

REIMAGINE NATURE

SLC PUBLIC LANDS MASTER PLAN

SNAPSHOT

For more information, and to be involved with the SLC Public Lands Master Plan, visit: REIMAGINENATURESLC.COM

Our natural lands, urban forest and city parks help shape and define our city.

Salt Lake City Public Lands is creating a master plan with an ambitious, community-driven vision for the evolution of our public spaces over the next 20 years. Based on the 2019 Needs Assessment, the plan will identify specific, meaningful projects and initiatives that align with Public Lands values of **STEWARDSHIP, LIVABILITY AND EQUITY.**

As appreciation for these places has increased since COVID-19, now more than ever, public lands contribute to our personal health, community identity and civic ideals. It is time for us to plan for a bright future by reimagining these spaces together.

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NATURAL LANDS

Walking, jogging and hiking are top activities in natural lands like the Fife Wetland Preserve and the 6,423-acres of Foothills Natural Area, canyons and foothills bordering the northern and eastern limits of SLC. More than 70 miles of off-street trails connect residents to parks and natural lands.



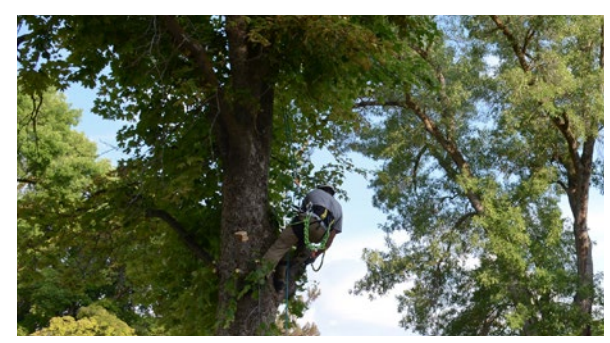
CITY PARKS

Most residents live within a half mile or 10-minute walk to a local park, and that's important to 97% of people polled. 75% of residents who live on the east side visit parks at least once a month, while 60% of west-siders visit parks once a month. Established in 1881 to be SLC's "Central Park," historic Liberty Park is the most visited park in the system.



URBAN FOREST

The urban forest's street trees are one of the most accessible forms of nature, extending into every neighborhood and business district in the city, resulting in a literal canopy of shade, beauty, socioeconomic, environment and health benefits.



