Focus Group Report: Team 1

Team #1
WESTSIDE COMMUNITY COUNCILS

City & Metropolitan Planning
Public Lands Division
10/22/2020
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Table of Contents

Introduction – page 4
Methodology – page 6
Participants Profile – page 8
Findings – page 12
  Introduction – page 12
  Stewardship – page 14
  Equity – page 16
  Closure – page 17
Recommendations – page 19
  Introduction – page 19
  Stewardship – page 19
  Equity – page 19
  Closure – page 20
Discussion – page 21
Conclusion – page 23
Appendix – page 12
  Appendix A: Flyer – page 25
  Appendix B: Email Invite – page 26
  Appendix C: Demographic Survey – page 27
  Appendix D: Email Follow Up – page 29
  Appendix E: Photographs – page 30
  Appendix F: Focus Group Guide – page 32
  Appendix G: Thank You Email – page 37
  Appendix H: Final Presentation Flyer – page 38
  Appendix I: Transcript – page 39
Introduction

The Public Lands Division of Salt Lake City in collaboration with the University of Utah has conducted multiple phases of public engagement in order to prepare a Public Lands Master Plan. The plan will guide the growth and maintenance of trails, parks, and open spaces for the next 20 years in a city that is growing quickly. During the first window of community input, City and Metropolitan Planning Graduate students from the University of Utah led focus groups that were meant to capture information from the community groups. These focus groups targeted people living in the Westside of Salt Lake City as well as people experiencing homelessness in the Central Community. Representation from both of these groups is vital for creating an equitable plan for Salt Lake City Public Lands.

A focus group was conducted with members of the Westside Coalition and west side community council members on October 6 at 6:00 PM. This focus group took place over Zoom, was facilitated by four students, included two Public Lands staff members, and took about 1.5 hours.

There were several communities and organizations represented in this group of 10. These included Westpointe Community Council, NeighborWorks, Fairpark Community Council, Westview Community Newspaper, and the Rose Park Community Council. The Westpointe, Rose Park, and Fairpark neighborhoods are all diverse communities located in the northwestern quadrant of Salt Lake City. Others that were representing different types of organizations lived in Poplar Grove and Glendale as well, thus representing almost every community on the west side except for Jordan Meadows.

Most participants were familiar with each other because of their involvement in the Westside Coalition. This is a non-profit that began operating on the Westside in 2006. Today they focus on collaboration with all community councils on the west side in order to encourage support for community goods and united representation to the city. In their own words, “Our mission is to advocate for the health, safety, and quality of life of Westside Salt Lake City residents.”¹. Many of the council members participate in this collaborative group, which is closely connected to NeighborWorks. NeighborWorks has been in Salt Lake City since 1977 and focuses on community building through urban renewal and home ownership support. NeighborWorks operates in many communities throughout the city but has a large amount of programming on the west side and partners with many NGOs that operate in these neighborhoods². Members of these groups were contacted by Dr. Ivis Garcia because they are trusted members and contributors to their communities through their associated organization or community council.

This report includes documents used in for soliciting participation, and records related to the focus group. See Appendix A for details relating to the flyer, designed by Dr. Garcia to encourage participants to join a focus group. The flyer includes information regarding the objectives of the group and information relating to the Master Plan. Two emails were sent to follow up with potential participants with more information and inquire about their intent to join the group. This is included in Appendix B. The Public Lands Division also wrote a survey, much

https://nwsaltlake.org/about-us/

https://westsideslc.org/index.php/our-history/
like the survey used in intercept interviews to track the demographics of the focus group participants (Appendix C).

Pictures were taken of the focus group while prompted with the script delivered by City and Metropolitan Graduate Students. The pictures are found in Appendix E. This is followed immediately by the script that was used to maintain consistency across focus groups and maintain structure throughout the meeting. The transcript of the actual meeting can be found in Appendix I. Other attachments include other correspondence with participants after October 6th, 2020 to invite them to a presentation summarizing the findings of all focus groups conducted by students during this first window of community engagement.

**Recruitment**

We sent out a flyer designed by Professor Garcia in order to get community members to provide input that will be used in creating the Public Lands Master Plan. The flyer was sent to the Westside Coalition and Community Council, and they were asked to send it to their personal mailing list. The flyer provided the time and location, how to RSVP, and a quick briefing on what the Zoom call would be about. This flyer was able to be printed and had a QR code to make it easier for people to access the Google Form in order to fill out our demographic survey. The flyer was branded with the Reimagine Nature logo and pictures of areas around Salt Lake City.

The participants in the focus group filled out a short survey to help establish the demographics of who would be attending. The survey asked what neighborhood participants lived in, as well as their age, sex, income, and race. See Appendix C for the questions that were asked. These demographic questions were the same as were asked in the intercept interviews that have been ongoing.

Professor Garcia initially contacted several community groups to encourage people to sign up for our focus group. She contacted the chairs of the Salt Lake City Community Councils to help spread the invite. Lonnie Olson then called those who had RSVP’d to remind them about the focus group. They were contacted the Sunday before via phone; a voicemail was left there was no answer. The following is the prompt he wrote in order to assist with these calls: "Hello, this is Lonnie Olson. I am a graduate student at the University of Utah. I am calling you today as you signed up for the Westside Coalition and Community Council focus group concerning the Salt Lake City Parks and Public Lands Master Plan that will be happening this Tuesday, October 6, from 6-7:30 pm. I am contacting you today to confirm that you will be attending this upcoming focus group.” Those who did not answer were also contacted by email to remind them of the event. People who signed up the day before were contacted that night to confirm that their attendance.
Methodology

Focus Group Technique and Relation to Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity

Focus groups are defined as “a small discussion group whose participants are selected either randomly or to approximate the demographics of the community or target market.” A focus group is an informal way to collect the thoughts and opinions of a target population that you may or may not have heard from. This is a key part in terms of equity because a moderator needs to ensure the participants are a proportional ratio of the targeted community in age, gender, and race. The goal is to attempt to get eight to ten people to attend. Planners achieve this by offering compensation, such as a gift card, to each participant. This method persuades and makes individuals feel like the focus group is worth attending.

Sometimes the community participants may perceive the focus group as an attempt to manipulate the public. Thus, they may withhold information that may be helpful to the plan. To remove this barrier, a trained moderator should be transparent from the beginning of the meeting that the focus group is one of several methods to get input from the public on a planning effort. The moderator should be knowledgeable of the public participation program. Participants should also be invited to receive updates and attend subsequent presentations on the topic.

A key factor in getting everyone to speak is timekeeping. The moderator is given the responsibility to make sure everyone is comfortable and is given the time to state their view on the topic being discussed. Focus groups should have a maximum duration of 2 hours. This should be enough time for participants to answer the question and for the moderator to make every participant feel like their point of view was validated and understood. This also establishes trust with everyone and promotes equity because everyone is heard equally.

How the Questions were Developed

Six to ten guiding questions should be prepared in advance. For the focus group, Dr. Garcia used the survey questions to formulate the group script questions. The script started with a general question and moved to a more specific and complex question. The script was forwarded to Nancy Monteith of the Salt Lake City Public Lands Division and Amanda Jeter of Design Workshop for revision. This process ensured that the questions addressed all aspects of what the plan needs from the participants. After the questions were approved, the script was disseminated to the moderators (Lonnie Olson, Hannah Pack, Delaney Sillman, and Ronnie Sloan).

Typically, the moderator asking the questions should be able to derive responses that reveal a participant’s true thoughts and feelings about a particular issue. This is vital because each individual is a representation of the larger community. By not encouraging certain invited individuals to speak, it will exclude a viewpoint that should be considered in the development of a site or plan. In the focus group, the moderators asked quiet participants who have not spoken in a while what they thought about the topic being discussed.

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Focus Group Methodology – Westside Community Councils

Moderators utilized open-ended questions in order to get thorough and honest responses from participants. These responses bring attention to each person's experience and understanding of the topic. We had five topics and 14 questions in total. The topics we discussed were overall satisfaction/dissatisfaction, stewardship, accessibility, and programming within the Salt Lake City Public Lands Division’s jurisdiction. At the beginning of the focus group, the moderators informed participants of the scheduled time. The moderators had to be flexible and condense key questions for each section because it was important to finish on time. This was fairly easy because each question within the sections was closely related. In other words, the questions were somewhat repetitive. For example, our script read: “Are parks, trails and natural areas located in close enough proximity to you?”, “Do you feel that they are within walking distance? “Do you have to drive?” In the interest of time, we instead asked, “Are parks, trails and natural areas located in close enough proximity to you?”. We chose this question because when people respond they would naturally elaborate in their response and reveal the answer to the other two questions.
Participants Profile

A total of ten people participated in the focus group, which was a better turnout than was anticipated. Four community areas were represented in this focus group. There were three age ranges, three races, and five ranges of income brackets disclosed. Results of the demographics are shown in Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 below.

Data from Social Explorer was utilized for the Westside of Salt Lake City, where the focus group attendees live. This was used to compare the demographics of the focus group to what the actual community demographics. Focus group participants were 70% male opposed to the 50.6% actual representation. Additionally, 60% of participants were 61 and older despite the actual community representation of approximately 17.3%. The focus group had no participants under 30 years of age even though this group makes up about 50% of the Westside area's population. The racial/ethnic mix of the participants was also overrepresented by whites. The majority, 70%, of focus group participants identified as white, while only 34% of the Westside’s population is white. The Westside is composed of approximately 46% Hispanic or Latino (of any race), while only 20% of our focus group participants identified this way. Overall, the focus group was not a good representation of the population in Salt Lake City’s Westside.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1. Community Area</th>
<th>No. of Participants</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rose Park</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairpark</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poplar Grove</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glendale</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westpointe</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan Meadows</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 2. Age</th>
<th>No. of Participants</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Younger than 18</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-21</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22-30</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31-40</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41-50</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51-60</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61 or older</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 3. Race/ethnicity</th>
<th>No. of Participants</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian or Alaska Native</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino (of any race)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prefer not to say</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Table 4. Household Income**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Range</th>
<th>No. of Participants</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$0 - $14,999</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$15,000 - $24,999</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$25,000 - $49,999</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50,000 - $74,999</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$75,000 - $100,000</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100,000 - $150,000</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$150,000 +</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prefer not to say</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 5. Gender**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>No. of Participants</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Binary/Third Gender</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prefer not to say</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prefer to self-describe</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### SE:A03001. Race

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Population</td>
<td>66,737</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Alone</td>
<td>29,687</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black or African American Alone</td>
<td>2,557</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian and Alaska Native Alone</td>
<td>1,025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Alone</td>
<td>4,735</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander</td>
<td>2,960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some Other Race Alone</td>
<td>22,626</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or More Races</td>
<td>3,147</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SE:A04001. Hispanic or Latino by Race

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Population</td>
<td>66,737</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td>35,763</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Alone</td>
<td>22,578</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American Alone</td>
<td>2,384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian and Alaska Native Alone</td>
<td>916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Alone</td>
<td>4,585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander</td>
<td>2,954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some Other Race Alone</td>
<td>239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or More Races</td>
<td>2,107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td>30,974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Alone</td>
<td>7,109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American Alone</td>
<td>173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian and Alaska Native Alone</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Alone</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some Other Race Alone</td>
<td>22,387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or More Races</td>
<td>1,040</td>
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[https://www.socialexplorer.com/tables/ACS2018_5yr/R12648286](https://www.socialexplorer.com/tables/ACS2018_5yr/R12648286)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Income Range</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than $10,000</td>
<td>1,523</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$10,000 to $14,999</td>
<td>910</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$15,000 to $19,999</td>
<td>877</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$20,000 to $24,999</td>
<td>977</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$25,000 to $29,999</td>
<td>1,239</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$30,000 to $34,999</td>
<td>1,322</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$35,000 to $39,999</td>
<td>1,099</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$40,000 to $44,999</td>
<td>1,189</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$45,000 to $49,999</td>
<td>1,100</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50,000 to $59,999</td>
<td>1,502</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$60,000 to $74,999</td>
<td>2,808</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$75,000 to $99,999</td>
<td>2,605</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100,000 to $124,999</td>
<td>1,208</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$125,000 to $149,999</td>
<td>633</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$150,000 to $199,999</td>
<td>395</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$200,000 or More</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[https://www.socialexplorer.com/tables/ACS2018_5yr/R12648315](https://www.socialexplorer.com/tables/ACS2018_5yr/R12648315)
Findings

The following findings reflect the overall themes which emerged throughout the focus group discussions. We began by asking participants their general perceptions of the park, and then moved into specific questions of stewardship and equity. The first section aimed to get a general sense of the participants’ attitudes about the parks and public lands, while the later two sections probed deeper regarding two topics the Salt Lake City Public Lands Master Plan seeks to address. We asked questions in the same order presented here in order to ease participants into the discussion before delving into more thought-provoking questions.

Introduction

Before we began with focus group questions, we began by asking participants to fill out the demographic survey and the Reimagine Nature survey if they have not done so already. Lonnie then began by discussing the initial findings of the 2019 SLC Parks and Public Lands Needs Assessment. He then went in a circle to give everyone an opportunity to talk in this setting. Everyone was given one minute to introduce themselves and to talk about public land that is near their home that they utilize.

Participants had no difficulties talking about this. One common theme that came up that everyone in this group had access to parks, trails, and open spaces. The Jordan River Trail was popular among participants and was one of the main reasons they moved to the Westside. Comments from Carrie sum up this collective feeling:

Parks have always been an important part of my life, you know, growing up on the Westside. As a young child, I used to Jordan Park a lot. I learned how to swim at Jordan Park. I play on the playground. Walk through the Peace Gardens. And caught guppies. And now, we bought a house right near the Jordan River Trail, for that reason. I love being near the Jordan River Trail for its recreational use, but also just to have a respite. From the urban area, you know you have this string of nature in the urban environment that restores my soul.

Carrie's comments highlighted how impactful the Jordan River was to her when she was young and how that continued into adulthood. It was so impactful that she decided to purchase a residence along the Jordan River so that she and her family could take advantage of this fantastic resource in a highly urbanized area.

Kenneth expressed that he has lived in this area and has had kids grow up here as well. He has had a great time watching his kids use the assets of the communities. Both of his kids have played baseball for the community teams that utilize the parks near them.

We have two boys that have played, and we really missed it this year. In fact, my youngest son just started playing high school and aside from the fact that everything was cancelled because of COVID, we really missed the whole experience.
Kenneth's experience is building off of Carrie's as his family is involved with the public lands and see the importance of these areas as one grows up. Not only as a relief from the hustle and bustle of life, but it can help build communities that know each other.

The moderator omitted the second question as many of the answers from the initial question addressed their satisfaction with public lands. The last item that was asked was about dissatisfaction with public lands. The moderator specifically asked if there were things preventing them or household members from using these areas or if they avoid, not enjoy, or feel uncomfortable when in these locations.

One response from this section stood out as a frequent user of the public lands with children being robbed at gunpoint. Kenneth said,

We've lived here for 20 plus years. And I usually feel pretty safe on the trails, but I did get robbed at gunpoint on the Jordan River Trail like three years ago, yeah, it was three years ago now. All they took was my phone. But they also took my phone.

No one should have this sort of experience while recreating, especially one who has dedicated twenty years of their life to the area. It is a life-changing event that has altered how he and his family use these areas. He does not allow himself or his family to use the trail during the early morning or late evening.

Maddie's response to this question was rather interesting. "Often I think there's a large percentage of community who don't always know about the amenities in the park. So if you look at some of the small pocket parks, there's, there's a lot of equipment for kids. And often families don't know about it."

The lack of public knowledge of these smaller, less-known parks could show why some people feel like these areas are too far away to take advantage of when they have limited time or resources to get around. Many pocket parks are unused or underutilized due to a lack of public knowledge that they exist.

Homelessness is a larger issue that the Public Lands Division cannot solve solely on their own. They can do things that would help with this, though. As mentioned by Thomas,

I do see a lot of camping on the Jordan River Trail. And I don't think that I mind so much the camping. I do mind how much stuff they leave behind when they're done. I think just a patrol in the morning just to remind people they have to take everything with them might be a nice gesture.

Participants did not mind that the homeless camp along the trail, as they acknowledged that these people are a part of the society we live in. However, they do mind seeing trash along the trails, though, as it takes away from the natural corridor that helps people "restore their soul."
Timothy's comments build upon this, "When you asked what I was unsatisfied with, the first thing that came to mind was the lack of restrooms. That was immediately followed by the low number trash receptacles on the trail."
As trash is a problem in these areas, and humans inherently do not like to be dirty, Timothy’s suggestions would be things that would help everyone as a whole. Trash receptacles are spaced out so far that it is inconvenient for people to throw away items that should not be there. Restrooms can have trash containers and help when larger groups of kids go to public lands, allowing them to go and keep playing, not having to go home and then come back.
Stewardship

The stewardship conversation began with a brief introduction to stewardship actions currently underway by two members of the Salt Lake City Public Lands Division; Lewis and Nancy. Lewis described some activities that are being done currently along Salt Lake City trails. In particular, he spoke about the role of biodiversity in the Fife Wetland Reserve project. Nancy spoke to the group about a “friends of parks” programs and a Tree Utah partnership. This was something that Debbie brought up earlier in the conversation and thus seemed to be something that the council members were familiar with.

With a shortage of time, the questions were reframed in order to address questions that had not been inadvertently answered during the introductions. The questions were reframed to allow participants to return to themes that they had mentioned in the previous line of questioning, but it was also meant to encourage them to think about how they could see themselves contributing to stewardship in Salt Lake City. Because stewardship actions were explained in detail in the previous section of questioning, the explanation of stewardship was reduced slightly to allow for more time for discussion. The initial prompt quickly began to spin into conversations that were likely weighing on the minds of participants that they were interested in sharing with members of the Public Lands Division.

Prior to this, the participants shared some thoughts while discussing disappointments that they have with the parks. Maddie said “Well, I find when I frequent any of the parts I find myself cleaning up after other people. Lots of times and so it makes it less enjoyable.” In addition to concerns for trash and trash and bathroom facilities, there were also concerns about maintaining biodiversity along the Jordan River Corridor. Ryan spoke to this:

I would like to start seeing us eliminating them as a non-native species here in Salt Lake. They consume massive amounts of water, more so than most any other tree. They just consumed water and I’d like to see us trying and start working as a 20 years or 30 years 50 year goal to eliminate those trees from that entire stretch as an environmental statement relative to endangered species occupying lands where we should be having native species.

In addition to addressing projects for the community and the City’s Public Lands Division, the community council members also had thoughts about addressing the issue of funding for these projects. Many of the members admitted that they address garbage at parks while they are there, but most of them also addressed the fact that there needs to be system-wide change to address issues related to restroom facilities and employment, especially when it comes to trash that is left by unsheltered people along the Jordan River Parkway. Albert had an idea, which was addressed again by Timothy in his closing statement.

I had an out of the box, real small suggestion for all the trailhead along the Jordan River, on the side of the trail, at the trailhead, ask the users of a trail to donate to a cause, a little QR code a little sign or something like that and maybe get some direct funding to that.

With Lewis present to address questions, many of the members were able to glimpse inside the trails and open lands from a different perspective. This was positive for creating a space for the community council members to, as Albert said, think outside of the box in terms of where they
think funding may come from, and what they hope the overall direction of the public lands will be in terms of how maintenance is achieved. One group member returned to the idea of funding in his closing statements as well.

Yeah well I think that it's important for people to push back against the idea of the comments being paying for themselves… So I, I like that what you said earlier also Lewis about keeping some momentum.

This ended up leading into the group’s discussion regarding equity. This was particularly true for Carrie, who was the first to make the point of including children in the stewardship process in order to ensure that there is longevity for maintenance solutions.

So, I think any efforts to get kids on the river to get them involved in caring for the river, you know, that will go a long way. So it's thinking long term, you know, as those kids grow up and they teach their kids and their future generations and you know, instead of throwing shopping carts in the river, they're going to want to canoe or kayak or, I mean they'll, they'll see the value of the river.

Carrie included in her closing statements more reflections on stewardship actions related to exposure to natural resources. She also made the connection to diversity, education, and access to recreation as a case for encouraging ownership of spaces to encourage stewardship.

[My] parting thoughts are just that I really think that stewardship, you know, promoting stewardship among our younger generations is really important. And the access thing is really important as well. I think we need to make canoeing and boating and, you know, I always if I'm paddling down the Jordan River and I look at people along the trail.

In addition to Carrie’s interest in educating and giving children experiences in order to encourage them to care for their environments, Debbie also had something to add to this in her closing statements that is indirectly related to the matter of stewardship. Debbie proposed a ranger program, based on a senior volunteer ranger program potentially run through federal parks. Her idea presents several potential benefits, including engaging different age groups in Salt Lake City Public Lands, but also using rangers as a first line of communication between Salt Lake City and unsheltered people living in the parks. Despite the many alternative benefits, this potential programming could be categorized as stewardship action, and present a great way to include diverse populations in the ownership of our parks.

This phase of questioning was open for all participants to answer at will and evolved into a conversation regarding the use of land for activities that do and do not reflect family values which were very important to every member that spoke up during this section. There was also fluid conversation between members of the Public Lands Division and the community council members, particularly regarding funding and land acquisition.

Stewardship seemed to be an important and well-understood component of many of the members' relationships with public lands. Many of them shared their concerns and their relationship to the Jordan River and the Jordan River Trail, and they would later go on to consider that the difference in persistent funding and priority is often allocated to parks and open spaces that are not in their neighborhoods on the Westside. This helped to transition the
conversation to equity, in which Lewis was again present in conversation to address some of the stewardship concerns that are related to equity in Salt Lake City.

Equity

In this section, three questions were asked due to the limitations on time. The first question asked was, “When you imagine our public lands 10-20 years from now, what changes do you think we need to make to our public lands to help serve and include all people more equitably?”

There was this piercing silence as if people wanted to say something but were not quite sure how to due to the nation’s climatic situation surrounding race. Ronnie sensed that no one would answer, but the question needed to be discussed, so she chose individuals to get started. She chose a middle-aged white male to start it off. He joked and acknowledged that it was a tough question and he just somehow knew that I was going to call on him. His comment was very insightful. He said,

You know I go to Sugarhouse Park and other parks on the Eastside and it just seems like they are a little bit more cared for... I wish the city pays as much attention to the Westside parks as they do the Eastside parks.

He spoke what was an obvious, but unspoken, thought that most Westside residents felt. After he spoke the obvious thing that some did not have the words to say, another white male chimed in after.

He expressed the value of the International Peace Garden. He felt it was a hidden, valuable asset to the community because it reminds him of all the people who live in Salt Lake City and their ancestral origins. He said, “Everyone may not agree with me, but it is important to be culturally inclusive. We should celebrate who we are and not concentrate on the division.”

A middle-aged Latino woman was hesitant but finally had the courage to say something. She raised her hand to get our attention and Ronnie called on her. She made such a piercing comment about diversity and events in Salt Lake City. She said,

When you think about the diversity of the people in Salt Lake City Westside, I don't think we celebrate it. We talk a lot about it. Some events happen but they don’t occur on the Westside... People don’t want to cross the other side of the tracks. There are so many celebrations that can occur on the Westside to celebrate the diversity.

She went on to say that sometimes we don't value all the ages of people on the Westside. She said, “We have so many senior centers on the Westside....some of them are amazing quilters...why don't we have a huge quilting gathering at the parks.”

In all everyone had a common belief that the community talks about all these events they could do but “does not see that commitment and that investment in terms of truly making it happen.”

The second question that was asked was, “How about activities, are there some cultural events or programs for families, youth or older adults that would be appealing to you?”
An elderly white woman immediately answered the question without hesitation. She talked about how prior to COVID-19 parks used to be used to host summer lunch programs and people always came for that. She went on to say that,

We had a really good opportunity to bring people to the park, but we don’t really utilize it… these programs don’t have to cost a lot. The best day that lunch program participants had was when the parks program let the sprinklers run. The kids ran through it and had a fantastic time.

The group progressed towards the understanding that the community has all these great ideas but does not have the tools to turn these events into reality. The same elderly white lady gave an example of how a basketball tournament didn't happen. She said, “They were planning on doing a community basketball tournament and people signed up, but it never happened because they didn't have the ongoing support to make it happen.”

A middle-aged white male joined in after and wanted to mention something that the middle-aged Latino woman brought up earlier in the discussion. He said, “We do have things going on in the community, but we are not well connected.” He felt like they could join the Fair Park and that the Jordan Trail could be a great opportunity. He went on to say, “I’d like to see us join with existing initiatives. I’d like to sit down with some of you and figure out how to knit these programs together.” Another man joined the conversation and said,

I feel like clearly community members already have great ideas that need to be implemented. I really want to see these ideas captured. To me this is an indication that the city needs to do a better job continuing to keep the momentum behind these conversations. We need to build a coalition to push these ideas forward.

In all there is this acknowledgement of the value the Westside has in terms of diversity and community events but needs assistance making these ideas come to fruition.

The final question that was asked was, “Are these places accessible for older adults and for people with disabilities? Once you are there, can you move around freely (sidewalks are good, there are handrails if you need them, etc.)?”

A man immediately started off the conversation expressing concern about the area near constitution park adjacent to the Jordan River and the park trail past the amphitheater. He encouraged us to see ADA ramp. Salt Lake City installed a fence panel that cannot swing open and is fenced off. Public money was used to withhold a public resource from people with disabilities and without. He would like to see it removed so everyone can enjoy the Jordan River.

Closure

We closed the focus group by again going in a circle and asking each participant to answer the following question: “What else should be considered in developing the Public Lands Master Plan?” The idea of a park rangers program came up again, specifically in the context of being a volunteer opportunity for seniors. Debbie brilliantly connected this to the larger racial justice movement which has gripped the attention of the nation:
I think part of the discussion about defunding the police, we could actually use this as an opportunity to talk about park rangers and funding. And I don't think park rangers has to have to be law enforcement, but I do think a different approach than a law enforcement approach using park rangers. This is the time to talk about it and think about it in come up for some innovative ideas.

Participants then circled back to discussions of funding, particularly in the context of funding the ideas community members put forward. Maddie, speaking about Salt Lake City’s Community Councils, said,

They reach out to a variety of partners to make things happen. They don't have the kind of money that falls behind government departments, but boy, do they make things happen. And if municipalities could really think about how, within their department, how to execute on these recommendations that you all are making to them and how they could partner with community groups you can really make some things happen.

This reiterated earlier conversations about funding and that there was a lack of a dedicated coalition to ensure that the ideas community members present are fully funded and see dedicated follow through.

A topic that was not discussed in detail in earlier conversations emerged within closing statements, which was sustainability. Darryl brought up a National Geographic article he had read,

I would be remiss if I didn't suggest that, you know… in the second driest state and the nation, with global warming hanging over our head, 10 years of drought. Right. National Geographic has us, along the Wasatch Front, as the most wasteful water users in the entire world. It's kind of embarrassing for one thing. And what's even more embarrassing is to be watering Kentucky Bluegrass that belongs in Kentucky with portable water, drinking water, that's just crazy. So, and I don't think it's sustainable under the current conditions.

The closing discussion illuminated the connections the participants had made between what is happening in Salt Lake City’s parks and what is happening in the nation and the world. Throughout the discussion, participants’ comments illustrated their dedication to our parks, as well as provided thoughtful consideration of how a better system could be visualized.
Recommendations

Following the Westside Coalition Focus Group, the moderators propose the following recommendations to better serve residents of the Westside community. Although the participants were not representative of the Westside’s demographics, they are deeply involved with residents and other organizations within the community. We believe their insight to be beneficial due to this exposure.

Introduction

Having better signage at the parks that tell users what is in this park translated into multiple languages so that non-English speakers feel welcomed. This would help with the inclusion of the many different backgrounds of people who utilize these areas. A park ranger program that helps with keeping these areas clean and safe. It is not there to kick out the homeless to another spot but to keep these areas clean and natural. These park rangers should be from the community they are working in to ensure that they feel welcome while recreating. Keeping the community involved and welcome so that generations of people share values are essential for many reasons and can be educational. Having equipment rentals to utilize natural areas and have access to outings would help build these values of the importance of public lands with people of all ages.

Stewardship

Many of the participants had concerns related to the trash, animal, and even human waste that they have found in several of the parks, in particular along the Jordan River Trail, but also in Fairmont Park and others throughout Salt Lake City. After conferring with members of the Public Lands Division, they also brought up ideas related to funding stewardship actions in order to take the burden off of the already stretched department. Many of the council members demonstrated personal responsibility for the parks and open spaces, by describing incidences where they cleaned up after others. Several of them also thought that education and biodiversity were important components of stewardship. Recommendations from this group include education programs, transparent funding schemes, easily accessible donation campaigns, and senior ranger programs. Some council members also have been involved with projects like Tree Utah and other campaigns, however they seemed more interested in developing new ways of engaging more of the community and relying less on smaller groups to contribute. This is deduced by the direction of the conversation directly with Salt Lake City employees, particularly as it relates to funding and community-wide coalition building and resource allocation.

Equity

The recommendation based on the equity discussion is to formulate a Westside coalition to get all the ideas down and have a team actively work on making these park functions a reality. They have many programs throughout the community, but these programs need to work together to turn the great ideas into a reality. The community does not expect an expensive event. They are grateful for the little functions because it establishes community. We also strongly recommend someone fix the fence and gate to allow people with disabilities to go down the ramp at Constitution Park and enjoy the Jordan River because large sums of money were contributed to
create the ramp. The final recommendation would be to utilize programs like summer lunch programs at the parks to build engaging programs around for families to have fun. They are guaranteed to come due to lack of food access.

Closure

The concluding discussion echoed many of the themes present throughout the prior topics and have been addressed by our recommendations. However, a new topic of sustainability and climate change emerged. To address the growing concern of sustainability, we recommend the Public Lands Division adopt a rigorous sustainability plan within the master plan. This plan should address issues of biodiversity, water waste, and air pollution. We recommend the Public Lands Division collaborate with the Sustainability Department to involve urban ecologists in the design of the plan, as well as implementation and success measurement.
Discussion

*Team Experience Conducting the Focus Group*

The script seemed to encourage engagement from the participants throughout the entire 1.5 hours. It encouraged conversations that were not necessarily scripted. The side conversations were usually characterized by conversation between council members and Lewis in regards to certain decisions about land acquisition and stewardship funding. Though the script was not adhered to perfectly for the sake of time, it was easily adaptable, and helped to generate good conversation.

Using aliases for this focus group was not an effective strategy. Many of the group members were able to adapt well to the Zoom format, but the disconnectedness of the space made it very difficult to communicate to everyone what the purpose of the alias was. In addition to that, many of them did not seem particularly concerned about their name being used, and also knew each other well, and thus were already prepared to accept interpersonal consequences for what they had to say. This was an interesting dynamic as the outsider facilitators of the group that had already worked relatively closely, at least many of them had. I would not consider this a fault of the group, but I do think that it would have been interesting to see the difference in answers or level of comfort in a similar group that did not already have a significant connection.

The questions were open ended, but also included lengthy explanations and qualifiers. Many of the members in the group had lengthy responses to the questions because many of the issues were concepts that they had already contributed so time to as community council members. It may be helpful to create concise questions in the future for groups like this in order to reduce the amount of meandering that was not necessarily contributing to communicating the vision for Salt Lake City public spaces. In the future, it may be helpful to give specific time restrictions for certain questions in order to allow time for each topic as well as for each participant.

Many of the people who attended this focus group had a good deal of exposure to the topic already, and many of them had also already discussed among themselves many of the topics covered in the focus group. Because of this, some of the value of a focus group in the traditional sense was lost, though it was still significant for the Public Lands Division staff and students to hear the opinions of the council members, even though it operated a bit more like a briefing. This was particularly true given the fact that the Public Lands staff were addressing the group and visible throughout the whole conversation. This was very beneficial for the conversation, and helped many of the council members to come to consensus about some of the most glaring points regarding equity and funding for park maintenance. There are many different types of engagement techniques, and though this focus group at times morphed into something different and then would morph back, it presented an important opportunity for members of communities to address technical experts and address their own needs in order to try to alter the course of plan-making. This is incredibly important, no matter what the engagement takes, the fluidity or rigidity of these methods presents opportunities only if there is interest in taking in information or interest in contributing it. It is also very apparent from this meeting that the
information that planners or other experts want the public to give is not always the information that the public cares about giving.

**Topics**

It was interesting to hear from community members their interest in events and even an international market. Ryan was very interested in reaching across organizations to employ different strengths and interests on the west side. This in itself was not surprising given the fact that the group was primarily members of the Westside Coalition which is founded on the interest of improving communication and increasing capacity and representation. It was surprising to hear that members of these community councils were interested in establishing big projects that would require a great deal of follow up from the community and have the potential to change the dynamics of communities. This was surprising because many of the members expressed that they had lived on the west side for most of their lives, or at least for very good amounts of time. The dynamics of the group also seemed surprising given the level of interest in unique and creative placemaking and programming.

After conducting intercept surveys, it was not surprising to see that many of the topics were very similar to questions that were posed to individuals. The focus on equity as an entire section of the focus group, even though this was only one question within a sizable survey. It was interesting to hear many of the council members discuss the difference in stewardship actions as a huge indicator for inequity and inequality in the Public Lands Division. It was surprising that there was a lack of communicating what the community groups wished to offer to stewardship along the Jordan River Trail. Almost all members communicated that they found the trail to be incredibly important to themselves and their households, but very few had thoughts related to what they and their respective community councils were interested in contributing to the efforts to create ownership of this space. Key exceptions to this were Maddie and Carrie who spoke about an interest in independently participating in education campaigns, cleanup events, and

It was surprising how committed to diversity the participants were. Moderators may have held preconceived notions about the participants since they were overwhelmingly white and male. However, many different participants spoke up on the idea of inclusion and community driven aspects. The participants really focused on increasing social connections within the community. It is interesting to consider how the ongoing pandemic may have helped shape these views. Many people have found that they underappreciated community relationships in the past and are eager to build those bonds stronger than before. It was exciting to hear several very creative ideas addressing issues that were not necessarily issues identified in the focus group script. The council members have individual, group, and intra organizational projects and goals which is really inspiring.
Conclusion

The goal of the focus group with the focus group was to obtain insight perspectives of community members through more nuanced responses. The focus group allowed moderators to detect emotional triggers within the community. This is an important aspect of the community engagement phase as it allows the Salt Lake City Public Lands Division to better understand some of the specific issues the residents see in their community. This feedback can be invaluable for the Public Lands Division while drafting their Public Lands Master Plan.

Many of the Community Council members brought up the issue of cleanliness in the park. These concerns took shape in the form of clean up from overnight camping and trash. Focus group participants reflected on times when they felt that the trash distracted them from enjoying the park. Participants noted that they would pick up trash, but that it made the trip less enjoyable. Participants also commented on the cleanliness of the Jordan River and how past practices had tarnished its image.

Participants frequently discussed lack of events. The events they wanted to see varied greatly. On the topic of the Jordan River, some participants wanted to see more being done to encourage people to get active on the waterway, potentially through group floats. Other people wanted to see events supporting stewardship in the parks. They mentioned encouraging people to get involved with stewardship at a young age to promote lifelong appreciation of our public lands. Many of the reflections in the introduction phase of the focus group seemed to revolve around the opportunities their children had, and participants would like future generations to engage in stewardship as well. Overall, the events participants wanted to see are community based and focused on building relationships with each other and the parks.

Diversity was a big topic as this group engaged fully in the equity discussion. Participants pointed out their pride of the International Peace Gardens and celebrated its cultural diversity. They acknowledged that it is important to represent all of the cultures present in Salt Lake City. Participants wanted to see more culturally diverse events take place on the Westside of Salt Lake City. There have been many wonderful ideas put forth, but there has not been follow through on them. One example provided was the plan for an International Market which was never realized.

With these themes in mind, our primary recommendations are to establish a volunteer park rangers program, develop events that celebrate the diversity of the Westside, and to establish a coalition dedicated to transforming ideas for the parks and public lands into a reality. The volunteer park rangers program can include unique ranks for youth rangers and senior rangers. This should not function as any form of law enforcement, but rather a form of community involvement and ownership of these lands. Additionally, to form more social connections, the Public Lands Division should collaborate with community groups to establish more events that reflect the various ethnic groups residing in Salt Lake City. These events should take place in the Westside to encourage residents to visit this area, as well as take place near where these communities reside. Finally, a community coalition should be established to ensure the wonderful ideas that community members would like to see in their neighborhoods are actualized. This group should be composed of existing and new organizations which meet regularly with the Public Lands Division.
The results of this focus group will be combined with information collected in five other focus groups with the same intent, as well as with results from intercept interviews conducted throughout September and October, 2020. This information will be presented to the Salt Lake City Public Lands Division on Thursday, November 5th, 2020. Additionally, the findings will be presented to the Salt Lake City community and to all focus group participants on Thursday, November 19th, 2020 via Zoom.
Appendix

Appendix A: Flyer

We want to hear your opinion about parks!
1.5 hour conversation

When
Tuesday, October 6 @ 6:00PM-7:30PM

Where
In zoom, link will be sent when you RSVP.

To RSVP
Go to https://forms.gle/XXXXXXXXXXXXXX
Call or text Lily Garcia
801.833.4023
Appendix B: Email Invite

Version 1
Hello All,

I am following up on this invitation to participate in a focus group discussion that will inform the Public Lands Master Plan that SLC is preparing. We would like to have about 8 from the Community Councils to join us. Please sign up: https://forms.gle/PYXRBSW3TbDLvbU58. I will be sending a Google Invite shortly.

There will be a few people from the city joining us too:
1. Lewis Kogan, Trails & Natural Lands Division Director
2. Nancy Monteith, Landscape Architect III/ Park Planner at Salt Lake City Corporation.

