

## 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Improving Lives Through People, Parks and Play

## **Dear Friends of Parks & Recreation**



The challenges of 2020 have touched all our lives. At Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation, our team began the year excited to bring a brand-new recreation center to the citizens of Draper, continue building two brand new regional parks in Magna and South Jordan, and provide sports and exercise programs to county residents. After the emergence of COVID-19, the organization adapted to serve the community in needed ways while developing strategies to provide as many services as possible to people in a safe manner. Meanwhile we continued our work building and maintaining our parks, recreation, and trails assets in order to meet the needs of our growing community.

This annual report tells the story of how each of our Parks & Recreation service areas adapted and performed in an unprecedented year. Now we look forward to 2021, a year in which Parks and Recreation will celebrate its 75th year, with hope and confidence that we will continue to be successful in our mission – "Improving Lives through People, Parks and Play."

Thank you,

Jenny Wilson Salt Lake County Mayor



As I reflect back on this year, I appreciate how our parks, our trails, golf courses, open spaces and our recreation facilities and programs truly improved the lives of our residents. This year, people needed these places to find solace in a turbulent time.

However, all of these services could not have run smoothly without our dedicated and professional staff. Beyond a global pandemic, our team opened a brand new recreation center, adopted another, and saw the retirement of two long-time Associate Directors. We also were challenged by forces of nature with a 5.6 magnitude earthquake that impacted the majority of our centers in March, and hurricane-force winds of up to 100 mph in September that uprooted enormous trees in our parks and knocked out power throughout the valley. Much of the work required us to make repairs and modify operations onsite, but we also tackled these challenges at a distance, working six feet apart or from home.

Thank you to each and every one of our colleagues for their hard work, flexibility, resilience, and dedication. I am continually impressed by our team's willingness to rise to the occasion.

Martin Jensen Director of Parks & Recreation

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## BOARDS & LEADERSHIP

Thank you to our dedicated board members that supported us through a challenging year and continued to provide their valuable expertise through online meetings.



Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting on WebEx

### PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Carl Fisher Anna Bergevin Connie Burgess Jorge Chamorro Jaren Cooper Jerry Cordova-Ong Chris Hill Nasir Khan Mont Millerburg Darrell Robinson Soren Simonsen Kristi Swett Lynette Wendel

### DIMPLE DELL REGIONAL PARK ADVISORY BOARD

David Norcutt Lori Haglund Nancy Hobbs Orme Claire Larson Spencer Mortensen Emily Montgomery Marc Perry Patrick Weber

## SUGAR HOUSE PARK AUTHORITY BOARD

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

### **OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Sarah Reale Rhetta Mciff J. Kael Weston Nate Blouin Paula Swaner Sargetakis

## SALT LAKE COUNTY MAYOR

Jenny Wilson

## COUNTY COUNCIL

Jim Bradley, At Large C Arlyn Bradshaw, District 1 Max Burdick, District 6 Steve DeBry, District 5 Shireen Ghorbani, At Large A Ann Granato, District 4 Michael Jensen, District 2 Aimee Winder Newton, District 3 Richard Snelgrove, At Large B

DEPUTY MAYORS

Erin Litvack

#### **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Holly Yocom, Director Robin Chalhoub, Associate Director

PARKS & RECREATION Martin Jensen, Director

#### **Associate Directors**

Andrew Keddington, Fiscal Jerry Brewster, Golf Patrick Leary, Parks Walt Gilmore, Planning Doranne Pittz, Recreation

**Outgoing Associate Directors** Darian Abegglen, Recreation Wayne Johnson, Parks

#### Administrative Staff

Andrea DePaz, Executive Assistant Jan Donchess, Special Projects Michelle Ludema, Communications Melissa Lugo, Human Resources Larry McKinney, Recreation Julie Peck-Dabling, Special Services Clayton Scrivner, Communications & PR

## WELCOME TO THE TEAM

We welcomed two new members to our leadership team in 2020 and look forward to what their unique perspectives and backgrounds will bring to the division.