70.7
Miles of Existing Trails

129.4
Miles of Proposed Trails

1694
Acres Natural Lands

6423
Acres Foothills Natural Area Collaborative Management Zone

3 Special Event
15 Community and 2 Regional Parks

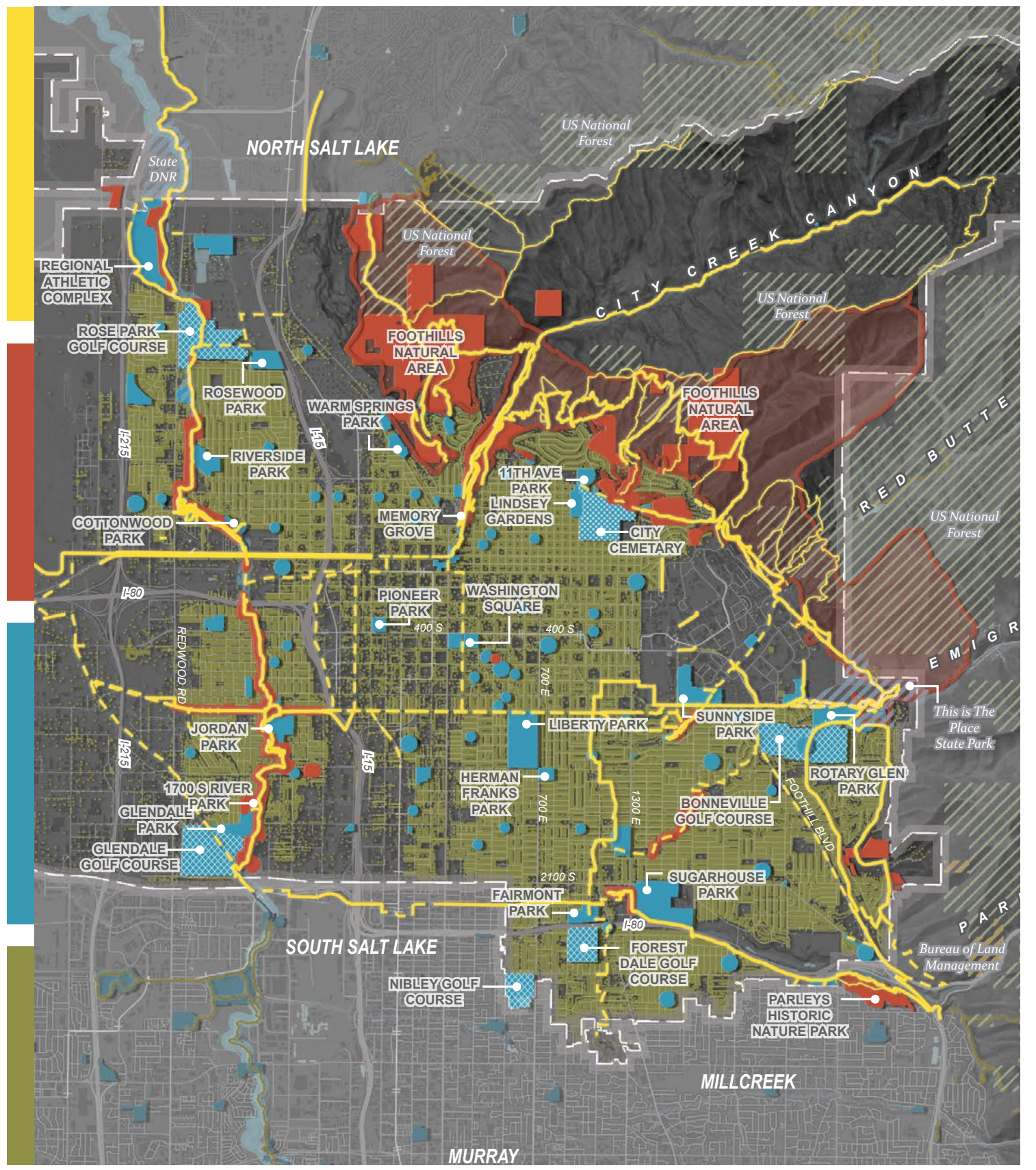
42 Mini Parks
19 Neighborhood Parks

108 Holes of City Public Golf

121 Acre City Cemetery

1 Regional Athletic Complex (16 Outdoor Sports Fields)

86,500
Urban Forest Trees



“There is a real opportunity - to address parks and natural lands as essential elements for better air quality, climate change mitigation, energy efficiency, and environmental justice. Parks can help improve the health of the city.”

2019 SLC Parks and Public Lands Needs Assessment

WHAT VALUES GUIDE THE PLAN?
Three values guide how we can Reimagine Nature together to increase biodiversity (the richness of different kinds of plants and animals in our public lands) while finding new ways to connect people to green spaces.

EQUITY, or including diverse voices in the master plan process and priorities, aligns as a citywide value emerging from the roundtable discussion on “Geographic Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging.” We are committed to listening to the realities and perceptions of access to public lands from all sides of Salt Lake City to help guide next steps for a more equitable future.

LIVABILITY, or maintaining SLC’s quality of outdoor life, inspires us to provide more services to residents as the city grows. How can we collectively identify outside-the-box opportunities to use our city’s parks, golf courses, school yards, natural areas and streetscapes to increase public access to nature, trails, sports fields, and public gathering places?

STEWARDSHIP, or taking care of what we have, is investing in the renewal of our existing city parks, urban forest, natural areas and trails. Stewardship inspires us to preserve habitat so plants and wildlife can thrive and be resilient to impacts of climate change like rising temperatures. Potential actions could be planting 300 new trees in city golf courses or adding butterfly gardens to city parks.

EQUITY

SLC IS HOME TO OVER 196,000 people who speak 80 languages representing a broad range of socioeconomic backgrounds and cultural heritages.

35% of SLC population is made up of diverse people who identify themselves as Native Americans, African Americans, Hispanic, Latino, Asian or Pacific Islander.

45% of metro area renters are cost burdened. Income barriers can limit the amount of leisure time and transportation options people have to enjoy public lands.

The master plan includes **200** community groups have been invited to participate in this process.

3 community engagement windows.

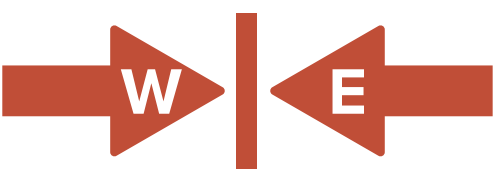
The 2019 Needs Assessment will help identify priority areas.

Nearly **17%** of the population is projected to be **65** or older by 2045.

LIVABILITY

30,000+ are anticipated to move to SLC by 2040 which will require an additional park space roughly equivalent to Liberty Park.

94 ACRES Accessibility gaps and trail gaps still exist in all SLC planning areas, and east-west connections across the city are limited.



City Golf courses maintain over 1,000 acres of open space. As the city grows, how can golf grow as a community partner, serving more of the city population?

86% of SLC residents who responded to the 2017 Needs Assessment prioritize investments to improve existing parks, trails and natural areas.

Salt Lake City’s proposed trails, including expansion of the 9-line Trail, will add another 129.4 miles to the system, the equivalent of adding another Jordan River Parkway (the longest paved urban trail in the US).

Activating underutilized spaces with activities such as outdoor education, guided nature walks, wildflowers and birding would increase park service as the city grows.

>50% of all global species are at risk of extinction leading to rapid biodiversity loss.

STEWARDSHIP

By 2050 our temps could rise **10°** leading to poorer air quality.

\$85,000 per year to clean up nuisance graffiti.

Over the last 20 years SLC’s urban forests have been in decline.

SLC public lands have opportunity to **increase biodiversity** by adding more natural habitat like recent efforts at Fairmont Park Pond and the Fire Wetland Preserve.

Our 86,500 trees, including 7,000 trees in city golf courses, provide a cooling of summer temps by **6°**

63% of public lands assets are in fair to poor condition.

SLC urban forest hosts **260** species of trees that support biodiversity and improve air quality.

Sources: Salt Lake City Public Lands Division, 2019 Salt Lake City Parks & Public Lands Needs Assessment, American Community Survey 2014-2018, Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, "Understanding Climate Change from a Global Analysis of City Analogues" by Thomas Crowther et. al., "Promoting and Preserving Biodiversity in the Urban Forest" by Alexis A. Alvey, "Utah Forest Facts: Trees and Climate Change" by Megan Dettenmaier et. al., "Salt Lake City Confronts Its Growing Pains" by Trevor Bach.