By the way, the info to join is:
Focus Group #1: Westside Coalition and Community Council Residents
   Tuesday, October 6 @ 6:00PM-7:30PM
   https://utah.zoom.us/j/98683614967 | Passcode: 591717

Thanks,
Lonnie Olson
Version 2
Dear XXXX,

Hello, this is Lonnie Olson. I am a graduate student at the University of Utah. I am contacting you today as you signed up for the Westside Coalition and Community Council Focus group concerning the Salt Lake City Parks and Public Lands Master Plan that will be happening this Tuesday, October 6, from 6-7:30 pm. I am contacting you today to confirm that you will be attending this upcoming focus group if you could email me back and let me know that would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks,
Lonnie Olson
Appendix C: Demographic Survey

1. Which Salt Lake City neighborhood or community do you live in?
   a) Rose Park
   b) Fairpark
   c) Poplar Grove
   d) Glendale
   e) Westpointe
   f) Jordan Meadows
   g) Central City

2. What is your age?
   a) Younger than 18
   b) 18-21
   c) 22-30
   d) 31-40
   e) 41-50
   f) 51-60
   g) 61 or older

3. What is your race/ethnicity?
   h) Black or African American
   i) American Indian or Alaska Native
   j) Asian
   k) Hispanic or Latino (of any race)
   l) Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
   m) White
   n) Prefer not to say

4. What is your household income level?
a) $0 - $14,999  
b) $15,000 - $24,999  
c) $25,000 - $49,999  
d) $50,000 - $74,999  
e) $75,000 - $100,000  
f) $100,000 - $150,000  
g) $150,000 +

5. What is your gender? 
   a) Male  
   b) Female  
   c) Non-Binary/Third Gender  
   d) Prefer not to say  
   e) Prefer to self-describe
Dear All,

I would like to confirm the meeting tomorrow Tuesday, Oct 6 from 6-7:30 p.m. via Zoom (there is an automatic Google hangout link, do not use that). If you have any issues feel free to call or text 801.833.4073.

Our conversation will be based on a survey that you can find online here: https://www.reimaginenatureslc.com. Please take 10 minutes before the meeting tomorrow to explore the Public Lands Master Plan website and take this survey: https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/8297d3d87a7940e1a9825cf49e9f6715. Sign-up for the newsletter for up-to-date news and community engagement events.

If you are planning to attend today please complete a survey to help us keep track of who is providing input in these focus groups: https://forms.gle/ZjebUumRaNDdALfQ8. Thank you all for your willingness to provide input.

Best

Ivis (801.833.4073)

Join Zoom Meeting

https://utah.zoom.us/j/98683614967

Passcode: 591717

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
Appendix E: Photographs

Figure 1.1 Screenshot of the Zoom Focus Group
Figure 1.2 Screenshot of Zoom University of Utah Focus Group Moderators
Appendix F: Focus Group Guide

Facilitator #1 – Welcome! – 15 minutes

[Choose a student to be the main facilitator and give the introduction. Welcome people informally as they enter to the SLC Public Lands Master focus group. Engage in small chat and answer questions people have. Tell them to fill out the demographic questionnaire, survey in English or Spanish, and asked them to take a look at the Snapshot (upload in zoom, for in person we will have copies).

My name is [name] and I am a master student at the University of Utah in City & Metropolitan Planning. We are University students working with the City Public Lands Divisions to better understand how people might reimagine the future of parks, trails, and natural areas. And now each team member will introduce themselves to you. [Introduction of other students in the team]. Here with us we also have staff from SLC Public Lands [introduction of SLC Public Lands staff].

As you know from our previous communication, you are here to participate in a focus group (or in other words a group discussion) on a specific topic. The topic that we will be discussing today is what you reimagine the future of parks, trails, and natural areas in Salt Lake City. During this focus group, you all will have the opportunity to share your experiences about going to trails, parks, and natural areas in the city. Most importantly we interested in your thoughts about how to improve them in the next 10 and 20 years.

We do not want to miss anything that you say, that being said this conversation will be audio recorded. The recording will be used to transcribe the conversation and later pull out some quotes for a report we are writing. We will not use your name on the report. We will give you a fake name. We asked you for your demographics previously to know as a collective who came to all the focus groups, we have six in total and about 40 people will be participating. In the report we will use your fake name with some identifiers including possibly your age, gender, race and ethnicity. We will also be taking pictures to put in our report.

à If in person: However, we will be taking pictures of your back or hands. We will not take pictures of your face, where other will be able to identify you.

à If in Zoom: If you are in Zoom and you would not like pictures of you, make sure to turn off your camera now, so we can take a quick group picture with our screenshot right now.

[For community councils there is NO compensation. If is not a community council, mention that we will be offering $25 gift card as a token of our appreciation. We will talk more about this at the end of the meeting].

All that being said, our discussion will last about 1.20 minutes [change if there is less time due to tardiness. If in person, say, please help yourself to the refreshments throughout the meeting].

Are there any questions so far?
**Ground Rules**

Before starting with the conversation, we would like to set up some guiding principles. Principles that will help us to make the best of our group discussion:

1. Turn off your cell phones.
2. One person speaks at a time.
3. There are no right or wrong answers.
4. Like in Las Vegas, what is said in this room stays in this room.
5. Talk to each other not strictly to the person asking questions.
6. If you feel uncomfortable please let us know.
7. Would someone like to add something?

I. **Facilitator #2: Introduction (20 minutes, student led):** First, I will ask you about parks, trails, natural areas near home.

   1. **Icebreaker:** Salt Lake City Public Lands Divisions conducted Needs Assessment which found that, having a park within walking distance of home (half a mile or 15-minute walk) was considered extremely important to 57% of Salt Lake City residents surveyed in 2017 and having a park in biking distance of home was extremely important to 38%. We will go in a circle and we will have everyone introduce themselves. In 1 minute, tell me your name where you live in and how important is to you to have nearby your home a city park, a recreational trail or bike path, a natural area or open space, a street or public space with abundant trees, maybe a city golf course? [I want to hear specifically about the places that you go near your home so in your neighborhood].

   2. **Satisfaction:** Now I would like to know: What you enjoy about this place? What is great about it? Prompts: Maybe you feel more connected to nature, it’s a great place to exercise or meet friends in the neighborhood, its clean and well taken of.

   3. **Unsatisfaction:** What prevents you or members of your household from spending more time in these outdoor places? Prompt maybe there are no places nearby, places are too crowded, hard to get there, safety or security concerns? Do you avoid, not enjoy, or feel uncomfortable or not welcome in some city parks or natural areas near your home or in your neighborhood? If yes, can you tell me about some of these locations and what could improve your experience?

   4. **Exit Question:** In general, what would make park, trail, natural areas, golf course near your home better?
II. Facilitator #3: Stewardship (20 minutes, staff and student led). The next topic we will discuss is stewardship.

1. Student will introduce SLC staff so he or she can talk about stewardship (if SLC staff is not available student will assume this role instead).

   o Public Lands Division Staff Member: When it comes to stewardship of our parks, citizens have indicated they would most like to see the following improvements: maintenance and cleanliness, additional or improved restrooms, lighting or safety features and additional trees. Stewardship activities in public lands can also support more natural habitat protection, like recent efforts at Fife Wetland Preserve (Link #1, Link #2) or at Friends at Fairmont Park which is a group of citizens in Sugar House that advice the city on issues regarding this park as well as organize their own activities (include other examples that you are personally involved with). Student note: show images, find online, make a collage if you like. Here are some instructions for printing posters for free at the college: http://www.cap.utah.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Plotting-Instructions_01.pdf.

2. Student will ask questions: Are there any areas for improvement for any of the parks, trails or natural areas that are close to you? Prompts:

   o Add or renovate aged restrooms, playgrounds and other amenities
   o Add and service more bins for trash and dog waste
   o Plant more trees in parks and natural areas
   o Incorporate more native, waterwise or pollinator plants in landscaping
   o Acquire additional natural areas to increase size of existing habitat blocks and wildlife corridors
   o Support “Friends of the Parks” groups
   o Develop ranger/ambassador programs
   o Host educational events to build land ethics
   o Support active modes of transportation to reduce carbon footprint (e.g., walking, biking)

3. Student will ask question and staff will discuss opportunities for volunteering: Are there ways you can imagine yourself contributing to the stewardship of public lands? For example, you can volunteer for clean-up days, tree planting, etc.

III. Facilitator #4: Equity (20 minutes, student led). Now we will discuss topics related to equity.
1. **Introduction:** SLC is home to over 196,000 people who speak 80 languages representing a broad range of socioeconomic backgrounds and cultural heritages. As in most American cities, there are gaps in the amount and quality of public lands available to different neighborhoods in SLC. Question: When you imagine our public lands 10-20 years from now, what changes can we make to our public lands system to help serve and include all people more equitably?

2. **Accessibility:** Now, I would like to hear about how accessible are these places to you? Prompts:

   - Are parks, trails and natural areas located in close enough proximity to you?

   - You feel that they close by walking distance? Do you have to drive? How do you get there (walk, bike, take public transit, carpool)? Has transportation been a challenge in the past when wanting to visit a park, trail or natural areas anywhere in the city?

   - Are these places accessible for older adults and for people with disabilities? Once you are there, can you move around freely (sidewalks are good, there are handrails if you need them, etc.)?

2. **Programming:** Unfortunately, Public Lands does not do significant programming. They only do a small number of events to activate parks. Collaborating departments, such as the Arts Council does cultural programming and Public Lands facilitates access to outside groups that also program their spaces. We still want to lean how do you think that programing could be more inclusive to different cultural groups? Let’s use as an example the Hispanic or Latinx, Somali or Pacific Islander community but we might extend our thinking to other ethnic groups like.

   - Could translations of Public Land materials (e.g. website, events, signage at parks, trails, etc.) encourage participation and use?

   - What about park, trail, and natural area locations in neighborhoods where there are people from different cultures?

   - How about activities, are there some cultural events or programs for families, youth or older adults that would be appealing to you?

   - What else would be important for you, your family, and others in your community?

IV. Facilitator #1: Closing (15 minutes).

1. We have arrived to the end of our discussion, like at the very beginning we will go in a circle, hearing from each one of you with a closing question: What else should be considered in developing the Public Lands Master Plan for natural areas, urban forests, and parks? [If people do not know what to say, asked them: what resonated the most with you in this conversation? What is the most important thing that the master plan should include? What is the one message that decision makers should hear from this conversation we just had?].
2. I now have a question for staff of the Public Lands Division: What was some of the most important things that you heard today?

3. Thanks, you all for coming! Your comments will be very valuable in creating the next Public Lands Master Plan. Make sure that you fill out the full survey online so you can sign up to receive updates on the plan and can be engage in any future activities.

4. I also would like to invite you to our final class presentation to take place online, using the same link and passcode, on Thursday November 19, from 9:10 a.m.-10:30 a.m. We will be sending you a formal invite a few weeks before the event. At this presentation we will be providing a summary of the six focus groups as well as findings from more than 2,000 surveys that have been collected for this project. [Upload to the chat the invite that is in Canvas under this homework].

5. And now [name of student] will have more information for you about the payment. [Please note that Community Councils would not receive payment].

-> If in person: I have some $25 Walmart cards for you. I will be going around getting your signature for documentation and I will give you the card.

-> If in Zoom: We will be sending you an online gift card for $25 to Amazon. We have taken attendance and we have double checked we have your email [please do this]. With your email we can just send you this e-card. However, because we have six focus group we will be sending these after October 15.
Appendix G: Thank You Email

Hello,

I hope this email finds you well. I wanted to personally thank you for your time to provide insights on how to improve our Public Lands in Salt Lake City. Your comments will be very valuable in creating the next Public Lands Master Plan. Please make sure that you fill out the full survey and demographic questionnaire online so you can sign up to receive updates on the plan and can engage in any future activities.

I would also like to personally invite you to our final class presentation that will take place online, using the same link and passcode (https://utah.zoom.us/j/98683614967 | Passcode: 591717), on Thursday November 19, from 9:10 a.m.-10:30 a.m. We will be sending you a formal invite a few weeks before the event. At this presentation, we will be providing a summary of the six focus groups as well as findings from more than 2,000 surveys that have been collected for this project.

If you have any direct questions, I would recommend reaching out to Lewis Kogan, Trails and Natural Lands Division Director (Lewis.Kogan@slcgov.com), Nancy Monteith, Public Lands Landscape Architect (Nancy.Monteith@slcgov.com), or Kristin Riker, Public Lands Director (kristin.riker@slcgov.com).

Thanks for all you do for our community,

University of Utah Master CMP Program and Salt Lake City’s Public Lands Re-Imagine Nature Team
Appendix H: Final Presentation Flyer

Survey/ Focus Group Findings and Recommendations

Presented by City and Metropolitan Planning Students

Join us on zoom
Passcode: 591717

9:30-10:30AM
November 19, 2020

REIMAGINE NATURE
SLC PUBLIC LANDS MASTER PLAN

City and Metropolitan Planning
Appendix I: Transcript

2 00:00:25.290 --> 00:00:33.540
Debbie: I have one board member that just had surgery on his foot, and another one had a broken hip. I'm thinking it's good that we've got some younger members that we can…

3 00:00:34.830 --> 00:00:39.240
Nancy: Now, well, we know Tree Utah is pretty good at digging holes.

4 00:00:40.350 --> 00:00:46.290
Debbie: Our group wanted to know if you’re going to bring up an auger machine to do it. So that's where we're at, hahah.

5 00:00:47.520 --> 00:00:50.940
Nancy: You know, I don't know. You're working with Amy May right?

6 00:00:52.080 --> 00:00:54.150
Debbie: I’m not, I have some body on my board who is. She's working. So, anyway, Okay, tell me about the rack. You've been working with them at all?

11 00:01:16.470 --> 00:01:25.020
Nancy: You know, I have not but Chris said that he met with you guys. Right.

Debbie: Yeah. Well, and they were, they had a bunch of things scheduled but you know events and stuff. He wasn't sure if they were actually gonna hold them because, yeah, it wasn't clear how things are going to be. But I guess. They're able to hold some [events] because they had something the other day, they're a bunch of people were yeah.

14 00:01:40.740 --> 00:01:52.050
Nancy: I'm and I'm just going to take a minute to introduce Lewis Cogan, who just joined, to the students here because the intent was we all signed on a few minutes early so everyone can make their acquaintance. Lewis is the trails and natural lands director.

19 00:02:06.510 --> 00:02:17.700
Lewis: Hey, nice to meet you. I really, really appreciate all of you being so involved in this project is really exciting and has been incredibly helpful.

20

XXXIX
Hannah: It's been a really cool way to learn the city. I'm just kind of going to visit all the parks, because I've only been here since July, so it's been nice.

Nancy: Yeah. Cool. Where did you move from?

Hannah: I moved from Portland, but I'm originally from Nashville. So yeah.

Lonnie: I am, Laramie, Wyoming.

Debbie: Hey!

Ronnie: I'm, I'm from Kentucky.

Nancy: Wow.

Nancy: And Delaney you're from?

Delaney Sillman: I'm from Iowa.

Lewis: Wow, that's great. You guys are from all over the place.

Hannah: We have like our names in the parentheses. It's like the fake names. We'll go over it later. But basically, for the report purposes, we're just kind of going to use aliases for everyone's names. But like the that way. It's like you talk to be Kalani that way, it's not It will go in the report, it'll go in as Albert. Does that make sense. I'll explain it better.

Lewis: I think I get it. Do you want to see if we're talking to you guys, do you want us to use your fake names when we're speaking?
Ronnie: Correct. And we'll, we'll just do it in the same way. It's just to keep your identity concealed so you're able to be able to speak freely without judgment.

Nancy: Does that apply to city staff. I feel like we should preferably represent the city. So we should probably use our name.

Hannah: Yeah. Yeah. And I think I kind of think that the students will might use our real names in the report, I'm not clear on that. I just know for participants. We just want to keep it private. So

36
00:04:47.610 --> 00:05:06.300
Nancy: They'll get an alias.

Hannah: Yeah. And like we can, if people don't want to do that, we can just like come up with one for the report later because we do need to know what people's real names so that we can match with the survey, but for like reporting purposes. Yeah, and just

37
00:05:07.620 --> 00:05:16.170
Nancy: Just so Lewis is aware Ivis is also on the Human Rights Commission and tonight is her first night, but she said she would be attending this and she can respond in the chat, but she won't be an active participant because she's at that meeting. So that's why you see her name and her kind of Alter Ego.

41
00:05:34.170 --> 00:05:36.270
Lewis: Oh, that's great. Good for her. Yeah.

42
00:05:37.530 --> 00:05:40.830
Nancy: They have great people on the Human Rights Commission.

43
00:05:42.660 --> 00:05:47.850
Lewis: Yeah, they really do. I know Cicely has done an awesome job just bringing good people.

44
00:05:49.890 --> 00:05:53.340
Nancy: Do you know how many people we’re expecting for tonight?

45
00:05:55.710 --> 00:05:58.080
Hannah: Nine.
Hannah: Hi Albert!

Hannah: And then Delaney. Were you able to, did we decide who's going to talk about stewardship.

Nancy: Yeah, Lewis and I are each going to say a few words.

Hannah: Okay, perfect.

Nancy: And then Kristin is not attending tonight. Okay. Okay.

Hannah: Kind of balance the participant and us ratio.

Hannah: Or facilitator and observer.

Debbie: So let me see if I understand, all the students have two names. That's the alias that you're using, or what does that mean, yeah.

Hannah: Yeah, so we're going to take a picture and then if and we're also going to use. If this is too confusing. We cannot do it. Um, but basically it was just so that when we write a report later. That we don't actually use your real name in the report. Okay.

Ronnie: And we have to protect your identity and the reports are able to speak, speak freely and in terms of the screenshot will be blocking out your name that you provided on at the bottom.

Albert: I used to deal with a group of Chinese engineers. They all gave American names because we couldn't pronounce them.
Hannah: Yeah, they can be tricky. Sometimes I think I know how to pronounce the letter and then it's not right.

58
00:07:57.060 --> 00:08:01.860
Hannah: Hi, Timothy, thanks for joining us.

Timothy: Hello. Oh, sure.

59
00:08:11.970 --> 00:08:20.220
Hannah: Alright, so we are expecting a few more people to join. And so I just want to kind of give a few minutes before we really get going. Just so I know who is this on the phone here. So we have a name for you.

61
00:08:27.150 --> 00:08:34.410
Darryl: Darryl. Yeah, I want to join the meeting, but I don't know the meeting pass code.

63
00:08:40.110 --> 00:08:48.840
Hannah: Oh, I can give that to you if you need it, if you, if you wanted to join the video or was anything.

65
00:08:51.450 --> 00:09:01.680
Ryan: 5917175 what I've 917177. Okay, thank you. I'll try that. It was right there.

Albert: Hi Maddie.

70
00:09:14.370 --> 00:09:15.150
Maddie: Hi Albert.

71
00:09:18.060 --> 00:09:19.140
Ryan: Maddie, Albert, Timothy.

Introduction and hellos ensue for about a minute.

75
00:09:34.200 --> 00:09:43.500
Debbie: I sent Donald Ferris a note. I don't know if he was invited, but he certainly has pretty strong feelings about a lot of stuff.

Lonnie: He said he was gonna attend.
Debbie: Oh, he did. Good.

Hannah: That might be Darryl joining there. That's good. And then, yes, Ivis is in another meeting right now but she'll be on chat if anyone has questions for her specifically.

Ryan: Hey Hannah, which of, which groups are we actually signed into here. I didn't ever see this survey before.

Hannah: Let me put that and I'll put. Do you have a link for that.

Ryan: All right, I've got, I've got the survey in front of me but I'm going through and I'm trying to figure out which of these radio buttons to hit with respect to which session is this one. Is this the Westside Coalition Community Council, never mind, I found it.

Read the question.

Hannah: And then, yeah. And just to make sure everyone has that, I just put that in the chat, just to make sure everyone has seen the survey. We just want to make sure we have a good, you know kind of, representation of who's in the meeting. So it's just a few of the demographic questions. And, as you'll see, some of us, the students have names in parentheses. Our first names are first but just in case people to keep people's privacy, like we have alias names. So if you want to put something in. It's just like the three dots if you hover over your icon, it's like three little dots. And you can click rename, you don't have to. We won't use your name anywhere in our reports or anything like that, but it's just like an extra level of security, if you wanted to do that. And we'll go ahead and get started. I know we were waiting on a few more people. But just so to get started, my name is Hannah. I'm a master student at the University of Utah and so there are 4 students here. We're all in City metropolitan planning. And so we've been working with the city public lands division to understand how people are using the parks and how we might reimage the future of our parks trails and natural areas. And so I'm gonna let the four other students here, introduce themselves.

Lonnie: Hi everyone I'm Lonnie Wilson and as Hannah said I'm a master student and city metropolitan planning at the University of Utah. I'm glad that all you'll be able to join us tonight.
DELANEY SILLMAN: Hi everyone I'm Delaney and again I am also a master student at the University of Utah.

Ronnie: Hello, my name is Ronnie. I am a master student in the City metropolitan planning program. I'm really excited to hear from all of you all.

Hannah: And then we also have two representatives from the public lands division and y'all and introduce yourself as well.

Nancy: Okay, I'm Nancy Monteith. I'm the landscape architect. Really grateful you all can join us tonight for conversation.

Lewis: I am with the Trails and natural lands. I also really appreciate all of your participation. I'm really excited about the conversation.

Hannah: I know you have seen our communications. So the reason we're here is to do a focus group or a group discussion to talk about how we're going to reimagine our parks in Salt Lake City. And so during this group we're all going to have opportunity to share our experiences about going to the trails parks and natural areas of the city and but most importantly, we're interested in kind of what you're envisioning the future of our parks, et all to be for the next 10 to 20 years. And just as a disclaimer. We are recording this session, but it's only going to be used within the context of our classroom. We just don't want miss anything that is said. So the students are going to transcribe the conversations so that we can use it to write a report and for the Public Lands Division. And then also, we're gonna take a group photo and just kind of included in the report. And so if you don't want to eat and then picture, you can enter your screen off. We're not going to show any names or anything. But if you do want to be in the picture. Feel free to start the video.

Hannah: Before we get started, I just want to set some ground rules. I know we're all In our homes right now. With things going on.
Hannah: I know that we are at home, so if you need to deal with something, just turn your video off just to cause as little disruption as possible. And we also ask that you turn off your cell phones and we are going to observe the one person talking at a time rule and we ask that you mute yourself if you're not actively talking. That's just the very bottom corner left hand corner. Just in case of background noise. It doesn't disrupt any conversations. And then, there are no wrong answers. So whatever you feel like is what you need to say, feel free to say it. Anything that we say here stays here. Except for transcription purposes. Again we aren't going to use your real name in any of the reporting. So feel free to speak freely and that's what we all have our names in parentheses. And just in case you want to go ahead and give us a name to us and talk to each other not strictly to the person asking questions. So feel free. You know, if I'm talking, but Ryan, you want to say something to Alan go ahead. If you're uncomfortable at any time, just let us know. Are there any other things you guys want to add as a ground rule. Um, or any other questions? Alright, so we're gonna get started with Lonnie and I will pass it on to him.

Lonnie: Hi everyone, so first off before you're going too far. If you haven't filled out already, it would be greatly appreciated. So the first on is like basic demographic information. The second one is the main survey that we're doing with the parks department. If you could complete that at some point that would be greatly appreciate it.

To start this off I will first ask you about parks, trails, natural areas near your home. So Salt Lake City Public Lands Division conducted a needs assessment which found that having a park within walking distance from your home, about half mile or 15 minute walk was considered extremely important to 57% of Salt Lake City residents And that was a survey in 2017 and having a park and within biking distance was important important to 38% of people. We will go in a circle and introduce themselves and in one minute. Tell me your name, where you live and how important it is to have nearby a city park recreational trail or bike path, a natural space a street or public space with abundant trees. Maybe even a golf course. I wanted here specifically about the places that you go through here at home so like in your neighborhood. If that's possible. I'll start with Debbie you’re to my right and the Laramie connection.

Debbie: I’m Debbie Owen. I’m part of the Westpoint Community Council. Westpoint is the largest community council area, it is in the Northwest quadrant and I live half mile to all the things that you just mentioned. Parks, golf courses, bike trails, rivers. That’s why we live here. I think that does it.

Lonnie: What is the main area that you go to?
Debbie: Oh, Westpoint park. Otherwise the no-name park, but we’re working on that.

Albert: Okay, I’m Albert, I’m a Westpoint resident about as far north as Westpoint goes. That window behind me overlooks the Salt Lake regional sports complex. I have access to the connecting trail to the Jordan River was right behind my house. Also, so I can access that. I am interested in the area just north of the regional Sports Complex and across for that because I do know there are there dear and of course foxes and various birds that frequent that area and it’s all just given to whatever. We promise that there'd be a natural corridor when it first came in but what I'm seeing here. It looks like they might be just that area for soccer fields.

Lonnie: Thank you and we'll continue along with Ryan.

Ryan: My name is Ryan, I’m with the West Side Coalition. Um, we’re kinda lucky in Rose Park, I had access to virtually everything on your list. I'm not a golfer. So that’s what I had access to but I don’t use. But my neighbors do. I moved here to this area specifically because of the Jordan River Trail. We bike there, we use the park, you name everything on your list and you know, our trees used to line our streets at one time. There’s not as much lining now. They’ve taken out quite a few. And Urban Forestry has come in and they’re replacing them, but um yeah, everything on the list is something I have access to and something I utilize.

Lonnie: Thank you Ryan and now we’ll move along to Maddie.

Maddie: Maddie, with Neighborworks, Salt Lake and I am in the Fairpark neighborhood, and live in the Guadalupe neighborhood, which is one of the small neighborhoods in the area and I live across from Guadalupe park. So I frequent that a great deal.
I spend a lot of time on the Jordan River Parkway and the Jordan Park, and the International Peace Gardens. I go a lot to Jackson Park and there's a pocket park in the Pugsley neighborhood area. Brings take advantage of the green space snare agent golf, on occasion, I'm a terrible golfer, but take advantage of that. Cottonwood Park when you could canoe know you could end up at Cottonwood park. So love all the green space that we have in the Northwest quadrant.

Lonnie: Thank you for that. And, we'll move along to Thomas.
Thomas: I'm Thomas. I'm on the Mayor Advisory Board. I live in Rose Park out by West Point. And I use the Jordan River Trail extensively. Yesterday, my sister and I rode 30 miles on it. And I think that the river is a really neglected part of the park system. The city in the past has used it as a dump and people assume that if you put your hand in it, or your hand in it, you lose all your skin. And it's fairly clean but nobody wants to do anything at it very rarely do you see a boater in the river, the channel isn’t kept open, etc.

Lonnie: Thank you, Timothy. So, for those of you joining in right now, we're doing a brief one-minute spiel about where you live and how important the park is that you visit and so next I'll have to Carrie talk

Carrie: Hi I'm Carrie and I live in Poplar Grove and I am the Editor of the Westview community newspaper that covers the area. Parks have always been an important part of my life, you know, growing up on the west side. As a young child, I used to Jordan Park a lot. I learned how to swim at Jordan Park. I play on the playground. Walk through the Peace Gardens. And caught guppies. And now, we bought a house right near the Jordan River Trail, for that reason. I love being near the Jordan River Trail for its recreational use, but also just to have a respite. From the urban area, you know you have this string of nature in the urban environment that restores my soul. So I’ve always been appreciative of that. Love Jordan Park, love Poplar Grove Park. And, I love Liberty Park, I was a swim coach there so I really love and value our parks.

Lonnie: Thank you Carrie. We're going along with Kenneth next.
Kenneth: Hi, sorry I was late, but I got stuck at work. So I missed like the first 15 minutes and I just I, like Carrie said, we live very close to the Jordan River Parkway Trail, spend a lot of time there. It’s one of the things we really love about our community. Have spent a whole bunch of time in Riverside Park just for recreation, but also for baseball. We have two Boys that have played and we really missed it this year. In fact my youngest son just started playing high school and aside from the fact that everything was cancelled because of COVID, we really missed the whole experience. I really believe that the parks are kind of like libraries. They are things that when you're looking at a budget for a city or you're looking at, you know, they're not gonna show up on the balance sheet as profitable, but I think they greatly increase our quality of life. If you ever look at a google map, it’s great to see all the parks in the community from the aerial view. And, like I said, I love the Jordan River Trail. I go walking in there all the time. My dog does as well. I'd love to see some cleanups of the river itself, especially since the storm, there’s a lot of garbage that’s come down and some trees. It really is a beautiful trail. Also I’m Chair of the Rose Park Community Council.

Lonnie: Thank you, Kenneth. We’ll have Darryl go next.

Darryl: This is Darryl. Sorry there’s no picture. I’m in my birthday suit with my dog so. I’m a naturalist and Carrie and some others know me. So I’m just advocating for nature in our parks. I was able to submit an article to Catalyst recently that was able to describe the habituation of nature to man. In other words nature has grown accustomed to man. In other words we don’t have to restore things to what it was but just kind of try to work with things to create diversity. I had an animal in backyard yesterday and a sharp-chinned hawk came in and tried to look for squirrels so that was kind of cool too. Anyway, people know me fairly well and I grew up using the Parkway, I’ve never lived farther than a quarter mile from the Parkway when I’ve lived in Salt Lake City, and at 3-4 different locations. And I learned to hunt pheasants right where the Regional Sports Athletic Complex is. And it’s interesting that all the people on this, in this focus group have described themselves, almost all of them live in the Jordan River Corridor, which, the Envision Utah original effort and found that 72% of the people in that corridor favored nature over recreational facilities like golf courses, or those kind of thing. Hey, thanks guys.

Lonnie: Thank you. And, last but not least, we’ll have Donald share.

Donald: Hi I’m Donald I live near Jordan Park Trail. I like parks, parks are good, let’s do this.
Lonnie: Thank you. So we kinda covered everyone’s satisfaction with the parks in that last section, so just for time’s sake, we’re going to move on. We’re going to talk about your unsatisfaction with the parks. Mainly what prevents you or members of your household from using these outdoor places. Maybe there are no places nearby they’re hard to get to. Or there’s safety and security concerns. Do you feel unwelcome in any of the open spaces near or in your neighborhood? And if you do, please tell us about it. And if we can help improve this experience. And we will kind of continue the same way. We will start with Debbie and make our way through.

Debbie: There’s no one here from Jordan Meadows, the other community council in the district in the Northwest quadrant. And we met with them for several months and worked with them. We do joint meetings with them and we do a joint event at the Westpoint park. I’m going to talk about some of the things we saw in Jordan Meadows and how parks… So Jordan Meadows is right next to us and it’s a very diverse population lots of kids, lots of refugees. But they have no parks. Or they have parks, but those parks have no restroom facilities. Those parks are considered neighborhood parks and my understanding is that neighborhood parks, it’s the philosophy that the kids in the neighborhood if they need to use the restroom they can run back home, and when the last time the parks department had met with parents to talk about the parks in Jordan Meadows, parents talked about the fact that there weren’t restrooms. And, how that was a really big problem because anyone who has ever taken two or three kids to the park and one of them has to go to the bathroom The idea that you’re gonna haul all of them, you know, get them together all together. And we’re all gonna go back to our house so Johnny can go and we’re gonna bring them all back and then Suzie’s gotta go. And it just is a mess. So Jordan Meadows ended up doing some things with us at Westpoint Park, even though the Westpoint Park is 1.2 miles away from where they’re at because it had those facilities. So I think, maybe relooking at the restroom facility idea and how we use parks is really important.

Thank you Debbie. We’ll move along to Albert.

Albert: Yeah, I was just remembering back in the era of 2004 I was on engineering assignment in Philadelphia. And a coworker and I spent all your free time. On bicycles going all throughout the trail system going all throughout Philadelphia and surrounding communities and the one thing I know it's those were natural corridors. There were white tailed deer in Downtown Philadelphia because of these corridors that were along any major stream or river. And you could go miles into the interior and back again. But the thing I noticed that these were maintained to allow the wildlife to be there. And I've seen so much neglect along the Jordan River and there's so much potential to change that with data, vegetation, getting rid of invasives, and basically just making it a haven for wildlife to come into our city.

Lonnie: Thank you. Maddie do you have anything to input?
Maddie: Well, I find when I frequent any the parts I find myself cleaning up after other people. Lots of times and sol it makes it less enjoyable. So I would say that's one thing. The other thing is, is often I think there's a large percentage of community who don't always know about the amenities in the park. So if you look at some of the small pocket parks, there's, there's a lot of equipment for kids. And often families don't know about it. And I'm not sure why they don't know about it. There are a lot of people that don't know about the International Peace Gardens. So, I mean, I think they're amazing assets. But again, if you're a frequent the parks. A lot- I don't very often worry about safety. I think I do now because of Operation Rio Grande and it pushed people into some of the pocket parks. I see, you know, I want to work, I see homeless that will sometimes sleep in Guadalupe Park. That's not happened before. And again, so you have conversations with populations you might not normally have, but I don't feel like they're not safe.

Lonnie: Thank you. Do you have anything to add Thomas?

Thomas: Well I, I do see a lot of camping on the Jordan River Trail. And I don't think that I mind so much the camping. I do mind how much stuff they leave behind when they’re done. I think just a patrol in the morning just to remind people they have to take everything with them might be a nice gesture. That's my feeling on it.

Lonnie: Thank you Thomas. Do you have anything to say Kenneth.

Kenneth: Yeah. We've lived here for 20 plus years. And I usually feel pretty safe on the trails, but I did get robbed at gunpoint on the Jordan River Trail like three years ago yeah it was three years ago now. All they took was my phone. But they also took my phone. And I had to walk quite a ways to get off the trail and get to call the police. So that’s a concern. But I agree with everyone, you always end up cleaning up after people. I wish people would clean up after their dogs. Even sometimes when they put it in a bag, they just leave it on the trail sometimes I've heard they plan to come back, and I’m not sure that's the case. Litter is an issue. It's all stuff that shouldn't be an issue if people would act responsibility, but I do worry like with my kids out on the trail late, or if they’re super early, I don’t want them out there. It's personal safety concerns.

Lonnie: So do you have anything else Carrie besides what you put in the chat?
Carrie: Is the question about when we did not feel welcome at the parks.

Lonnie: Yeah, or just unsatisfied.

Carrie: I mean, I think, just to echo what other people have said about You know some of the, I mean going and encountering people camping in the parks like 9th South Park, and along the Jordan River. It's a little alarming, but mostly I just want to ask them to clean up their trash, you know, and keep it from going into the river. I mean, if we have, I don't know. So it's maybe it's the people who are camping there that are not taking care of the area. And then like anytime over the years, the Peace Gardens are being vandalized and that's just a really sad thing to see. A lot of cultural groups have put a lot of money into their into their individual gardens, like the Japanese garden to have their, their Japanese lanterns, you know like destroyed and things destroyed. Is is really, that’s sad. But, I wish we could protect the International Peace Gardens, a little bit better. And then just overall Is something about the littering and you know, in the parks.

Lonnie: Thank you, and Ryan do you have anything else to add?

Ryan: Just a few. Once upon a time, the mayor had sponsored a meeting with the Council Chairs and the discussion had gone to markers on the trail that would allow people to alert emergency response personnel to their location in a very easy way. And I haven't seen anything happened with that. I know every maybe it's quarter mile there might be a marker, but I'm thinking more along the lines of what was discussed with the mayor, and that was virtually being able to look in any direction and seeing some type of a marker that would let people- And I think the indicator of this is what Kenneth talked about. Even though he didn't have his phone, he could at least talk to the issue of where he was what location he was at by marker number. The other is lighting. Yeah, there, there are lights their insufficient, they're completely insufficient. And than cameras. As much as we were pushing people around the city. Obviously that's a different problem than perhaps what this group can address. But, as we push people around, the Jordan River Trail is one of the obvious places that's good enough for people to go and stay. And I think most of those folks are probably just trying to live like the rest of us, but there are the few that want to make trouble or wanna make a mess or whatever. And you know, we can just throw everybody out, that won’t work. But by the same token, if we know they're going to be there and there's nothing we can do about it. Not to attract more people, but maybe to facilitate cleanliness by virtue of having more trash cans or more restroom facilities. So if you're down there, you’re not stepping in somebody else's poo, to be quite frank with you, and that I've observed way too many times down there. From an environmental perspective, you know, Russian Olives are an invasive species and they probably weren't originally on the parkway, nor were they adjacent to the river. I would like to start seeing us eliminating them as a non-native species here in Salt Lake. They
consume massive amounts of water, more so than most any other tree. They just consumed water and I’d like to see us trying and start working as a 20 years or 30 years 50 year goal to eliminate those trees from that entire stretch as an environmental statement relative to endangered species occupying lands where we should be having native species.

Lonnie: Thank you, and we’ll move along to Timothy

Timothy: When you asked what I was unsatisfied with, the first thing that came to mind was the lack of restrooms. That was immediately followed by the low number trash receptacles on the trail. For instance, one could walk along the River Parkway trail around the North Temple Bridge there, where you can go along by the side of the fair Park and you can walk and you can walk and you can walk, unless you went on a dirt side and you’d find a garbage can and behind the KOA. But, if you stayed on the pavement, you’d get all the way to the dog park which is better than half a mile. So I definitely think the City could afford to invest in more trash cans along with Jordan River Parkway trail and have them emptied when they need to be emptied.