### **DORANNE PITTZ, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF RECREATION**

We welcomed Doranne Pittz to the Parks and Recreation team in November 2020 as the new Associate Director of Recreation. Doranne has worked in the field for just shy of 20 years and earned her Parks and Recreation degree from Northern Arizona University. From outdoor education, trip leading, traditional classroom teaching and childcare, to directing an adult education program, creating and implementing recreation programs, aquatics, parks maintenance and management, Doranne has a diverse background and experience that she is passionate about sharing with others.

She grew up in Colorado, where she developed a passion for anything outdoors. She and her family are excited to be back in the mountain west and close to their families and their roots. She lives with her husband, 20-month-old daughter and 8-year-old Akita.

## PATRICK LEARY, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF PARKS

Patrick Leary was named the new Associate Director of Parks at the end of 2020. Patrick is a long-time public employee who most recently served as the Chief of Staff in the Mayor's Office for Salt Lake City. Patrick is not a stranger to Salt Lake County, he has served in many offices and positions over the years including the Department Director for Administrative Services, Township Executive for the unincorporated County and Department Director for Public Works.

"I am excited to join the Parks and Recreation family and lead the parks team. Parks are more important than ever to our community, as we have seen an increase in visitation over the course of the past year. I am excited to take on this challenge and hope to continue our tradition of excellent service."

## DEDICATED TO LEADERSHIP

This year the division bid farewell to two long time Parks & Recreation leaders, as two Associate Directors announced their respective retirements. Combined they represent 70 years of experience and service to the organization. We are grateful for their years of dedication and wish them both a happy retirement!



### **DARIAN ABEGGLEN**

For 30 years, Darian Abegglen was a fixture in Recreation, serving in many capacities until being appointed Associate Division Director in 2016. Darian started as a seasonal employee in 1989 and eventually came on full-time in 1995. She worked at the Central City, Copperview, and Redwood recreation centers, as well as several years managing the division's Sports Office. In 2010, Darian made the move to Recreation administration, being named a Section Manager over several facilities. Darian retired from her position as Associate Director in May.

"Spending a career working with so many recreation rockstars was truly a fabulous opportunity. I was honored to be on the team with folks committed to providing quality services, regardless of the challenges presented."



### **WAYNE JOHNSON**

After 40 years serving the people of Salt Lake County, Wayne Johnson retired at the end of 2020. Wayne started in the division in 1980 as a seasonal groundskeeper, then moved on to carpentry. In 1988, he became an area supervisor. And in 1997 he was named Associate Director of Parks. He points to two major achievements as career highlights: first, the institution of the first Zoo, Arts and Parks (ZAP) bond which was launched in 1996 and "fundamentally changed the level of service our organization provided residents." And second, his role in overseeing the new state-of-the-art Park Operations Center in West Jordan.

Wayne brought boundless operational and institutional knowledge to the table – his dry wit and stories of our history will be missed. "Over the course of my career, I have been in hot water numerous times, and I have found that when you are in hot water, it's best to take a bath."

## **SERVICE AWARDS**

### **40 YEARS**

Wayne Johnson Pat Riley

**30 YEARS** 

**Brad Pitcher** 

## **25 YEARS**

Terry Anderson Cheri Brown Paul Jensen Mark Owen Shaun Perfili Brian Schramm

## **20 YEARS**

Corey Bullock Clayton Eastman Tim Fernau Manuel Medina Shannon Schmidt Tammy Schiwal-Huerta Marlynn Shaffer Kevin Steed BJ Watts Heather Woichik

## **15 YEARS**

Jennifer Leitner Eliza Schofield Myles Saylor Larry Turner

## **10 YEARS**

Cameron Barenbrugge Jennifer Carpenter Margot Gonzales Amber Milne Casey Nielsen Joseph Peterson Teresa Potter Greyson Reynolds Autumn Stens Sandy Woodard

## **5 YEARS**

Rebecca Barley Alyssa Downard Jesse Gambrell Craig Goff Brent Laulusa Jon-Marc Muntz Dustin Pimm Linda Smith David Waters



Mick Riley Golf Course

## GOLF

Salt Lake County Golf operates and maintains six regulation golf courses supervised by PGA-certified professionals: Meadowbrook, Mick Riley, Riverbend, Mountain View, Old Mill, and South Mountain. Our courses are self-sufficient and provide a high-quality golf experience at an affordable price.

