Care
Enrollments



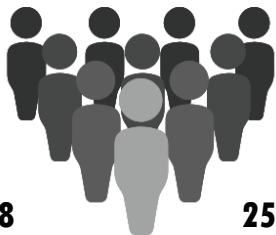
2962
Park Pavilion
Reservations



22,357
Work Orders
Completed



7,337
Acres of Parks, Trails
& Open Spaces
Maintained



308
Full-time
Employees

2575
Part-time/
Seasonal
Employees



784
Lifeguards
Certified

SERVICE AWARDS

35

Jan Donchess
Ronald Butterfield

30

Corey Bowden
Patricia Laforett
Clark Littleton
Shaun Saylor

25

John Barenbrugge
Ann Bradshaw

20

Steven Connell
Brandy Hess

15

Chris Billeter
Stacy Dastrup
Johnathon Davis
Adam Johnson

Tony Lopez
Kelly Monson
Tyrane Morishita

Katie Obray
Wendy Rendon
Amelia Watts

10

Zachary Crews
Diane Jensen-Booth
Emily Eley
Blake Jackson

Tiffany King
Joshua Reusser
Ryan Roghaar
Raegan Scharman

Brittanny Taylor
Eugenia Tua'one
Calvin Wheeler

5

Ricardo Aguayo
Gaylen Allmond
Ryan Barenbrugge
Austin Bean
Mindy Bitner
Cassie Christman
Richard Cleland
Gavin Eckert
Ian Jacobson
Tyson Kisselburg

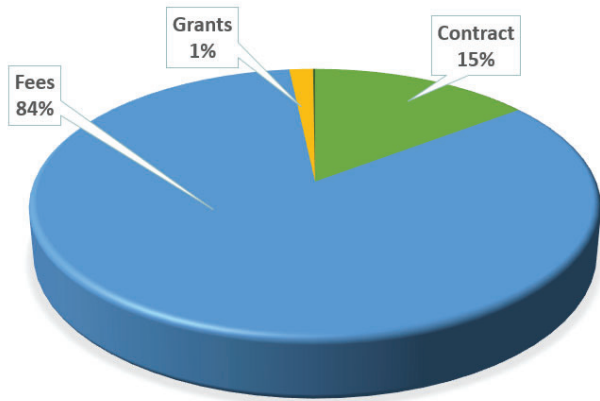
Brandon Lovato
Sharee McBraum
Wilford McCarty
Samantha McGaughey
Johnny Meneses
Jay Ofee
Joshua Olmstead
Brianna Pea
Kenneth Richley

Jonathan Ruedas
Louis Smith
Taylor Smith
David Sorensen
Christopher Thayer
Richard Van der Heyde
Duke Wallberg
Dustin Wiberg
Samantha Zachrich

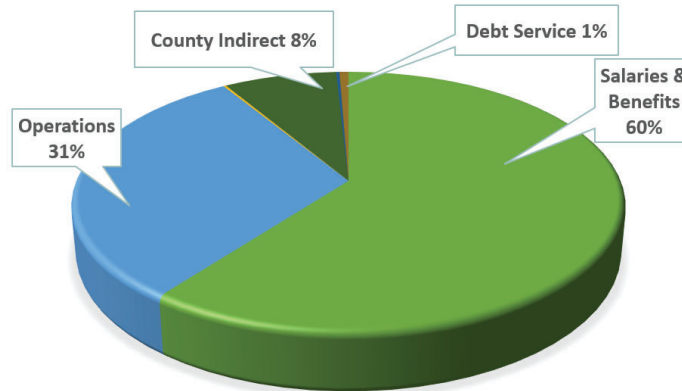
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The Administration and Finance section provides all financial, technology, and human resources management in accordance with the goals of Parks and Recreation, Mayor, County Council, and in compliance with applicable laws, principles, and policy. The section interacts with and supports all division operations by providing comprehensive services for budget, accounting, purchasing, payroll, hiring, employee relations, and information technology.