There's been some discussion on the homeless. I like to call them my unsheltered relatives or community members. I happen to live — well, I'm looking out the window right now and I'm seeing the Cayote Willows against the river. Right through my window that way. I commute through the park everyday. Four days a week and I commute both early in the morning by 7:00, it's a 5 minute walk so I don’t have to leave too much before 7:00 And then I commute back home, for lunch. And then I commute back, and then I commute home at the end of the day. So that's the noon hour and 6:00 and seven in the morning. So I get to see my unsheltered neighbors quite a bit there happens to be about 8 camps that I pass. In this short, takes five minutes to walk and it's about two city blocks, not a quarter mile. So what I have noticed is you they will go into Cottonwood Park, which is right there and the will bring a garbage can over and, they will fill it. And then, there's a pedestrian garbage can, right by the pedestrian bridge at the up-river corner of the Cottonwood Park that highest point on the river and I frequently see that with 10 big bags and piles of garbage all around. If I’m going to Cottonwood Park where the restroom facilities are, they're not welded shut yet, but they are kind of locked up. I know that we really need more restrooms and like Ryan said unless we want to execute, and have death camps for the unsheltered relatives, which I don't want to go there, then they're going to be living in park and we just need to accept that, and put out some more trash cans and provide some restroom facilities, not just by the ballpark as an experiment but all throughout the park system there needs to be restrooms and not just for the unsheltered, but I’m an old man with a small bladder, and if I go over to the park with my grandkids I gotta walk back for 5 minutes and then back over, it’s not very appealing. I’ll leave it at that. I think if those two failures could be remedied then it would be almost perfect. I’m of missed mind, because man is part of nature, and so to say that the Russian Olive that man brought here isn’t natural, you know, I’m kind of divided. I see both sides of that issue. Because I accept that man is part of nature and so it’s really all natural, but then hey…
Hannah: Thank you Timothy! Just for the sake of time, we’re going to move on.

Delaney: Alrighty, thank you for that input that was super helpful. We are moving to stewardship as Ronnie said so in order to do that, I'm going to go ahead and let Nancy and Lewis talk a little bit about some of the stewardship actions that are already going on.

Nancy: I'll go ahead and go first. Just listening to the conversation, stewardship, we hear again and again and in essential to creating welcoming public spaces and I think there is a whole continuum from what the city does and what we get funding for what we are able to do all the way through to partnerships with organizations and individuals. And I wanted to talk about a few of the things that have emerged over time because we'll have a chance to hear from you what interests you. But we have- We're encouraging groups of people to start “friends of” groups for a particular place or location if they have some interest or passion around it. We also have just recently- the city partnered with Tree Utah, to do Re-Tree, and that is so that Tree Utah can accept donations in order to replace many of the trees that we lost. Tree Utah does community planting. And then also, we do have volunteer cleanups and we have other kinds of volunteer activities to help improve our spaces and we find that as people are more committed they enjoy those spaces as well. It creates a sense of ownership. We are also looking for ways to bring much more diversity to especially our natural lands and I'm going to transfer that Louis to talk a little bit about that.

Lewis: Sure. Yeah, there's so much more than one can say about stewardship, but I think, you know, in listening to everyone speak. Clearly there are there are concerns and ongoing issues related to restroom facilities, related to be impact of unsheltered people living on the river. Related to the condition of vegetation especially we introduced vegetation along the along the Jordan River Parkway trail and other natural areas.

-Did I already say restrooms-trash and picking up trash and providing facilities and garbage cans or recycling. You know, I think one of one of the biggest challenges associated with those things, is a lack of dedicated ongoing city resources that are getting put towards that especially in our, in our natural areas. I know that we've heard many times over the past number of years, how much people would like to see more waste receptacles on the parkway. But we simply didn't have the capacity to add a single additional receptacle because we only had, you know, one two seasonal or part time employees for part of the year had the ability to service you know 7 to 8 miles along the city section of Jordan River, sometimes with trail on both sides. And that was it. And it was very, you know, that is very frustrating. And I think that carries over to vegetative condition. And you know, I think a lot of times we have a good sense of what the community wants because people are actively asking for these things and natural lands just haven’t been funded to have the maintenance resources that I think traditionally our park spaces and sports fields have. well, tough. But I think I will say that we are. We've been tremendously
excited the last couple of years, we have started some small stewardship projects. Based around this concept of using what we have and what interest there is in the community to create an acre of good you know we only have the resources to do one acre of something really great, we're going to do that and demonstrate what that can look like. And so the last two years, we've decided to put a ton of focus into the Fife Wetland preserve and also into the Springs at Fairmont Pond across the city, and we started to collect native plants from really ecologically healthy reference sites all around the county and beyond. Propagate and grow these plants in the greenhouse. And then plant these things in those two spaces, particularly with an eye to creating some really robust biodiverse habitats expanding both for pollinators and also really improving the aesthetics of the spaces. I think we've learned that that can be successful and B. it's a long game project, it requires a lot of effort and requires partnership and the investment of individual community members and partner organizations and it's something that we will be very excited to scale up on the west side, and especially in our natural spaces along the Jordan River, but I, I get really excited thinking about, you know, what is possible, as we reimagine our public lands system for the city thinking about what the Jordan River, the opportunities it provides. I get really excited about that and hearing every single person basically in this in this group talk about how much they care about the River Trail; how much they love it and their aspirations for it. I think it's really exciting, and I am eager for that to appear in our in our master plan. And I think provide some direction for where we go in the future.

Delaney: All right, thank you guys very much for adding to the conversation. And now I would like to ask you guys and get a feel for: Are there areas for improvement to the parks trails and natural areas that are close to you. You kind of touched on that topic already in our previous conversation. So for the sake of time, if you want to kind of introduce or reiterate some of those things that you said, especially in the Jordan Parkway. That seems to be a consistent one for all of us who are in this meeting and it obviously that's not the only but if that is the case. And then also just maybe reiterating if there are ways that you can imagine yourself contributing to the stewardship of popular clans whether that’s related to the Jordan Parkway or other spaces. And we're not going to go around and everybody this time. So if you have an opinion that you'd like to share about those topics. Go ahead and make your comments. If you really resonate with something that somebody is saying, or if you have kind of a tangent, feel free to put that in the chat box. So if you have some strong thoughts on that is just take it away again use the one person at a time rule.

Thomas: I think the Fisher Mansion is a really Dangerously underused facility, the fact that the city, let it sit there unused before, until it got vandalized. Where they could have put a park headquarters there and a small museum to talk about the Jordan River and the ecosystem of the area. And the history of the area and also have it as a central gathering point for like canoes and other activities and instead you let it sit and now it's probably going to sit there for a decade or so before they get money to repair it.
Darryl: Hey this is Darryl the Fisherman. Hey I didn’t get in the last round, so let me get my two-cents here. So I was encouraged by the amount of interest in nature and that was- thanks guys. One question for Thomas though, would you guys be interested in a 10 mile an hour notification on bicycles, but a 10 mile an hour speed limit when you’re around pedestrians. We’ve had some really nasty situations out on the Parkway. And so that would really improve relationships between, you know, people walking their dogs and people trying to get back and forth from work on a bicycle. And then Ryan his comments about lights; we need more lights on the Parkway, and I agree with you. But, those lights we found and Lewis understands this entirely, have to be fairly low to the ground so they work, so they don’t screw up nature. So anyway, that’s all, thanks guys.

Delaney: Thanks Darryl

Ryan: Just a thought about funding. And I don't know what your current plan. I don't know what his longevity is but you know different administrations have different priorities but this isn't part of an administration. And its priority, this is part of the citizens priority. And from that, I think what we should be deriving is some type of guaranteed funding cycle or source or amount below which things won’t go regardless of administration, because what invariably will happen is someone will come in and say “we don’t really need this year we’ll catch up next year” and you know where that goes. Where that goes is you don't catch up for three, four or five years if that. So, it's a lot easier to get things right and keep them right than to abandon them for years at a time and then try and catch up again it’s far more costly. Do you have anything like a proposed 20-year plan that would show once again what time with what outcome, what funding is required so that we can move in that direction as a citizen directive, not as an administrative directive

Maddie: Sorry, I had to step out. You know, I just caught the tail end of Ryan. What Ryan had mentioned and I think for decades I have worked in this community it’s always the issue that comes up is that there’s not enough funding. And I think, again, that's where community sounds like there's inequities. And so I think that's one of the challenges in terms of sustainability and long term maintenance.

Debbie: I want to follow up on Maddie’s comment. - Can you hear me.-
Hannah: We can hear you.

Debbie: Following up on Maddie's comment. Yeah, West Point is the last agricultural land in Salt Lake City and at times, you know, the issues with open spaces and parks are being dealt with separately from all the other issues that are going on in planning. And, so I really want to encourage- and that showed itself when the parks department was planning is great master plan and the mayor's over here talking about “let's put restaurants in the park”, and they were like two different efforts and I know you guys had to go back in time talking about that. And so, you know, those are- you seeing happening with the rack(??) things that generate money in the parks department become a priority. And things that basically preserve the quality of life and the real beauty of why people live here, often don’t get the same priority. So, I think we need to kind of think a little bit more out of the box about how to address that. Another example is that Salt Lake City has lost, I believe, has lost a tremendous opportunity to have a working farm on the west side. And kind of the wheeler farm on the west side or a gardener village and that opportunity was available and the City lost it, and instead we’ve spent a lot of time talking about- and there's reasons for that. I'm not being critical. It's just, that's the reality. And I think part of it is that we never spent time thinking about how we could make a working farm a reality instead we ended up thinking about; how much it costs and why it was a problem. Now we're going to end up needing I think 97 acres of new parks. I think I saw one of the documents and yet we're losing that much acreage that we could have had easily, and had a world class- not world class, but great- amenity that would have complemented the whole system.

Lewis: Debbie, can I just asked what, what was it, was there a particular property that was lost, or you just referring to general loss?

Debbie: No, Crossy Ranch. Crossy Ranch should be part of the Salt Lake City open lands. It's a great opportunity for anybody who's ever gone there, seen the children. But, it talks to the fact that if we're talking about amenities for children, that is a lower priority then recreational amenities for older people. I think we're at right a real risk of Salt Lake City losing that family assets.

Albert: Yes.

Debbie: So remember, Alan, you see it outside your window. What do you think?
Albert: Yeah, I agree. There's a big push for open spaces natural lands to be taken up with high density housing. That's what's going on in our, in our community right now. I had an out of the box, real small suggestion for all the trailhead along the Jordan River, on the side of the trail, at the trailhead, the ask the users of a trail to donate to a cause, a little QR code a little sign or something like that and maybe get some direct funding to that Instead of and now it would be something that they know what to do directly instead of having to go search across the internet to figure it out you're understanding what I’m saying, Hannah, what a QR Code is? Everyone with a smartphone can virtually access that and link directly to a site.

Delaney: Right, absolutely. That's a great example. I know we have a good side conversation going. But we only have a couple more minutes just to talk about any other stewardship actions that we really think we need in our public lands and Jordan River, as it was mentioned a lot. What could you see yourself actually participating and that could be.

Hannah: I'm sorry. Just to kind of elaborate on what stewardship is. It's just like taking care of the parks and lands we have. So it could be volunteering to pick up trash or planting trees or just any suggestions you have for the part we should be doing.

Carrie: Okay. Um, I think that stewardship is so important, especially for our younger generations. And oftentimes I think many of our community members on the west side don't have opportunities like to float the Jordan River, or to experience the river in a really positive way. So this is particularly with the Jordan River. So I think any efforts to get kids on the river to get them involved in caring for the river, you know, that will go a long way. So it's thinking long term, you know, as those kids grow up and they teach their kids and their future generations and you know, instead of throwing shopping carts in the river, they're going to want to canoe or kayak or, I mean they'll, they'll see the value of the river on An opportunity for that would maybe- in the past we used to have birthday cleanups and one year, we went into the schools. We went to Franklin elementary, which is right on the river, and we spoke to some of the classes about pollution in the river and how that comes through the storm drains and we just did a little lesson about that. And then we invited them to clean up, invited their families and so that I mean you could get community members to help do that every year. We were going to this year but COVID happened.

Delaney: Thank you. Carrie. Those are really great really great examples of stewardship and we are going to continue to just keep trucking along with our next section here. But if you have more ideas or examples, feel free to just throw them in the chat as well so that you don't lose them. And with that I'll turn it over to
Ronnie: The next section of questions as more targeted towards equity. As you may or may not know in Salt Lake City is home to over 196,000 people who speak 80 languages, representing a broad range of socio-economic backgrounds and cultural heritage. And so as in most American cities, there are gaps in the amount and quality of public lands between different neighborhoods in Salt Lake City. So keeping that in mind when you imagine our public lands 10-20 years from now, what changes do you think we can make to our public lands system to help serve and include all people more equitably?

Kenneth: That's a tough one. For some reason I knew you were gonna call me first. You know, I think. I go to Sugar House Park a lot and other parks on the east side, and it just seems like they're a little better cared for and whether that's, well, they obviously don't have quite the homeless problem we have. Although I don't know that it's the homeless that's the big problem, but I would just like to see, as mentioned, more efforts to keep the parks clean, more garbage cans. One of the recycling cans has been removed from Riverside Park recently. Not sure why that is. And just more effort. I think the city does a pretty good job of keeping the lawn maintained and things like that, but I'd like to see more of an effort to pay as much attention to the west side parks as people do to the east side parks.

Ronnie: Awesome point. Would anybody else like to speak on that?

Albert: Yeah, I was just thinking of continuing the theme of the International Peace Gardens all along the river. Reminders of where people live in the city where their ancestors have come from and everyone might not agree to me, but everyone thinks that to be culturally inclusive means concentrating on the islanders and the Hispanic communities, but there's so much more out there that people have cultural identities with and every Hispanic got 100 different cultures, Europeans, you have a whole bunch of different cultures. Little-sized reminders of who we are, where people have come from. They could expand the idea of the International Peace Gardens all along our trails and system so we can celebrate who we are not concentrate on division, concentrate on everyone came together and made a community.

Ronnie: That is an awesome point, Maddie I noticed that you had a comment you wanted to share.
Maddie: Right, I think when you think about the diversity of Salt Lake city's west side. I think we just don't celebrate it enough. We talked a lot about it. There are a lot of events that happen, but they don't always happen on the west side, unless it's those communities that make it happen. So at the International Peace Gardens, I have never understood why Living Traditions doesn't happen at the Peace Gardens, right, it's large enough, plenty of parking, it's almost a non-issue and I know that at one point we did try to host it at the States Fair Park. But, you know, people, people didn't want to cross the other side of the tracks, because we have just this wonderful reputation that somebody will struggle with. And so I think that's one part of it. There are so many different celebrations that can occur on the west side to celebrate that diversity, but I would agree with Alan, it's not just about race and ethnicity. You ever wonder senior centers on the west side. Some of the individuals that attend those senior centers are some amazing quilters. Why don't we have a huge quilting party at one of the parks. There's just all this opportunity and culture. And I think it'd be celebrated that seldom happens. You know, we don't have drum circles on the west side. At least I haven't been to one. I don’t understand why not, we’re trying to fight really hard for public market at State Fair Park. And one of the things we talked about an International Market there. We are one of the few states that doesn't have, you know, an international market. We talked a lot about it, but I just don't see that commitment and investment in terms of truly making it happen.

Ronnie: That's an awesome point Maddie. So one of the things related to equity is obviously, programming. Unfortunately the Public Lands Division does not do a significant amount of programming. If they do, then it's usually to activate parks. So this is where the Arts Council and other similar programs creates these cultural programs in these areas, but we still want to learn how do you think that programming can be more inclusive to cultural groups. So what activities or cultural events for families, youth, and older adults would be appealing to you. And just, also what else could be appealing to you families and others to achieve equity?

Debbie: One of the things that happens now, or at least up until this last year, were that the parks were used for summer lunches-Summer lunch program. So we had a really good opportunity to bring people to the parks. And yet we don't really utilize it. The kids would come to the park, have lunch, and I talked to the lunch lady about, about the long distance that some of those kids came to West Point. And then, instead of engaging them in activities and doing things there, we kinda loose them because any activities, and it doesn't have to cost a lot. The lady at the school lunch program told me that one of the best days that they had there was the day that parks department turned the sprinklers on. And, after lunch the kids ran through the sprinklers and she said they just had a fantastic time. And, it’s things like that, that we don’t really think about. It’s not an easy place, when you come to lunch and you say, well let’s place a 3-on-3 basketball game, there’s not a way to do it. And I’ve set up tables at the park and given out popsicles and asked people are they interested in basketball games and would they be willing to help in that. And people are interested in volunteering and signed up, but it just didn’t happen because we don’t have the ongoing support to get it done.
Ronnie: Thank you, Ryan you were raising your hand.

Ryan: Yeah, thank you. I want to come back to something Maddie brought up. Visa Vi the public market. Oftentimes with things going on in our communities, and we’re not awfully well connected with what's happening. I'm currently the chair of the Community Advisory Council to the Public Market and the West Side Coalition was a dominant force in getting that public market established. So when we’re talking about things like cafes and information centers, we have two very, very big resources that we can bring together, namely the Fair Park and the Jordan Park trail. And I’d like to see us start working in tandem with some of these other initiatives, once they come to light. And I’d really like to sit down with someone here. Let's talk about how do we get some of these things together so, as has been pointed out, what's really happening. We can make it happen because it's already got funding to do some things at the public market already. It is going to happen. And I’d like to see those things come together so we can leverage those resources, take advantage of the fact that the Fair Park is directly adjacent to the trail and the river. They have goals relative to the river. I’m sure that we all would like to see some of the things that they're talking about. But, the café ideas, the information center ideas, certainly, the Peace Gardens is a wonderful place, we should utilize it, but we have a lot of things that people work on that aren't necessarily connected together. And I'd like to help change that I'd like to help connect those things so that we take advantage of the great resources that we have.

Ronnie: Awesome point. Last question, involving equity includes accessibility. And so with that being said, are these parks and trails and just public lands accessible for older adults and for people with disabilities, you know, once you are there, can you move around freely or the sidewalks good, are the hand rails intact, if you need them. If you have any comments towards that, feel free.

Timothy: Let me jump in. I'll try to be brief, regarding something that I would really like to see change. On the fairground property adjacent to the river exists a concrete improvement that I invite you students to go see, if you have not seen it. Because there's something kind of disconcerting. If you go to the side of the river where Constitution Park is when you're after seeing that concrete amphitheater. You will see where there is an ADA ramp of concrete with concrete and hand rails going down to this big concrete deck that's right, almost at river level and instead of a gate across the top of this ramp, they have installed a fence panel. That can't swing open, it's fenced-off. So public money was used to improve land public land this State sovereign bank of the Jordan River, which is a state sovereign land. And it's being withheld from the public and we're talking about people with disabilities. This Improvement right on the Jordan River Parkway trail right in the Fair Park neighborhood is being withheld from the public that owns it, and paid for it. And the disabled people don't have this really nice place they can just roll their
motorized chair down and be next to the river and that's been a thorn in my side since I became aware. But I really do invite you to go and look at the Constitution Park side of the river. So that's the second bridge to cross after getting off of the North temple tracks. You go north or downriver you'll cross one footbridge, you'll come to another footbridge as soon as you cross then you look at the fairgrounds and you will see the ramp and the piece of fencing that has been bolted in place in lieu of a gate at the top of that ramp. Anyway, I'm out.

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Ronnie: Yeah, thank you for sharing, Timothy. I'm, like I said, I'm new to Salt Lake City. So I'll definitely check that out for sure. Lewis, did you have any comments about anything that we've mentioned so far about equity.

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Lewis: Yeah, I just, I think it's really extremely good to hear all these comments on it. It makes me think that on the one hand, I feel like clearly the community members already have these great ideas that that need to be implemented and I really want to see these ideas captured hopefully, at least in in part in this master plan but at the same time, I feel like It's to me it's an indication that we as a city, need to do a better job continuing to keep the momentum behind these conversations. And build, you know, the coalition, here for lack of better word, to help push the city forward behind some of these ideas. And, you know clearly I don't think the city can or should be doing any of these things alone. But, these are all really exciting ideas regarding all of the points related to equity that everyone's brought up. And I think, there's some of the things that were mentioned today that we have been working on at least slowly behind the scenes, but I think I'd like those things to happen faster and have more resources dedicated to them and I'd love to see the community really come together around a clear vision of what the trail can be if we don't let opportunities slip by us.

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Darryl: Sorry I am on a phone. Hey, guys. Quick question Lewis. So, so I was just elected as our new president of the Salt Lake Fish and Game foundation, that hundred-year-old thing, right. Hey. All right, so you indicated some interest in the Fife Wetland preserve. Should we return to. We threw $1,000 at Tree Utah to help with some trees there and stuff. Would you be interested in and revisiting that community improvement project idea that we had and maybe revisiting that

Lewis: Yes, I would. I you know I think we can we can have a bigger conversation offline. But I heard today that all past applications that had not been funded may just be automatically resubmitted so if I can get some clarity on that. That'll help me understand if we even need to do any more work.

Darryl: Well, right, that outlet structure on the pond that will solve all our problems. Thanks again.
Ronnie: Awesome. So we are going to pass the mic to Hannah to do her closing procedures and everything.

Hannah: Thank you, Ronnie. Thank you everyone so much for all the great input, I've really enjoyed hearing all the ideas and I think that has been very valuable and so just because we are trying to wrap up at 7:30. I'm just going to kind of give everyone maybe a minute each to answer this question- so kind of a quick lightning round almost- But basically just so I know we've all really gotten a chance to talk, but is there anything else anyone wants to add. Just, you know, we can go in a circle, but you know, something that resonated with you or something that you think is really, really important and that the master plan should include and I'll start with Debbie again.

Debbie: I would like to see some real discussion about the park ranger concept, but maybe changing it a little bit from that, too. Federal parks have seniors that volunteer time to take care of the parts of that and that. And we've never even we've never looked at that and I think part of the discussion about defunding the police, we could actually use this as an opportunity to talk about park rangers and funding. And I don't think park rangers has to have to be law enforcement, but I do think a different approach than a law enforcement approach using park rangers. This is the time to talk about it and think about it in come up for some innovative ideas.

Hannah: I think that's a great point. Debbie I Kenneth, do you have anything to add.

Kenneth: To what everyone else is kind of reiterated, I think, keeping the parks clean is vitally important. Garbage cans, big enough to handle you know everyone coming out for a picnic on a Sunday. Recycle containers and lots and lots of bags for dogs and receptacles for dogs as well.

Hannah: I am a dog owner, so I will second that. Ryan, do you have any final comments.

Ryan: I'm just, I think there's a need to sort of consider where we are with respect to a long-term funding plan.

Hannah: Yeah, and Maddie Do you have final comments.
Maddie: If you think about municipalities, you know, they're very good at being leaders and big picture thinkers. I think what they could work on is a cross collaboration within departments and also cross collaboration with community groups. If you think about the Community Councils. When they make things happen in the community. They reach out to a variety of partners to make things happen. They don't have the kind of money that falls behind government departments, but boy, do they make things happen. And if municipalities could really think about how, within their department, how to execute on these recommendations that you all are making to them and how they could partner with community groups you can really make some things happen. You can put some dollars behind it and you can build in that long-term sustainability. That's important to us that live in these communities.

Hannah: Yeah, yeah, I like that and Carrie.

Carrie: Um, my parting thoughts are just that I really think that stewardship, you know, promoting stewardship among our younger generations is really important. And the access thing is really important as well. I think we need to make canoeing and boating and, you know, I always if I'm paddling down the Jordan River and I look at people along the trail, and they are like, whoa. I'm wondering why are there mostly just white, you know, more affluent people canoeing, the river. It's just not right, going through a neighborhood that Is not majority white, you know. So that's a glaring inequity, that needs to be focused on, because if we don't focus on that. How will we have stewardship by a growing non-white population. So partnering with other organizations to provide experiences for, you know, maybe partnering with schools. And nonprofits to provide canoeing opportunities with local school children would be really cool.

Hannah: Yeah, I really like that. This is the first city I've ever lived in that's not divided by a river, and it just seems like not as many people have access to the waterways. So yeah, I like that. I love that you, Alan.

Albert: Nothing more. Thank you.

Hannah: We've exhausted you. Timothy?
Timothy: Yeah well I think that it's important for people to push back against the idea of the comments being paying for themselves. I like the idea of the donation box at the trail heads, but I've seen what happens this is what the State did when they adopted Reaganomics like that. Then I watched the Fairgrounds Coliseum, which was a viable event venue. Then you that I got to see a musical group at. And then they thought that the fairgrounds should generate enough revenue to do its own upkeep and they neglected and deferred maintenance of that structure until they tore it down and the libraries, you know, thank God. People haven't started pushing to prioritize and monetize our library systems yet, but I think we need to push back and try to have the open spaces, other commons, that should belong to all the citizens, funded by all the citizens, just like the libraries and the police are. Yeah, I think it's important. I fully hear you, Lewis, when you say that we don't have the funding to empty more garbage cans than you have now and you know that makes me want to see about doing a STIP application for the Fairgrounds Neighborhood, to see if we can get the city to bust loose some capital improvement money and that it would have to have the ongoing maintenance. Right. So I, I like that what you said earlier also Lewis about keeping some momentum. And so I'm thankful I got the chance to participate in this venue and I would hope that some form of providing what limited input I can provide might be available in the future.

Hannah: I definitely think we've appreciated your input Timothy and I liked what you said about the library is to it goes back to Kenneth was saying at the beginning how, you know, parks, I was profitable but they're still valuable and Donald, do you have any final comments?

Donald: I think I mentioned plenty in the chat box.

Hannah: We definitely appreciate it. Darryl, you are last any final words.

Darryl: Well, hopefully, not least. Yeah. So I would be remiss if I didn't suggest that you know trying to in the second driest state and the nation, with global warming hanging over our head, 10 years of drought. Right. National Geographic has us, along the Wasatch Front, as the most wasteful water users in the entire world. It's kind of embarrassing for one thing. And what's even more embarrassing is to be watering Kentucky Bluegrass that belongs in Kentucky with portable water, drinking water, that's just crazy. So, and I don't think it's sustainable under the current conditions. I think we're getting this real really good water here in the mountains. This year we're going to be screwed. So not trying to leave on a bad note, but I think sustainability by reducing our use of water to maintain something that isn't even native here. So that's all I got. Thanks.
Hannah: Awesome. Yes, thank you so much for that comment. And I think that climate change and stuff when someone's on most of our minds these days. So I just again want to thank everyone for your comments and they're going to be super valuable when we're creating this Public Lands Master Plan and I know Lonnie dropped it in the chat here, but just want to make sure everyone has completed the park survey and as well as the Google Form, which I think most of you have. I just want to thank you everyone so much for being here and I hope you all have a great rest of your night.

730
01:38:33.420 --> 01:38:45.120
Ronnie: Yeah. Oh, one more thing I wanted to invite you all to the final class presentation that will take place online. And so after this email, I will send you all an email with the date and time, as a reminder. So y'all can write those down into your calendars, if you're interested. Thanks!

732
01:38:59.820 --> 01:39:01.080
--Assorted Participants: Bye everyone. Thank you.--

733
01:39:02.520 --> 01:39:03.510
--Assorted Participants: Thanks, everyone.--

734
01:39:05.220 --> 01:39:08.940
--Assorted Participants: Have a good night. You too. Goodnight, all--

735
01:39:10.860 --> 01:39:11.970
Nancy: Thank you.
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## Table of Contents

**Introduction** 3  
**RECRUITMENT** 4  
**Methodology** 5  
**Participants Profile** 6  
**Findings** 8  
  - Introduction 8  
  - Stewardship 10  
  - Equity 11  
  - Closure 12  
**Recommendations** 13  
  - Introduction 13  
  - Stewardship 14  
  - Equity 14  
  - Closure 16  
**Discussion** 16  
**Conclusion** 17  
**Appendix** 19  
  - Appendix A: Flyer 19  
  - Appendix B: Email Invite 20  
  - Appendix C: Demographic Survey 21  
  - Appendix D: Email Follow Up 22  
  - Appendix E: Photographs 23  
  - Appendix F: Focus Group Guide 24  
  - Appendix G: Sign-In Sheet 30  
  - Appendix H: Thank You Email 31  
  - Appendix I: Final Presentation Flyer 32  
  - Appendix J: Transcript (Spanish) 33  
  - Appendix K: Transcript (English) 64
INTRODUCTION

As part of the first window of engagement for the Salt Lake City Master Plan, University of Utah students conducted focus groups to ask the community about stewardship, equity and the other ways to improve our parks and open spaces. Understanding what the values of community residents are is important because it will help the Salt Lake City Public Lands Division create a vision to guide future change and investment for our public spaces over the next 20 years.

This report reflects the findings from a 1.5-hour focus group conducted with members of the following groups: West Side Leadership Institute, University Neighborhood Partners, and the Glendale Community Learning Center. The focus group was conducted through an online meeting (Zoom), on October 8th, 2020 at 9:00 am by the following students: Carlos Santos-Rivera, Claudia Loayza, and Minerva Jimenez.

In order to conduct focus groups, we approach West Side Leadership Institute, University Neighborhood Partners, and the Glendale Community Learning Center as a stakeholder so they could help us identify residents that would participate in our focus group.

- The Westside Leadership Institute is a mutually beneficial community-university partnership that supports Salt Lake City west side residents and community-based organizations' efforts to take action for positive change in their communities. The mission of Westside Leadership Institute is to prepare community leaders that will bring positive change to our communities across the west side.

- The University Neighborhood Partners is committed to build university-community partnerships focused on resident-identified issues and opportunities. Their mission is to identify community needs and create their own initiative through providing resources. Their work is to support those partnerships by encouraging active communication, relationship building, resource sharing, and capacity building.

- Glendale Learning Center supports over 1,500 students, their families, and their community in the west. Their mission is to raise the achievement of all students by building on the knowledge and assets of the youth and community,
developing authentic school, family and community relationships and providing access to opportunities that lead to healthier communities.

The entities mentioned, have the main focus of capacity building entities and strong commitment towards community empowerment in the west side. Given the community influence we contacted them so we could gather information and suggestions from the community about their opinions related to open space, trails and natural areas.

RECRUITMENT

Dr. Garcia created a flyer in Spanish to recruit members for the focus groups. The flyers provided information on the purpose of the focus groups, what platform it would be held, the day and time of the event, a QR code and link to RSVP. The focus group was scheduled for October 8th at 9:00am to 10:30am. The flyer also let viewers know this was a partnership with Salt Lake City Public Lands and the University of Utah. Lastly, the flyer informed the public that they would be compensated for their time with a gift card. The flyers were then distributed to organizations such as Westside Leadership Institute, University Neighborhood Partners, and Community Learning Center to reach Spanish speaking populations on the west side. Participants were emailed, called, and sent texts about the focus group and how they can register. A flyer was also created for the final presentation on November 19. At the end of the focus group, participants were provided with the flyer that contained information about the date, time, zoom link, and purpose of the meeting. The flyer also informed viewers that it would be presented by graduate students in the planning program.

Participants were sent an email requesting they complete a short survey in order to register to a focus group. The survey allowed individuals to choose from six different focus groups to attend; each provided information of the time, day, language it would be presented and location of the meeting. Participants were also asked to input their name, phone number and email address. The survey also included demographic questions that resembled the questions in the intercept surveys. The demographic information that was collected includes the participants’ age, ethnicity, income level, gender, and neighborhood they reside in Salt Lake City. See attachment in Appendix C for a copy of the demographic questions.

As participants registered for the focus group, we were able to view individual’s responses through google form. This information was used to send calendar invites and an email to participants, city partners, and community partners. The email provided zoom login information, time, and day of the meeting, which would be held on October 8th at 9:00am. The email also requested they complete the survey on the Reimagine Nature website prior to the meeting. Minerva’s contact information was also
included in case they had any concerns or questions. Before the day of the focus group, Minerva called all registered participants to confirm their attendance, answer questions, and check if they received the email with the Zoom login information. If participants did not answer, a voice message was left and a follow up with a text providing them a reminder of the day, time, and zoom link for the meeting.

**METHODOLOGY**

The focus group technique is used to collect data at the microlevel through small group discussions that inform the macrolevel experience of how people think, behave, and interact. The group comprises a small number of carefully selected individuals that represent a cohesive sample of the larger target area\(^1\) with common interests or characteristics and led by a moderator (B2B International, 2020). Planners benefit from focus groups by being able to identify community feelings, perceptions, and thoughts through organic interactions that provide actionable insight\(^2\) (Marczack et al., n.d.).

Overall, this technique should not have more than ten guiding questions that are clearly worded, unbiased, and that build from requiring general to more specific responses throughout the duration. The point of these questions is to get to the “why” and “how” of the topic. To avoid redundancy or participant fatigue, the discussion should last an average of 60-90 minutes and achieve fair distribution and validation of responses\(^3\) (Center for Assessment & Policy Development, 2013). Focus groups can center equity, foster belonging, and capture responses from a diverse array by being intentional in participant selection and grouping. Those of underrepresented communities may feel more comfortable sharing in affinity groups that reflect their own background\(^4\) (Center for Assessment & Policy Development, 2013). In addition, it allows for language access wherein focus groups can be held in a selection of languages that are representative of the area.

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The questions and discussion script employed during this particular focus group was developed by Professor Ivís García using the Salt Lake City Public Lands Division’s public intercept interview questions as a base. Transition and contextual language were included with each question to better guide the flow of the discussion and stay on topic. For the purposes of this focus group, the script was also translated into Spanish. On September 24th, our MCMP class analyzed the proposed focus group questions and structure and provided collective feedback to improve upon the trajectory of the discussion and reception of the questions to better ensure literacy and language access. The final script was reviewed and approved by Nancy Monteith (Public Lands Program Liaison) and Amanda Jeter (Design Workshop Consultant) after a mock focus group was held internally with students to determine final edits.

Our group used discussion-enforced questions to encourage personal anecdotes, experience, and knowledge. We covered 4 topics, totaling in 7 questions, that opened with a probing or general question, followed by an actionable prompt, and ending with an exit question or statement to provide closure to the topic. The topics that we discussed included: 1) overall use and proximity to public lands, 2) identification of gaps or barriers to usage, 3) stewardship opportunities, and 4) a discussion on how to center equity and inclusion in the development of public lands. Please see Appendix J & K containing the transcription of questions asked and topics covered.

**Participants Profile**

A total of 14 people participated in the focus group. Information about neighborhood location, age, income, ethnicity, and gender was collected through the survey and provided on the zoom chat box for participants to complete. The results revealed there was one male and 13 female participants, all of which reported to be of Hispanic descent. 57% of participants were between the ages of 31 -40 years old. The focus group did not have any participants below the age of 22. Level of income seems to range a bit more with 35% falling in the category of $15,000 - $24,999 and another 35% within the bracket of $25,000 - $49,999. About 43% of participants also selected “other” in the section that asked for their neighborhood location in Salt Lake City. Rose Park and Poplar Grove both had 21% of respondents indicate that they were from those neighborhoods. Tables one, two, three, four, and five show the results and breakdown for each demographic category.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1. Community Area</th>
<th>No. of Participants</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rose Park</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairpark</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poplar Grove</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>No. of Participants</td>
<td>Percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glendale</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westpointe</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan Meadows</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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<td>43%</td>
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Table 2. Age
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<th>Percent</th>
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<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-21</td>
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<td>22-30</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>31-40</td>
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<td>41-50</td>
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<tr>
<td>51-60</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>61 or older</td>
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<td>7%</td>
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</table>

Table 3. Race/ethnicity
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>No. of Participants</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian or Alaska Native</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino (of any race)</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prefer not to say</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4. Household Income
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<tr>
<th>Income Range</th>
<th>No. of Participants</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$0 - $14,999</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$15,000 - $24,999</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$25,000 - $49,999</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50,000 - $74,999</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$75,000 - $100,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100,000 - $150,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$150,000 +</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prefer not to say</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 5. Gender
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>No. of Participants</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Using Social Explorer, the demographics of the focus group was compared to the overall population of the west side to analyze if the participants were representative of the community. It is important to note that 43% of individuals indicated they live in a neighborhood that is not listed in the survey, while 56% of participants live in a neighborhood on the west side. The majority of participants in the focus group had ages that ranged between 31-40 years old. The results from Social Explorer reveal that residents on the west side typically fall under the age group between 25-34 years old. This indicates that we needed to include more individuals between the age group of 25-34 years old. The focus group was also overrepresented in Hispanics. This is to be expected since we targeted Spanish speakers. The census shows that Hispanics make up 51.9% of the population and whites are the second largest population making up 43% of the population. Income levels of the focus group fell between two categories, 35% of respondents make an annual income between $15,000-$24,999, while another 35% indicated they earn between $25,000-$49,999. In comparison to the results of the census, the median income on the west side is $46,066 which would be the approximate average for the focus group as well. Lastly, women were overrepresented in the focus group with 93% representation and only 7% of males. Based on the census, males make up 50% of the population on the west side, indicating that we needed more male participants in our focus group to be representative of the demographics.

**Findings**

The Focus Group began by having participants introduce themselves and state what parks they live close to, what they enjoy the most from public lands, and what prevents them from going outdoors. The discussion then transitioned into stewardship where we asked members if they would be interested in volunteer opportunities. Lastly, participants were asked how public lands and parks could be made more equitable.

**Introduction**

The discussion of the focus group began by asking each person to share their name, which park, open spaces, and/or trails they live close to, and how important it is to have these spaces close to them. Unanimously, participants expressed how having parks and public lands in proximity is important. One participant expressed,
“I believe that green spaces and parks are a fundamental part of our life, and more so in these times, because it is the only place where we can still, well, have free time with the family. I have two children, so they are the ones who ask me to be going to parks or green areas or walking”

Many specified how parks help them have a healthy and active lifestyle, especially during COVID-19. One member stated how her husband and her use the park to exercise and destress,

“My husband goes to the canyon to run and I [go to] walk. Well yes, it is very important to have an area, a green area to be able to go out and more in this pandemic that one has to go out to de-stress.”