Thanks to some creativity and adaptability, as well as golf being a naturally socially-distant activity, 2020 was actually a banner year for Salt Lake County Golf. Even with a month-long closure at the beginning of the season, 354,628 rounds of golf were played this year, an increase of 9% from 2019. Revenues were also up with total green fees collected at \$7,471,371 — an increase of 9.6% over the prior year.

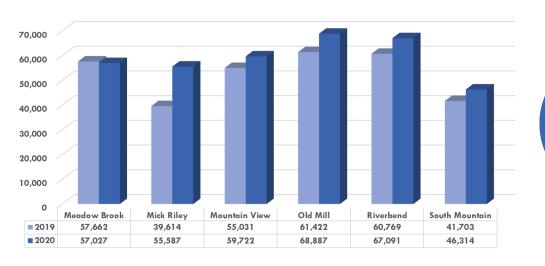


Sanitizing golf carts at Mick Riley Golf Course (Photo: Jeffrey D. Allred, Deseret News)

### **SOCIAL DISTANCING TO A TEE**

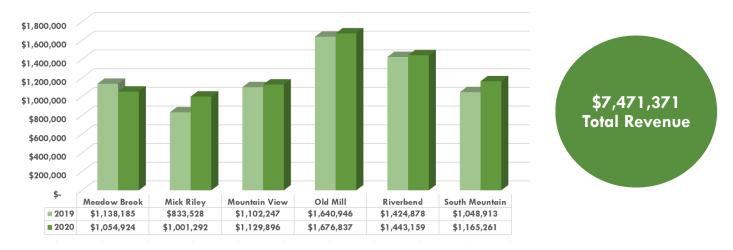
After activities were shut down on March 13th, the golf team created modified operations that allowed our courses to resume operations on April 3rd – right as the golf season was getting underway. Tee times were offered by reservation only to keep safe distances, and golfers were able to book a tee time and pay over the phone for a no-contact golf experience. Carts were frequently sanitized and Recreation staff stepped in to assist at courses. Thanks to the teamwork in implementing new guidelines, our golf courses served as a safe, healthy outdoor activity for County residents during these unprecedented times.

> 354,628 Total Rounds



**Rounds Per Course** 

### **Revenue Per Course**



"Parks have been one of the few things I haven't had to tell my kids are canceled or unavailable to them this year." ~Anna Bergevin, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Member



Salt Lake County Park Operations maintains 103 park spaces throughout the county as well as numerous trails, open space, and facility grounds. The team also manages Wheeler Historic Farm, the Millcreek Canyon tollbooth, and handles all park pavilion reservations and special event permits.

The Park Operations team worked tirelessly to continue to provide services so the public had safe places to recreate this year. They mowed thousands of acres each week and fulfilled work orders on everything from broken sprinklers to graffiti removal. Additionally, Park crews mitigated storm damage, removing 94 downed trees and debris from a hurricane-force windstorm in September and continue to work to restore landscaping.

Sego Lily Plaza at Sugar House Park



Butterfly social distancing at the park



Family shopping at the Wheeler Sunday Market



Sugar House Park Community Garden entryway

#### A RESPITE FROM THE PANDEMIC

Though it is impossible to gauge exactly how many more people flocked to our parks, trails, and open space because of the past year's developments, it is obvious that citizens came to these places of refuge in record numbers. Parks were never completely closed – although some sport courts, playgrounds, pavilions and gathering spaces experienced temporary closures. Other behavior in the parks were encouraged, including mask wearing and social distancing on trails. Despite these modifications, parks were full of people enjoying the sunshine and serenity of being outside.