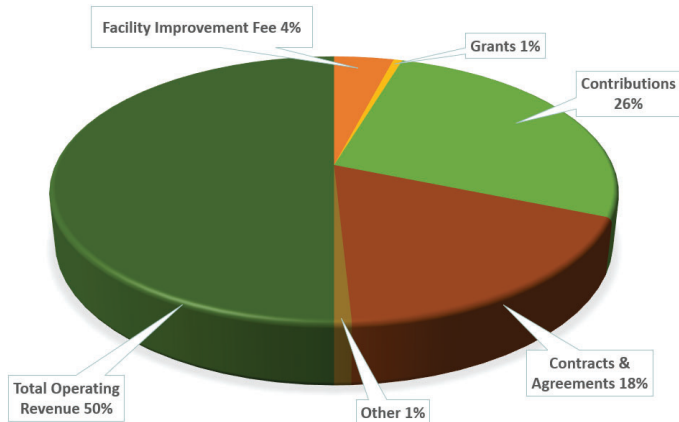
2021 Preliminary Operating Revenue



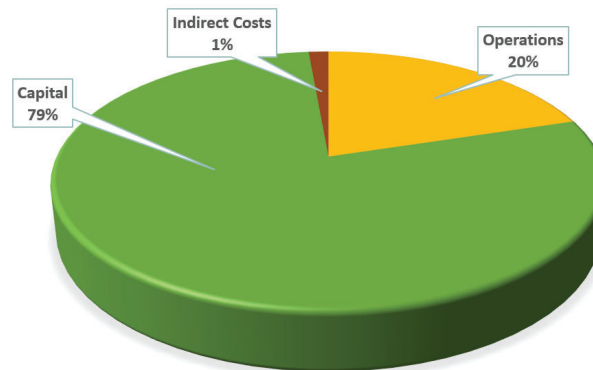
2021 Preliminary Operating Expenditures



Operating Revenue	
Contract	3,659,512
Fees	20,809,355
Grants	389,241
Other	34,435
Total Revenue	\$24,892,543



2021 Preliminary Capital Projects Revenue



2021 Preliminary Capital Projects Expenditures

Operating Expenses	
Salaries & Benefits	34,694,408
Operations	17,730,766
Capital	100,000
County Indirect	4,456,948
Depreciation	133,215
Debt Service	353,002
Total Expenditures	\$57,468,339

Capital Projects Revenue	
Facility Improvement Fee	635,531
Grants	93,384
Contributions	4,167,744
Contracts & Agreements	2,809,923
Other	130,795
Total Operating Revenue	\$7,837,377

Capital Projects Expenditures	
Operations	2,460,329
Capital	9,562,524
Indirect Costs	167,365
Depreciation & Amortization	1,442
Total Expenditures	\$12,191,660



Old Mill Golf Course



New Clubhouse and Café at Mick Riley Golf Course

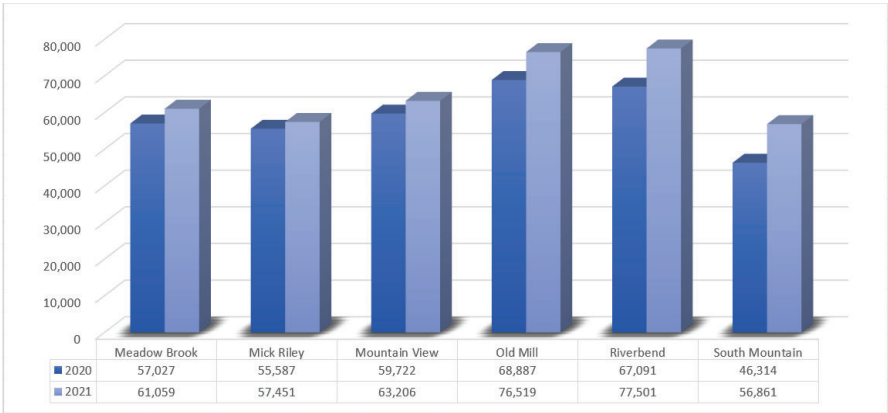
GOLF COURSES

Our golf courses experienced another year of extraordinary enthusiasm for golf. With an estimated total of 390,000 rounds in 2021, an increase of 36,000 since 2020, it was the highest number of rounds in the last ten years. Our revenue reflects the patronage and rounds: we were \$1.1 million over our 2021 goal, which is \$1,250,000 over 2020's revenue, proving golf continues to be a beloved community activity.