Participants also commented how parks have helped their children stay active and entertained during COVID-19 and even before the pandemic. One mother commented how her daughter can unplug when they visit parks,

“I have an eleven year old girl and it is just a story that we go out to the park for a walk. And it is famous for unplugging them from the cell phone and letting them exercise.”

Other than parks providing a space to maintain an active lifestyle, participants expressed how public lands allow them to stay connected with friends and family and meet new individuals. These spaces are especially important for individuals that live in apartments or small houses. One participant commented,

“My mother loves the house, but it has a very small yard...we always tend to go to a park when we want to grill meat or be with family or get together with friends. As someone else had mentioned with the pandemic, these green areas have become even more important…”

When participants were asked what prevents them from going to parks or public lands, a couple of women stated how they felt uncomfortable or unsafe at parks either due to people or poor lighting. One mother expressed how she avoids going to the park at certain times of the day for safety reasons,

“Oh, like the first person said, I think one of the only things I'm looking for, it's security. I am a single mother of two and there comes a time when going to the park so early is very impossible because of no sun and later there is no lighting.”

Bike trails were also a safety concern that participants commented on. Members of the discussion group do not feel safe on bike lanes and would like to see bike paths and
parks connected for easier accessibility. A participant also mentioned how connecting bike paths to parks would minimize her driving,

“If one goes on the trail or paths, because there are many cars, a lot of traffic, but the trails do not always connect. There must be paths for children, for adults too, because it is lacking here. We are always mobilizing by car.”

Stewardship

The stewardship portion of the discussion started with a brief overview of maintenance and administration provided by Luke Allen, Communications and Marketing Manager for the Salt Lake City Public Lands Division. Participants felt strongly that the parks should be respected and maintained and most were eager to have more volunteer opportunities for the community to act as stewards to public lands. A young Latino male shared the following.

“[Community programs give] education to the public because there are many people who abuse the parks, people who destroy them or do not know how to protect it. Like littering, I think it is more about education. People have to understand the purpose of parks and how to keep them clean.”

Other respondents emphatically stood in agreement and suggested improved messaging about volunteer opportunities. A young, working college student shared, “If I don't plan [for] it, it doesn't happen. Today we can use the medium of flyers, put it up at the markets, through Facebook and word of mouth as well.” Another shared, “there should be combined activities...something like consecutive. Potentially every Saturday...for parents and children together.”

In addition to personal stewardship, respondents suggested ways to upkeep parks and public lands better on behalf of the city. Safety was a major issue brought up with the lack of lighting in certain parks. A mother with a new baby mentioned that “as the weather is changing, then it gets darker a little bit faster. So when you want to go for a walk with the babies, there is not much lighting.” According to responses, there are some residents that are taking matters into their own hands and are providing lighting from their houses to shine on parking lots or parks that lack so that users can visit comfortably. A respondent elaborated on this:

“Not all areas are well lit. I avoid going to certain parts because there is no light, or very early or very late at night. I usually go at night...[A] neighbor puts lights...
on the side of his house which is right next to the parking lot. If it weren't for those lights, there wouldn't be any lights in the parking lot.”

Finally, participants centered the need for improved park amenities such as fixed versus mobile garbage cans and more of them so that users have a place to dispose of trash throughout the area. A middle-aged Latina female from Poplar Grove shared that in her neighborhood park “there is only one garbage can, but it is the kind that is mobile, but I suggest that there must be some that are fixed.” Overall, the group was emotionally invested in the topic of stewardship because it reflected collective respect not just for the parks and public lands, but for the Westside area in general.

Equity

During the equity segment of the focus group, participants’ responses focused on access, community mobilization, and more resource-inclusive programming. The discussion started with a short overview of the diversity of Salt Lake City in spoken languages and cultures. Many established a sense of advocacy for their communities with statements such as “[T]here are many Hispanics who do not have the opportunity to vote or are not residents, I do not know if there are other initiatives to be able to listen to these populations” or “When you speak to them in their language, they feel included”, calling for increased language access and inclusion in terms of community input.

An older Latina woman, who has a deep connection to her Mexican heritage and passion for children’s development and education, shared:

“No libraries are reinventing themselves...Parents often leave their children there for their homework to finish it. And we could have those moments with parents and children and have meetings, for example, once a week on some topic of how to support the parks, how to clean, that is...So many things that can be supported with the parks. In other words, the library can be a resource for people to talk. There are places with rooms right? Where they have access to computers. They can do a lot of things that I don't think that the Westside has taken advantage of with libraries and it is a loss that we must take advantage of.”

This particular comment captured the need for increased community partnerships with neighboring organizations and facilities to support park and trails programming. The
library in this case, was suggested as a neutral place to gather and share feedback about public lands and learn more about their use.

A middle-aged mother of two shared that “[t]here are a lot of play areas for young children, but for older children or adolescents, there really is nothing very attractive.” She later went on to describe that her children found parks fun for younger kids, but that there was a lack of activities for them as adolescents to engage and interact with public spaces. On the other end of the age spectrum, a Latina woman working as a caretaker, mentioned that, “[t]here is nowhere to sit in the middle of the trail,” so the elderly that she cares for, “avoid it a bit, because they get exhausted easily...I think some benches are needed so that they can take a break and continue and [more] bathrooms.”

In addition to designing public lands for all ages, respondents shared a need to plan for and consider varying abilities as well. A working college student, living at home with her family, mentioned that she lived with two individuals that are disabled. She openly shared that “they can only walk from here to the post office. It’s half a block from my house...if they do not have a vehicle, if they do not have someone to drive them or do not have a vehicle that fits them, they cannot reach the park.” This comment captured the need for more accessible transportation and proximity to parks. Other respondents also asserted the need for more urban farming opportunities and community gardens which are lacking on the Westside.

**Closure**

Findings showcased that participants value green spaces since the pandemic happened. A participant mentioned: “these green areas have become even more important since I have not much space other than my porch.” The need for natural areas was seen throughout our conversation with the community stakeholders and incremental uses of green spaces since the pandemic arrived. Participants also mentioned more than 15 times the need to improve lighting in the parks of the West, a participant mentioned that “Jordan Park, not all areas are well lit. I avoid going to certain parts because there is no light”. We believe that we need to address the issues related to accessibility and safety, therefore adding lightning to these parks should be included in the Master Plan.

Another important contribution was the emphasis participants brought about socializing and the implications of social ties and mental health. Activities that promote community activities that promote environmental education. A participant mentioned:
“Perhaps you can have a scholarship for children that do some activity that is related to the environment”.

Lastly, we found that the participants were interested in more cultural and physical activities in which the community could come together to enjoy public parks. For instance, one participant mentioned implementing “activities like painting”, another one mentioned that this stimulates “talking to people, meeting new people outside and learning from other cultures.” Participants were interested in these activities in addition to the natural areas to keep strengthening their community social and cultural capital.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations have been developed from the comments and needs indicated by the participants during the sessions of the focus groups. These recommendations not only help to create equitable parks but also provide a communal space for public gatherings that feels safe and inviting. These recommendations are stated in order that were most commonly addressed.

Introduction

Participants emphasized the need to have parks close to their home to help them exercise, keep their children entertained, and hold social gatherings with their families and friends. Parks are especially essential for individuals that live in apartments or houses that do not have backyard space. Members also expressed how important it is to maintain the biodiversity of parks and protect wildlife. A member expressed her concern that parks are being ruined or taken over for housing development. Lastly, participants of the discussion stated they would like to see more safety measures included at parks. With this information collected, the following recommendations are suggested:

Summary of Recommendations

- Provide exercise equipment and designated trails for runners and bikers.
- Make playground equipment accessible to children of various ages, especially toddlers.
- Provide picnic tables, grills and pavilions for gatherings.
- Add more lighting to increase safety.
- Include trash bins and signage to protect vegetation and encourage park users to dispose of trash in bins.
● Include signage prohibiting smoking and use of alcohol.
● Work with community organizations to house homeless individuals.

**Stewardship**

The group was very emotionally invested in the topic of stewardship and called for greater respected and routine maintenance for public lands on the Westside and in general so that users could see their community pride reflected in these highly frequented areas. Topics of interest included more consistent and widely announced volunteer opportunities, increased lighting for safety, and investing more in community education for users to understand rules of conduct at public lands.

**Summary of Recommendations**

- Increased lighting in parks and trails for safety and comfort of users, especially in the early morning and evenings.
- Place more fixed garbage receptacles of a variety (recycling bins, glass bins) that are more evenly distributed throughout areas so that users can dispose of garbage anywhere without feeling the need to litter.
- Have more consistent and widely announced volunteer opportunities for parks cleanups and other public land engagements using preferred modes of communication (flyers, social media, word of mouth) and in major languages.
- Specifically organize volunteer opportunities for children and parents to engage with natural lands.
- Increase the amount of signage in public lands to promote rules of conduct in multiple languages.
- Invest in more community education programs/initiatives about how to care for, respect, and use public lands.
- Address the needs of the homeless population in a way that encourages rehabilitation, empowerment, and safety for both public land users and the population in question.
- Have more recreational water sources for communities to use in the summer.

**Equity**

It was apparent that the group was emotionally invested in changing the opportunity equation for Westside residents’ regardless of age, income, and ability to have equitable access to public lands. Responses ranged from advocating for youth and families to have more interactive park programs to considering the critical impacts of
COVID-19 on residents and uses lessons-learned for systemic impact. Specific recommendations surrounding the topic of equity included:

**Summary of Recommendations**

- Improve and increase lighting in public trails and parks to promote safety and comfort.
- Translate all signage (signs, markers, plaques) and materials (flyers, websites, media communications) in relevant languages to ensure awareness and participation from communities traditionally affected by language barriers.
- Provide alternative ways for community voices to be heard in the bonds, voting, or political sphere for those that cannot vote or live in fear of privacy issues due to immigration.
- Provide and promote programming and activities that can accommodate working parents and families through childcare and/or hosting events on weekends and after work hours.
- Implement resting facilities and infrastructure that is friendly to aging populations on trails and in parks.
- Ensure that public lands infrastructure is accessible to those of diverse abilities by limiting the amount of traffic near parks and trails and through strict ADA compliance.
- Increase collaboration between parks, libraries, and other community centers to maximize resource distribution and activity locations. Renting community center space to hold workshops or classes and using public computers for further community input was suggested.
- Encourage innovative use of community space (sidewalks, park strips, front yards) such as a public lending library where residents can pick-up and drop-off books of their choice or incorporate more public art on the Westside of Salt Lake City.
- Partner with key nonprofits and social service providers that address immediate basic needs (health, finances, housing etc.) to host events in public lands for residents to openly engage with important resources near their homes. Examples include flu shot clinics, employment or financial open houses, or housing assistance fairs.
- Increase biking, walking, and public transit networks in racial minority neighborhoods to promote active transportation.
- Provide or coordinate more wide-reaching and accessible public transportation options for those without easy access to a car to reach public lands destinations. Ideas include a shuttle or simply increased amount of greenspaces and parks so people do not have to travel as far.
- Make better use of empty lots or unused open space for community gardens and vegetation.
Increase community education and mitigation of air quality pollution on the Westside of SLC to help address rising cases and aggravation of pulmonary conditions.

Closure

Participants had many recommendations for the creation of the Public Land Division Master Plan. Recommendations included adding and enforcing rules such as:

- Making the parks non-smoking zones, leash pets, noise regulations, and BBQ disposal guidelines.
- Creating a website and/or application where people can look at what activities they could volunteer to clean, plant trees, or just overall maintenance of the parks.
- Creating a cohesive calendar with the activities can be instrumental for the community to know when and how these events take place.
- Multilingual signage can help in promoting equity and welcome diverse populations to natural areas.
- Information can reach to the community specifically in an effective and efficient way.
- Address the needs from vulnerable populations: more benches, or more frequency of these to better serve their needs.

Lastly, the summary of recommendations should be a guide for the Public Lands Master Plan since it includes all of the participants’ voices and vision of how the parks and natural areas should look like from a stewardship and equity standpoint.

Discussion

Our group was composed by bilingual members, this was instrumental in communicating effectively with the community members from the west. The team members are well versed in topics related to community engagement and park management due to our mutual understanding of the community engagement class. As a team, we enjoyed the opportunity to conduct focus group discussions and to contribute to the Public Land Division Master Plan.

Participants did present interest in the topics and they responded to all of our questions in a respectful manner. Besides the time constraints, the meeting ended a few minutes early and successfully completed the interview protocol. Although we encouraged participants to interact among themselves many opted just to answer the questions directed by the facilitators. We believe this is due to the format of the interview itself, online meetings can be difficult to interact with others.
We believe that this meeting could have been in person with socially distanced guidance. We believe that in-person meetings are more effective since participants are more alert and present in the space. Stimulating conversations and interactions are more effective in-person, where participants can talk freely without technical difficulties like, muting themselves, camera issues, and so forth. We did have an idea on how they look like, but neither of the team members actually conducted focus groups before. It was definitely a learning experience. We see many benefits of having these skills in our professional development.

Participants did mention the problems with homeless populations around parks in the west, and although this is not in our interview protocol, they felt the need to express concerns related to security and safety. We believe that this tells a story itself; that west side residents feel the urge to see drastic measures to help the homeless population; this Master Plan should link efforts with other initiatives to better address park management.

A topic that emerged was the need to set up rules for parks. For instance, participants mentioned that they would like to see rules like, volume for music stereos, dog leashes, appropriate BBQ uses/disposals, and other rules that many parks in the west either do not have nor enforced.

We found surprising the level of turnout. We had 14 participants present and we know that other groups had less people showing up. I found that the west side seems interested in participating in discussions related to the community. Many times low-income residents are associated with disinterest in development projects. However beyond the turnout, we found that low-income residents did present a high level of interest in participating in the focus groups but also in volunteering and maintaining our public spaces. Values of sense of ownership were definitely seen through our discussion.

**Conclusion**

The focus groups provided an opportunity for populations on the west side to participate in the discussion of how the Public Lands Division can improve parks and public lands. This is important for two reasons. The first, it ensures the Public Lands Division is gathering conclusive input from all demographics to create a master plan that is representative of the community’s values. Second, focus groups make it easier
to interview hard to reach populations and provide greater insight to the needs and expectations of a particular demographic.

Based on the results of our focus group, participants expressed how parks and public lands are important for physical activity, mental health, and social cohesion. To many of the participants, parks provide an economically feasible way to entertain their children, gather with friends and family, and exercise. However, the discussion revealed how parks have room for improvement in safety, educational programs, and accessibility. One of the recommendations made by the group is to offer educational programs and activities such as art, exercise, and environmental awareness classes. Group members also recommended improving safety in parks by adding more lights and offering rehabilitation programs for homeless individuals. Lastly, participants advised the Public Lands Division to make parks more accessible by alternative means of transportation. This could include connecting trails to parks, increasing safety in bike lanes, and placing parks in close proximity to homes.

With these results and suggestions, the Public Lands Division will need to further explore how they can collaborate with community organizations and individuals to increase educational programs and activities. The focus group also highlights the need to provide services to homeless individuals, this will also be an area that will require collaboration from different departments and organizations. Overall, the discussion emphasizes how important public lands and parks are to the well-being of a community. Next steps in making these recommendations known will include reporting to the Parks, Natural Lands, Urban Forestry & Trails Advisory Board on Thursday, November 5th, 2020 and to focus group participants on Thursday, November 19, 2020.
Appendix A: Flyer

¡Queremos conocer tu opinión sobre los parques! 1.5 horas de conversación, tarjeta de regalo de $25

Salt Lake City Public Lands y la Universidad de Utah en colaboración con el Westside Leadership Institute, University Neighborhood Partners y el Glendale Community Learning Center lo invitan a una discusión grupal para conocer su opinión sobre los parques, los senderos y las áreas verdes gratuitos y abiertos durante todo el año que rodean su vecindario para el disfrute de su comunidad.

When
Jueves, Octubre 8 @ 9:00 AM-10:30AM

Where
En Zoom, le enviaremos un enlace cuando haga RSVP.

RSVP
Go to: https://forms.gle/XXMKd2PNErEcl1f817
Llamar o enviar un mensaje de texto a Ivis García 801.833.4073
Appendix B: Email Invite

Queremos escuchar su opinión sobre los parques - 1,5 horas Tarjeta de regalo de $25 por tu tiempo

Salt Lake City Public Lands, junto con University Neighborhood Partners, el West Side Leadership Institute y el Community Learning Center lo invitan a una discusión grupal para conocer su opinión sobre el parque, los senderos y las áreas verdes gratuitas y abiertos durante todo el año que rodean el West Side para el disfrute de nuestra comunidad.

Los resultados de este estudio ayudarán a informar a la División de Tierras Públicas sobre lo que le gustaría que se incluyera en el Plan Maestro de Tierras Públicas, más información aquí: https://reimaginenatureslc.squarespace.com/

¡Ven y participa, tu voz es importante! Esta será una conversación de Zoom:

Jueves 8 de octubre de 9 a 10: 30 a.m. (español)
Miércoles 14 de octubre de 6:30 p.m. a 8:00 p.m. (inglés)

Para registrarse en cualquiera de estas fechas, complete esta breve encuesta: https://forms.gle/XXMKd2PNErEc1f817

Les daremos a los participantes una tarjeta de regalo de $25 por su participación.

Para obtener más información, comuníquese con: Minerva Jimenez
jimenezminerva134@gmail.com
Appendix C: Demographic Survey

1. Which Salt Lake City neighborhood or community do you live in?
   a) Rose Park
   b) Fairpark
   c) Poplar Grove
   d) Glendale
   e) Westpointe
   f) Jordan Meadows
   g) Central City

2. What is your age?
   a) Younger than 18
   b) 18-21
   c) 22-30
   d) 31-40
   e) 41-50
   f) 51-60
   g) 61 or older

3. What is your race/ethnicity?
   h) Black or African American
   i) American Indian or Alaska Native
   j) Asian
   k) Hispanic or Latino (of any race)
   l) Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
   m) White
   n) Prefer not to say

4. What is your household income level?
   a) $0 - $14,999
   b) $15,000 - $24,999
   c) $25,000 - $49,999
   d) $50,000 - $74,999
   e) $75,000 - $100,000
   f) $100,000 - $150,000
   g) $150,000 +

5. What is your gender?
   a) Male
   b) Female
   c) Non-Binary/Third Gender
   d) Prefer not to say
   e) Prefer to self-describe
Appendix D: Email Follow Up

Buenas tardes todos(as),

Disculpa si les llega este mensaje dos veces. Les quería avisar que mañana vamos a tener la discusión sobre parques y tierra publicado a las 9am -10:30am. Agregue el número de teléfono para que puedan entrar por llamada a zoom.

Link de zoom:

https://utah.zoom.us/j/98683614967 | Passcode: 591717

Este es el numero:

+1 669 900 6833

Meeting ID: 986 8361 4967

También les quería pedir si pueden completar una encuesta que dura 3-5 minutos para completar sobre los parques y tierra publica. Aquí esta el link:

https://reimaginenatureslc.squarespace.com/

Última cosa, si conocen a alguien quien gustaría participar mañana en la discusión, por favor envíales, también le podemos dar tarjeta de $25 a quien invitan. Aquí les dejo el link de la registración para que lo pasen: https://forms.gle/ZjebUumRaNDdALfQ8

Sinceramente les agradezco por su interés y tiempo en esta discusión. Nos vemos en mañana, y si gustan pueden traer su cafecito :)

saludos,

Minerva Jimenez
Appendix E: Photographs
Appendix F: Focus Group Guide

Facilitator #1  – Welcome!  – 15 minutes

[Choose a student to be the main facilitator and give the introduction. Welcome people informally as they enter to the SLC Public Lands Master focus group. Engage in small chat and answer questions people have. Tell them to fill out the demographic questionnaire, survey in English or Spanish, and asked them to take a look at the Snapshot (upload in zoom, for in person we will have copies).

My name is [name] and I am a master student at the University of Utah in City & Metropolitan Planning. We are University students working with the City Public Lands Divisions to better understand how people might reimagine the future of parks, trails, and natural areas. And now each team member will introduce themselves to you. [Introduction of other students in the team]. Here with us we also have staff from SLC Public Lands [introduction of SLC Public Lands staff].

As you know from our previous communication, you are here to participate in a focus group (or in other words a group discussion) on a specific topic. The topic that we will be discussing today is what you reimagine the future of parks, trails, and natural areas in Salt Lake City. During this focus group, you all will have the opportunity to share your experiences about going to trails, parks, and natural areas in the city. Most importantly we interested in your thoughts about how to improve them in the next 10 and 20 years.

We do not want to miss anything that you say, that being said this conversation will be audio recorded. The recording will be used to transcribe the conversation and later pull out some quotes for a report we are writing. We will not use your name on the report. We will give you a fake name. We asked you for your demographics previously to know as a collective who came to all the focus groups, we have six in total and about 40 people will be participating. In the report we will use your fake name with some identifiers including possibly your age, gender, race and ethnicity. We will also be taking pictures to put in our report.

If in person: However, we will be taking pictures of your back or hands. We will not take pictures of your face, where other will be able to identify you.

If in Zoom: If you are in Zoom and you would not like pictures of you, make sure to turn off your camera now, so we can take a quick group picture with our screenshot right now.
For community councils there is NO compensation. If is not a community council, mention that we will be offering $25 gift card as a token of our appreciation. We will talk more about this at the end of the meeting.

All that being said, our discussion will last about 1.20 minutes [change if there is less time due to tardiness. If in person, say, please help yourself to the refreshments throughout the meeting].

Are there any questions so far?

Ground Rules
Before starting with the conversation, we would like to set up some guiding principles. Principles that will help us to make the best of our group discussion:

1. Turn off your cell phones.
2. One person speaks at a time.
3. There are no right or wrong answers.
4. Like in Las Vegas, what is said in this room stays in this room.
5. Talk to each other not strictly to the person asking questions.
6. If you feel uncomfortable please let us know.
7. Would someone like to add something?

I. Facilitator #2: Introduction (20 minutes, student led): First, I will ask you about parks, trails, natural areas near home.
   1. **Icebreaker:** Salt Lake City Public Lands Divisions conducted Needs Assessment which found that, having a park within walking distance of home (half a mile or 15-minute walk) was considered extremely important to 57% of Salt Lake City residents surveyed in 2017 and having a park in biking distance of home was extremely important to 38%. We will go in a circle and we will have everyone introduce themselves. In 1 minute, tell me your name where you live and how important it is to you to have nearby your home a city park, a recreational trail or bike path, a natural area or open space, a street or public space with abundant trees, maybe a city golf course? [I want to hear specifically about the places that you go near your home so in your neighborhood].
   2. **Satisfaction:** Now I would like to know: What do you enjoy about this place? What is great about it? Prompts: Maybe you feel more
connected to nature, it’s a great place to exercise or meet friends in the neighborhood, it’s clean and well taken off.

3. **Unsatisfaction:** What prevents you or members of your household from spending more time in these outdoor places? Prompt maybe there are no places nearby, places are too crowded, hard to get there, safety or security concerns? Do you avoid, not enjoy, or feel uncomfortable or not welcome in some city parks or natural areas near your home or in your neighborhood? If yes, can you tell me about some of these locations and what could improve your experience?

4. **Exit Question:** In general, what would make a park, trail, natural areas, golf course near your home better?

II. Facilitator #3: Stewardship (20 minutes, staff and student led). The next topic we will discuss is stewardship.

1. Students will introduce SLC staff so he or she can talk about stewardship (if SLC staff is not available students will assume this role instead).
   - Public Lands Division Staff Member: When it comes to stewardship of our parks, citizens have indicated they would most like to see the following improvements: maintenance and cleanliness, additional or improved restrooms, lighting or safety features and additional trees. Stewardship activities in public lands can also support more natural habitat protection, like recent efforts at Fife Wetland Preserve ([Link #1](#), [Link #2](#)) or at **Friends at Fairmont Park** which is a group of citizens in Sugar House that advise the city on issues regarding this park as well as organize their own activities (include other examples that you are personally involved with). [Student note: show images, find online, make a collage if you like. Here are some instructions for printing posters for free at the college: [http://www.cap.utah.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Plotting-Instructions_01.pdf](http://www.cap.utah.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Plotting-Instructions_01.pdf)].

2. Students will ask questions: Are there any areas for improvement for any of the parks, trails or natural areas that are close to you? Prompts:
   - Add or renovate aged restrooms, playgrounds and other amenities
   - Add and service more bins for trash and dog waste
   - Plant more trees in parks and natural areas
   - Incorporate more native, waterwise or pollinator plants in landscaping
o Acquire additional natural areas to increase size of existing habitat blocks and wildlife corridors
o Support “Friends of the Parks” groups
o Develop ranger/ambassador programs
o Host educational events to build land ethics
o Support active modes of transportation to reduce carbon footprint (e.g., walking, biking)

3. Students will ask questions and staff will discuss opportunities for volunteering: Are there ways you can imagine yourself contributing to the stewardship of public lands? For example, you can volunteer for clean-up days, tree planting, etc.

III. Facilitator #4: Equity (20 minutes, student led). Now we will discuss topics related to equity.

1. Introduction: SLC is home to over 196,000 people who speak 80 languages representing a broad range of socioeconomic backgrounds and cultural heritages. As in most American cities, there are gaps in the amount and quality of public lands available to different neighborhoods in SLC. Question: When you imagine our public lands 10-20 years from now, what changes can we make to our public lands system to help serve and include all people more equitably?

2. Accessibility: Now, I would like to hear about how accessible are these places to you? Prompts:
o Are parks, trails and natural areas located in close enough proximity to you?
o You feel that they close by walking distance? Do you have to drive? How do you get there (walk, bike, take public transit, carpool)? Has transportation been a challenge in the past when wanting to visit a park, trail or natural areas anywhere in the city?
o Are these places accessible for older adults and for people with disabilities? Once you are there, can you move around freely (sidewalks are good, there are handrails if you need them, etc.)?

2. Programming: Unfortunately, Public Lands does not do significant programming. They only do a small number of events to activate parks. Collaborating departments, such as the Arts Council does cultural programming and Public Lands facilitates access to outside groups that also program their spaces. We still want to lean how do you think that programing could be more inclusive to different cultural groups? Let’s use as an example the Hispanic or Latinx, Somali or Pacific Islander community but we might extend our thinking to other ethnic groups like.
Could translations of Public Land materials (e.g. website, events, signage at parks, trails, etc.) encourage participation and use?

What about park, trail, and natural area locations in neighborhoods where there are people from different cultures?

How about activities, are there some cultural events or programs for families, youth or older adults that would be appealing to you?

What else would be important for you, your family, and others in your community?

IV. Facilitator #1: Closing (15 minutes).

1. We have arrived to the end of our discussion, like at the very beginning we will go in a circle, hearing from each one of you with a closing question: What else should be considered in developing the Public Lands Master Plan for natural areas, urban forests, and parks? [If people do not know what to say, asked them: what resonated the most with you in this conversation? What is the most important thing that the master plan should include? What is the one message that decision makers should hear from this conversation we just had?].

2. I now have a question for staff of the Public Lands Division: What was some of the most important things that you heard today?

3. Thanks, you all for coming! Your comments will be very valuable in creating the next Public Lands Master Plan. Make sure that you fill out the full survey online so you can sign up to receive updates on the plan and can be engage in any future activities.

4. I also would like to invite you to our final class presentation to take place online, using the same link and passcode, on Thursday November 19, from 9:10 a.m.-10:30 a.m. We will be sending you a formal invite a few weeks before the event. At this presentation we will be providing a summary of the six focus groups as well as findings from more than 2,000 surveys that have been collected for this project. [Upload to the chat the invite that is in Canvas under this homework].

5. And now [name of student] will have more information for you about the payment. [Please note that Community Councils would not receive payment].

If in person: I have some $25 Walmart cards for you. I will be going around getting your signature for documentation and I will give you the card.

If in Zoom: We will be sending you an online gift card for $25 to Amazon. We have taken attendance and we have double checked we have your email [please do this]. With your
email we can just send you this e-card. However, because we have six focus group we will be sending these after October 15.
### Discusión Grupal- Hoja De Registro

**Nombre y Apellido**

Short answer text

**Dirección de correo electrónico**

Short answer text

**Dirección de su casa (Si prefiere que le mande por correo su tarjeta)**

Short answer text

**Teléfono**

Short answer text

¿En qué vecindario o comunidad de Salt Lake City vives? *

- Rose Park
- Fairpark
- Poplar Grove
- Draper
- Westpointe
- Jordan Meadows
- Centennial
- Otro

¿Cuántos años tienes? *

Long answer text

¿Cuál es el nivel de ingresos de su hogar? *

- $0 - $14,999
Appendix H: Thank You Email

Buenas tardes,

Espero que este correo electrónico te encuentre bien. Quería agradecerle personalmente por su tiempo para brindar información sobre cómo mejorar nuestras tierras públicas en Salt Lake City. Sus comentarios serán muy valiosos para la creación del próximo Plan Maestro de Tierras Públicas. Asegúrese de completar la encuesta y si no completo el cuestionario demográfico, les envío que lo completen en línea para que pueda inscribirse para recibir actualizaciones sobre el plan y participar en actividades futuras.

También me gustaría invitarlo personalmente a nuestra presentación final de la clase que tendrá lugar en línea, utilizando el mismo enlace y contraseña (https://utah.zoom.us/j/98683614967 | Código de acceso: 591717), el jueves 19 de noviembre, de 9:10 am a 10:30 am. Le enviaremos una invitación formal unas semanas antes del evento. En esta presentación, proporcionaremos un resumen de los seis grupos focales, así como los hallazgos de más de 2,000 encuestas que se han recopilado para este proyecto.

Si tiene alguna pregunta sobre los parques o tierra pública, le recomendaría comunicarse con Lewis Kogan, Director de la División de Senderos y Tierras Naturales (Lewis.Kogan@slcgov.com), Nancy Monteith, Arquitecta Paisajista de Tierras Públicas (Nancy.Monteith@slcgov.com), o Kristin Riker, directora de tierras públicas (kristin.riker@slcgov.com).

Gracias por todo lo que hace por nuestra comunidad,
Minerva Jimenez
Estudiante de University of Utah
Appendix I: Final Presentation Flyer

Resultados y Recomendaciones de los Grupos Focales y Encuestas

Presentado por estudiantes de planificación urbana y metropolitana

Acompáñanos en zoom
Passcode: 591717

9:30-10:30AM
Noviembre 19, 2020

REIMAGINE NATURE
SLC Public Lands Master Plan

City and Metropolitan Planning
Appendix J: Transcript (Spanish)

*Participants’ names have been changed for privacy.*

**Dominic:** [00:06:44] Buenos días.

**Minerva:** [00:06:47] Veo que también tenemos a Gabriela. Buenos días.

**Carlos:** [00:06:52] Buenos días, Gabriela. Tenemos a alguien en un iPhone que si uno pudiese ayudar dándole a los tres botónctos a su mano, déjame ver donde lo podemos hacer para poner su nombre, por favor. O si puede hablar. Es para definir quién eres y saludarte.

**Roberta:** [00:07:12] Hola, creo que soy yo, Roberta o Robby más fácil, porque yo estoy desde mi iPhone.


**Ivis:** [00:07:59] A lo mejor puede verificarse y todo el mundo completa la encuesta de los que están aquí?

**Inez:** [00:08:12] Yo no recuerdo porque me inscribí a este tiempo. Voy a verificar. De repente me puede checar mi nombre? Porque si respondí unas preguntas, pero no sé si solo fue de personal o fue de los parques.

**Claudia:** [00:08:29] Claro que sí, Inez. Creo que tenemos otra encuesta que Minerva ha preparado para capturar información demográficas y también lo vamos a usar para poder darte la tarjeta de regalo por su tiempo, no es así? Si nos puede poner el enlace de la encuesta en el chatbox, porque hay dos, hay uno que el la ciudad ha preparado y también hay otro para este foro aquí y creo que ya lo puso Minerva en la chatbox.

**Minerva:** [00:09:03] Entonces yo creo que completó uno similar. Pero este más queremos aseguraros que tenemos sólo la información, porque a veces sí, por si en caso a alguien la invitó una amiga o algo y no se registraron, ya tenemos la información
aquí también. Si prefieren les mando la tarjeta por correo les di la opción para que pongan su dirección de la casa.

Carlos: [00:09:42] Bien, estamos esperando por algún otro participante. Quizás empezamos dentro de un minuto o dos. A ver cuando tenemos más.

Dominic: [00:10:54] La otra encuesta es la que dice Reimagine Nature Salt Lake City Public Lands Master Plan?

Minerva: [00:11:01] Exactamente.

Dominic: [00:11:03] Ah, okay. Esto lo podemos llenar después de la discusión?

Minerva: [00:11:10] Si después de la discusión está bien.

Carlos: [00:11:17] Eh, Dominic, gracias por la pregunta. Esa encuesta como tal es de la ciudad. Sé más bien como las preguntas relacionadas al Masterplan y son un poco más straightforward. A ver si estamos todos. Minerva are we all here?

Claudia: [00:11:42] Tenemos a Julia con nosotros y Maria Lauren. Hola, Maria.

Maria Lauren: [00:11:55] Hola.

Carlos: [00:11:59] Buenos días buenos días. Estamos a punto de empezar. Minerva compartió una importante información en el chat, donde se espera a que ustedes como participantes luego de esta discusión, llenen este formulario, este cuestionario y estar en el chat.

Ivis: [00:12:23] Si las personas se unen nuevas no pueden ver el chat anterior tienen que volver a postearla y postearla para las personas que llegan después.

Carlos: [00:12:34] Muchas gracias y ahora mismo lo voy a compartir el chat para que por favor si lo pueden guardar en su celular o en su computadora y hacerlo luego de nuestra conversación. Buenos días a los nuevos integrantes.
Minerva: [00:12:58] Si he recibido una llamada de un participante y está tratando de entrar.

Carlos: [00:13:06] No está mal. ¿A quién tenemos por acá? Tenemos a...Buenos días Vanessa. ¿Cómo está?


Claudia: [00:15:00] Muy buenos días a todos. Mi nombre es Claudia Loayza, igual como Carlos, soy estudiante de la Universidad de Utah y hoy estamos con ustedes para aprender un poco más sobre cómo podemos mejorar las tierras públicas en la ciudad de Salt Lake para que todos como hispanos, como miembros de la comunidad y miembros de la comunidad diversa. Podemos usar estos lugares de una manera más inclusiva. Entonces estoy muy agradecida de estar aquí con ustedes. Y aquí paso el tiempo a Minerva.

Minerva: [00:15:31] Sí. Buenos días. Yo creo que hablaron conmigo cuando los estuve invitando. Muchas gracias por su tiempo y ser muy amables conmigo pero estamos muy alegres por tenerlos y gracias por compartir esta mañana con nosotros.
Ivis: [00:15:53] Hola. Hola a todos. Mi nombre es Ivis García. Conozco a algunos de ustedes porque han estado antes en la clase de Westside Leadership Institute o el WLI en español, así que he tenido el privilegio de enseñarle algunos de ustedes. Esta también es una colaboración con el University Neighborhood Partners y también con el Glendale Community Learning Center, allá con Kari. Y alguno de ustedes puede ser también que sea del PTA, que está muy envuelto allí en las escuelas de Glendale. Así que bienvenido. Y aquí estoy más de apoyo para los estudiantes que están tomando la clase. Así que como tengo un poco el sol en la cara, voy a ponerme en mute y sacarme del video, pero es un placer verles a todos.

Carlos: [00:16:53] Bien si por favor, Allan—disculpa. Si por favor, Luke y Allison se pudiesen presentar y si.


Allison: [00:17:26] Hola, buenos días a todos, soy Allison Rollan, trabajo en la oficina del Consejo de Salt Lake City, somos la parte legislativa de la ciudad, entonces todo este trabajo que ustedes están realizando haciendo el favor de realizar para la División de Parques, va a estar integrada en un plan maestro que que se va a presentar al consejo. Así que yo estoy aquí pues para aprender de ustedes y ver un poco como se va entregando este trabajo en el plan maestro. Así que muchas gracias por la invitación. Me da mucho gusto estar aquí y poder escucharles.

Carlos: [00:18:09] Bien muchísimas, gracias a todos, por y a todas por esa increíble introducción. Como bien dijo mi compañero, estoy muy entusiasmado, muy alegra de que estén con nosotros compartiendo esta mañana en el día de hoy. Si quieren vamos entonces a empezar. Este grupo lo llamamos focus groups o la decimos a grupos de foco, pero por, por este video lo vamos a llamarlo grupo Okay. Este grupo a usted tendrá la oportunidad de hablar, de expresar su opiniones y de compartir su experiencia sobre los caminos, los parques y las áreas naturales. Aquí en la ciudad es muy
importante. Fue porque nosotros estamos muy interesados en su opinión, puesto a que este proyecto se dedica no tienen en mente de ideas para los siguientes diez, veinte años sobre cómo se va a trabajar los parke en esta ciudad, sólo no queremos perder ningún detalle, ninguna información de la que usted diga y por ende esta conversación va a ser grabada o la grabación se va a estar utilizando para transcribir y con el motivo velado de tener todos sus comentarios y añadirlo a su reporte final a nosotros mismos, no usaremos su nombre o cualquier tipo de..cualquier tipo o objeto a que se le identifica usted. Y nosotros, pues cambiaremos su nombre a un seudónimo o un nombre falso. Sin embargo, nosotros si íbamos a tomar una foto y si a usted le incomoda el el hecho de que vamos a tomar una foto, usted tentarse en la libertad de quitar su su pantalla de quitar su imagen, en cualquier momento lo pueden hace ahora, pero si no les molesta, entonces sonrían para la cámara que vamos a tomar una foto ahora. Claudia whenever you're ready.