#### **STAYING CONNECTED AT WHEELER FARM**

Despite being closed in March and April, and not able to host their usual large events due to gathering limitations, 2020 proved to be a surprisingly busy year at Wheeler Historic Farm. In May, the farm reopened operating under modified rules, and immediately became a haven for residents who were seeking safe outdoor activities for their families to get out and have fun. Wheeler Sunday Market was incredibly popular with its food trucks, growers and producers welcoming a steady stream of masked-up attendees. Being flexible and setting up social distancing procedures provided an opportunity for residents to reconnect with fellow community members and support local businesses.

Animals are always a focus at the farm, and this year we welcomed baby goats, a Red Angus calf named Boz, and a Holstein calf, Fergie. During the farm closure, staff filmed Animal Chats for teachers to use for their distance learning programs, and once reopened the farm welcomed some domesticated furry friends too with two doggie-centric events: "Spoil Your Pup" and "Dog Days in the Maze". A modified and distanced "Pumpkin Days" also provided an opportunity for families to enjoy the fall weather. The pumpkin patch was incredibly popular, even giving the baby goats a run for their money for attention. These successes were all made possible thanks to the creativity of our Wheeler Farm team and the Park Operations crew that kept the farm looking great throughout this unique year.

#### **GROWING COMMUNITY GARDEN OPPORTUNITIES**

Salt Lake County's Parks for Produce program partners with Wasatch Community Gardens to create community gardens in underutilized County park spaces, and this summer welcomed the completion of the program's sixth location. In collaboration with Wasatch Community Gardens and community design charettes, Parks and Recreation designed and constructed an accessible community garden at Sugar House Park. The garden includes 44 raised plots as well as a garden shed, central instruction area, gardener gathering areas, composting, and a reused metal entry arch that welcomes gardeners in. There was so much interest for the garden, every plot was rented in its first year. "When the rec center reopened, my husband and I were so impressed with the precautions that we were the first people to sign up to work out. We have been working out ever since. It was such a blessing to have access to a safe space to work out when the air quality or heat was unsafe for me to go for walks. We so appreciate you creating an environment that allows us to safely stay fit and healthy." ~Katie Meves, Millcreek Patron

Lifeguards change shifts at Draper Outdoor Pool

## RECREATION

The Recreation team improves the lives of thousands of residents and visitors of all ages and abilities by providing access to 21 recreation centers, 19 pools, 3 ice centers, 6 childcare facilities, sports programming and award-winning adaptive recreation programs.

This year, no section was impacted more, required more problem solving, creative solutions, and flexibility in order to continue to provide services, than Recreation. This year required modified operation in all aspects of recreation in order to serve the maximum number of patrons within the changing parameters of health and safety protocols. In addition to the pandemic, 17 facilities were impacted by a 5.6 magnitude earthquake that shook the valley in March. In a year where delivering people-centric services was complex and continually evolving, our recreation staff were patient, professional and responsive.



Delivering food bank donations



Creative social distancing at childcare



Keeping equipment squeaky clean for patrons

#### **STEPPING UP TO THE CHALLENGE**

With guidance from the Mayor's Office and the Salt Lake County Health Department, Parks and Recreation responded quickly to the emerging health crisis by modifying all operations in March. Setting the goal to continue to provide as many services as possible in a safe manner, new plans for every facility and program were developed. Many Recreation employees were redeployed to respond to operational changes. For instance, because our golf courses were able to open earlier than most venues, many Recreation employees went to help make sure our courses were safe and clean. Select recreation centers were temporarily repurposed in coordination with emergency service providers to serve in response to the pandemic. Finally, several employees offered to assist the Health Department directly, helping with Q&I centers and actively working with the Emergency Command Center to track and oversee the distribution of PPE in the community.

### **PROVIDING CHILDCARE FOR FRONTLINE WORKERS**

In April, the Millcreek Activity Center, Copperview Recreation Center and Northwest Community Center partnered with One Utah Childcare to provide critical childcare services for children ages 6 months to 12 years old, at no cost, to essential frontline workers. During the time of uncertainty brought on during the first stages of the pandemic, Salt Lake County childcare workers quickly and collectively worked handin-hand with the Salt Lake County Health Department, Utah Child Care Licensing, and the Utah Community Action Program to ensure all measures of safety were implemented to reduce the spread of COVID-19, while providing fun childcare and nutrition. The program continues to remain open and operating – providing critical services to our community members most in-need.

