

# Draper Parks, Trails, and Recreation Master Plan

## Focus Group: Organized Sports/Recreation

### NOTES



Lisa Benson of Landmark Design interviewed representatives individually. Conversations are summarized below.

#### Individual Interview with Bo Jensen, Southeast Valley Baseball

- His league needs more fields. Had to turn away 70 kids this past year because teams and fields were maxed out.
- Baseball had a downturn for a few years but is growing again.
- Other leagues have one field and have concessions to help offset costs.
- Southeast Valley Baseball (SVB) is a non-profit, run at a zero balance by the end of the year.
- Have to spread their games and practices out between Draper and Sandy – not one location.
- Lose fields to adult sports – not just adult baseball/softball, but other programs are using the baseball fields as well.
- Games are fun but practices are where the real development occurs. No baseball fields are available for practices – using grass fields but doesn't give kids the same experience.
- Games are held at Draper City Park, South Fork Park and Galena Park. Only get Galena Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays, get South Fork on Fridays. Also use two fields in Sandy but would love to have it all at one place.
- League has 72 teams – mid 500's for participation numbers each year on average.
- 75% are Draper kids, rest are kids from Sandy. Have boundaries between different leagues around the valley, so they cover Draper and Sandy.
- Ages: 4 – 18
- Run into super league teams with kids from all over the valley – SVB serves local kids. The super leagues complain about them taking fields, but SVB serves local kids.
- Some safety issues with the fields in Draper:
  - Backstops bottom are all wood and causes weird ball bounces
  - Mounds get left out – get worn out spots that cause uneven spots and tripping hazards
- AVB partners on maintenance with the City.
- Have a good relationship with the City, but they have a lot of demands
- Would welcome lighted fields (like Galena has) at South Fork – would be able to play until 9:30 or 10 pm.
- Want to be more of a partner – pay a fee now and all volunteers but would be willing to contribute more to help out – want to take pride in the fields.

- Tournaments are at season's end – All-Star mixed league tournament at the end of the season, have to host an age division – SVB is limited in the age divisions they can host because of the size, days, lighting issues with fields.
- Want to do a larger tournament that would attract more from out of state, like the Heat Stroker which runs through the night. The City does one for softball like that.
  - Tournaments can help with economic development in the City – some can bring up to 300 teams through - need good facility to host it though. West Jordan/Copper Hills, Riverton are all good examples. Needs:
    - Capacity to host 4-5 games at a time
    - A concession booth
    - Nets to catch fly balls
    - Scoreboards for everyone to keep track would be great (scoreboards are controlled by hand-held remote – need some accessible system for all users – not just City staff)
- Wayland gets a lot of demands/requests – Bo feels like they're fighting to keep the league alive, tough to turn kids away.