392,597
Total Rounds*

\$8,837,163
Total Revenue

Rounds Per Course



Revenue Per Course



*Nine-hole rounds

PARK PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Future improvements, growth, development, and proper preservation of parks, trails, and open spaces, as well as designing and renovating recreation centers in alignment with community needs, remained a top priority for our planning project managers.

New outdoor space construction includes conservation-minded, water-efficient design and landscapes, drought-tolerant turf, green building, and smart fixtures—all of which are fundamental to indoor/facility design and renovations.

In addition to completing phase one of Magna Regional Park, the team focused on multiple improvement projects, fire suppression, ongoing construction management of the Outdoor Education Center at Wheeler Farm, Siempre event venue at South Mountain Golf Course, and the completion of several projects that were delayed due to unexpected supply chain issues and related building costs.

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESMENT

Conducted every five years, the Community Needs Assessment highlights the key needs, desires, culture, and social structure of communities across the Salt Lake Valley and is a core component to the master plan.

The assessment provides a holistic representation of community. Offered in English and Spanish, thousands of responses from around the valley were received. Offered in English and Spanish, the 2021 Community Needs Assessment garnered thousands of responses from around the valley and will guide future planning and development.



RECREATION

The recreation team supports thousands of residents and visitors of all ages in improving their lives by providing services at 21 recreation centers, 19 pools, 3 ice centers, 6 childcare, hundreds of activities, and award-winning adaptive recreation programs.

Activity participation at recreation centers exceeded our pre-pandemic 2019 participation levels and confirms the community's interest in affordable, accessible, and equitable recreation and fitness.

DRAPER RECREATION CENTER ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY

When COVID-19 restrictions lifted in May, youth and adult sports, leagues, tournaments, adaptive sports, and other popular activities were ramped up around the valley. Demand for these activities was strong. A patron sentiment survey, conducted in May, confirmed the community's interest in returning to our services, with swimming pools and aquatics activities rating as a highly valued commodity.

Although drop-in childcare centers remained paused, full-time and before and after school childcare and youth programs were consistently offered and utilized.

MAGGIE'S SNOW

In September, our division received local, national, and international praise and attention when several employees at Salt Lake County Ice Center went above and beyond to provide a positive experience for two residents seeking a little snow for their dying dog, Maggie, to play in one last time.

Ice Center employees shaved "snow" from an ice sheet, loaded it into bins and buckets, and Maggie's owners took the snow home to her backyard where she enjoyed a final snow day with loved ones.

The story and pictures shared on our social media accounts quickly went viral. The post has been shared worldwide on Facebook more than 21,000 times, reached nearly 25,000 users on Instagram, and generated multiple media stories—serving as a great reminder of our incredible employees and the value of going the extra mile.

AQUATICS

To fully support county-wide aquatic programs, and best meet patron interests, the aquatics leadership team was restructured to include five program managers dedicated to staffing and operations. The timing of the restructure coincided with the summer swim season when pool utilization more than doubles and staffing needs are at the highest level.

Labor shortages directly impacted pool offerings and hours, as well as lifeguard recruitment. Aquatics program managers dove in and filled lifeguard shifts as well as launched a "Just-Try-It" series to showcase what it takes to be a lifeguard and to encourage people to join the profession. This series, continual recruitment of full-time and seasonal aquatics team members, and "surge-pay" for daytime staff enabled us to continue to provide these valuable services throughout the year.



Indoor Climbing at Dimple Dell Recreation Center



Maggie chilling on her bed of snow



Lifeguard "Just Try It" event



Magna Regional Park

PARKS, TRAILS, AND OPEN SPACE

Increased use of parks, trails, and open space required additional staffing hours for routine maintenance and repairs. Our crews worked tirelessly to meet that need despite seasonal staff shortages. Utilizing a web-based tool to track maintenance and inspections, crews successfully completed in-house and contracted work orders in a timely and professional manner.