#### **MODIFYING RECREATION SERVICES**

Upon suspension of operations in mid-March, the Recreation team immediately got to work to formulate modified operations plans to re-open in a safe manner and in accordance to strict and dynamic health orders. Every aspect of what happens in our recreation facilities would be different, and it required a patient staff and diligent work by managers and administrators to pull it off. When re-opening was authorized, select recreation centers welcomed patrons with completely new rules and regulations to ensure their health and safety. A new online registration system was developed and implemented in order to ensure availability for limited amenities and to keep patron numbers within new capacity limits for social distancing. Increased sanitization methods were put in place, new signage posted, and equipment rearranged. In addition, several fitness instructors embarked on offering classes online, filming classes from home to help patrons remain active while gatherings are limited. Thanks to our Recreation team's continued diligence in balancing services and public health, we have been able to offer safe spaces to recreate during challenging times.



Draper Recreation Center

## **OPENING A STATE OF THE ART RECREATION CENTER IN DRAPER**

A major asset for the southeast valley officially opened it's doors in July. The Draper Recreation Center opened to the public featuring 60,000 square feet of new amenities including:

- 1. 8-lane competition lap pool with spectator seating
- 2. Leisure pool with water slide and play amenities
- 3. Field House
- 4. Dividable party room and drop-in child care spaces
- 5. Fitness area
- 6. Dance/multi-use studio

In lieu of a gymnasium, a new field house was built to serve a growing need in south Salt Lake County. It is only the second field house in the Parks & Recreation portfolio. Additionally, the new LEED gold certified facility is connected to the exisitng Draper Outdoor Pool. Funding for the project was made possible thanks to the 2016 Parks & Recreation Bond, Draper City and Canyons School District. The facility was designed by Architectural Nexus and built by Layton Construction.



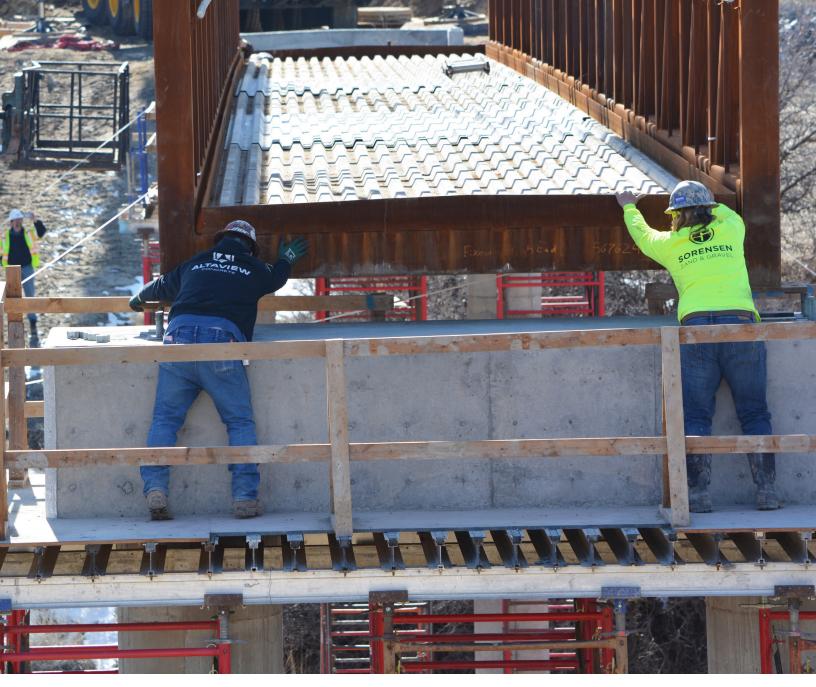












## PLANNING

Setting the pedestrian bridge for the White City Canal Trail

Our Planning team coordinates construction and capital improvement projects, from new buildings to improved playgrounds. The six-member section also formulates future plans for new amenities using sound planning strategies and community input.

