

10 November 2021

Draper Parks, Trails, and Recreation Master Plan

Focus Group: Parks & Events

NOTES



In Attendance

- Stephanie Sherrell – Draper Days Committee Chair
- Soren Simonsen – Jordan River Commission
- Brad Jensen – Draper City Parks Project Manager
- Rhett Ogden – Draper City Recreation Director
- Lisa Benson – Landmark Design

The meeting began with introductions and a summary of the purpose of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Master Plan.

Summary of Discussion

Zions Bank – Special Event Arena Committee Member

- New to committee/board – Equestrian Center/Special Events Arena
 - Tasked with using the facility more so it's not just an equestrian center
 - Great views and parking
 - Dirt arena – in the future looking at opportunities to do concerts, etc.
 - Renaissance fair, concerts, food truck nights once a week (well received)
 - Looking for ideas on how to use it – what other cities are doing to utilize their centers
 - Council last night talked about putting in a dual-purpose garage underneath for storage then on top a large patio/concrete patio area that runs level with the parking lot – add an outdoor park pavilion – covered/shaded pavilion with picnic tables, benches, etc.
 - Would be highly desired pavilion to rent for family and work events with great views
 - Added fence a few years ago, adding panels for livestock pens
 - Added 2 new sets of grandstands – seats about 2,400 people according to fire marshal – requiring reserved seating for fire marshal
 - Major trailhead for corner canyon and events – starting and ending races
- Warmer months – 4h uses it every week for practice, residents ride or train horses once or twice a week – not heavily used for equestrian – usually something every week or so
- Room for other events – want to get more events

- TH use – restrooms are heated and used year-round
- Not room for indoor for both – would have to be one or the other
- Plethora of outdoor activities
 - Have draper visual arts foundation – lots of historic art in City Hall – have a wealth of people with artistic capabilities and interests – could showcase that more
- Events have been well attended – City does a great job with social media – always evolving – need someone with knowledge of tik tok and other ways to reach out to younger generations, like snap chat, etc. We could all stand to grow from
- Can sign up for updates via text/email by venue, but still need to expand those ideas/options – cities are slower to get on board
- Jordan River Commission Events
 - Draper has been a great participant/supporter
 - Golden Spoke Event – annual bike event that utilizes the trail, City has hosted a stop
 - Get to the River Festival in September – more opportunity for more participation with new water trail features added – local resident has boats, etc. to help – boat launch at Rotary Park – opens up more opportunities for activities focused/centered around the river and will continue to be more accessible
 - Tracy Aviary working with Riverton to develop an education center on birds/wildlife in Roy Hardy Park – Aviary already doing programming in the preserve, City Nature Challenge, Citizen Science Programs, look at ways we can improve the connections with the City – maybe figure out how to improve that outreach to get kids and families involved
 - Physical connections are improving – The Point will improve those connections, connections around Ebay area is making the area more accessible
 - One of the most scenic stretches of the river – fun to explore
 - Also a gentle section of river for those learning, fun to paddle
 - Have boats the commission uses for activities – would be happy to introduce people to the river – Rhett will reach out
- Draper Days – several thousand people attend each year – attracts people from outside the area too, concerts, moved away from carnival, carnival also brings a different crowd, typically have a 10-day long with rodeo the weekend before, kids bike parade – ends at park with big party – performances, acrobats, bounce houses, food, etc., face painting, movie at amphitheater, historic pres. Does a fundraiser banquet each year,
- Dept puts on events for Draper Days – Rec Side
 - Strider bike race for 3-5 year olds – have strider bike track opened in July
 - 3 on 3 basketball tourn
 - Tennis
 - pickleball tournaments (huge)
 - Homerun derby
 - Close to 300 booths – selling all kinds of stuff, concert each night with nationally known artists, sometimes oldies or more current
 - Parade on the last day
 - Fireworks on last night
 - 20,000 people in park during sat. night concert

- Veterans' Day program
 - Good but small attendance
- Tree lighting ceremony this week to kick off the holiday season
 - Santa in Day Barn, marshmallows, hot chocolate, cookies, coffee,
- Haunted Trail
 - Changed to outdoor event because of covid – smash hit – different Halloween activities going through the trails
- Candy Cane Hunt
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Daddy Daughter Dances
- Community is very supportive of events – always looking for ways to get the word out
- Arts Festival
 - September now instead of spring
 - Huge turnout – over 200 vendors – all has to be local or handmade art
 - Local handmade clothes, paintings, jewelry
 - Partnered with div. and inclusion board – had stages with international performances – Peru, native American, etc., about a dozen throughout the days
 - “International Arts & Crafts Festival”
- Rec Dept does most events
 - Draper Days does have its own committee part of Draper Community Foundation which does larger part of Friday and Saturday events
- Sometimes one-off events or skip years
 - Smaller stuff by the river – hopefully it will become more regular
 - Sometimes river events didn't get good attendance
 - Improvements at Rotary Park will help
- Preserve offers unique programming opportunities
- Private resident (Jared Pierce – lives in river bottoms area off of 700 West 120th South)
 - Paddling tours with schools
 - Pay-per-use rides
- Major hazards on river
 - Portage around north Jordan Canal in SoJo
 - Dam at 4600 S. being removed completely
 - FFSL – trying to address trees that fall, ongoing strategy to deal with reports of downed trees and limbs to respond quickly
 - Point of Mountain 2 dams – connections between Utah County and SL County more challenging – ongoing discussions
 - Need more water in the river – parts of river in Bluffdale where there was no water

Individual interview with Doug Dredge, Draper Days Committee Chair on December 9, 2021

- Merchandise vendors – don't have a gray water facility for vendors to dispose of their water. Had to rent a portable tank for them at great expense to the City.