**Claudia:** [00:20:16] A ver. A los que no quieren estar en la foto por favor quitar tu imagen. Ahora voy a tomar la foto en una, dos, y tres. Bien.

**Carlos:** [00:20:31] Muy bien. Bueno, muchísimas gracias, Claudia. Este es prácticamente para solo tener algo para el reporte. Bueno. Nuevamente en nuestra predicación por su tiempo, el consejo comunitario, como el caso, está dando una tarjeta de certificado con un valor de 25 dólares. Es muy, muy importante. Como bien se dijeron algunos miembros anteriormente a que usted vaya al chat box a donde está la conversación escrita y usted ama a llene ese formulario. A lo último también se le va a dar se le va a preguntar su email. Pues es que todo esta conversación de a las tarjetas de certificados se van a hacer a través del email. Muy bien. Alguna pregunta antes de comenzar por parte de ustedes los participantes? Entonces confianza de hablar por favor. Si bien tenemos acá a Carmen. Buenos días, Carmen.

**Carmen:** [00:21:41] Buenos días.

**Carlos:** [00:21:42] Si cuando estamos - Si no te molesta cuando no estemos hablando, vamos a tratar de ponerlo en mute para que no se escuchen a sonidos, muy bien. Lo voy a pasar con Claudia. Pero, les quiero hablar un poco sobre las reglas de este grupo. Para que todo salga bien y que podamos tener una conversación que todo el
mundo se pueda escuchar. Es importante, número uno, que apaguen sus celulares o que por favor los pongan en silencio durante este tiempo. Número dos, que por favor hablemos con una sola persona a la vez. Sabemos que estamos a través de Zoom y es muy importante que tenemos en consideración mute and unmute. Que nos silenciamos o que no nos silenciamos a cada rato y que también le demos espacio a otras personas hablar. Número tres, que por favor que sepan que no hay preguntas, no hay respuestas correctas o incorrectas. Usted puede decir lo que usted quiera aquí en un espacio seguro. Y número cuatro, como lo que pasa en Las Vegas se queda Las Vegas. Pues si, igual esta conversación. Por favor. La otra regla es que se pueden hablar entre ustedes. No necesariamente tienen que hablar a mí, a Minerva, o a Claudia. Pueden hablar entre ustedes, contestar, por ejemplo, a Anna le contestó Julia y Julia le contesta a Vanessa. Y así por el estilo, se siente en confianza de hacerlo. Y la última, la última regla de todas estas, sería que si por favor usted se siente incómoda o incómodo, nos deje saber inmediatamente para nosotros definitivamente tomar acción sobre esto. No? Se nos puede escribir al chat o simplemente nos puede interrumpir. Estamos aquí para resumir la exposición, pero sin más preámbulo. Entonces les voy a dejar con la facilitadora número 2, Minerva. Perdón, si con Minerva.

**Minerva:** [00:23:47] Buenos días. Bueno para empezar voy a compartir un poco de información de lo que encontró la ciudad en unos estudios sobre parques y después les voy a preguntar sobre parques, caminos, y áreas naturales cerca de su casa. Bueno, vamos a empezar. La división de tierra publicas en la ciudad de Salt Lake City, realizó una evaluación de necesidades que encontró que teniendo un parque a poco distancia de la casa, como media milla o 15 minutos caminando, se considera muy importante para el 57 por ciento de los residentes en Salt Lake City y tener un parque a poca distancia del hogar en bicicleta. También fue muy importante para el 38 por ciento. Vamos a ir en un círculo. Bueno, si tuviéramos un círculo y haremos que todos se presenten, pueden decir su nombre y en un minuto si me pueden decir su nombre, donde viven y lo importante que es para usted tener o tener cerca de su casa un parque o un camino con áreas naturales o tal vez un campo de golf. Queremos escuchar específicamente sobre los lugares cerca de su casa y vamos a empezar. Yo creo en mi pantalla. Yo tengo a Julia primero. Si puedes empezar a Julia.
Julia: [00:25:34] Hola, buenos días, mi nombre es Julia Torres y soy de la comunidad de Glendale que vivo por esta área en la lente. Entonces nosotros tenemos cerca del parque de la 9 west. Y tenemos cerca el camino que está por la..No sé cómo se llama esa calle, pero el de hecho que queda para el río. Entonces es...

Ivis: [00:26:01] Es el Jordan River Parkway Trail.

Julia: [00:26:07] A-huh ese. No se que mas dijiste. Se me olvidó.

Minerva: [00:26:12] En qué..Qué tal de importantes son los parques para usted?

Julia: [00:26:17] Oh, pues sí, sí nos importa, porque yo tengo tres hijos. Entonces este tratamos de usar los parques o los caminos. Entonces sí es importante que los tengamos, porque si los usamos.


Carlos: [00:27:18] Vanessa te fuiste para unos momentitos, si quieres vamos a volver contigo en unos segundito.


Vanessa: [00:27:39] Mi esposo va al cañón a correr y yo voy a caminar. Pues sí, es muy importante tener un área, un área verde para poder salir y más en esta pandemia que uno tiene que salir a desestresarse. Gracias.

Carmen: [00:28:03] Ok. Ya me quite de mi mute. ¿Cómo están? Mira, es interesante ver quien esta en esta conversación, porque yo he corrido con Ivis. Ella corrió un maratón y yo también corrió un maratón. Ah, así que los parques son. eh Sí. Así que los parques para mí son muy, muy especiales. Ah, Liberty Park, por ejemplo. Es un parque que muchos. Lo lógico, porque hay mucha diversidad de gentes en Liberty Park y no sé si es porque tal vez no haya tantos parques en Glendale. No estoy segura por qué, pero la gente luego tiende a irse a otros parques como Liberty Park o Sugar House. Ah, pero si por ejemplo, yo camino todos los días con mi perro y yo me voy al parque, que está muy cerquita de mi casa. Pero si yo pienso que desafortunadamente en el área west puede haber un mayor aumento de personas participando en los parques. Si hay más énfasis en que en que es la gente puede ir como comunidad a un picnic a jugar voleibol o a muchas más actividades de esa comunidad y pienso que no lo hacen tanto. Desafortunadamente.

Ivis: [00:29:46] Oh, yo que solamente quería decir es que Carmen es una campeona. Ella ha corrido toda la ciudad y más alla que todos los maratones. Que bueno verte.

Minerva: [00:29:58] Carmen le voy a llamar para que vayamos a ir a correr.

Carmen: [00:30:02] A claro, cuando quieras.

Minerva: [00:30:06] Gracias por compartir. Ahora sigue Karla.

Karla: [00:30:15] Mi nombre es Karla Garcia. Yo vivo en la en Rose Park. A mi me gusta ir al parque, que está más cerca de mi casa, que es el West Point. Me voy caminando el como diez minutos.Tambiém tengo cerca el Riverside. Pero es un poquito más lejos y creo que es muy importante tener parques y senderos para salir a caminar, para hacer ejercicio, para jugar con los niños. Y si es más cerca de tu casa, es es mucho mejor.

Minerva: [00:30:56] Gracias Karla. Y ahora tengo a Roberta. Si digo bien su nombre?
Roberta: [00:31:06] Sí está bien. Ah, bueno, mi nombre es Roberta. Ah. Yo fui estudiante de Westside Leadership así hace un tiempo y creo que soy la que vive más lejos, pero yo vivo hasta Orem, pero voy mucho para para Salt Lake. Y bueno, pues yo creo que las tareas verdes y los parques es una parte fundamental de nuestro vivir, y más en estos tiempos, porque es el único lugar donde podemos todavía, pues tener tiempos libres con la familia. Tengo dos hijos, así que ellos son los que me piden estar yendo a los parques o a las áreas verdes o a caminar. Pues yo creo que es muy importante tenerlos cerca y en buenas condiciones.

Minerva: [00:31:55] Gracias Roberta y ahora si puede Maria Lauren, compartir?

Maria Lauren: [00:32:04] Hola, mi nombre es Maria Lauren. Yo vivo en el área de Poplar Grove, cerca de Glendale. Y es muy importante para mí los parques. Tengo cerca el Sherwood Park. Me queda como a dos minutos y pues es muy importante, porque mis niños hoy los puedo llevar y podemos estar. Y pues es muy sano.


Inez: [00:32:55] Hola. Qué tal? Buenos días. Mi nombre es Inez Dominguez y pues yo vivo también casi por Glendale, por Poplar Grove y para mi son muy importante los parques, porque ahora que tengo un bebé que justamente está acá conmigo. A él le encanta que lo saque a dar una vuelta o en su coche de niño. Entonces este por eso no y bueno, también antes igual me gusta hacer caminata. Ahora no sola no puedo hacer caminatas, así que tengo que ir siempre acompañada con él y creo que por eso es importante para uno poder activarnos, mantener la línea y también pues mantener una actitud positiva.


Shirley: [00:33:58] Hola que tal? Buenos días, mi nombre es Shirley Madrigal y para mi es importante conservar los parques porque al mismo tiempo ayudamos a la
conservación de la flora y la fauna, así como también este mantenemos paz en medio ambiente y aparte de que uno se mantiene de una manera activa físicamente. Afortunadamente, pues ahorita por la pandemia creo que los parques son una buena opción. Yo tengo cerca el parque de Liberty Park, Sugar House, pero aún así me gusta ir a diferentes parques para conocer su flora y su fauna. Es todo, gracias.

Minerva: [00:34:46] Y ahora se puede compartir Karla Araoz.

Karla: [00:34:52] Hola, mi nombre es Karla, me escuchan? Sí, hola?

Minerva: [00:34:58] Sí.

Karla: [00:35:00] Bueno, yo también, para mí es bueno en preservar los parques. [Audio Issues]. Tengo una niña de once años. Y justo es un relato de que salgamos al parque a caminar. Y tiene fama de desactivarlos del celular. Y que ellos hagan ejercicios. No sea como que socialicen, que estén afuera conversando con otras personas, conociendo otras personas, conociendo de otras culturas. Como que cuando uno va al parque, pues no te puedes conocer a otra persona de otro país. Y bueno es eh. A mí me gusta, no? Porque mi hijo ha aprendido otros idiomas. Y a veces con personas que hablan chino se pone a conversar. Otra cosa también que me gusta es que, por ejemplo, podemos hacer BBQ en familia, no? El mes pasado celebramos con él su cumpleaños, hicimos un BBQ. Él estuvo contento entonces, no? Es importante preservar los trails y dar caminos seguros a los niños no? Porque a veces hay muchos carros. Por ejemplo, cuando uno camina por o cuando hace, por ejemplo bicicleta, por las calles, eh? Es peligroso, no? Si uno va por la pista, porque hay muchos carros, mucho tráfico, pero los trails no siempre tienen que conectarse, tiene que haber caminos para los niños, para los adultos no, porque es algo que poco tenemos aquí, no? Siempre estamos movilizando en carro. Tanto para los niños.


Karla: [00:36:53] Ah! Ok.

Minerva: [00:36:56] Y ahora sí puede compartir Gabriela.
**Gabriela:** [00:37:04] Hola a todos. Mi nombre es Gabriela y yo vivo en Glendale. Vivo en la parte que está más por Redwood Road. Desde mi ventana puedo verla. Para mi es muy importante tener áreas verdes en la ciudad, porque cuando yo ya vivo aquí en esta casa hace como 15 años. Pero en esta casa, vivo con mi familia. A mi mamá le encanta la casa, pero tiene un patio muy chiquito, muy chiquito. Es una de las casas más nuevas y en el momento en que se compró fue la que mi familia podía comprar. Pero esa es la única queja que tiene mi mamá de la casa, que no tiene mucho patio. Entonces, eh, porque tenemos un perrito, nos gusta llevarla al parque y como no podemos instalar una pardilla para sacarlo afuera en el patio, siempre tendemos ir a un parque cuando queremos asar carne o estar en familia o juntarnos con amigos. A como alguien más había mencionado con la pandemia, estas áreas verdes se han vuelto aún más importantes porque ya que en mi casa afuera además del porch, no se puede estar en muchos lugares simplemente porque no hay privacidad, no hay distancia, no, uno no tiene el contacto con árboles altos que si hay en un parque.

**Minerva:** [00:38:31] Gracias Gabriela y ahora Dominic si puedes compartir.

**Dominic:** [00:38:37] Buenos días, mi nombre es Dominic. Yo vivo por el área de Kearns en el oeste, a las áreas a las que tengo acceso más cercano son el Olympic Oval en frente hay un parque y también tienen unos caminos. También tenemos acceso a accederías de bicicleta y también hay una pequeña área de conservación de Kearns que está junto al aeropuerto de West Jordan Regional. Ya por los parques son muy importantes, no? También para la conservación, porque creo que con la cantidad de gente que se está mudando al estado estamos perdiendo áreas verdes y se está volviendo mucho...hay demasiada urbanización y muy poca preservación. Y también con la cantidad de casas que se construyeron las montañas. Se están desplazando mucho los animales y se está destruyendo mucho las áreas verdes y se está reduciendo la biodiversidad del estado de superfil. Por eso es muy importante que se protejan en diferentes maneras, no sólo para los humanos, sino para el resto de los otros seres que viven aquí en el estado, pues los otros animales y plantas y cosas que son importantes para mantener el ambiente correctamente.

**Minerva:** [00:39:58] Gracias, Dominic. Y ahora Suzette? No sé si te llamé o?
Suzette: [00:40:06] No, no me llamastes.

Minerva: [00:40:07] Si puede compartir?

Suzette: [00:40:11] Si claro. Me ven?

Ivis: [00:40:18] Sí.

Suzette: [00:40:19] Sí, okay esté bueno, como vean, yo tengo aquí a dos niñas y pues para mí se ha convertido en el parque. Nosotras visitamos, tratamos de visitar con ellas diferentes parques, pues son importantes. Ahora, en esta situación que tenemos es cuando creo que podemos aprender un poco más a valorar las áreas verdes que tenemos, porque a es para que nosotros podamos divertirnos, tener un momento de distracción para mis niñas, para que puedan admirar a otras personas. Aún así que no podemos estar como muy cerca a ellos a lastimosas. Yo vivo en Bountiful, está un poquito lejos desde Salt Lake y tengo un parque muy cerca a mi casa como caminando a 4 minutos y ese parque le pertenecía a una escuela. Entonces la escuela a sus alumnos les hacía jugar ahí el beisbol y el fútbol. Y ahora destruyeron el colegio y ahora están destruyendo el parque. Así no vamos a tener parques cerca de nosotros y el proyecto que tienen es hacer este departamentos. Como dijo Dominic, sí, es cierto, hay muchas en muchas áreas verdes, muchos parques que están siendo destruidos y están siendo construidos por edificios, casas. Y yo creo que el los parques no obstante contribuyen con el medio ambiente, pero también con la vida de las personas y también de los animales, como lo dijo Dominic. Las familias, a muchas familias, me encanta cuando en fechas tradicionales las familias van a hacer su BBQ o la familia se reúnen allí. Entonces yo creo que un contribuye también para hacer la vida social y para pasarla bien en familia. Ah, me parece que esa es la importancia de los de los parques. Podría ser la importancia de los parques hoy en día que como que tantas personas están tan metidas en el tema tecnológico y pues es el área y la cosa que puedes utilizar gratis, que hasta el más pobre. Si necesita tener una actividad o un momento de relajación es por utilizar los parques, no necesita estar haciendo viajes si no tiene dinero y cosas así. No?

Suzette: [00:43:14] Sí. Ah!

Minerva: [00:43:15] Y ahora última persona. Tengo un número que empieza con (801) 7070. No, No se si...No puedo ver el nombre del. Y veo que...Linda, sí...no sé si te llamé, pero si no has compartido puede compartir con nosotros?

Ivis: [00:43:50] El número, que es el (801)...o disculpa porque estaba Linda, pero (801), yo le puse en mute porque había ruido y ahora no te puedo poner unmute, así que no sé si tienes que entrar otra vez a la llamada. Disculpa.

Minerva: [00:44:12] Linda no sé si todavía está con nosotros. Ok, si no le sigue o alguien faltó, pueden escribir en el chat a cuál parque está cerca de usted? Por qué es importante tener un parque cerca de ustedes y su nombre? Vamos a seguir a la siguiente pregunta: Qué le impide a usted o los miembros de su hogar pasar más tiempo en estos lugares al aire, al aire libre? Por ejemplo, a lo mejor les queda muy lejos un parque o no tienen tiempo. Cualquier cosa. Voy a dejar que a alguien como sea voluntario para empezar esta discusión. Si alguien quiere empezar.

Suzette: [00:45:17] Podría yo empezar.

Minerva: [00:45:19] Si, claro que sí. Gracias.

Suzette: [00:45:23] Hay dos cosas que me dificultan poder utilizar los parques. Primero, un poco el clima. A veces el clima. Bueno, por ejemplo, ahorita ya está cambiando. Estamos cambiando de estación y muy pronto viene el invierno. Sólo en el invierno definitivamente no quieres ni como no me quiero ni sentar en el parque por 5 minutos. El clima es un impedimento. Ah, y otra cosa es que, no sé si les ha pasado, pero ahora con mis dos niñas el parque es muy divertido para ellas y lo disfrutan mucho, pero a veces hay personas extrañas y eso me da un poco de temor. Si voy sola tengo que estar muy atenta de que nadie se nos acerque así que tenga como una apariencia que sea un poco extraña. Esas son las dos cosas, diría yo.
Minerva: [00:46:36] Gracias Suzette. ¿Alguien más quiere compartir? Vanessa?

Roberta: [00:46:42] Yo puedo? Quién?

Minerva: [00:46:46] Yo creo que vi la mano de Vanessa. Primero ella. Después podemos ir con Roberta esta bien?

Vanessa: [00:46:58] Si me escuchan? Si. Ok. Yo las dos cosas que oculta es que ahorita estoy trabajando en una organización que está ayudando para el COVID-19 y para dar recursos y el tiempo a veces no lo saco. El parque que yo tengo lo tengo muy cerca. Si, y el tiempo es una de las cosas. Y la otra cosa es que cuando yo voy a ese parque a veces le echan agua de más. Y está muy mojado y a mí me gusta caminar por el césped. Me encanta caminar descalza por el césped y eso a veces así me molesta, porque cuando voy y que esté mojado y no lo pueda hacer, pues me vengo como frustrará. Gracias.


Roberta: [00:48:08] Ay, como dijo la primera persona, yo creo que es de las únicas cosas que yo busco, es seguridad. Yo soy mamá sola con dos y también llega un momento que ir al parque tan temprano es muy imposible por el sol y más tarde falta iluminación. Está muy oscuro y pues ya la verdad ya no me da seguridad y yo sola con con mis hijos o que vayan ellos solos mucho menos. Entonces yo creo que un lugar ideal para uno solo, porque hay mucha gente que va y camina sola o para los niños, es pues un lugar donde esté iluminado, donde haya vigilancia y obviamente donde esté limpio, donde esté cuidado. Yo creo que son las únicas cosas que busco en esos lugares.

Minerva: [00:49:00] Gracias Roberta. A Carmen? Yo creo que vi que te quitaste de mute?

Carmen: [00:49:09] Mira, para mí hay tres cosas que siento que mucho, mucho estoy pensando en el mexicano. Así, de esta forma, la mayoría de los que vivimos es de habla español aquí. A nosotros nos fascina estar afuera. Nosotros vivimos siendo
mexicanos, verdad? Muchas veces no. No nos importa qué tanto está el clima, si hace mucho calor, ahí estamos. O sea, somos trabajadores del campo, nos gusta el campo, no nos sabemos las plantas y son tradiciones extraordinarias que no hay que perder las y loco. En una vida más como los Estados Unidos, se pierden todos esas tradiciones que son pues tan hermosas e. Eso hay que cultivarlo a eso no hay que dejar que sea el pasado pasado eso, sea el pasado que sigue en el presente con nosotros, esas tradiciones tan bonitas. Pero las personas ahorita son muy trabajadoras. Entonces luego tienen como dos tres trabajos, trabajando y luego los niños como estamos diciendo, luego porque el parque está lejos o porque no tienen alguien que los cuide. Los niños no se exponen tanto a los parques, ni a las caminatas, ni hacer cosas en conjunto, porque los papás, pues tienen, tienen como digo, dos o tres trabajos que necesitan contribuir, pero para mi lo...también otra cosa, ya que yo quería decir hay programas y se están haciendo muchos programas con la juventud, en donde les ponen como un lugarcito donde pueden plantar, hacer cosas. Ahí por ejemplo aquí donde yo estoy los niñitos pueden hacer su como su jardín. Hay que empezar a enseñarle a los niños desde bien chiquititos hacer su jardín, enseñarles cómo plantar algo, porque así este aprende nutrición, aprenden el valor de la comida. O sea, el french fry no es una planta, es una porquería de comida. Pero luego por por la misma necesidad que los papás están súper ocupados, este no, no, los niños no tienen el acceso a un lugarcito donde pueden plantar algo. Y la última comentario que quería yo decir es que yo veo, por ejemplo en el parque donde yo estoy, los niños y los papás se conocen y todo. No importa a qué hora vayas, todos son bienvenidos, no importa. Yo por ejemplo, luego tengo que caminar a las dos de la mañana porque mi perro quiere ir al baño. Pues lo camino porque yo siento que mi comunidad me conoce, yo los conozco a ellos porque ya me han visto caminar. Yo soy parte de una comunidad mucho más grande que porque vamos al parque muchos de ellos y los niños ahí juegan, por ejemplo el soccer, o juegan un deporte. Si los papás hacen a programas donde se juega soccer y ahí al parque van y juegan y entonces hay mucho más ambiente de comunidad. Gracias. Esos son mis comentarios.


Minerva: [00:53:05] Hola Linda, perdón que no la podíamos oir.

Linda: [00:53:09] Sí, tenía problemas con la internet primero entonces estaba en el teléfono y bueno, este es un tema de lo más importante de los parques, es lo mejor. Yo tengo 30 años viviendo en esta área de Rose Park y este anteriormente no había suficientes parques o no los atendían verdad? Yo me acuerdo que es como quisiera tener un parque cerca de mi casa. Bueno, después voy descubriendo que tenía uno cerca, relativamente cerca que la el Meadows Park, por la Redwood Road, y está bien bonito ese parque. Es todo verde. Creo que le han puesto mucha atención al lado del west. Está mucho mejor los parques. Por el río puedes caminar. Creo que que tenemos más seguridad ahora que nos podemos sentir más libres de llevar a nuestros niños al parque. Verdad? Sacarlos. E inclusive en esta temporada, eh? Unas mujeres viniendo de West Valley. Ellas hicieron unas clases de zumba hoy en el parque y bueno, empezaron a reunirse todos. Yo inclusive estaba yendo a una más que me pide ella (Hija). No pude ir. Pero nadie te molestaba. Todo el mundo respeta a todo el mundo, o sea, yo pienso que si vas temprano, muy temprano, puedes ser un poco peligroso, verdad? No ir muy tarde tampoco. Pero pienso que los parques aquí son seguros, no? Nadie te molesta y es una buena idea sacar a los niños, especialmente ahorita, porque con la pandemia la mayor parte del tiempo están encerrados. Y es bien importante que tengamos acceso a parques por verdad para llevarlo hasta que se distraigan, que al cuesta respirar mejor aire, no?


Ivis: [00:55:21] Déjalo un momentito, eh? Tenemos 15 minutos por tema y hay 3 temas más, así que este vamos desde la 45 a las 10 hablar acerca de mayordomía y luego desde las diez a las diez y cuarto acerca de equidad. Y luego tenemos el último tema de las nueve y cuarto a las diez y media. Así que más o menos los temas. No todo el mundo puede hablar, pero puede ser algunas personas que comenten el tema vemos que algunas personas tienen las manos arriba. Gracias.

Luke: [00:56:03] Hola a todos, me toca hablar un poquito acerca del mantenimiento y administración de nuestras tierras públicas. Cuando se trata del mantenimiento de nuestros parques, los ciudadanos han indicado que les gustaría ver las siguientes mejoras: mantenimiento y limpieza, baños adicionales y mejorados, iluminación o características de seguridad y árboles adicionales. Las actividades de administración en tierras públicas también pueden apoyar una mayor protección de hábitat natural, como los esfuerzos recientes en el Fife Wetland Preserve y Fairmont Park. Uno de las mejores maneras de apoyar la protección del hábitat hábitat es través de la formación de grupos que se llaman Amigos de los Parques. Un grupo de Amigos de Los Parques es un grupo de voluntarios basado en la comunidad que se involucre con los empleados de la ciudad. Los usuarios del parque los representativas, electos y otras organizaciones comunitarias con el fin de solicitar mejoras en el parque, llevarla a conciencia a los problemas importantes del parque. El mejor ejemplo que tenemos actualmente hace un grupo que se llama Amigos de Fairmont Park. Por ejemplo, la semana pasada ese grupo nos ayudaron a plantar docenas de plantas nativas alrededor del agua en el Parque Fairmont y hace unas semanas nos hace que nos ayudaran a eliminar las ramas que se habían caído de los árboles en la tormenta de viento. Entonces, en resumen, la administración de nuestros parques y áreas naturales se logra mejor cuando los residentes de la ciudad y los empleados de la ciudad trabajan juntos para priorizar y llevar a cabo mejoras. Ahí tenemos algunas preguntas aquí. Minerva o Carlos, ustedes van a hacer las preguntas o desean que yo las haga?


Luke: [00:58:17] Entonces, es una pregunta para cualquier persona, cualquier persona que desea contestar. Hay áreas de mejorar algunos de los parques, senderos o áreas naturales que están cerca de usted? Entonces, por ejemplo, agregue o renueve baños, áreas de juego y otras comodidades. No sé si a algunos de ustedes que tienen una recomendación para mejoras en el parque más cerca de su hogar. Julia?

Inez: [00:59:02] Si este, yo podría hablar?

Inez: [00:59:09] Yo recomendaría que, por ejemplo, en los parques como aquí en el de Poplar Grove, solo hay como un tacho de basura, pero es de esos que son móviles, pero yo sugiero que debe haber algunos fijos. No sé, por lo menos en cada esquina del parque, porque a veces uno está corriendo, va, lleva su botella de agua y tiene que ir hasta el otro lado. O algunos muy de malos hábitos, lo tiran, no? Ya unas personas que detesta que boten las cosas en la calle, que boten algo. Podemos poner de repente unos tachos de basura fijos, otros de reciclaje y de repente otros también de vidrio. Es mi sugerencia.

Luke: [00:59:54] Si pues.

Suzette: [00:59:57] Yo podría hablar?

Luke: [01:00:00] Sí. Suzette, sí.

Suzette: [01:00:03] Ah, como tú lo mencionaste...no tengo un parque específico que del que voy a hablar. Pero muchos de los que he visitado necesitan más iluminación. Ahora que viene, como el clima está cambiando, entonces se oscurece un poco más rápido. Um entonces, cuando uno quiere pasar como dar una vuelta caminando con las bebés, no hay mucha iluminación.

Carlos: [01:00:35] Tremendas, tremendas respuestas. De momento me encanta lo que están diciendo. Hay también otras parques por ejemplo, que otras áreas que les gustaría más en sus parques, en los senderos. Algunos ejemplos pueden ser como plantar más árboles o adquirir más tierras, más parque, más terreno. Como dijo Luke, renovarlos baño o las áreas de juego para los niños. Sientase la confianza en este momento de decir o recomendar algunas ideas. Por favor, siéntase en confianza. Me encanta escucharles.

Gabriela: [01:01:13] Hola, yo soy Gabriela, yo vivo en Glendale. Como dije, vive cerca de la Redwood Road y cerquita de la 1300 South. Y yo sí tengo sugerencias de qué parques necesita más luz. Uno es Jordan Park. No todas las áreas están bien iluminadas. Yo evito ir a ciertas partes porque no hay luz, o muy temprano o muy tarde
en la noche. Yo por lo general voy a la noche. Otro parque que necesita más luz es el Sherwood Park. Del lado de la. a ver qué calle es...de la Poplar Grove Boulevard de la 400 Sur. El vecino, el vecino puso luces en el costado de su casa que está justo al lado del estacionamiento. Si no fuera por esas luces, no hay ninguna luz en el estacionamiento. En ese lado del estacionamiento, otro parque que necesita más luz es él, y me estoy fijando que en el 9th South River Park. Ese es un parque que estaba muy conveniente porque está justo al lado de la calle, pero no hay muchas luces. También yo evito ir a los parques porque muchas veces si es de noche, estando tan cerca de Downtown, hay muchas personas indigentes. No por estereotipar a una persona indigente. Pero yo no lo conozco. Parece que es una persona que vive en la calle. Yo no sé si tienen malos hábitos. Estas son tres sugerencias que tengo, gracias.


**Claudia:** [01:02:43] Y antes de continuar, sí vi que Irene está con nosotros y no sé si ella tuvo tiempo para introducirse al comienzo y no sé si tienes algo de comentar sobre tu pregunta. Irene, estás aquí con nosotros?

**Irene:** [01:03:02] Sí. Hola, buenos días. Este no me había presentado. Mi nombre es Irene. Aún vivo en el barrio de Poplar Grove y colinda con Glendale. Esta es la necesidad más grande, como había comentado mi compañera atrás es la iluminación de los parques. Porque sí, hay mucha gente que camina en la noche y ahí no hay mucha luz. Y otra sugerencia sería de que ve que hay parques que les ponen como chorritos de agua para el tiempo de verano. Nos quedan muy retirados. Me gustaría que aunque sea uno en mi barrio de por aquí, pudieran ponerle un poquito de agua para los niños, se pudieran refrescar en el verano.

**Carlos:** [01:03:50] Tremendo. Muchísimas gracias por todo su comentario. Nos gustaría que los últimos cinco minuititos que tenemos de esta conversación, si nos pudiesen ayudar con esta siguiente pregunta. Por ejemplo, y no sé si Luke puede dar también, pero si hay alguna forma en que usted o su familia o su comunidad se beco o se imagina contribuyendo a la administración, al mantenimiento de la fierra pública, por ejemplo, pudiesse se harán alguna? Alguna idea que usted tenga para voluntarisiarse, ya sea limpiando o plantando árboles o plantas? No sé si me puedan ayudar e tratando
Gabriela: [01:04:38] Yo tengo un comentario. Yo escuché de las iniciativas de limpieza de parques más recientemente de hace alrededor de un año que era el grupo de de indígenas, si no me equivoco, que estaba plantando árboles y limpiando el Jordan River. Pero yo no me enteré hasta el día y me enteré por Facebook. O sea que me parece que tiene que ser más visible el anuncio de que se va a limpiar, se va a organizar este evento, vengan a ayudar y tienen que ser a este tiempo. Entonces yo lo planeo, eh? Vengo fusilada desde la escuela. La verdad estoy haciendo trabajo en el día hago tarea toda la noche. O sea que si yo no lo planeo, no sucede. Hoy podemos usar los medios como flyers, poner en el mercado, por Facebook e word of mouth también. Y si yo me entero, yo voy. Pero lamentablemente, yo no entiendo muy bien el día cuando está pasando en vivo en Facebook.

Carlos: [01:05:41] Tremendo. Vanessa puedes comentar?

Vanessa: [01:05:43] Si. Yo, yo también. Yo hablo un poco inglés. Todavía me falta algo. Pero en fin, si me gustaría que hubiera más información en español de este, porque si habemos personas a las que nos gusta contribuir con la comunidad, en especial de este. Yo me apuntaría a ayudar a la limpieza plantar porque sí me gustaría que estas áreas verdes pues siguieran siendo verdes, verdad? Claro que sí. Y pues más información en español y al tiempo sería muy bueno. Gracias.

Carlos: [01:06:24] Tremendo, tremendo. Habrá alguna otra persona que quisiera compartir?

Carlos: [01:07:05] Tremendo, tenemos aquí a Dominic, si pudiese hablar, nos encantaría escucharle a tu comentario.

Dominic: [01:07:13] Si acaba pues de poner unas cosas en el chat, pero ah, sí, creo que no hay muchos eventos comunitarios. Y también creo que si hay programas que existen actualmente. No sé dónde se puede conseguir la información para ser voluntario o para anotarse. Y en general, les da educación al público porque hay mucha gente que abusa los parques a gente que los destruye o no sé si saben o no saben cómo protegerla. No tirar basuras y yo creo que es más educación. La gente tiene que entender como el propósito de los parques y cómo mantenerlos limpios. Porque hay parques que se ensucian mucho. La gente dejan pañales o cosas en el piso y no es correcto.

Carlos: [01:08:06] Muchas gracias, Dominic. No se si Julia o si Karla tendrían algo que decir antes de pasar con Claudia. Julia?

Julia: [01:08:18] Si justamente le estaba diciendo que estoy justamente acá con mi hijo. Se llama Mateo y estamos escuchando toda la conferencia.


Claudia: [01:09:27] Muchas gracias a todos. Que buenas respuestas y ahora vamos a hablar un poco sobre la equidad, La equidad para los que no saben es un valor que implica justicia e igualdad de oportunidades para todos los miembros de la comunidad. Entonces creo que ya saben, pero Salt Lake City es una ciudad muy diversa. Tenemos 196 mil personas que hablen 80 idiomas que representan una variedad de orígenes socioeconómicos y culturales. Aún y como la mayoría de las ciudades, en los Estados Unidos existen brechas en la cantidad y la calidad de las tierras públicas disponibles. Y hemos hablado un poco sobre eso en proximidad o calidad de parques que están cerca de ustedes. Entonces, con eso les quiero preguntar qué cambios podemos hacer en nuestro sistema de tierras públicas para ayudar a servir, incluir a todas las personas de manera más justa o equitativa. Entonces pueden hablar o comentar sobre barreras de transporte, como llegan a los parques, que barreras se enfrentan ahí para poder servir a todas las edades y habilidades. Si tienen amigos o familiares que tienen discapacidades que a lo mejor no les conviene muy bien ir de parque o a un sendero. Entonces ahora les doy el tiempo para unos 5 minutos para comentar sobre la pregunta de qué cambios podemos hacer en la nuestra sistema de tierras públicas para ser más inclusivos y que es de una manera más justa.

Carlos: [01:10:52] Y quiero añadir, antes de que empiece a comenzar tenemos unos minutitos para esta conversación, pero les pueden contestar a otras, a otras personas, no necesariamente a nosotros.

Claudia: [01:11:03] Sí, en conversación. Y no hemos escuchado mucho de Suzette o Roberta. No se si quieren hablar con los otros sobre lo que piensan de esta pregunta?

Carlos: [01:11:21] Por ejemplo, alguien comentó sobre tener más información creo que fue Dominic sobre material en diferentes idiomas. Solo pueden empezar a pensar de otra manera. Los parques pueden ser más bienvenidos para todos tipos de cultura, más accesible, como dijo Claudia.

Dominic: [01:11:42] No sé, para mí creo que las tierras públicas tienen que ver más con la política. Y solamente con los hispanos, como hay muchos hispanos que no tienen la oportunidad de votar o no son residentes, no sé si hayan otras iniciativas para poder escuchar a estas poblaciones. Porque cuando se hace es como una batalla entre
el gobierno federal y el gobierno estatal para mantener las áreas públicas y para la protección de todas las tierras locales. Entonces eso es muy...es como más complicado como comunidad a poder dar nuestra opinión. Si hay mucha gente que no puede, ofrecerla en cierta manera.

Claudia: [01:12:25] Gracias Dominic. Vi que Vanessa tenía su mano arriba. ¿Quieres comentar?

Vanessa: [01:12:32] Si, pues en nuestra organización trabajamos mucho con eso, con la inclusión. Nosotros trabajamos con el Departamento de Salud y en la hoja que tienen ellos del coronavirus.utah.gov está en más de 15 idiomas. No se si se podría hacer una inclusión en los idiomas, porque como tú dices, o sea, hay diversidad de razas. Sería, para mí, en lo personal, yo he trabajado con la comunidad y cuando tú le hablas en el idioma, ellos se sienten incluidos. Entonces igual con la con las personas de África, con las personas de China. Sí, sentir a una información en su idioma. Yo creo que los pueden tener un poquito más incluidos y también iban a tener más información y podrían desde también formar parte de los grupos para para limpiarla, los parques de su comunidad.


Suzette: [01:13:49] Sí quiero comentar algo sobre esto. Aunque no sé si eso es posible y está permitido que se haga en todos los parques o solo eso tiene que ver un tema de buscar algún permiso o estar autorizados, pero a mí me parece una buena idea. Escuché que en algunos parques ambos trataban de hacer como reuniones para el vecindario, como por ejemplo programaban y decían las personas que les gusta hacer yoga. Entonces estamos a todas las personas que les gusta hacer yoga para poder hacerlo en el parque. Y había una persona encargada que iba a ser como la instructora o quién iba a dirigir el programa, así como traté de hacer programas y a esto creo uniría a la gente que vive en el vecindario, ya sean hispanos y americanos, hispanos o chinos y de muchas razas, no? Podría ayudar hacer programas así como por ejemplo los que tienen niños o se va hacer un programa con un tema infantil aquí. Entonces podrían
llevar así. Yo sé que es un poquito difícil ahora con esto de la pandemia, pero creo que serían como sugerencias que se podría tomar en el futuro se podría hacer y así contribuimos un poco como con la unión en general no?

**Claudia:** [01:15:19] Muchas gracias. Y sí vi que Roberta comentó un poco sobre senderos y áreas de descanso cómo bancás para los que son más mayores de edad. Me gustaría hablar un poco más sobre lo que comentaste, porque creo que es un tema muy importante.