With a focus on providing services for future generations through sustainable managements, the Parks team has installed smart water-management systems at County parks, golf courses, and recreation centers. We also employ full-time water management professionals who conduct daily monitoring to ensure we are using water wisely and conservatively. With the extreme drought in 2021, these efforts were increased, as has our commitment to enhanced utilization of modern water-saving technologies.



MAGNA REGIONAL PARK RIBBON CUTTING | OCTOBER 6

Salt Lake County and Magna Metro Township mayors, Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation leadership, and the Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on October 6 to celebrate the grand opening of the highly anticipated Magna Regional Park, located at 4042 South 7200 West. Families and children in attendance enjoyed the many park amenities, including the splash pad.

A time capsule filled with a variety of historical items—including N-95 masks and Covid-19 signage—was installed at the park to commemorate Salt Lake County’s 75 years of Parks and Recreation services. The intent is to unveil the capsule in 2096, after 75 more years of continued service.

Funded by the 2016 ZAP 3 Parks and Recreation Bond, the budget for the first phase of the park was \$11.5 million and covers 28 acres of amenities including: one multi-purpose field, an inclusive destination playground and splash pad, walking paths, restrooms, pavilions, parking, and a maintenance facility. We look forward to completion of the park as additional funding becomes available.



Ribbon Cutting



Splash pad at Magna Regional Park

OPEN SPACE



Bridge at Dimple Dell Park

Utilizing 2016 ZAP 3 Parks and Recreation Bond funds, we implemented several safety and accessibility improvements at Mount Olympus Trailhead and Dimple Dell Regional Park.

Erosion control measures taken at Mount Olympus Trailhead improve safety and usability for hikers.

Dimple Dell Regional Park improvements completed in 2021—new and/or renovated accessible restrooms and paths, parking lot resurfacing, new trailhead kiosks, wayfinding and interpretive signage, wood chip maintenance on soft-surface trails, fire suppression, a year-round restroom at Dimple Dell Trailhead, natural restoration and removal of the amphitheater, and seeding of native vegetation in test plot areas—will

enhance user experiences, preserve the natural areas, and increase safety.

138 acres of acquired open space in Millcreek Canyon moves forward our Bonneville Shoreline Trail goals and provides additional County-owned open space.



Wheeler Farm Activity Barn

WHEELER FARM

Wheeler Farm continues to be a destination gathering place where, annually, over 50,000 adults enjoy events, rentals, farmers' markets, and programs. Although we couldn't regularly host field trips and tours because of the pandemic, we connected with the community through other events. In addition to the birth of Bubba, nine kids, and four lambs born in 2021, Farm employees purchased:

- Four piglets
- Sally—a Dutch belted dairy cow
- Ellie—a Guernsey calf
- Three horses: Pistol Pete—quarter horse, Nemo—a riding mule, and Walt Longmire—quarter horse
- Four peacocks “trained” to roam the farm

The anxiously awaited Outdoor Education Center is scheduled to be completed May 2022. The center provides a combined indoor/outdoor learning environment and will include an art installation by local artist Paul Heath that complements the farm's nature themes.

WHEELER SUNDAY MARKET

On its tenth year of operation, Wheeler Sunday Market provides economic opportunities for local artisans and connects guests with healthy and affordable produce, food, and local wares.

In September, the market was approved as a vendor for Utah's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) enabling us to provide low- and no-income residents access to local, healthy food offerings.



Fresh produce at the Sunday Market

This year, 120 vendors participated in Sunday Market, including 21 raw vegetable producers. A survey with 97 vendor responses found:

- Market vendors employ 260 year-round and 125 part-time employees
- 58% of vendors are female-owned and 10% are veteran-owned businesses
- 14 respondents were produce vendors
- Combined, they farm 610 acres of land and represent 117 years of collective farming experience
- 8 vendors farm on less than one acre

An end-of-season survey with 30 vendor responses found a collective gross revenue of \$297,000. Of those earnings, meat and vegetables made up \$94,700, and packaged food made up \$117,536, for a total of \$212,236 SNAP-eligible products.

***Our Mission:
Improving Lives Through
People, Parks and Play***