The team has been busy this year, delivering on the public's request for a new recreation center in Draper, better urban trail connectivity, breaking ground or continuing construction on two new regional parks – Bingham Creek in South Jordan and Magna Regional Park in Magna – and other improvements to our parks, trails, and facilities throughout the valley.



White City Canal Trail Bridge crossing Dimple Dell Park



White City Canal Trail ribbon cutting



Mount Olympus Trailhead on Wasatch Boulevard



Jordan River Boat Launch (Photo: SLC Parks & Public Lands)

## WHITE CITY CANAL TRAIL

Along with our partners White City and Sandy, we celebrated the completion of the White City Canal Trail and Bridge over Dimple Dell Regional Park on July 29th. The 350-foot long bridge now serves as an important community and regional pedestrian and bicycle connector for families, recreationists and commuters. The bridge sends travelers towering above Dimple Dell Park and provides pedestrian safety enhancements that allow kids and other trail users to connect safely to schools, parks, and other community destinations without having to navigate the heavy traffic on 700 East. The trail utilizes an abandoned canal path between 9400 South and 10600 South at approximately 800 East and also provides an important connection to the Sandy Canal Trail and Porter Rockwell Trail in Draper.

#### **MOUNT OLYMPUS TRAILHEAD**

One of the County's busiest trailheads is now safer, more user-friendly and sustainable. On October 25th, the new Olympus Trailhead at 5425 South Wasatch Boulevard welcomed users for the first time. The project increases both the safety and capacity of the popular trailhead with a new parking lot and restroom facility. Improved sightlines and a lower, more visible, parking elevation make the facility safer. Also the retaining wall's design is less visually intrusive, yet durable, preventing erosion from the slope above. The project was made possible through funding from Salt Lake County's Tourism, Recreation, Cultural and Convention Fund (TRCC), the County's Transportation Choice Fund, as well as a grant from the State Office of Outdoor Recreation.

#### JORDAN RIVER WATER TRAIL

The Jordan River Water Trail Project's goal is to improve access and safety to the Jordan River users along the entire stretch of the river's run between Utah Lake and the Great Salt Lake. Through a master planning process, over 50 potential watercraft launch locations along the river were identified in Salt Lake, Utah and Davis Counties. This year, Salt Lake County began Phase I of it's portion of the project, funded by the 2016 Parks and Recreation Bond. It includes seven new boat launches, as well as two portages (safe detours) around hazards in the river. The first launch was complete this year, located at 1856 North Redwood Road, and construction has begun on two portages. Remaining launches are being designed and will be constructed in 2021. Two of these launch locations will be 100% ADA accessible for users in mobility devices.



South Jordan Fitness & Aquatic Center

### PARTNERING TO ENHANCE RECREATION SERVICES IN SOUTH JORDAN

As a part of an ongoing partnership between Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation and South Jordan City to enhance recreation services in the area, the County assumed management of the South Jordan Fitness and Aquatics Center in March. The adoption of the center allowed the County to maintain its service level to the area after the closure of the nearby Marv Jenson Recreation Center. As a result of the partnership, South Jordan will share in ownership of the future Bingham Creek Regional Park. The South Jordan Fitness and Aquatics Center features a lap and leisure pool, fitness areas, a gym, indoor walking track and more.



#### FROM WELBY PIT TO REGIONAL PARK

In partnership with South Jordan City, construction began on Phase I of Bingham Creek Regional Park in May. Utilizing the site of the former Welby Pit at 102000 South 4800 West, the first phase of the park will feature approximately 65 acres of amenities: multi-purpose fields, a playground, walking paths, pavilions, bike trails, a disc golf course, restrooms, parking and a maintenance facility. Future planned phases of the park will add an additional 90 acres.

Planning for the park has been in development since 2011 with conceptual planning followed by site remediation work beginning in 2016. Once all phases of the park are complete, it will be the largest park in Salt Lake County. Phase I is anticipated to be completed in October 2022.