**Roberta:** [01:15:36] Uno de mis trabajos es cuidar personas de la tercera edad o llevarlos a caminar o a nadar o cosas así. Y coincidimos muchas veces y yo lo he visto porque hasta yo me canso. No soy muy buena caminando. Cuando son senderos muy largos, hiking o solo para caminar, no hay donde sentarse a la mitad del camino. Entonces hasta ellos me comentaban que por eso lo evitan un poco, porque se agotan fácilmente. Tengo otras personas con necesidades especiales y lo mismo. Yo creo que hacen falta algunas bancas para que ellos puedan tomar un descanso y continuar y baños más baños. Ahorita con lo de la pandemia, obvio, los bebederos de agua no están en función, pero yo creo que es eso, algunas áreas de descanso lo que hace falta para que tengan más acceso a estas personas. Gracias.

**Claudia** [01:16:39] Muchas gracias Roberta. Y estoy viendo en el chatbox que hay bastantes comentarios con ideas tremendas. Entonces si vamos a usar esas, vamos a recordar todo, todo lo que han escrito ahí. Y ahora quiero hablar un poco más sobre las programaciones y actividades de la división de las tierras públicas. Ahorita no hay muchas programaciones o actividades de gran escala. Aunque sí realizan una pequeña cantidad de eventos para actividades en parques, están buscando, la división, ahorita a observaciones para expandir. Queremos saber de ustedes como creen que la programación y actividades podría ser más inclusiva para diferentes grupos culturales. Por ejemplo, festivales o colaboraciones con organizaciones de la comunidad para días festivos o de fiestas. Entonces con eso qué tal las actividades? ¿Qué piensan que puede ser implementadas en los parques o tierras públicas? Hay algunos eventos culturales y programas para familias jóvenes o adultos mayores que les gustaría ver.

**Carmen:** [01:17:50] Puedo hacer un comentario?
Claudia: [01:17:52] Sí!

Carmen: [01:17:55] Ahora las bibliotecas se están como reinventando. Hay muchos, muchos más proclamas que las personas pueden hacer con las bibliotecas. Por ejemplo, en la biblioteca de Glendale. Yo me doy cuenta que no las estamos utilizando como deberíamos de utilizarlo. Los padres muchas veces dejan a sus hijos ahí para sus tareas y la terminan. Y podríamos tener esos momentos con los padres y los hijos y tener juntas, por ejemplo, una vez a la semana de algún tema de cómo apoyar los parques, de cómo limpiar, o sea, yo si estoy viendo que no damos máximo a utilización a las bibliotecas y es algo que deberíamos de hacer no solamente para leer o también para tener que los papás se pudieran juntar o que los niños pudieran platicar de algunos de sus actividades. Hacer arte. Tantas cosas que se pueden apoyar con los parques. No? O sea, la biblioteca puede ser un un recurso para que la gente pueda platicar. Hay lugares con cuartos verdad? Donde tienen acceso a computadoras pueden hacer muchas cosas que no creo que luego e principalmente en el Westside hemos aprovechado con las bibliotecas y es una pérdida que debemos aprovechar. Gracias.

Claudia: [01:19:52] Muchas gracias Carmen. ¿Alguien más quería comentar sobre las programaciones o actividades que tienen en mente?

Roberta: [01:20:00] Otra vez yo.

Claudia: [01:20:03] Si. No, pasa,pasa.

Roberta: [01:20:04] Mis hijos siempre me dicen que los parques son muy divertidos para los niños chiquitos. Ya mis hijos tienen 13 y 14 años. Y si hay mucho juego para niños chiquitos, pero ya para niños o adolescentes, realmente ya no hay como nada muy atractivo. Entonces yo creo, que no sé innovar más. Actividades como eso de pintar, hacer manualidades en la biblioteca puede ser muy bueno. Quería decir rapidísimo que estuve en Kansas hace unos unas semanas y vi una idea que se me hizo maravillosa. En una de las casas, un vecino puso un buzón hermoso de Snoopy con unas banquetas afuera de su casa y es un buzón donde hay muchísimos libros,
donde los niños pueden ir a agarrar uno o pueden ir a dejar libros y tiene ahí un área.
Entonces simplemente con ver el área tan bonita e incita a los niños a sentarse y
agarrar un libro o ir a dejar libros.


Vanessa: [01:21:06] Y mira a Claudia, a mí me ha tocado ahorita en la organización
que estoy a que hacen ferias de salud en los parques. Sí, y eso trae a tanta gente. Y yo
vi cómo van las mamás con con sus con sus hijos y aparte de tener o ya sea
información de nutrición o información o dar una vacuna, desde los niños se quedaban
en el parque junto con las mamás. Entonces también eso sería aprovechar desde
hacer eventos para la comunidad y pues la comunidad va. Yo he visto muy buenas
respuestas cuando son las ferias de salud en los parques.

antes que terminamos a las 10:15 esta sección. Quiero regresar a la pregunta de
barreras de transporte. Típicamente cómo llegan a los parques, a los senderos y qué
barreras enfrentan en llegar a esos lugares?

Dominic: [01:22:14] Normalmente uso un carro o cuando me mudé a este barrio donde
vivo actualmente, he tratado de usar bicicleta, pero hay veces que hay áreas donde no
hay continuación de los carriles de bicicletas. Entonces uno puede transitar cierta
distancia, pero después ya toca andar sobre el andén o sobre las vías de los carros,
entonces es un poco peligroso. Me gustaría, pues, poder andar más en bicicleta o con
otras maneras de que no sea sólo manejar. Entonces, no sé si de pronto invertiré más
en las vías de bicicletas. Y otro comentario que tenía ahora de las maneras de plantear,
incluir más a jardines comunitarios donde siembran vegetales y cosas porque
usualmente creo que todos los jardines comunitarios que he visto por ahora están más
como en el centro, pero en las áreas aledaños no he visto muchos programas que
tengan que ver con los jardines comunitarios o de pronto incluso explorar lo que son los
jardines hidropónicos y otros métodos para cultivar vegetales.
Claudia: [01:23:37] Muchas gracias, Dominic. Si me pueden escuchar? No sé si. Karla o Linda no se si tienen algo que decir sobre transporte y como llegar a los parques y algunas barreras que enfrentan?

Karla: [01:23:59] Si, el parque me queda muy cerca, así es que voy caminando 7 minutos o voy en el carro y vamos a diferentes parques más lejos o a senderos, siempre sea en carro o caminando. Gracias.

Carlos: [01:24:20] Creo que tenemos también...Claudia, tenemos a Gabriela, que estaba hablando sobre las áreas verdes que les quedan. No se si Gabriela puede abundar un poco sobre eso. Nos interesa escucharte.

Ivis: [01:24:31] Y después de Gabriela creo que este es el último comentario en esta última sesión.

Gabriela: [01:24:41] Me escuchan?

Carlos: [01:24:42] Si te escuchamos, Gabriela.

Gabriela: [01:24:44] Como yo dije, yo vivo a una cuadra de la California Avenue, que es la 1300 Sur y la Redwood Road. Yo sé que yo estoy al borde, pero si yo voy caminando a un parque o un área verde, como son los más cercanos a mí son el 17th South River Park o el Jordan River Trail. A mí me toma 20 minutos llegar según Google más si uno camina lento. Y como yo dije anteriormente, en los momentos yo tengo dos personas discapacitadas en mi casa. Esas dos personas pueden caminar de acá al correo solamente. Qué queda acá a media cuadra de mi casa. Esas personas si ellos no tienen vehículo, si no tienen alguien que los lleve o no tienen un vehículo que sea a sus medidas, ellos no pueden llegar al parque. Y otra cosa es que a mí me parece que si yo me meto al auto y me voy a un parque para disfrutar del medio ambiente, para ir y ayudar a, digamos, limpiar o lo que sea. Como que eso ya está cancelando lo bueno que yo estoy haciendo, al utilizar esos recursos, porque me tuve que meter en un auto y contaminar de acá hasta donde? Hasta el parque y después de vuelta desde el parque hasta mi casa y ahí ves. Y obviamente no puedo hacer mucho sobre los incendios, pero yo evito salir aunque sea al parque porque el aire está tan feo. La
semana pasada, hace unas dos semanas, hubo un incendio cerca del aeropuerto. Eso llegó hasta mi casa. Yo pensé que el incendio era en la casa del vecino porque el aire estaba tan feo. O sea que sí. Obviamente eso es algo a escala más grande. Pero eso también es algo que a mí no me motiva a ir al parque, porque yo prefiero estar en mi casa, donde quizás tenga un filtro de aire. Porque “there’s only so much the trees will do to filter the air for me”. Yo soy una persona que tiene asma, así que no puedo estar cerca del aire contaminado.

Claudia: [01:26:44] Muchas gracias por comentar más sobre eso y a todos por sus comentarios anteriores que han sido tan excelentes. Ahora voy a pasar el tiempo a Carlos para terminar nuestra discusión.

Carlos: [01:26:59] Guau, de verdad, tremendo, tremendo aporte de parte de todos ustedes. Muchísimas gracias. Muy valiosos todos sus comentarios fueron ya entonces nos estamos acercando a nuestro final de esta conversación. Quiero decir entonces que me gustaría hacerle una pregunta al final, antes de despedirnos y de pasar entonces a hablar sobre la gift card que le vamos a dar a ustedes. Tengo una pregunta y ¿qué se nos quedó? ¿Qué se nos quedó por hablar? ¿Qué otra cosa debería ser considerado en este plan maestro de Tierras Públicas y Áreas Naturales y Parques? ¿Qué es lo más importante que se debe incluir? ¿Qué es algo que se nos quedó hablar? ¿Algo que te gustaría discutir? Si habrá algo que debería ser considerado verdad para este plan maestro. Por favor.

Inez: [01:27:55] Si pudiera comentar. Me gustaría, por ejemplo, tener claras las normas de convivencia del parque. Creo que deberían tener reglas porque la gente va, por ejemplo, hace su BBQ y deja todo el piso de grasa todo sucio y algunos ni siquiera llevan su basura, lo dejan o hay personas fumando. Por ejemplo, yo pienso que como el parque es un lugar para divertirse, pasarla bien y sobretodo van niños, debería estar prohibido fumar ahí, pero no, uno va y el olor a cigarro está. Por ejemplo, si veo a alguien que está fumando, yo me voy, me alejo por mi bebe porque está chiquito. ¿Verdad? Entonces yo creo que deben poner claras las normas de convivencia dentro del parque, no? Obviamente no haber nadie vigilando, pero al menos un cartel que diga bueno, si vas a estar aquí, pues no tires nada. Si tu perrito hace popó, pues recógelo, no se cositas así.
Carlos: [01:28:48] Tremendo. Muchísimas gracias Inez. No se si, por favor, si pueden hablar bien, bien rápido todo el mundo que me pueda decir que es lo que falta, que es lo que necesitan considerar. Si hay alguna cosita que se nos quedó decir si me pueden ayudar. Carmen?

Carmen: [01:29:02] Si, lo digo bien rápido. Mira, a mí [Audio Issues] en los parques. Como dice ella, reglas, porque es muy importante que las reglas se obedezcan y es parte de eso, simplemente de respeto, de educación. Pero una cosa que luego la gente, por lo menos a mí me pasa seguido, es que los perritos, pues hay personas que no respetan que el parque además es para que con su cordón o con su leash. Pero como son flojos los ponen ahí a correr con una pelotita de aquí y allá. Y eso es muy...es falta de respeto en los parques. Hay que tener sus reglas. Y cuando los parques no son de leash, no son de leash. En los locos y la gente, pues rompe las reglas, verdad? Para qué tienes reglas si no las vas a monitor. Hay que respetar. Alguien tiene que tener su culpa. Vamos a decir. Es que es como si estás manejando el carro y te pasan los altos. Pues obvio que te van a dar un ticket. Eso no es necesario. No tenemos que estar con policías hay que nos están diciendo qué hacer o no hacer. Pero cuando hay reglas y personas nos comunican, porque cambiar hábitos es difícil, pero no se nos comunica para apoyarnos a que tengamos que ver para por la comunidad en general que no somos nosotros los que mandamos en los parques, pero es el parque, es de todos. Gracias.

Carlos: [01:31:05] Tremendo. Muchas gracias Carmen. Habrá otra persona que quisiera comentar antes de pasar al final?

Dominic: [01:31:13] Yo he notado que usualmente cuando hay fiestas de mucha gente, muchas personas en un parque, es normal que la gente tenga música. Pero hay muchas veces que la gente tiene música demasiado fuerte, entonces eso contribuye a la contaminación auditiva. Entonces, como alguien dijo que de pronto especificar mejores reglas para que la gente sepa qué es lo que tiene que hacer, yo creo que es falta de educación y falta de que todos nos pongamos de acuerdo en que es aceptable y que no es aceptable.
Carlos: [01:31:45] Tremendo, perfecto. Yo creo que de verdad que fue deleite, escucharlos a todos. Mira, por ejemplo, solo he estado diciendo ponemos énfasis en la limpieza, educar a la comunidad. Gabriela, tenemos que empezar con nosotros mismos, carteles en español, usar botes de basura. A ver Gabriela dice cartelitos con reglas con dos idiomas. Tremendos, tremendos comentarios. De verdad que muchísimas gracias. Le preguntó entonces a Alison. No sé si Alison se nos quedó algo que quisiese compartir con el grupo. Alguna pregunta para el grupo? No se si Luke tendrá otra pregunta antes de culminar.

Allison: [01:32:21] Muchas gracias Carlos y muchas gracias a ustedes por haber compartido tanto la verdad. Escuchar sus pues—como platiquen. Esto me da mucha nostalgia para estar en México, en los parques de México, donde pues todo el mundo, las familias, la gente está allá, son repletos los parques de México. Me encantaría que así que ya sea los parques aquí en Salt Lake City y además entonces no digo nada más. muchísimas gracias. Sí, ojalá verles en los parques muy pronto.

Luke: [01:32:55] Muchas gracias a todos. He tomado muchas notas y sus comentarios nos van a ayudar muchísimo y estamos muy agradecidos que ustedes dedicaron a esta hora y media para ayudarnos con este proyecto.


Minerva: [01:34:07] Sí, aquí estoy compartiendo en el chat a un link para que se registren. No más queremos tener en record quien vino por hoy y también esta información vamos a usar para que le mandamos a la tarjeta de 25 dólares. No vamos
a tener la tarjeta hasta después de octubre 15. Entonces ya cuando lo tengamos listo se lo podemos enviar por su correo electrónico o si indican en el link que puse en el chat, si quieren que lo mandemos por correo también podemos hacerlo. Pero si pueden registrarse en el link que puse en el chat y así para que tengamos toda su información en otras redes. Muchas gracias y perdón que no podíamos, como completamente ir al alrededor de todas las ideas, pero agradecemos su tiempo en todo lo que han compartido hoy.

Carlos: [01:35:13] Tenemos a Vanessa que dice el e-mail no lo acepta en el documento, pero ahora Minerva te puede ayudar con eso. Se puede dar un tutorial al final. Claudia si quieres por favor hablar sobre la última presentación, invitar a la comunidad.


Claudia: [01:35:32] Lo siento, ¿me pueden escuchar mejor ahora?

Ivis: [01:35:35] Un poco mejor.

Claudia: [01:35:36] Ok. Bueno, aquí estoy enseñando un flyer para la presentación final, donde los estudiantes osea nosotros vamos a compartir los resultados y las recomendaciones de los grupos focales aquí y encuestas que hemos hecho durante ese tiempo. Entonces, si quieren acompañarnos el 19 de noviembre a las 9 y media de la mañana por Zoom. Aquí, pueden ver la información y les vamos a mandar un email para poder acompañarnos para ese día y pensar más sobre lo que hemos encontrado y a escuchar las recomendaciones finales para la división de tierras públicas. Bueno con eso también quiero compartir mi agradecimiento para ustedes por su tiempo. Otra vez vamos a mandar un email con toda la información completa y pueden revisarlo en su tiempo. Pero otra vez muy agradecidos por estar aquí con ustedes y ojalá puedan tener un resto de su día y les vamos a ver en los parques pronto.

Carlos: [01:36:36] Tremendos, pues se caso si no pudiesen escuchar a Claudia lo que ella compartió este flyer. Como pueden ver esta presentación que vamos a hacer en noviembre 19 a través de Zoom y nosotros le vamos a enviar también más detalles y
seguido a través del email. Sólo es importante entonces que chequeen y le den una mirada al email la próxima semana para los certificados y cualquier cosa se comunican con Minerva también. Y para entonces darle seguimiento a esta información. Si les gustaría ver la presentación. Bueno. Sin más preámbulos. Los dejo entonces para que tengan un hermoso día. Muchísimas gracias de nuevo y nada. Nos veremos entonces pronto en los parques!

Appendix K: Transcript (English)

*Participants’ names have been changed for privacy. Please note the time record begins at the start of the actual focus group discussion.*

Dominic: [00:06:44] Good morning.

Minerva: [00:06:47] I see we also have Gabriela. Good Morning.

Carlos: [00:06:52] Good morning, Gabriela. We have someone on an iPhone that if you could help by pushing the three little buttons so you can rename yourself please. Or if he can speak. It is to identify who you are and greet you.

Roberta: [00:07:12] Hi, I think it's me, Shefftal or Roberta if it's easier. I'm on my iPhone.

Carlos: [00:07:18] No, yes very good. Good Morning. Good Morning. Let's see, let's wait for the other participants for a few minutes to get started.

Ivis: [00:07:59] Maybe we can verify that everyone completed the survey of those here?

Inez: [00:08:12] I don't remember where I signed up at this time. I will verify. Can you check my name? Because I did answer some questions, but I don't know if it was only personal or it was from the parks.

Claudia: [00:08:29] Of course, Inez. I think we have another survey that Minerva has prepared to capture demographic information and we are also going to use it to be able to give you the gift card for your time, right? If you can put the link of the survey in the
chat box, because there are two, there is one that the city has prepared and there is also another for this forum here and I think Minerva already put it in the chat box.

Minerva: [00:09:03] So I think you completed a similar one., but this is more for us. We want to assure that we have everyone’s information, in case someone was invited by a friend or something and they did not register, so we have the information. If you prefer that we send you the card by mail, I gave you the option to put your home address.

Carlos: [00:09:42] Well, we are waiting for some other participants. Maybe we'll start in a minute or two. Let's see when we have more people.

Dominic: [00:10:54] The other survey is the one that says Reimagine Nature Salt Lake City Public Lands Master Plan?

Minerva: [00:11:01] Exactly.

Dominic: [00:11:03] Ah okay. Can we fill this out after discussion?

Minerva: [00:11:10] After the discussion is fine.

Carlos: [00:11:17] Hey, Dominic, thanks for the question. That survey is from the city. They are questions related to the master plan and they are a bit more straightforward. Let's see if we are all here. Minerva are we all here?

Claudia: [00:11:42] We have Julia with us and Maria Lauren. Hello Maria.

Maria Lauren: [00:11:55] Hello.

Carlos: [00:11:59] Good morning, good morning. We are about to begin. Minerva shared important information in the chat, where it is expected that you as participants after this discussion, fill out this form. This questionnaire in the chat.

Ivis: [00:12:23] If new people join, they can't see the previous chat. You have to re-post it and post it for people who come later.
Carlos: [00:12:34] Thank you very much and right now I'm going to share it in the chat so that you can save it on your cell phone or on your computer and do it after our conversation. Good morning to the new members.

Minerva: [00:12:58] I have received a call from a participant and they are trying to enter.

Carlos: [00:13:06] Not bad. Who do we have around here? We have ... Good morning Vanessa. How is it going?


Carlos: [00:13:19] Good morning. We also have Ana. Ana. Good morning, if you want, let's give this person a few seconds to start. We are going to try, when we are not talking, hit the “mute button”, I don't even know how to say it in Spanish. So that there is no sound to affect the conversation. Let's see, then if we are going to start, we have another person who is going to integrate and hopefully we can still integrate this person, Adam. Pretty easy, huh? Good morning everyone. My name is Carlos Santos. I am a student. We are students at the University of Utah and we are working with the public lands division on the new master plan for the city's parks, wilderness, and open space. We are also looking at paths, for example the trails. We are also looking at other natural areas. And without further ado, I am going to introduce you to the team members. If you can start, please. Claudia, Minerva, Ivis and the Reimagine Nature team.

Claudia: [00:15:00] Good morning everyone. My name is Claudia Loayza, just like Carlos, I am a student at the University of Utah and today we are with you to learn a little more about how we can improve public lands in Salt Lake City so that as Hispanics, as members of the community and diverse community members, we can use these places in a more inclusive way. So I am very grateful to be here with you. And I pass the time to Minerva.
Minerva: [00:15:31] Yes. Good morning. I think you all talked to me when I was inviting you. Thank you very much for your time and being very kind to me and we are very happy to have you and thank you for sharing this morning with us.

Ivis: [00:15:53] Hello. Hi everyone. My name is Ivis García. I know some of you because you have been in the Westside Leadership Institute or WLI-Spanish class before, so I have had the privilege of teaching some of you. This is also a collaboration with the University Neighborhood Partners and also with the Glendale Community Learning Center, over there with Kari. And some of you may also be from the PTA, which is very involved in Glendale schools there. So welcome. And here I am more supportive for the students who are taking the class. So since I have a little sun on my face, I'm going to mute and turn off my video, but it's a pleasure to see you all.

Carlos: [00:16:53] Well yes please, Allan — excuse me. If you could please, Luke and Allison, could introduce themselves.

Luke: [00:17:04] Good morning everyone. My name is Luke Allen. I am the Communications and Marketing Manager for the Public Lands Division for the city and I am very grateful to be with you to discuss these issues, which are very important to my work and to the city.

Allison: [00:17:26] Hello, good morning everyone, I'm Allison Rollan, I work in the Salt Lake City Council Office, we are the legislative part of the city, so all this work that you are doing doing the favor to be carried out for the Parks Division, it will be integrated into a master plan that will be presented to the council. So I am here to learn from you and see a little how this work is delivered in the master plan. So thank you very much for the invitation. I am very happy to be here and to listen to you.

Carlos: [00:18:09] Good, thank you all very much for that incredible introduction. As my partner said, I am very excited, very happy that you are with us sharing this morning today. If you want, then let's start. We call this group “focus groups”, but because of this virtual platform we are going to call it a group. Okay. In this group you will have the opportunity to speak, to express your opinions and to share your experience about the roads, parks and natural areas. Here in the city it is very important. It was because we
are very interested in your opinion, since this project is dedicated to it, keep in mind ideas for the next ten, twenty years about how the parks are going to work in this city, we don't want to lose any detail, any information that you want to say and therefore this conversation will be recorded or the recording will be transcribed and with the motive of having all your comments and adding it to the final report. We will not use your name or any type of ... any type or thing to which you identify yourself. And we, well, we will change your name to a pseudonym or a false name. However, we are going to take a photo and if you are uncomfortable, you will be able to remove your screen by turning off your camera at any time, you can do it now, but if you don't mind then smile for the camera we're going to take a picture now. Claudia whenever you're ready.

**Claudia:** [00:20:16] Let's see. For those who do not want to be in the photo, please turn off your camera. Now I'm going to take the photo in one, two, and three. Good.

**Carlos:** [00:20:31] Very good. Well, thank you very much, Claudia. This is practically just to have something for the report. Good. Again in our asking for your time, the community council, in this case, is giving a certificate card worth $25. It is very, very important. As some members said before, go to the chat box where the written conversation is and the form for you to fill out. You will also be asked for your email. Well, all this conversation about the certificate cards will be done through email. Very good. Any questions before starting with the participants? Then please have confidence in speaking please. We have Carmen here. Good morning, Carmen.

**Carmen:** [00:21:41] Good morning.

**Carlos:** [00:21:42] If when we are - If it doesn't bother you when we are not talking, we will try to mute so no sounds are heard, very good. I'm going to pass it to Claudia. But, I want to tell you a little about the rules of this group. So that everything goes well and that we can have a conversation that everyone can hear. It is important, number one, that you turn off your cell phones or please silence them during this time. Number two, please let only one person speak at a time. We know that we are through Zoom and it is very important that we consider the mute and unmute option. That we silence ourselves or that we do not silence ourselves at all times and that we also give space for other people to speak. Number three, please know that there are no questions, no right or
wrong answers. You can say what you want here in a safe space. And number four, like what happens in Las Vegas stays Las Vegas. Well yes, same in this conversation. Please. The other rule is that you can talk to each other. You don't necessarily have to speak to me, Minerva, or Claudia. You can talk to each other, answer, for example, Julia answered Anna and Julia answered Vanessa and so on. We want you to feel confident doing it. And the last, the last rule of all these, would be that if you please feel uncomfortable or uncomfortable, let us know immediately so we can definitely take action on this. You can write to the chat or you can just interrupt us. We are here to summarize the conversation, but without further ado. So I'm going to leave you with facilitator number 2, Minerva. Sorry, yes with Minerva.

Minerva: [00:23:47] Good morning. Well, to start, I am going to share a little information about what the city found in some studies on parks and then I am going to ask you about parks, roads, and natural areas near your home. Well, let's get started. The Public Lands Division of Salt Lake City, conducted a needs assessment that found that having a park within walking distance of the house, such as a half mile or 15 minutes walking, is considered very important for 57 percent of the Salt Lake City residents and have a bike park within walking distance of home. It was also very important for 38 percent. Let's go in a circle. Well, if we had a circle, and we will have everyone introduce themselves, you can say your name and in a minute if you can tell me your name, where you live and how important it is for you to have or have near your house a park or a path with natural areas or maybe a golf course. We want to hear specifically about places near your home and let's get started. I believe on my screen I have Julia first. If you can start Julia.

Julia: [00:25:34] Hello, good morning, my name is Julia Torres and I am from the Glendale community. So we have near us the 9 west park. And we have close the road that is by the ... I do not know what that street is called, but the fact that is for the river. So it is...

Ivis: [00:26:01] It's the Jordan River Parkway Trail.

Julia: [00:26:07] A-huh that. I don't know what else you said. I forgot.
Minerva: [00:26:12] How ... how important are parks to you?

Julia: [00:26:17] Oh, yeah, we do care, because I have three children. So that's why we try to use the parks or the roads. So it is important that we have them, because we do use them.

Minerva: [00:26:32] Thank you very much, Julia. And now I'm going to Vanessa. If you can share?

Vanessa: [00:26:42] Hello, good morning, my name is Vanessa Gutiérrez. And yes, parks and roads are very important to me. Because my husband runs and I walk. I live here in West Valley. But I also go to the park that is in the Avenues, in the canyon. Yes, because my husband runs there and also... [Audio Issues].

Carlos: [00:27:18] Vanessa you left for a few moments, if you want we will come back with you in a few seconds.


Ivis: [00:27:26] Well, now she can start again, if you can just talk for a few seconds. You were talking about the canyon and how you run?

Vanessa: [00:27:39] My husband goes to the canyon to run and I am go to walk. Well yes, it is very important to have an area, a green area to be able to go out and more in this pandemic that one has to go out to de-stress. Thank you.

Minerva: [00:27:55] Thank you very much Vanessa. And now Carmen follows.

Carmen: [00:28:03] Ok. I am off mute. How are you all? Look, it's interesting to see who is in this conversation, because I ran with Ivis. She ran a marathon and I ran a marathon too. So the parks for me are very, very special. Liberty Park, for example. It is a park that many, well naturally, there is a lot of diversity of people in Liberty Park and I don't know if it is because there may not be so many parks in Glendale. I'm not sure why, but people tend to go to other parks like Liberty Park or Sugar House. For example, I walk
every day with my dog and I go to the park, which is very close to my house. But I do think that unfortunately in the west area there needs to be a greater increase in people participating in the parks. If there is more emphasis on what it is, people can go as a community to a picnic to play volleyball or to many more activities in that community and I think they don't do it as much, unfortunately.

Ivis: [00:29:46] Oh, I just wanted to say that Carmen is a champion. She has run the entire city and many marathons. Good to see you.

Minerva: [00:29:58] Carmen I'm going to call you so we can go for a run.

Carmen: [00:30:02] Of course, whenever you want.

Minerva: [00:30:06] Thanks for sharing. Now follows Karla.

Karla: [00:30:15] My name is Karla Garcia. I live in Rose Park. I like to go to the park, which is closer to my house, which is West Point. I'm walking for about ten minutes. I also have the Riverside nearby. But it is a little further and I think it is very important to have parks and trails to go for a walk, to exercise, to play with the children. And if it is closer to home, it is much better.

Minerva: [00:30:56] Thank you Karla. And now I have Roberta. Did I say your name right?

Roberta: [00:31:06] Yeah that's fine. Well my name is Roberta. I was a Westside Leadership student a while ago and I think I'm the one who lives the farthest, but I live as far as Orem, but I go a lot to Salt Lake. Well, I believe that green spaces and parks are a fundamental part of our life, and more so in these times, because it is the only place where we can still, well, have free time with the family. I have two children, so they are the ones who ask me to be going to parks or green areas or walking. Well, I think it is very important to have them close and in good condition.

Minerva: [00:31:55] Thank you Roberta and now if Maria Lauren can share?
**Maria Lauren**: [00:32:04] Hello, my name is Maria Lauren. I live in the Poplar Grove area, near Glendale. And parks are very important to me. Sherwood Park is close by. It’s about two minutes away and it is very important, because today I can take my children and we can be there. And well it is very healthy.

**Minerva**: [00:32:37] Thanks Ana. Now you've all moved on me a bit, so sorry if I call you again. But Inez, if you can share us.

**Inez**: [00:32:55] Hello. How are you? Good Morning. My name is Inez Dominguez and I also live near Glendale, in Poplar Grove, and parks are very important to me, because now that I have a baby, he is right here with me. He loves when I take him out for a walk or in his stroller. So that’s why and I also like to hike. Now, not alone, I can't go hiking alone, so I always have to be accompanied by him and I think that's why it’s important for one to be able to be active, stay fit and also keep a positive attitude.

**Minerva**: [00:33:42] Thank you Inez. Your baby is very cute. And now Shirley can share.

**Shirley**: [00:33:58] Hi, how are you? Good morning, my name is Shirley Madrigal and for me it is important to conserve the parks because at the same time we help the conservation of flora and fauna, as well as we maintain peace in the environment and apart from the fact that one maintains being physically active. Fortunately, because of the pandemic right now, I think parks are a good option. I have nearby Liberty Park, Sugar House, but I still like to go to different parks to learn about their flora and fauna. That’s all thanks.

**Minerva**: [00:34:46] And now Karla Garcia can you share?

**Karla**: [00:34:52] Hello, my name is Karla, do you hear me? Yes, hello?

**Minerva**: [00:34:58] Yes.

**Karla**: [00:35:00] Well, for me too, it’s good to preserve parks. [Audio Issues]. I have an eleven year old girl and it is just a story that we go out to the park for a walk. And it is
famous for unplugging them from the cell phone and letting them exercise. It is not like they are socializing, that they are outside talking with other people, meeting other people, learning about other cultures. Like when you go to the park, because you meet another person from another country. It’s good and I like it. Because my son has learned other languages. And sometimes with people who speak Chinese he starts talking. Another thing that I also like is that, for example, we can do BBQ as a family, right? Last month we celebrated his birthday with him, we had a BBQ. He was happy because of that. It is important to preserve the trails and give safe paths to children. Because sometimes there are many cars. For example, when one walks or when using for example a bicycle, through the streets. It's dangerous. If one goes on the trail or paths, because there are many cars, a lot of traffic, but the trails do not always connect. There must be paths for children, for adults too, because it is lacking here. We are always mobilizing by car. More so for the kids.

**Minerva:** [00:36:51] Good, thank you, Karla.

**Karla:** [00:36:53] Ah! Okay.

**Minerva:** [00:36:56] And now if you can share Gabriela.

**Gabriela:** [00:37:04] Hello everyone. My name is Gabriela and I live in Glendale. I live in the part that is closer to Redwood Road. I can see it from my window. For me it is very important to have green areas in the city, because when I have lived in this house for about 15 years. My mother loves the house, but it has a very small yard. It was one of the newer houses at the time it was bought. It was the one my family could buy. But that's the only complaint my mom has about the house, which doesn't have much patio. So, uh, because we have a little dog, we like to take it to the park and since we can't install a fence to take it out in the yard, we always tend to go to a park when we want to grill meat or be with family or get together with friends. As someone else had mentioned with the pandemic, these green areas have become even more important because since in my house outside in addition to the porch, you cannot be in many places simply because there is no privacy, there is no distance between each other, and little contact with tall trees that there are in a park.
Minerva: [00:38:31] Thank you Gabriela and now Dominic if you can share.

Dominic: [00:38:37] Good morning, my name is Dominic. I live in the Kearns area in the west. The areas that I have closest access to are the Olympic Oval in front there is a park and they also have some paths. We also have access to bike riding and there is also like a little Kearns Conservation Area that is adjacent to the West Jordan Regional Airport. The parks are very important, right? Also for conservation, because I think that with the amount of people that are moving to the state we are losing green areas and it is becoming a lot ... There is too much urbanization and too little preservation. And also with the number of houses that the mountains were built. Animals are being displaced a lot and green areas are being destroyed a lot and the biodiversity of the surface is being reduced. That is why it is very important that we protect the spaces in different ways, not only for humans, but for the rest of the other beings that live here in the state, like other animals and plants and things that are important to maintain the environment correctly.

Minerva: [00:39:58] Thank you, Dominic. And now Suzette? I don't know if I called you or?

Suzette: [00:40:06] No, you didn't call me.

Minerva: [00:40:07] Can you share?

Suzette: [00:40:11] Yes. Can you see me?

Ivis: [00:40:18] Yes.

Suzette: [00:40:19] Yes, okay, it's good. I have here two girls and well, for me it has become the park. We try to visit different parks, they are important. Now, in this situation we have I think we can learn a little more to value the green areas that we have, because it is so that we can have fun, have a moment of distraction for my girls, so that they can watch other people. Still, we can't be as close to them. I live in Bountiful, it is a little far from Salt Lake and I have a park very close to my house, like a 4 minutes walk, and that park belonged to a school. So the school made their students play baseball
and soccer there. And now they destroyed the school and now they are destroying the park. So we will not have a park near us and the project they have is to make these apartments instead. As Dominic said, yes, it is true, there are many green areas, many parks that are being destroyed and are being replaced by buildings, houses. And I believe that parks nevertheless contribute to the environment, but also to the lives of people and animals, as Dominic said. Families, many families. I love it when on holidays families go to have their BBQ or the family gathers there. So I think that also contributes to making social life and having a good time with the family. I think that's the importance of the parks. It could be the importance of parks nowadays that as many people are so involved in the technological issue and it is the area and the thing that you can use for free, even the poorest of people. If you need to have an activity or a moment of relaxation you can use the parks, you do not need to be taking trips if you do not have money and things like that.

**Minerva:** [00:43:11] Thank you Suzette.

**Suzette:** [00:43:14] Yes.

**Minerva:** [00:43:15] And now last person. I have a number that starts with (801) 7070. No, I don't know if ... I can't see the name of the person. And I see that ... Linda, yes ... I don't know if I called you, but if you haven't shared, can you share with us?

**Ivis:** [00:43:50] The number, which is (801) ... sorry because Linda was about to share, but (801), I put it on mute because there was noise and now I can't unmute you, so I don't know if you have to enter the call again. Apologies.

**Minerva:** [00:44:12] Linda, I don't know if you're still with us. Ok, if you did not have a chance to share, can you write in the chat about which park is near you? Why is it important to have a park near you and what is its name? We will continue to the next question: What prevents you or the members of your household from spending more time in these places in the open air? For example, you may have a park too far away or you don't have time. Anything. I'm going to let someone else volunteer to start this discussion. If anyone wants to start.
Suzette: [00:45:17] Could I start?

Minerva: [00:45:19] Yes, of course. Thank you.

Suzette: [00:45:23] There are two things that make it difficult for me to use the parks. First, the weather. Sometimes the weather. Well, for example, right now it is changing. We are changing seasons and winter is coming very soon. Only in the winter you definitely don't want to, or I don't even want to sit in the park for 5 minutes. The weather is an impediment. Oh, and another thing is that, I don't know if it happened to you, but now with my two girls the park its a lot of fun for them and they enjoy it a lot, but sometimes there are strange people and that scares me a bit. If I go alone I have to be very careful that no one approaches us so if they have an appearance that is a bit strange. Those are two things I would say.

Minerva: [00:46:36] Thank you Suzette. Anyone else want to share? Vanessa?

Roberta: [00:46:42] I can? Who?

Minerva: [00:46:46] I think I saw Vanessa’s hand. First her. Then we can go on to Roberta, is that okay?

Vanessa: [00:46:58] Can you hear me? Yes. Okay. The two things that limit me is that right now I am working in an organization that is helping with COVID-19 to give resources and time but sometimes I don't have time. The park that I have is very close. Yes, and time is one of the things. And the other thing is that when I go to that park sometimes they pour too much water on it. And it's very wet and I like to walk on the grass. I love to walk barefoot on the grass and that sometimes annoys me, because when I go and it is wet and I can't do it, I come back frustrated. Thank you.

Minerva: [00:47:56] Thank you, Vanessa. Roberta if you can share? You are on mute.

Roberta: [00:48:08] Oh, like the first person said, I think one of the only things I'm looking for, it's security. I am a single mother of two and there comes a time when going to the park so early is very impossible because of no sun and later there is no lighting. It
is very dark and the truth is that it no longer gives me security and I am alone with my children or that they go alone much less will I let them. So I think that an ideal place for just a person, because there are many people who go and walk alone with their children, is therefore a place where it is illuminated, where there is surveillance and obviously where it is clean, where it is cared for. I think these are the only things I look for in these places.

Minerva: [00:49:00] Thank you Roberta. To Carmen? I think I saw that you got off mute?

Carmen: [00:49:09] Look, for me there are three things that I feel like I'm thinking a lot, a lot about the Mexican people. So, in this way, most of us who live here are Spanish speakers. We love being outside. We love being Mexican, right? Many times we don't care how hot the weather is, if it's really hot, there we are. In other words, we come from farm workers, we like the fields, we do not know the plants and they are extraordinary traditions that we must not lose. In a life more like the United States, all those traditions that are so beautiful are lost. They must be cultivated so that we must not let that be the past, that is the past that continues in the present with us, those beautiful traditions. But people right now are very hard-working. So then they have like two, three jobs, working and then the children as we are saying, because the park is far away or because they don't have someone to take care of them. Children are not so exposed to the parks, or to walks, or to do things together, because their parents, well, they have, as I say, two or three jobs that they need to contribute, but for me it ... also something else, since I wanted to say there are programs and many programs are being carried out with the youth, where they set up a little place where they can plant, do things. There, for example, here where I am, the little children can make their own garden. You have to start teaching children from a very young age to do their garden, teach them how to plant something, because this way they learn nutrition, they learn the value of food. I mean, the French fry is not a plant, it is junk food. But then due to the same necessity that the parents are super busy, the children do not have access to a little place where they can plant something. And the last comment I wanted to say is that I see, for example in the park where I am, the children and the parents know each other and everything. It doesn't matter what time you go, everyone is welcome, it doesn't matter. For example, then I have to walk at two in the morning because my puppy wants to go
to the bathroom. Well, I walk it because I feel that my community knows me, I know them because they have already seen me walk. I am part of a much larger community than because many of them go to the park and the children there play, for example soccer, or play a sport. If the parents do programs where soccer is played and there they go to the park and play and then there is a much more community atmosphere. Thank you. Those are my comments.

**Minerva:** [00:52:46] Thank you Carmen. Now I'm going to move on to Luke and he's going to talk about mastery or stewardship.

**Linda:** [00:52:58] Minerva, Minerva if you hear me? It's me Socorro. I am Linda.

**Minerva:** [00:53:05] Hi Linda, sorry we couldn't hear you.

**Linda:** [00:53:09] Yes, I had problems with the internet first then I was on the phone and well, this is a very important topic of the parks. I have been living in this area of Rose Park for 30 years and before there were not enough parks or they did not tend to them well. I remember how I wanted to have a park near my house. Well, later I discovered that I had one nearby, relatively close to Meadows Park, on Redwood Road, and that park is very nice. It's all green. I think they have paid a lot of attention to the west side. The parks are much better. Down the river you can walk. I think we have more security now that we can feel more free to take our children to the park. Take them out and even this season. Some women come from West Valley. They did some Zumba classes in the park and well, they all started to get together. I was even going to one that she (my daughter) asked of me. I could not go. But nobody there bothered you. Everyone respects everyone, I mean, I think that if you go early, very early, it can be a little dangerous, right? Don't go too late either. But I think the parks here are safe. Nobody bothers you and it is a good idea to take the children out, especially right now, because with the pandemic most of the time they are locked up. And it is very important that we really have access to parks to take them so they are distracted and to breathe better air.

**Minerva:** [00:55:08] Yes, thank you Linda. Sorry. I am looking at the time. We only have about 15 minutes and I want Luke to do his part as well. So...
Ivis: [00:55:21] One second. We have 15 minutes per topic and there are 3 more topics, so this one goes from the 45 to 10 to talk about stewardship and then from ten to ten fifteen we'll talk about equity. And then we have the last topic from a quarter past nine to ten thirty. So pretty much these are all the topics. Not everyone can speak, but a few may talk on the subject and we can see that some people have their hands up. Thank you.

Minerva: [00:55:56] Okay, so we turn to Luke now.

Luke: [00:56:03] Hello everyone, I have to speak a little bit about the maintenance and administration of our public lands. When it comes to the maintenance of our parks, citizens have indicated that they would like to see the following improvements: maintenance and cleaning, additional and improved bathrooms, lighting or safety features, and additional trees. Stewardship activities on public lands can also support greater protection of natural habitat, such as recent efforts at the Fife Wetland Preserve and Fairmont Park. One of the best ways to support habitat protection is through the formation of groups called Friends of the Parks or Amigos de Los Parques group. This is a community-based volunteer group that engages with city employees. Park users representatives, elected and other community organizations request improvements in the park, bringing awareness to the important problems of the park. The best example we currently have is a group called Friends of Fairmont Park. For example, last week that group helped us plant dozens of native plants around the water in Fairmont Park and a few weeks ago they had us help us remove branches that had fallen from trees in the windstorm. So, in short, managing our parks and wilderness is best accomplished when city residents and city employees work together to prioritize and make improvements. There we have some questions here. Minerva or Carlos, are you going to ask the questions or do you want me to ask them?

Carlos: [00:58:14] Luke, if you want to ask the questions.

Luke: [00:58:17] So it's a question for anyone, anyone who wants to answer. Are there areas to improve some of the parks, trails or natural areas that are close to you? So, for
example, add or upgrade bathrooms, play areas, and other amenities. I don't know if some of you have a recommendation for park improvements closer to home. Julia?

**Inez:** [00:59:02] If I could speak?

**Luke:** [00:59:03] Yes, Inez.

**Inez:** [00:59:09] I would recommend that, for example, in the parks like the one here in Poplar Grove, there is only like one garbage can, but it is the kind that is mobile, but I suggest that there must be some that are fixed. I don't know, at least in every corner of the park, because sometimes you are running, you go, you carry your bottle of water and you have to go to the other side. Or some because of bad habits, they throw it on the ground. Already some, who I detest, they just throw things in the street, they throw something away. We can potentially place some fixed garbage cans, others for recycling and others also made for glass. That is my suggestion.

**Luke:** [00:59:54] Yes, good.

**Suzette:** [00:59:57] Could I speak?

**Luke:** [01:00:00] Yes. Suzette, yes.

**Suzette:** [01:00:03] As you mentioned ... I don't have a specific park that I'm going to talk about, but many of the ones I have visited need more lighting. Now that it's coming, as the weather is changing, then it gets darker a little bit faster. So when you want to go for a walk with the babies, there is not much lighting.

**Carlos:** [01:00:35] Great, great responses. At the moment I love what you are saying. There are also other parks, for example. What other areas would you like more in your parks, on the trails? Some examples can be like planting more trees or acquiring more land, more space, more land. Like Luke said, renovate the bathrooms or play areas for the kids. Feel free to say or recommend some ideas right now. Please feel confident. I love listening to you.
Gabriela: [01:01:13] Hi, I'm Gabriela, I live in Glendale. Like I said, I live near Redwood Road and close to 1300 South. And I do have suggestions of which parks need more light. One is Jordan Park. Not all areas are well lit. I avoid going to certain parts because there is no light, or very early or very late at night. I usually go at night. Another park that needs more light is Sherwood Park. On the side of the...Let's see which street it is ... from Poplar Grove Boulevard to 400 South. The neighbor puts lights on the side of his house which is right next to the parking lot. If it weren't for those lights, there wouldn't be any lights in the parking lot. On that side of the parking lot, another park that needs more light is 9th South River Park. That is a park that was very convenient because it is right next to the street, but there are not many lights. I also avoid going to the parks because many times if it is at night, being so close to Downtown, there are many homeless people. Not to stereotype a homeless person, but I don't know them. It seems that they are a person who lives on the street. I don't know if they have bad habits. These are three suggestions I have, thank you.


Claudia: [01:02:43] And before continuing, I did see that Irene is with us and I don't know if she had time to introduce herself at the beginning and I don't know if you have anything to comment on the question. Irene, are you here with us?

Irene: [01:03:02] Yes. Hi, good morning. I had not introduced myself. My name is Irene. I live in the Poplar Grove neighborhood and it borders Glendale. This is the greatest need, as my colleague had mentioned earlier, is the lighting of the parks. Because yes, there are many people who walk at night and there is not much light there. And another suggestion would be that there are parks that have streams of water for the summer time, but they are very low or dried. I would like having even one in my neighborhood around here, for a little water for the children, they could cool off in the summer.

Carlos: [01:03:50] Great. Thank you very much for all your comments. We would like the last five minutes that we have of this conversation, if you could help us with this next question. For example, and I don't know if Luke can add, but is there some way in which you or your family or your community can imagine contributing to the administration, to the maintenance of the public land, for example, what could be done? Any ideas that
you have to volunteer, either cleaning or planting trees or plants? I don't know if you can help me and try to navigate this question to bring ideas. Five minutes. Try to come up with an idea and share it with the group.

**Gabriela:** [01:04:38] I have a comment. I heard from the most recent park cleanup initiatives about a year ago that it was by a group of indigenous people, if I'm not mistaken, they were planting trees and cleaning up the Jordan River. But I did not find out until the day of and I found out on Facebook. In other words, it seems to me that the announcement of events for clean-up and organizing have to be more visible with the time and date. So I can plan for it. I'm busy with school. The truth is that I am doing work during the day and I do homework all night. So if I don't plan it, it doesn't happen. Today we can use the medium of flyers, put it up at the markets, through Facebook and word of mouth as well. And if I find out, I'll go. But sadly, I don't really understand what's going on the day when it's happening live on Facebook.

**Carlos:** [01:05:41] Great. Vanessa can you comment?

**Vanessa:** [01:05:43] Yes. Me too. I speak a little bit of English, but lack a bit. But finally, I would like there to be more information in Spanish about this, because if we have people who would like to contribute to the community, especially this one, I would sign up to help plant and clean because I would like these green areas to remain green, right? And well, more information in Spanish and for it to be updated would be very good. Thank you.

**Carlos:** [01:06:24] Great, great. Is there someone else who would like to share?

**Roberta:** [01:06:27] Me, very quickly. I worked a long time in my church, the LDS, with young women. And there is a page, it's an application called JustServe. And you get in there and they put all the lists of places that need cleaning service, for donations, to pack things, and I've never seen requests to clean up parks or things like that. So it's like a good way to find out where service is needed.

**Carlos:** [01:07:05] Great, we have Dominic here, if he could speak, we'd love to hear your comment.
Dominic: [01:07:13] Yeah, well, I just put some things in the chat, but yeah, I don't think there are many community events. And I also think that there are a few programs that currently exist. I don't know where to get the information to volunteer or to sign up though. And in general, it gives education to the public because there are many people who abuse the parks, people who destroy them or do not know how to protect it. Like littering, I think it is more about education. People have to understand the purpose of parks and how to keep them clean. Because there are parks that get very dirty. People leave diapers or things on the floor and it is not good.

Carlos: [01:08:06] Thank you very much, Dominic. I don't know if Julia or if Karla have something to say before going to Claudia. Julia?

Julia: [01:08:18] Yes, I was just saying that I'm right here with my son. His name is Mateo and we are listening to the entire conference.


Julia: [01:08:28] And I told him that there should be combined activities, right? Something like consecutive. Potentially every Saturday. Maybe having them from 8 to 10, where we can go as parents and children without distinction of age. Going and cleaning parks or doing some community or some cleaning activity to take care of the environment, recycling that does not have to do all that. Activities for parents and children together. Perhaps you can have a scholarship for children that they do some activity that is related to the environment. That is what I think.

Carlos: [01:09:12] Great, thank you so much to everyone who contributed to this conversation with Luke. Thank you very much Luke. So let's move on to the issue of equity with Claudia.

Claudia: [01:09:27] Thank you all very much. What great answers and now we are going to talk a little about equity. Equity for those who do not know is a value that implies justice and equal opportunities for all members of the community. So I think you know, but Salt Lake City is a very diverse city. We have 196,000 people who speak over
80 languages representing a variety of socio-economic and cultural backgrounds. Like most cities in the United States there are gaps in the quantity and quality of public lands available. And we have talked a little about that in terms of proximity or quality of parks that are close to you. So with that I want to ask you what changes can we make in our public lands system to help serve, include all people more fairly or equitably? You can talk or comment on transportation barriers, how you get to the parks, what barriers you face there to serve all ages and abilities. If you have friends or family members who have disabilities, it may not be very convenient for them to go to the park or to a trail. So now I give you the time for about 5 minutes to comment on the question of what changes we can make in our public lands system to be more inclusive and in a more fair way.

Carlos: [01:10:52] And I want to add, before I start, we have a few minutes for this conversation, but you can respond to other people, other participants, not necessarily us.

Claudia: [01:11:03] Yes, let’s have a conversation. And we haven’t heard much from Suzette or Roberta. I don’t know if you want to talk to others about what you think of this question?

Carlos: [01:11:21] For example, someone commented about having more information, I think it was Dominic, about material in different languages. Things like this. Ways for parks to be more welcoming to all types of culture, more accessible, as Claudia said.

Dominic: [01:11:42] I don’t know, for me I think public lands have more to do with politics. And only with Hispanics, as there are many Hispanics who do not have the opportunity to vote or are not residents, I do not know if there are other initiatives to be able to listen to these populations. Because when it is done it is like a battle between the federal government and the state government to maintain the public areas and for the protection of all the local lands. So that’s very ... it’s more complicated as a community to be able to give our opinion. There are many people who cannot offer it in a certain way.
**Claudia:** [01:12:25] Thank you Dominic. I saw that Vanessa had her hand up. Do you want to comment?

**Vanessa:** [01:12:32] Yes, well in our organization we work a lot with that, with inclusion. We work with the Department of Health and the coronavirus.utah.gov is in more than 15 languages. I don't know if an inclusion effort could be made in languages, because as you say, there is a diversity of races. For me, personally, I have worked with the community and when you speak to them in their language, they feel included. So the same with the people of Africa, with the people of China. Yes, see and understand information in their language. I think making people a little more included and to also have more information and they could also be part of the groups to clean up the parks in their community.

**Claudia:** [01:13:36] Thank you, Vanessa. Yes, the topic of languages is very important and how to do that in a more inclusive way to communicate these activities or programs more widely. Suzette, do you want to comment too?

**Suzette:** [01:13:49] I do want to comment on this. Although I do not know if this is possible and if it is allowed to be done in all parks or only those that have to do with seeking a permit or being authorized, but it seems like a good idea to me. I heard that in some parks they tried to do meet-ups for the neighborhood, for example they organized and said people like to do yoga. Then they invited all the people who like to do yoga to be able to do it in the park. And there was a person in charge who was going to be like the instructor or who was going to direct the program, I as well tried to do the program. I believe it would unite the people who live in the neighborhood, whether they are Hispanic and American, Hispanic or Chinese and from many races, right? It could help to make programs like for example those with children or a program with a children's theme to be done here. Then they could carry on like this. I know that it is a little difficult now with this pandemic, but I think these are suggestions that could be taken in the future and could be made and thus we contribute a little more unity in general.

**Claudia:** [01:15:19] Thank you very much. And I did see that Roberta commented a bit about trails and rest areas like benches for the older people. I would like to talk a little more about what you said, because I think it is a very important topic.
**Roberta:** [01:15:36] One of my jobs is taking care of seniors or taking them for walks or swimming or things like that. And we coincide many times and I have seen it because even I get tired. I'm not very good at walking. When there are very long trails, hiking or just walking, there is nowhere to sit in the middle of the trail. So even they told me that that's why they avoid it a bit, because they get exhausted easily. I have other people with special needs and the same thing happens. I think some benches are needed so that they can take a break and continue and bathrooms. More bathrooms are needed. Right now with the pandemic, obviously, the water fountains are not working, but I think that is what it is, some rest areas are needed so that they extend more access to these older people. Thank you.

**Claudia** [01:16:39] Thank you very much Roberta. And I am seeing in the chatbox that there are quite a few comments with great ideas. We're going to use those, we're going to remember everything, everything that you have written there. And now I want to talk a little more about the programming and activities of the public lands division. Right now there are not many large-scale programming or activities. Although they do hold a small number of events for park activities, they are looking, the division, right now for observations to expand. We want to know from you how you think the programming and activities could be more inclusive for different cultural groups. For example, festivals or collaborations with community organizations for holidays or parties. So with that, how about the activities? What do you think can be implemented in parks or public lands? Are there some cultural events and programs for young families or older adults that you would like to see?

**Carmen:** [01:17:50] Can I make a comment?

**Claudia:** [01:17:52] Yes!

**Carmen:** [01:17:55] Now libraries are reinventing themselves. There are many, many more requests that people can make with libraries. For example, in the Glendale Library. I realize that we are not using them as we should be using them. Parents often leave their children there for their homework to finish it. And we could have those moments with parents and children and have meetings, for example, once a week on
some topic of how to support the parks, how to clean, that is, I am seeing that we do not give maximum use to the libraries and it is something that we should do not only to read but also to have the parents get together or the children can talk about some of their activities. Make art. So many things that can be supported with the parks. In other words, the library can be a resource for people to talk. There are places with rooms right? Where they have access to computers. They can do a lot of things that I don't think that the Westside has taken advantage of with libraries and it is a loss that we must take advantage of. Thank you.

Claudia: [01:19:52] Thank you very much Carmen. Did anyone else want to comment on the programming or activities you have in mind?

Roberta: [01:20:00] Me again.

Claudia: [01:20:03] Yes. Please go on.

Roberta: [01:20:04] My children always tell me that parks are great fun for young children. My children are already 13 and 14 years old. And there are a lot of play areas for young children, but for older children or adolescents, there really is nothing very attractive. So I think innovate more. Activities like painting, doing crafts in the library can be very good. I wanted to say very quickly that I was in Kansas a few weeks ago and I saw an idea that was wonderful. In one of the houses, a neighbor put a beautiful Snoopy mailbox along the sidewalks outside his house and it is a mailbox where there are a lot of books, where the children can go to get one or they can go to leave books and there is a specific area for this. So just looking at the beautiful area and it prompts children to sit down and grab a book or go to put books down.


Vanessa: [01:21:06] Look Claudia, right now it was my task in the organization that I'm working with to help with health fairs in the parks. Yes, and that brings so many people. And I saw how the moms go with their children and apart from having nutrition information or information on giving a vaccine, the children stayed in the park together with the moms. So that would also be taking advantage of doing events for the
community and then the community actually goes. I have seen very good responses when for health fairs at the parks.

**Claudia:** [01:21:47] Thank you very much Vanessa. So another question I wanted to ask before we finish this section at 10:15, I want to return to the question of transportation barriers. Typically how do you get to the parks and trails and what barriers do you face in getting to those places?

**Dominic:** [01:22:14] I normally use a car or when I moved to this neighborhood where I currently live, I have tried to use a bicycle, but there are times that there are areas where there is no continuation of the bicycle lanes. So you can travel a certain distance, but then you have to go on the sidewalk or on the road, then it is a bit dangerous. So I would like to be able to ride a bike more or in other ways than just driving. So perhaps invest more in bike lanes. And another comment that I had now about the ways to plant would be to include more community gardens to grow vegetables and things because I usually think that all the community gardens that I have seen for now are more like in the center, but in the surrounding areas I have not seen many programs that have to do with community gardens or even explore what are hydroponic gardens and other methods of growing vegetables.

**Claudia:** [01:23:37] Thank you very much, Dominic. Can you hear me? Karla or Linda I don't know if they have something to say about transportation and how to get to the parks and some barriers they face?

**Karla:** [01:23:59] The park is very close to me, so I walk 7 minutes or I go by car and I go to different parks further away or to trails, always by car or walking. Thank you.

**Carlos:** [01:24:20] I think we also have ... Claudia, we have Gabriela, who was talking about the green areas they have near them. I don't know if Gabriela can elaborate a bit on that. We are interested in hearing from you.

**Ivis:** [01:24:31] And after Gabriela I think this is the last comment in this last session.

**Gabriela:** [01:24:41] Can you hear me?
Carlos: [01:24:42] We can hear you Gabriela.

Gabriela: [01:24:44] Like I said, I live one block from California Avenue, which is 1300 South and Redwood Road. I know that I am on the edge, but if I am walking to a park or a green area, the ones closest to me are the 17th South River Park or the Jordan River Trail. It takes me 20 minutes to get there according to Google, more if you walk slowly. And as I said before, at the moment I have two disabled people in my house. Those two people can only walk from here to the post office. It’s half a block from my house. These people, if they do not have a vehicle, if they do not have someone to drive them or do not have a vehicle that fits them, they cannot reach the park. And another thing is that it seems to me that if I get in the car and go to a park to enjoy the environment, to go and help, let’s say, clean up or whatever, that is already canceling the good that I am doing, by using those resources, because I had to get into a car and pollute from here to where? To the park and then back from the park to my house and there you see. And obviously I can’t do much about the fires, but I avoid going out even to the park because the air is so dirty. Last week, about two weeks ago, there was a fire near the airport that made it to my house. I thought the fire was in the neighbor’s house because the air was so bad. Obviously that’s something on a larger scale. But that is also something that doesn’t motivate me to go to the park, because I prefer to be at home, where I have an air filter. Because “there’s only so much the trees will do to filter the air for me”. I am a person who has asthma, so I cannot be around polluted air.

Claudia: [01:26:44] Thank you very much for commenting more on that and everyone for your previous comments which have been so excellent. Now I’m going to pass the time to Carlos to finish our discussion.

Carlos: [01:26:59] Wow, really, great, great contributions from all of you. Many thanks. Your comments were all valuable and we are already nearing our end of this conversation. I would like to ask you a question at the end, before saying goodbye and then going on to talk about the gift card that we are going to give you. The question is what did we leave out or what is left to say? What was left to talk about? What else should be considered in this Public Lands master plan? What is the most important thing to include? What is something that we were left to talk about? Anything you would
like to discuss? If there is anything that should be considered true for this master plan, please share.

**Inez:** [01:27:55] If I could comment. I would like, for example, to be clear about the park’s coexistence rules. I think they should have rules because people go, for example, make their BBQ and leave all the grease on the floor all dirty and some do not even take their garbage. They leave it or there are people smoking. For example, I think that since the park is a place to have fun and especially children go, it should be forbidden to smoke there, so no one goes and the smell of cigarettes is there. For example, if I see someone who is smoking, I leave, I walk away for my baby because he is young. So I think that the rules of coexistence within the park should be clear, right? Obviously there is no one watching, but at least one sign that says well, if you’re going to be here, then don't throw anything away. If your puppy poops, then pick it up, don't do things like that.

**Carlos:** [01:28:48] Great. Thank you very much Inez. Please, if you can speak well, very quickly, anyone who can tell me what is missing, what we need to consider. If there is any little thing that you could say if you can help us, Carmen?

**Carmen:** [01:29:02] Yes, I'll say it really fast. Look at me [Audio Issues] in the parks. As she said before, rules, because it is very important that the rules are obeyed and it is part of that, simply respect and education. But one thing that people, at least to me, it happens often, is that the dogs, because there are people who do not respect that the park is also for everyone, they need to have a leash. But since they are lazy they put them there to run with a ball from here and there. And that's very ... it's disrespectful in the parks. You have to have your rules. And when the parks are non-leash, they are non-leash. In crazy people how they break the rules, right? Why do you have rules if you are not going to monitor them? We must respect each other. Someone has to be responsible. It is as if you are speeding in your car and they pass you by. Well obviously they are going to give you a ticket. That is not necessary here. We don't have to be with the police telling us what to do or not do, but when there are rules and people communicate to us, because changing habits is difficult, we need communication to support us so that we have to remind the community in general that we are not the ones who are in charge in the parks, but it is the park that belongs to everyone. Thank you.
Carlos: [01:31:05] Great. Thank you very much Carmen. Will there be another person who would like to comment before we go to the end?

Dominic: [01:31:13] I have noticed that usually when there are parties with many people, many people in a park, it is normal for people to have music. But there are many times that people have music that is too loud, so that contributes to noise pollution. So, as someone said, perhaps specifying better rules so that people know what to do. I think it's a lack of education and a lack of all of us agreeing on what is acceptable and what is not acceptable.

Carlos: [01:31:45] Great, perfect. I really think it was a delight, listening to all of you. We've heard things like putting an emphasis on cleanliness, educating the community, Gabriela said we have to start with ourselves, have more signs in Spanish, and use trash cans. Let's see, Gabriela says little signs with rules with two languages. Great, great comments. Thank you very much. Let me ask Allison. I don't know if Alison has anything she wanted to share with the group. Any questions for the group? I don't know if Luke has another comment before finishing?

Allison: [01:32:21] Thank you very much Carlos and thank you very much for sharing your responses. Listening to you as you talk makes me very nostalgic to be in Mexico, in the parks of Mexico, where everyone, the families, the people are there, the parks of Mexico are full. I would love for the parks here in Salt Lake City to be like that. Many thanks. Yes, I hope to see you in the parks very soon.

Luke: [01:32:55] Thank you all very much. I have taken many notes and your comments will help us a lot and we are very grateful that you dedicated this hour and a half to help us with this project.

Carlos: [01:33:10] Great, thank you very much for Allison and Luke being with us. A privilege to have you here. Claudia and Minerva, Professor Ivis García, it is truly a privilege to work with you and all of our participants. I think we should then come to the end of our discussion. Thank you very much again for your time. Minerva has shared with each of you a link to the google doc. It is for you to put your email. And so Minerva, if you can elaborate a bit on that, it's simply for us to collect information. And then
Minerva then goes to them ... or the council is going to send her the certificate card worth $25. And I think Claudia is going to talk a little more about the last presentation. Claudia and Minerva please.

**Minerva**: [01:34:07] Yes, here I am sharing in the chat a link for you to register. We want to have a record of who came today and we will also use this information to send the $25 gift card. We will not have the card until after October 15. Then when we have it ready we can send it to you by email or if you indicate in the link that I put in the chat, if you want us to send it by mail we can also do it. But if you can register in the link that I put in the chat and so that we have all your information. Thank you very much and sorry that we could not completely hear from everyone, but we appreciate your time in all that you have shared today.

**Carlos**: [01:35:13] We have Vanessa who says that her email is not accepted in the document, but now Minerva can help you with that. A tutorial can be given at the end. Claudia, if you want to please talk about the last presentation, to invite the community.

**Ivis**: [01:35:30] It sounds very quiet. It's very low.

**Claudia**: [01:35:32] Sorry, can you hear me better now?

**Ivis**: [01:35:35] A little better.

**Claudia**: [01:35:36] Ok. Well, here I am showing a flyer for the final presentation, where the students are going to share the results and recommendations of the focus groups here and surveys that we have done during that time. So if you want to join us on November 19 at 9:30 in the morning over Zoom. Here, you can see the information and we are going to send you an email so that you can join us for that day and think more about what we have found and listen to the final recommendations for the division of public lands. Well with that I also want to share my thanks to you for your time. Again we will send an email with all the complete information and you can review it in due time. But again very grateful to be here with you and hope you have a great rest of your day and we will see you in the parks soon.
Carlos: [01:36:36] Great, well, if you couldn't hear from Claudia when she shared this flyer. As you can see this is a presentation that we are going to do on November 19 through Zoom and we will also send you more details and follow-up via email. So it is important that you check and take a look at the email next week for the certificates and please communicate with Minerva as well. I leave you then to have a beautiful day. Thank you very much again. We will see you soon then in the parks!
Focus Group Report: Team #3

City & Metropolitan Planning
Public Lands Division
10/22/2020
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Table of Contents

Introduction 3
Methodology 4
Participants Profile 5
Findings 7
Introduction 8
Stewardship 8
Equity 9
Closure 10
Recommendations 11
Introduction 11
Stewardship 11
Equity 11
Closure 12
Discussion 12
Conclusion 13
Appendix 15
Appendix A: Flyer 15
Appendix B: Email Invite 16
Appendix C: Demographic Survey 17
Appendix D: Email Follow Up 19
Appendix E: Photographs 20
Appendix F: Focus Group Guide 23
Appendix G: Thank You Email 29
Appendix H: Final Presentation Flyer 30
Appendix I: Transcript 31
Appendix J: References 59
Introduction

As part of the first window of engagement for the Salt Lake City Master Plan, University of Utah students conducted focus groups to ask the community to share their thoughts about current uses of public lands and means of improving them. Understanding what the values of community residents are is important because it will help the Public Lands Division to create a vision to guide future change and investment for our public spaces over the next 20 years.

This report reflects the findings from a ~2 hour focus group conducted with members of the community held between 10:00 and 12:00 on 13th of October 2020 at The Road Home's Palmer Court facility.

We approached The Road Home as a stakeholder so they could help us identify residents that would participate in our focus group. The mission of Road Home is to provide assistance to those experiencing homelessness in the Salt Lake valley. Since 1941 The Road Home has been advocating for improving individuals and families experiencing housing insecurity and homelessness. Given The Road Home's influence and resident trust, Dr. Garcia contacted them so we could gather information and suggestions from the community about their opinions related to open space, trails and natural areas.

Professor Garcia designed a flyer to promote the project and invite people to participate in these group sessions. Contacts at The Road Home organization helped us by sending emails to those that might be interested in participating. The flyer outlined the objectives, relevant information about the Master Plan, contact information, meeting location, and participant incentives for their contribution to the project. See Appendix A with a flyer. We also sent an email invite, see Appendix B.

A short survey was created to determine the participant profile. The questionnaire included demographic data such as ethnicity, age, sex and income. See Appendix C with questions for demographic profile. Please note these questions were the same demographic questions asked in the intercept surveys.

As a group we communicated with the contact person at the organization in order to remind them of the events. A few days before the focus group took place we call those that signed up on the phone or send text messages to invite participants to participate as well as to remind them of the date and time of their group meetings. We also sent emails (see Appendix D).
METHODODOLOGY

At their core, focus groups are "group interviews" (Morgan 1997,1). As Morgan (1997) notes, focus groups typically have six to eight participants who speak with a moderator. Focus groups generally last for up to two hours and can cover a wide range of topics. Additionally, the group dynamic of focus groups is conducive to collaborative thinking as participants build on or contradict one another's comments. This approach does not produce statistically valid data, but it provides more in-depth information that surveys may not capture by using a conversational approach. Since some demographic groups in a community may be more likely to give input than others during public engagement processes, focus groups can provide better understanding of the needs, concerns, and opinions of underrepresented groups (Morrow, Burris - Kitchen, and Der-Karabetian 2000).

To ensure the redevelopment of the Parks and Public Lands Master Plan would promote equity, we chose to invite people experiencing housing insecurity, a group we usually do not hear from in public hearings and other formal planning processes. To reach this audience, we conducted the focus group at Palmer Court, a supportive housing facility in Salt Lake City for those experiencing homeless and financial instability. We reached out to staff at Palmer Court to arrange the Focus Group and posted flyers at the facility advertising the focus group.

Professor Garcia used as a basis the intercept interview survey questions in order to create the focus group script. Then the script was revised by Nancy Monteith (Public Lands Division) and Amanda Jeter (Design Workshop). On September 24, 2020 as a class we gave comments on the questions to make them clearer. The questions we used for this focus group were the product of the refinements made after that process.

We used open-ended questions designed to encourage each participant's open participation and elicit their personal experiences and knowledge on the subject. We had two main topics (stewardship and equity) and 11 questions in total, with some questions including multiple parts. We sought to maintain a conversational tone during the discussion so the participants would feel comfortable sharing their thoughts and we did not always strictly adhere to the written questions we came with. We conducted the focus group in a large room in the Palmer Court building on October 13, 2020. Participants were seated at tables in a U-shape, and each of us stood in the middle of those tables when addressing the group. See appendix F with the questions we asked of participants. Six people participated in the focus group (see Participants Profile). We gave a $25 gift card to each participant to compensate them for their time.
PARTICIPANTS PROFILE

A total of 6 people participated in the focus group. We collected the most important demographic variables from the Central Community. Results are shown in tables 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1. Community Area</th>
<th>No. of Participants</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rose Park</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairpark</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poplar Grove</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glendale</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westpointe</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan Meadows</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of Participants</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Younger than 18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-21</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22-30</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31-40</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41-50</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51-60</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61 or older</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3. Race/ethnicity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of Participants</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian or Alaska Native</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino (of any race)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prefer not to say</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 4. Household Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Range</th>
<th>No. of Participants</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$0 - $14,999</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$15,000 - $24,999</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$25,000 - $49,999</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50,000 - $74,999</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$75,000 - $100,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100,000 - $150,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$150,000 +</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prefer not to say</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 5. Gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>No. of Participants</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Binary/Third Gender</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prefer not to say</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prefer to self-describe</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a. All the members of our group were from the central community where the Palmer Court is located in. Within the Central Community and Salt Lake City, the race demographics are shown below. About 83% of our group was white, very representative...
of the community and also for Salt Lake City. It does not reflect the wide range of diversity with Salt Lake City, however.
The figure above shows income by household date. Within the central community and Salt Lake City, the majority make within the $25,000 to $49,000 category. At first glance it may not seem like our group was representative, but the $0 to $14,999 category is a large group too, and the peak is larger in the Central Community relative to the Salt Lake City area. Our group did thus represent a large portion of the income levels in the area.

**FINDINGS**

**Introduction**

Many people when asked about the proximity of parks to them felt that they were not close enough. One man said, “They are many groups in Salt Lake City, and those of a lower income bracket do not often have access to neighborhood parks like in other areas do.” Many of the participants felt that they also felt out of a place in some of the parks compared to other higher income people within the parks they visited. Many participants, 3 of them, felt that Liberty park was a good example of what a park should be, one of the female participants said, “I just think we need to do more things like Liberty Park.” Some felt that, in their experience with traveling around the world, that there are parks like liberty park, but often with more social aspects and activities located within the park. When participants were asked about trails, one of the
female participants said, “I haven’t been as far to the Jordan River Parkway, we need more safe open trails in the area.” The feeling of a lack of safety especially at night was a common theme with everyone in the room.

Many people felt that we need to prioritize parks and outdoor recreation. As one female participant said, “I’m a firm believer outdoor play is the best thing to do. So whatever federal government or state government or whatever can do to improve that is important.” There was also a general feeling that kids were not getting out as much. One female belatedly replied, “We need these parks to get our kids off their video games.” Even if not every child has problems with video games in Salt Lake City, childhood obesity is a problem within our Country, and this is but one example where children are not exercising as much.

One final problem that many people had with access to park was the lack of maintenance to infrastructure, one woman participant said, “The only thing i have problems with is the sidewalks on the trails, need to be fixed. On any trail like, that's why I don't go out to the parks anymore.” Many agreed that this is an issue, especially for those that may have a difficult time walking.

Stewardship

A common theme throughout the group that received special emphasis in this section was the state of sidewalks in the city. Many respondents complained that sidewalks were broken, uneven and hard to navigate for people with balance or coordination issues. The repair of these damaged sidewalks was a common recommendation to the city. The replacement of concrete sidewalks in parks with earthen pathways covered in wood chippings was suggested by a 61+ year old female.

When questioned on what the personal contribution that individuals can make to the stewardship of public lands, the most common and recurring theme was simply picking up trash and leaving public lands in a better state than when found.

To facilitate this, a 31-40 year old male suggested more trash cans at regular intervals so that public lands users were never too far from a place to dispose of rubbish.

A 51-61 year old black male suggested that the city might consider providing a modest economic incentive for citizens to sign up for cleaning crews that cleaned up a local park at regular intervals. “But if you can develop a cleaning crew, and pay them, if it's 10 bucks, 20 bucks, some of those people still appreciate, and then they appreciate the park being there and wanting to contribute and just helping, you know, keep the park cleaned up.” The thinking was that in addition to providing a little bit of extra cash for those willing to clean, they would come to appreciate public lands more and feel a personal connection to them.
A 61+ year old female specifically referenced trails at Liberty Park that utilize wood mulch instead of concrete or asphalt as being a highly desirable medium for walking on but bemoaned the lack of maintenance for such trails “I would like to see them maintain that a little better, it gets compacted.”

A 61+ year old white female emphasized the need to cultivate a culture of personal responsibility so that taking care of public lands and treating them as a treasured collective resource would become secondary nature.

Equity

Several themes emerged during the discussion on equity. One concerned the importance of good sidewalks in and between parks. As several people had mentioned earlier in this focus group, uneven sidewalks present a challenge for people with disabilities or joint issues. The participants noted that uneven sidewalks present a risk of falling for those people.

Accessibility and informational signage were other issues that came up during the discussion on equity. Talking about signage, a participant said, "it definitely could be easier for people to see if there is a sign in the park" and noted that she would like to see online or physical maps showing the park system and the connections between parks. Participants said it was important to have signage in multiple languages, not just Spanish and English. As one participant remarked, "you've lost the battle because everybody has got their own language and they all need that kind of information so they can learn to live in the United States," referring to the importance of providing signage and information about parks in multiple languages.

One participant, a middle-aged black man from New York, noted the importance of public transportation between parks. He noted that public transportation is especially good around Fairmont Park in Sugarhouse, as the S-line streetcar, which connects to TRAX, offers access to that neighborhood, which also features Sugarhouse Park. He said of Fairmont Park: "that's probably the only one that's accessible for somebody who has a disability. That really is a beautiful thing because you know, if you use a wheelchair, you can get there from here."

Programming was a major topic of conversation as well. Participants expressed favorable views towards the idea of festivals that would showcase different cultures that are part of Salt Lake City. For example, a participant said on the East Coast "[in] every park they do ethnic festivals, each group individually, you can go to anytime if they have those festivals." Another person voiced support for movie nights in parks where educational films or series like Ken Burns' documentary on the National Parks
system could be shown. Participants spoke favorably of the Twilight Concert series that was held in Pioneer Park.

Finally, safety was a concern that intersected with equity. During the discussion on stewardship and the Jordan River trail, a female participant noted that "women are in a whole different category than men are in terms of safety." This comment indicated that women may feel less safe than men in certain parts of the parks and public lands system due to concerns about assault. Another person suggested that the city install security cameras in the park. He said, "if someone was to enter a park with a weapon, they [the city] get that right away." Clearly, safety was a concern for the members of the focus group, and equity in safety should be a priority for the SLC Parks and Public Lands.

**Closure**

While this focus group discussed many aspects needed in order to improve parks throughout Salt Lake, there were definitely some major themes. Throughout the meeting the tone remained optimistic, there was generally a great deal of discussion regarding future issues that Parks and Public Spaces must address to improve open spaces in the future. Some of the themes included were programming, facility maintenance, amenities, safety, and cleanliness.