Breaking ground on Bingham Creek Regional Park

2020 PROJECT S BY CATEGORY	TATUS	Design	Contracting	Construction	Anticipated Completion
New Parks	Bingham Creek Regional Park Phase I Magna Regional Park Phase I Pioneer Crossing Park Phase I				2022 2021 2022
Park Improvements	Dimple Dell Regional Park Improvements Dimple Dell Regional Park Amphiteather Removal & Restoration Larry H Miller Softball Complex Renovation Oak Hills Tennis Court Clubhouse Oquirrh Regional Park Improvements Riverview Park Restroom Replacement				2020-2021 Done Done Done Done Done
Trails	Jordan River Water Trail Jordan River Parkway Wayfinding Signage Mount Olympus Trailhead Improvements Utah & Salt Lake Canal Trail Phase 3 White City Canal Trail				2021 Done Done Done Done
New Facilities	Draper Recreation Center Wheeler Farm Outdoor Education Center				Done 2021
Recreation	Northwest Pool Boiler Replacement Gene Fullmer Chiller Replacement				Done 2021
Golf	South Mountain Siempre Event Center				TBD



New playground at Oquirrh Regional Park

### **OQUIRRH REGIONAL PARK IMPROVEMENTS**

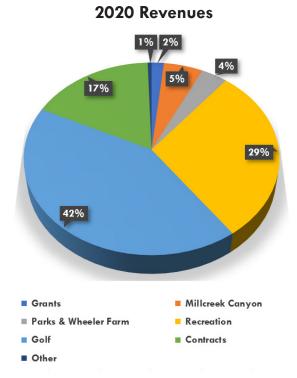
Improvements to Oquirrh Regional Park in Kearns were completed in October. Enhancements to this Class II regional park include: a new destination playground, pavilions, walking paths, restroom facility, lighting, irrigation upgrades and a maintenance building. Unique design elements were incorporated into the playground that were inspired by the Wasatch Mountains and the neighboring Olympic Oval. The project was made possible by the voters of Salt Lake County with the passage of the 2016 Parks and Recreation Bond.

## 2020 BY THE NUMBERS

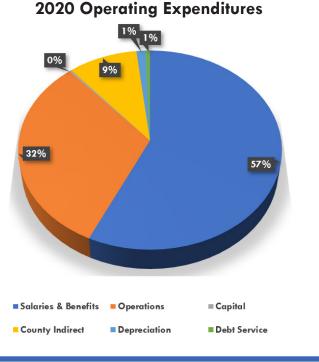


# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Fiscal operations is managed by a twelve-member team that oversees all the fiduciary responsibilities involved in running our division including – payroll, employee onboarding, contracts, accounts payable and receivable, financial accounting and budget. 2020 was a challenging year, in which COVID-19, a earthquake, and windstorm all had a significant impact on revenue and programming. A \$3.4 million operational budget cut was made to help offset the shortfall tied to these events. Parks and Recreation's number one budget priority focused on providing core services to Salt Lake County patrons while retaining our full-time workforce.



Operating Revenue				
Grants	\$302,050			
Millcreek Canyon	\$964,600			
Parks & Wheeler Farm*	\$648,900			
Recreation*	\$5,183,000			
Golf*	\$7,489,000			
Contracts	\$3,059,100			
Other	\$95,000			
Total Revenue	\$17,741,650			



Operating Expenses	
Salaries & Benefits	\$31,114,100
Operations	\$17,257,000
Capital	\$160,200
County Indirect	\$5,088,824
Depreciation	\$668,000
Debt Service	\$323,413
Total Expenditures	\$54,611,537

\*Impacted by closures due to COVID-19 and limited capacity.



Cover Photos (Clockwise Left to Right): Front desk staff at Draper Recreation Center Assistant Golf professionals assist the grounds crew at South Mountain Golf Course Filming a storytime video at Wheeler Farm Dog Days in the Maze at Wheeler Farm (Photo: Rick Egan, Salt Lake Tribune) Lifeguards ready for opening day at Draper Outdoor Pool Childcare student works on arts & crafts project