Parks are considered one of the great equalizing spaces within any metropolitan area. The fact that they are an open space where everyone is welcome makes it the ideal location to provide public events for everyone to participate in. Offering the public events which educate and entertain was highly important to this group who believed that in many ways it was really the ideal way to strengthen the community as a whole. However, members were concerned that these areas were becoming increasingly unsafe and were reluctant to continue using them. These areas of concern must be addressed in order to create welcoming, family friendly locations for citizens to recreate.
Recommendations

Introduction

Sidewalk improvements would be a good start to improving the trail networks within the local area. There may be a case to also divert more city funding to the improvement of sidewalks and also to the parks in general. Providing access to major trails by enlarging sidewalks next to major trails like the Jordan River Parkway, or doing an inventory of the location and outreach of current trails can also determine the equity and equality of the current trail system. Looking at Liberty park as a template for future parks or updating existing ones may also help in bringing more people to them. As a regional park, not all parks can replicate what Liberty park has, but different aspects of it can be copy and pasted to other sites like facilities, events, ponds, and running paths around the park.

Stewardship

We recommend that the city consistently monitor and quickly repair damages to existing infrastructure on public lands. The first reason is practical. Immediate repairs and small improvements that improve longevity of existing infrastructure can pay considerable dividends over time as large and more expensive repairs can be avoided. The second reason is to provide an example. When citizens see that the city takes stewardship of public lands seriously it helps set an example to users of the park. On the other hand, if a citizen visits a park that is clearly neglected by the city, it may foster a sense of general apathy. “If the city doesn’t care how the park looks then why should I?” Individuals may still take their personal stewardship seriously but it is very helpful if the city sets an example by taking their own stewardship of public lands seriously.

Equity

Based on participants' comments, we recommend that the city install more multilingual signage in parks and public lands. Several participants voiced concerns about uneven sidewalks. We recommend that the city devote resources to improving sidewalks so that residents with disabilities or certain health conditions can walk freely.
within and between Salt Lake City parks. We also recommend that the city increase its
programming of events in parks, especially cultural ones that cater to families and
diverse audiences. Of course, large events in parks may not always be prudent while
COVID-19 remains a concern. Finally, the city should consider ways to improve safety
for people using parks and public lands, especially in more remote areas.

Closure

When looking towards the next 10 to 20 years it is very important to remember that
a significant amount of funds have been spent making and improving the park system
into what it is today. The first step to maintaining the desirability and usability of the
areas is to make sure that we maintain what we have today. This will also improve the
safety and security of public lands and hopefully reduce some of the fears keeping
people from using these areas more. As a side bonus, keeping these areas clean and
functional will make increasing programming in these areas more feasible.

Discussion

Our Experience

Our experience with conducting a focus group was mostly successful. We had
an in-depth discussion with most of the participants and recorded a wide range of
opinions. Having a small number of people (six) in the group made it easier to get more
detailed information from each person and allowed us to conduct a focus group that
felt more organic and fluid than many focus groups often feel. People generally
seemed comfortable sharing their thoughts with us though at points they seemed
confused by the questions we were posing. We also had a good gender mix in the
meeting with exactly half being males and the other half being female, but the racial
diversity was lower than we had hoped.

One part of this experience that did not go as well as we had hoped was the
lack of participation from one participant despite our best efforts to include him.
Because of his vision problems, he said he did not visit parks and seemed
disinterested in the questions we had for him. We would have liked to have heard more
from him and how parks might offer amenities he would enjoy, but his answers were
curt and we chose not to press him too much.

Other participants were enthusiastic about being there and were grateful for the
experience and being listened to. We got the feeling that this is a neglected segment
of the community when it comes to public outreach and they often feel like their voices
are not heard. While we might have had some ideas about what they would want from
public spaces many of their interests revolved around amenities and safety. These
public areas provide a low-cost source of entertainment and overall socialization that overcome much of the unintentional segregation that occurs due to an individual’s socio-economic status. In this way parks and public spaces are disproportionately important to them and as such neglecting to include their input would have led to conclusions that are unrepresentative of the SLC community as a whole. Continuing to offer monetary compensation for time will facilitate their willingness to participate.

Overall we were content with the outcome of the focus group, however, should the opportunity arise we would definitely find ways to reach out to more people in lower socio-economic positions in order to increase involvement. While sign-up sheets had been posted and we attempted to invite people the morning of, there was slightly less participation than we would have liked. Perhaps if we had come a few days beforehand or organized more focus groups we could have created relationships with people and found ways to get them to come.

**Topics**

Though there were many good topic areas discussed during the group, Some that stood out were safety and amenities. These topics themselves were not groundbreaking, however, ideas that were brought up in association with them were perhaps more surprising. Concern with safety is huge for anyone, but feeling unsafe at a public place that you would otherwise enjoy ruins your experience and limits your willingness to go back again. For our focus group they reiterated the fact that drug use, the homeless population, and threat of violence made these parks unappealing locations.

Additionally the fact that the entire group seemed interested in creating areas for food stands in the park seemed surprising. However, if you think about it some of the most iconic parks worldwide offer refreshments on some level. Not having such amenities close by cuts into time that you may use enjoying the park. Having concessions available would greatly increase the duration people would be willing to stay in the park.

**Conclusion**

Salt Lake City parks and other public lands are enjoyed by the communities that they serve but the city needs to take special care to make sure that these facilities are properly maintained and have facilities that make them safe, secure and easy to access and use. Poorly maintained sidewalks were a common complaint as well as the presence of large numbers of homeless loiterers and the refuse of an illicit drug culture. We further conclude that the city would be well advised to cultivate local parks
as unique places in their communities that entice locals to make extensive use of them and thereby creating a sense of ownership among the community. This can be accomplished by providing the infrastructure needed to keep parks clean, adequate signage for larger parks that allow for easier navigation, facilities like food stands on or very near and easily accessed from the parks and a year round calendar of events and festivals that draw people to the parks and create unique and shared cultural experiences.
APPENDIX

Appendix A: Flyer

We want to hear your opinion about parks!
1.5 hours $25 gift card and refreshments

Salt Lake City Public Lands and the University of Utah invites you to a group discussion to get to know your opinion about the free, open all year-round park, trails, and green areas that surround the Palmer Court for the enjoyment of our community.

When
Tuesday, Oct 6, 10-11:30 a.m.
For Individuals

Wednesday, Oct 5, 5-6:30 p.m.
For Families

Where
At Palmer Court - Mainstreet Community Room

To RSVP: Call or text Ivis Garcia 801.833.4073 (First 8 people at each meeting get the $25, we encourage you to RSVP).
Appendix B: Email Invite

Re: We want to hear your opinion about parks – 1.5 hours $25 gift card

Salt Lake City Public Lands along with University Neighborhood Partners, the West Side Leadership Institute, and the Community Learning Center invite you to a group discussion to get to know your opinion about the free, open all year-round park, trails, and green areas that surround the West Side for the enjoyment of our community.

The results from this study will help inform Public Lands Division about what would you like to be included in the Public Lands Master Plan, more info here:

https://reimaginenatureslc.com/

Come and participate, your voice is important! This will be a Zoom conversation on:

- Thursday, October 1st from 9-10:30 a.m. (Spanish)
- Wednesday, October 14 from 6:00 p.m.- 7:30 p.m. (English)

To sign up to either one of these dates fill out this short survey: [Insert google form here]

We will give participants $25 gift card for their participation (more info in the form).

For more information contact: ivis.garcia@utah.edu.
Appendix C: Demographic Survey

1. Which Salt Lake City neighborhood or community do you live in?
   a) Rose Park
   b) Fairpark
   c) Poplar Grove
   d) Glendale
   e) Westpointe
   f) Jordan Meadows
   g) Central City

2. What is your age?
   a) Younger than 18
   b) 18-21
   c) 22-30
   d) 31-40
   e) 41-50
   f) 51-60
   g) 61 or older

3. What is your race/ethnicity?
   h) Black or African American
   i) American Indian or Alaska Native
   j) Asian
   k) Hispanic or Latino (of any race)
   l) Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
   m) White
   n) Prefer not to say

4. What is your household income level?
   a) $0 - $14,999
   b) $15,000 - $24,999
   c) $25,000 - $49,999
   d) $50,000 - $74,999
   e) $75,000 - $100,000
   f) $100,000 - $150,000
   g) $150,000 +

5. What is your gender?
   a) Male
   b) Female
   c) Non-Binary/Third Gender
   d) Prefer not to say
e) Prefer to self-describe
Appendix D: Email Follow Up

Dear All,

I would like to confirm the meeting tomorrow Tuesday, Oct 6 from 6 -7:30 p.m. via Zoom (there is an automatic Google hangout link, do not use that). If you have any issues feel free to call or text 801.833.4073.

Our conversation will be based on a survey that you can find online here: https://www.reimagininenatureslc.com. Please take 10 minutes before the meeting tomorrow to explore the Public Lands Master Plan website and take this survey: https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/8297d3d87a7940e1a9825cf49c9f6715. Sign-up for the newsletter for up-to-date news and community engagement events.

If are planning to attend today please complete a survey to help us keep track of who is providing input in these focus groups: https://forms.gle/ZjebUumRaNDdALfQ8. Thank you all for your willingness to provide input.

Best

Ivis (801.833.4073)

Join Zoom Meeting
https://utah.zoom.us/j/98683614967
Passcode: 591717
Dial by your location
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
Appendix E: Photographs
Appendix F: Focus Group Guide

Facilitator #1 – Welcome! – 15 minutes

[Choose a student to be the main facilitator and give the introduction. Welcome people informally as they enter to the SLC Public Lands Master focus group. Engage in small chat and answer questions people have. Tell them to fill out the **demographic questionnaire**, survey in English or Spanish, and asked them to take a look at the Snapshot (upload in zoom, for in person we will have copies).

My name is [name] and I am a master student at the University of Utah in City & Metropolitan Planning. We are University students working with the City Public Lands Divisions to better understand how people might reimagine the future of parks, trails, and natural areas. And now each team member will introduce themselves to you. [Introduction of other students in the team]. Here with us we also have staff from SLC Public Lands [introduction of SLC Public Lands staff].

As you know from our previous communication, you are here to participate in a focus group (or in other words a group discussion) on a specific topic. The topic that we will be discussing today is what you reimagine the future of parks, trails, and natural areas in Salt Lake City. During this focus group, you all will have the opportunity to share your experiences about going to trails, parks, and natural areas in the city. Most importantly we interested in your thoughts about how to improve them in the next 10 and 20 years.

We do not want to miss anything that you say, that being said this conversation will be audio recorded. The recording will be used to transcribe the conversation and later pull out some quotes for a report we are writing. We will not use your name on the report. We will give you a fake name. We asked you for your demographics previously to know as a collective who came to all the focus groups, we have six in total and about 40 people will be participating. In the report we will use your fake name with some identifiers including possibly your age, gender, race and ethnicity. We will also be taking pictures to put in our report.

If in person: However, we will be taking pictures of your back or hands. We will not take pictures of your face, where other will be able to identify you.

If in Zoom: If you are in Zoom and you would not like pictures of you, make sure to turn off your camera now, so we can take a quick group picture with our screenshot right now.

[For community councils there is NO compensation. If is not a community council, mention that we will be offering $25 gift card as a token of our appreciation. We will talk more about this at the end of the meeting].
All that being said, our discussion will last about 1.20 minutes [change if there is less time due to tardiness. If in person, say, please help yourself to the refreshments throughout the meeting].

Are there any questions so far?

Ground Rules
Before starting with the conversation, we would like to set up some guiding principles. Principles that will help us to make the best of our group discussion:

1. Turn off your cell phones.
2. One person speaks at a time.
3. There are no right or wrong answers.
4. Like in Las Vegas, what is said in this room stays in this room.
5. Talk to each other not strictly to the person asking questions.
6. If you feel uncomfortable please let us know.
7. Would someone like to add something?

I. Facilitator #2: Introduction (20 minutes, student led): First, I will ask you about parks, trails, natural areas near home.
   1. Icebreaker: Salt Lake City Public Lands Divisions conducted Needs Assessment which found that, having a park within walking distance of home (half a mile or 15-minute walk) was considered extremely important to 57% of Salt Lake City residents surveyed in 2017 and having a park in biking distance of home was extremely important to 38%. We will go in a circle and we will have everyone introduce themselves. In 1 minute, tell me your name where you live in and how important is to you to have nearby your home a city park, a recreational trail or bike path, a natural area or open space, a street or public space with abundant trees, maybe a city golf course? [I want to hear specifically about the places that you go near your home so in your neighborhood].
   2. Satisfaction: Now I would like to know: What you enjoy about this place? What is great about it? Prompts: Maybe you feel more connected to nature, it’s a great place to exercise or meet friends in the neighborhood, its clean and well taken of.
   3. Unsatisfaction: What prevents you or members of your household from spending more time in these outdoor places? Prompt maybe there are no places nearby, places are too crowded, hard to get there,
safety or security concerns? Do you avoid, not enjoy, or feel uncomfortable or not welcome in some city parks or natural areas near your home or in your neighborhood? If yes, can you tell me about some of these locations and what could improve your experience?

4. **Exit Question:** In general, what would make park, trail, natural areas, golf course near your home better?

II. **Facilitator #3: Stewardship (20 minutes, staff and student led).** The next topic we will discuss is stewardship.

1. Student will introduce SLC staff so he or she can talk about stewardship (if SLC staff is not available student will assume this role instead).
   - Public Lands Division Staff Member: When it comes to stewardship of our parks, citizens have indicated they would most like to see the following improvements: maintenance and cleanliness, additional or improved restrooms, lighting or safety features and additional trees. Stewardship activities in public lands can also support more natural habitat protection, like recent efforts at Fife Wetland Preserve ([Link #1](#), [Link #2](#)) or at **Friends at Fairmont Park** which is a group of citizens in Sugar House that advice the city on issues regarding this park as well as organize their own activities (include other examples that you are personally involved with). **[Student note: show images, find online, make a collage if you like. Here are some instructions for printing posters for free at the college: http://www.cap.utah.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Plotting-Instructions_01.pdf].**

2. Student will ask questions: Are there any areas for improvement for any of the parks, trails or natural areas that are close to you? Prompts:
   - Add or renovate aged restrooms, playgrounds and other amenities
   - Add and service more bins for trash and dog waste
   - Plant more trees in parks and natural areas
   - Incorporate more native, waterwise or pollinator plants in landscaping
   - Acquire additional natural areas to increase size of existing habitat blocks and wildlife corridors
   - Support “Friends of the Parks” groups
   - Develop ranger/ambassador programs
   - Host educational events to build land ethics
3. Support active modes of transportation to reduce carbon footprint (e.g., walking, biking)

3. Student will ask question and staff will discuss opportunities for volunteering: Are there ways you can imagine yourself contributing to the stewardship of public lands? For example, you can volunteer for clean-up days, tree planting, etc.

III. Facilitator #4: Equity (20 minutes, student led). Now we will discuss topics related to equity.

1. **Introduction:** SLC is home to over 196,000 people who speak 80 languages representing a broad range of socioeconomic backgrounds and cultural heritages. As in most American cities, there are gaps in the amount and quality of public lands available to different neighborhoods in SLC. Question: When you imagine our public lands 10-20 years from now, what changes can we make to our public lands system to help serve and include all people more equitably?

2. **Accessibility:** Now, I would like to hear about how accessible these places are to you? Prompts:
   - Are parks, trails and natural areas located in close enough proximity to you?
   - You feel that they close by walking distance? Do you have to drive? How do you get there (walk, bike, take public transit, carpool)? Has transportation been a challenge in the past when wanting to visit a park, trail or natural areas anywhere in the city?
   - Are these places accessible for older adults and for people with disabilities? Once you are there, can you move around freely (sidewalks are good, there are handrails if you need them, etc.)?

IV. Programming: Unfortunately, Public Lands does not do significant programming. They only do a small number of events to activate parks. Collaborating departments, such as the Arts Council does cultural programming and Public Lands facilitates access to outside groups that also program their spaces. We still want to learn how do you think that programing could be more inclusive to different cultural groups? Let’s use as an example the Hispanic or Latinx, Somali or Pacific Islander community but we might extend our thinking to other ethnic groups like.

   - Could translations of Public Land materials (e.g. website, events, signage at parks, trails, etc.) encourage participation and use?
○ What about park, trail, and natural area locations in neighborhoods where there are people from different cultures?

○ How about activities, are there some cultural events or programs for families, youth or older adults that would be appealing to you?

○ What else would be important for you, your family, and others in your community?

V. Facilitator #1: Closing (15 minutes).

1. We have arrived to the end of our discussion, like at the very beginning we will go in a circle, hearing from each one of you with a closing question: What else should be considered in developing the Public Lands Master Plan for natural areas, urban forests, and parks? [If people do not know what to say, asked them: what resonated the most with you in this conversation? What is the most important thing that the master plan should include? What is the one message that decision makers should hear from this conversation we just had?].

2. I now have a question for staff of the Public Lands Division: What was some of the most important things that you heard today?

3. Thanks, you all for coming! Your comments will be very valuable in creating the next Public Lands Master Plan. Make sure that you fill out the full survey online so you can sign up to receive updates on the plan and can be engage in any future activities.

4. I also would like to invite you to our final class presentation to take place online, using the same link and passcode, on Thursday November 19, from 9:10 a.m.-10:30 a.m. We will be sending you a formal invite a few weeks before the event. At this presentation we will be providing a summary of the six focus groups as well as findings from more than 2,000 surveys that have been collected for this project. [Upload to the chat the invite that is in Canvas under this homework].

5. And now [name of student] will have more information for you about the payment. [Please note that Community Councils would not receive payment].

● If in person: I have some $25 Walmart cards for you. I will be going around getting your signature for documentation and I will give you the card.

● If in Zoom: We will be sending you an online gift card for $25 to Amazon. We have taken attendance and we have double checked we have your email [please do this]. With your
email we can just send you this e-card. However, because we have six focus group we will be sending these after October 15.
Appendix G: Thank You Email

Hello,

I hope this email finds you well. I wanted to personally thank you for your time to provide insights on how to improve our Public Lands in Salt Lake City. Your comments will be very valuable in creating the next Public Lands Master Plan. Please make sure that you fill out the full survey and demographic questionnaire online so you can sign up to receive updates on the plan and can engage in any future activities.

I would also like to personally invite you to our final class presentation that will take place online, using the same link and passcode (https://utah.zoom.us/j/98683614967 | Passcode: 591717), on Thursday November 19, from 9:10 a.m.-10:30 a.m. We will be sending you a formal invite a few weeks before the event. At this presentation, we will be providing a summary of the six focus groups as well as findings from more than 2,000 surveys that have been collected for this project.

If you have any direct questions, I would recommend reaching out to Lewis Kogan, Trails and Natural Lands Division Director (Lewis.Kogan@slcgov.com), Nancy Monteith, Public Lands Landscape Architect (Nancy.Monteith@slcgov.com), or Kristin Riker, Public Lands Director (kristin.riker@slcgov.com).

Thanks for all you do for our community,

University of Utah Master CMP Program and Salt Lake City’s Public Lands Re-Imagine Nature Team
Appendix H: Final Presentation Flyer

Survey/ Focus Group Findings and Recommendations

Presented by City and Metropolitan Planning Students

Join us on zoom
Passcode: 591717

9:30-10:30AM
November 19, 2020

REIMAGINE NATURE
SLC Public Lands Master Plan

City and Metropolitan Planning
Appendix I: Transcript

Transcript

This document was transcribed from the focus group at the Road Home at Palmer court on October 13th. Participants' names have been changed to maintain anonymity.

00:00:01 Kendall

Yeah, I'll start. So I'm I'm Kendall. I'm also a student with the University of Utah. I'm originally from Central Utah, so I've lived here my whole life and it's a great place for me.

00:00:14 Louis

Hi everybody, I'm Louis. I'm with the Salt Lake City trails and natural lands division. So representing Salt Lake City public lands today. Thanks for coming.

00:00:25 Anders

Hi I'm Anders, I'm also a student at the University of Utah. I grew up here in Salt Lake City. I'm just excited to be here. I might be taking a couple of photos while we're doing this, but I won't include your faces I'll just be behind just so you can use this in our presentation later on to the public lands.

00:00:45 CJ

Hi my name is CJ. I am also a master student at the University of Utah. I'm from Utah County originally so I'm happy to be here with you guys to do this. and just so you're aware we are recording this conversation we have a transcription phase and that's what these recorders on the table are.

00:01:04 Ivis Garcia

Yeah, good morning everyone. My name is Ivis Garcia. I am a professor at the University of Utah.

00:01:11 Joseph

Thanks. OK, so so just to let you guys know. Hopefully at this point you know. We are conducting a focus Group

00:01:23 Background Noise

Yeah.
We're conducting a focus group, so essentially just a group discussion on the topic of how we're reimagining the future of our parks, trails, and public areas. Here in Salt Lake, we're using this for for you all to share your experiences with us in these areas, but also most importantly to use those experiences to kind of help us decide where we want to move in the future to improve these spaces. Um, just so that you all know. As CJ and Anders already mentioned, so we will be recording this conversation. This conversation is going to be transcribed for our report later on this semester and but we will not be using your real names in those reports. We will be giving you a pseudonym in in that report. Additionally, The reason we are also getting your demographics not just for you, but all for all of our groups. We're going to be having six of these focus groups and hopefully around 40 people. We just want to know the background of everybody who who is participating in these events. Additionally, we may be taking some pictures, those pictures will be taken from either behind where we can just see your back or of your hands so they will not be identifiable. In the future.

Moving forward, as you most probably already know. We realize that your time Is very valuable and so we will be compensating you at the end of this focus group with a 25 Dollar Walmart gift card. Well, we'll need your signature for that, but then also, this focus group will go until. Roughly 11:30 hopefully will be done at that point in time and Sufficiently gone over anything. Are there any questions?

Hence I mean actually I got some.

So I guess before we start I would like to set a few general reminders here. First off, if you could turn your phone off or Just be focused on the on the discussion at hand, we'd really appreciate it. There's no right or wrong answers here. Whenever you feel like needs to be brought up, probably needs to be brought up. And when we want to hear it. Additionally, if somebody is talking, we'd appreciate it if just one person talks at that point in time, it does make it easier for one for us to transcribe, but also to keep track of what you say. What, whatever you say in this room is gonna stay in this room for us, with the exception of going onto the report itself. Also will be asking you questions, but let's say somebody else says something that you're moved by or you feel compelled to respond to. We encourage you to do that a lot of the best discussion happens through working off of each others comments. Um, and also we don't want any of you to feel uncomfortable about anything that's going on. So if for some reason you do feel uncomfortable, please let us know. We'll do our best to to remedy that. Is there anything else
that anybody would like to add to that that they don't feel like I've covered or anything like that? Perfect, I'll let Kendall take it over from here.

Kendall

Alright, now once again thank you for coming so I'm just kinda start off. We're gonna talk about some of the just local parks that aren't the trails and different natural answer in the area. So Salt Lake City Public Lands Division. They conducted a needs assessment. They found that. Having a park within walking distance was important about over 60%, almost 60% Salt Lake City residents and at about for having a parking, biking distance was about almost 40% or was extremely important to about 40% of people, so we're just going to go ahead and A circle and just you can tell us your name. And just an how important it is to you to have a City Park or a trails next to you. And I'll restate where you live, how important it is to have you. How important it is to have nearby your home? A City Park, a recreational trail or a bike path? A natural area or open space, a street or public space with trees or a city golf course and I can repeat the question if you need as we're just going along. Start with Bill.

00:06:33 Bill

There's actually park right here In Salt Lake that actually combines the park with a trail.

00:06:43 Kendall

OK, yeah.

00:06:44 Bill

Yeah. It's the International Gardens. Yes, down on like 8th or 9th or something I can't remember exactly where it is, but it's a park. And then there's also a trail off the park. This is attached to the park property that run thats the Jordan River Trail. And that to me seems fine, yeah? Um? I mean, yeah, granted. There's one there could be closer. But there's really not.

00:07:27 Rita

Liberty Park

00:07:30 Bill

Well yeah, you got Liberty park But as far as not having drugs involved. And homeless involved.

00:07:41 Kendall

Cool yeah no thanks. I think I've been by there before and they were very off. It's a very nice place. Yeah for you Rita Yeah.
Rita

The only thing I have problems with is the sidewalks on the trails, need to be fixed. On any trail like, that’s why I don’t go out to the parks anymore.

Kendall

Gotcha, what was the last one that you used?

Kendall

Last one I went to was Liberty OK? And I have so bad ankles that if I step right it will just...

Bill

Yeah, I’ve even notice that with some with most.

Rita

Parts I have a bike And I would like to ride it or I’m just afraid. Yeah. Trails. Bikes. Yeah.

Bill

I don’t know if the city can go in or the state could go into these parks and fix it, fix ‘em and reinforce them toward they won’t. Weather as quick.

Kendall

For sure, and I think we’ll be able touch some of those subjects a little bit more as we’re going on.

Kendall

Yeah no, thank you Rita for that. Brenda how important are parks to you that are close by.

Brenda

Extremely, because when I was growing up we had a park in every place we ever moved to in our neighborhood and it had the swings and and everything and then all of a sudden they start building these. It’s more expensive. Subdivision type places no parks for the kids to play in. The kids gotta have this, you know, just to get out and play and have fresh air rather than sit in front of the TV all day or in front of their phone or video games or whatever on the column. But yeah, now I’m a firm believer outside the best place to be in. And when I started seeing no parks being put in the new style of subdivision, I thought that that’s a big mistake. ‘cause what’s the kids gonna do? And we know what’s what’s happened to our kids so. Not mine ‘cause Mine’s in their 40s, but they went. I took him out and got him involved with all kinds of stuff to keep them out of trouble. But anyway, but I’m a firm believer
outdoors I was raised. Mountains or the deserts. Where I was, you know where my family would take all of us during off and on during the year. But I'm firm believer outdoor play is the best place to to be. So whatever federal government or state government or whatever can do to improve that plus the side walks. yeah the side walks all over the place so. Are getting really bad so. Yeah, just go back doing what you're supposed to be doing. Take care of home base first. Forget about the other things that you know we don't really need to be involved with per say. So, but I'm firm believer you take care of home base and then yeah, if there's excess then you go out of the country and help those people but you take care of your home base first.

00:10:57 Kendall

Well, thank you for that Paula. You yeah, any parks are important to you?

00:11:04 Paula

Well, I parked are extremely important to me. Liberty Park I I that's the one that I mainly go to. And. Is it? It's a little frustrating to me because there aren't more parks within walking distance of this particular, you know, complex. Pretty much like we have. We have a we have a. A class. How do you explain it? Different classes in the downtown area, so the area we were living in is is fairly low class, but slightly to the East. It's, you know, we're getting into the the University in the higher classes and. I don't know how, how to explain it but. They know each other. You know, so when you go to a park like that a lot and you're not, you know you're not like you know a local like you know in the immediate neighborhood, you know you kind of stand out. So so I I. I feel that there should be neighborhood parks like. In within reach of. Communities like this where you know we can be more you know can be safe and more comfortable.

00:12:19 Kendall

Yeah Sounds good, yeah, thank you. Yeah, for you've Trevor and I should mention too. Yeah, this could be park trails natural areas so different.

00:12:28 Paula

Safe, it has to be safe. I mean one of the things that you know we have a problem with, especially in this neighborhood is safety. You know, and it's like you know, we really. You know, it's like you know this is a seriously, you know crime ridden neighborhood. So like trails are not really good idea. Parks you know well, well, you know I I broke my my foot and my ribs just outside when I was taking care of the garden last year and what was going on there was all these homeless people and they were harassing me. And it's it's like even the back of the property is not safe, you know? I mean, they were they what they did. Was they cut down a bunch of trees. So I mean like safety is like really important.

00:13:09 Kendall
No, thank you. Yeah for you Trevor yeah, how important parts of trails are to you. It's being posted.

00:13:20 Trevor

I grew up back East, you know, Bronx is right in the middle of the city man in New York so. Parks is beautiful, the only thing that stops were different here and there is that they have a separate apartment complex for you and your pet in this locked in location you and your pet as long as your pet. Trevor’s poop in the grass for people who run and jog is a beautiful thing to have a part in the Middle City where you wanna get up 4 or 5:00 o'clock in morning. Fresh run it is beautiful. Everybody the park is for everybody. What they say, hummin' and bummin' whatever it could be beautiful thing. If it's all in harmony. Otherwise, you know, just trying to separate this and that. A lot of people be, parks are beautiful man, specially if I you know. I was a long distance runner you know, we get up 4 or 5:00 o'clock morning with that Breeze and that coolness it's a beautiful thing man you know it's you know I'm telling you without. If we can just separate that one thing that make a person in the morning when you get up, you about ready to have run and you step in some dog poop that ain’t good day man, you know what I mean, I don't know how many I'm track and field, so that's my desire. That's my love, you know. it always has been. So to say. Is it useful? Is it helpful? Is it a beautiful thing? Yes it is.

00:14:54 Kendall

Yeah, thank you. Um, Yeah Clint. Well end with you.

00:14:59 Clint

I really don't go park.

00:15:03 Kendall

Awesome, yeah, thank you. Um, yeah, let's just open it up then. So with that, I think we mentioned a little bit, but is there parts with parks or trails in this area that you have found to be enjoyable? Or what makes it? Versus there are there can be some negatives for some but yeah, what are Some of the positives.

00:15:26 Rita

Liberty Park is big. it has I think 2 playgrounds for kids to play on. I'm correct, they even have a water slide for the summer. I don't think I saw that. Yeah, I think they do not for sure. Yeah, I but I know that they have two different parks. Yeah, playground parks. Miller OK yeah I Know and then. They also have the swimming pool there for the summer. It's an outdoor pool and they have the bird aquarium, yes.

00:16:03 Bill

Yeah, the Tracy Aviary.
Yeah. There yeah, anything else so and some of these could be like. Um, maybe your, um, it's a better way, I'm. It makes you feel more closer to nature. It's very quick to exercise meet friends. I don't know if there's some of these things could. Define some of the parks you have been to before. But Yeah, no so I think we. Mentioned before a little bit, but is there? Are there parks? Are there things that prevent you or members of your household from spending more time outdoors? And I think we mentioned a couple of things. If there's anything else. That you want to mention. Or for example, I guess so. Uh, we we. I mean, it seems like many of you have. You have definitely been around other places. What were some things that other parks have had in different areas that you've seen? Uh, that you wish were maybe in some of the Parks or we're here in this area.

Could you repeat that?

Sure, so in different, maybe from different cities. Different areas where you've been. What are some of the things you like from there that you wish you were here? Or what are some ways that we can improve?

The park up in Morgan has a splash pad for kids for the summer. In a park with a playground and a skate park, and. a whole Like baseball

Yeah i've notice that they've got it more broken up like there's a skate park here and then you gotta park with the baseball field here, but nothing.

Well, the one in Morgan is altogether.

Well, and that's what I'm talking about. I'm talking about down here.
I think that would be a good idea. You know there's a lot of kids that skateboard. There's a lot of kids that. Would like to play in the water during the summer. My nephew loves it like he would go to the Morgan Park and play in that for hours. Instead of playing on video game. Now it's video games all day.

00:19:04 Bill

There's been one park that I've been to that I've seen have a park with the traditional part. Like with swings and all that and skate park. With no baseball field. So. I think having something for everybody would probably bring out more people.

00:19:31 Kendall

And I think Trevor you had some.

00:19:33 Trevor

Yeah. Bring little league baseball to this park. Liberty Park. that one there. You know, even though they have a Little League baseball stadium across. what about one in the middle of that park? Those that go to school within that little area, they already knew each other and they compete probably with each other in school. You know something, running, jumping. You know that little league. I think that would bring to this area and more peers more closer together and those little high schools in junior high schools. Instead of trying to recruit somebody out there they say "Hey we got it right here." You've Got Talent right here", you know, just a little bit more activities. Where the kids can, yeah. can really become involved with them by becoming involved with each neighborhoods surrounding.

00:20:21 Kendall

So kind of more so just than just the park infrastructure but like programs.

00:20:27 Trevor

See for example sugarhouse, mostly kids around that part attend Highland High School. So they compete. Every day in some way, if they jogging and running or something, or you know, playing in the park with other volleyball, kickball, whatever they more or less grow up competing against each other in this area here. There's no Little League sports for them right here. This, you know, and you know there's places we can go. But like you he said that you know the Little League Baseball Stadium here is across the street from liberty park, over on 13 S and 7 E, you know, we want one right in the middle of that. It will bring them more closer because you know the kids on this side don't have that. They have city center right there. Other than that they had to go to Rose Park. But there's a lot more kids in this general area right in here, at least every right here behind us. Trevor't have that action. Yeah, you know it seemed like you had to go. You know from Queens to Rockland and you know, I mean from Queens to Harlem. Just you know we just wanna play baseball. You know some kids are dying, for that, you know,
hey, I just wanna play. Maybe not never get a shot at it, but they just want to play. But they don't have that.

00:21:51 Kendall

Yeah, thank you. Oh yeah, I think.

00:21:58 Paula

I had a question, a comment, I'm where I'm from. I'm from a different place and we have a lot more jogging trails. But the thing about it is is jogging trails have to be? There are more in the open. So it's pretty much like if you, if you're you know, a lot of these hiking trails. You know they're not that that's not, you know, that's not that great, but where I'm from we have like a really giant park. And there's a seawall right around the park, and you can, you can. Yeah, it's like I think a 5 kilometer or something like that. What you don't have here are places to run, you know, and safe open places to run.

00:22:41 Kendall

Gotcha, yeah. Sure i apologize that i almost missed you. Yeah, thank you for that.

00:22:44 Paula

Comment was that

00:22:45 Kendall

I Said, I apologize, I almost missed you. Thank you for.

00:22:47 Paula

This so that's OK, no problem. Also I come from a place where one of the greatest population densities in North America. And what what's going on is that they just keep on, you know. Building high rise apartments and it's like this is like a nightmare. It's like you know, you know it's just it's just it's just like you know you just want to get out of it. You know that's all you want to do. You know there's like you know they shut down the churches they shut down the parks.

00:23:16 Kendall

For sure.

00:23:18 Louis

Paula, so something like the the Jordan River Pkwy for example. Does that feel too enclosed?

00:23:23 Paula
Actually, I’ve never I. I’ve never been that far. OK, so in my situation I couldn’t do that. You know, the only you know. Again, you have to understand that you know women are in a whole different. You know category than than men are in terms of safety and and you know, well you know the kind of risks they can take. You know, like and especially you know with age. It really has to be something that is, you know, you know a sure thing. Again, you know I I almost I got into a lot of trouble on the back of this property, you know. That's that's it. That's all I wanted to say.

00:24:05 Louis

Clint can I ask you, you said you don't visit parks very much is is. Is there anything about parks that could change that?

00:24:14 Clint

Well, I'm actually going blind. i'm having a hard time seeing. I don't really care about that sort of thing.

00:24:21 Louis

Yeah. Thank you.

00:24:30 Joseph

Miss Brenda I know you had, you had mentioned that we need to start focusing more on Salt Lake City and accommodating the youth here. Is there any parks in particular that you think have done a good job of accommodating youth? And that maybe we could model more parks after?

00:24:46 Brenda

Well, I know years ago when I was high school age and stuff. And I I Love Liberty Park because of all the stuff they have there and back them days. There's ton well, you know a lot more kids that was going to this Liberty Park. I know that was one of my favorite places too, because of the the wildlife and stuff that's in the pond and stuff. But I just think we need to do more things like Liberty Park. You know things, educational sites on the educational side of things. I think that's true. You know the kids need it? I mean, if they had more involvement in everyday life, they might not get involved with the drugs and the alcohol and the stuff that's not healthy for them and I know i was raised my parents, was firm believers and keeping us busy. Course we didn't have the drugs and that back when I was growing up, but anyway, and that's what I did when I was raising my children and an I kept him busy and kept him out of trouble an I'm just a firm believer. Stay involved with your kids and and keep them busy with the good stuff of life. So. Now we don't have, you know we don't have that nowadays for the kids that is close at hand, you know so.

00:26:26 Joseph
Parks definitely provide a great opportunity for interactive with kids in a more outdoor settings. So definitely agree with you.

00:26:40 Kendall

Awesome yeah, thank you guys. We're going to just move on to some more questions about stewardship. Some of the things that we can do better to improve some of the parks around us.

00:26:50 CJ

All right. First off can everybody hear me? ready to talk louder if you can't hear me? Fantastic. Um, so at this point in the discussion, we want to talk about stewardship of public lands and to kind of kick that off. We have Lewis Kogan here from the salt Lake city department of public lands. Who's going to talk a little bit about city's stewardship Over parks. And when he's done, we'll probably talk a bit more about citizen involvement.

00:27:24 Louis

I just, um, so I think what I'd like to say is that, uh, you know, all of you, have been out in the cities, You know, park systems, you may have places you like to go. Liberty park came up a lot. And I think as we are working to reimagine what the, what the future of our public lands look like, we're both thinking about how we grow our system of lands, what we want to add you know what we want to do that is new and exciting, but also want to think about how we take that care of what we have already and make that the best that it can possibly be. And we've when we did the initial round of, of surveys and listened to, to salt Lake city residents, we heard from a lot of people who feel like that should be perhaps our top priority, doing a better job, taking care Of what we have. thinking about how clean are our spaces, how, how safe do they feel are the restrooms in good condition are, um, you know, are the trees and the, uh, the landscaping is that in really good condition in a way that makes you both enjoy the park, make it healthy, make it feel safe. Um, uh, things like that. And, and at the same time, I think this is one of our, our, our biggest challenges, uh, because as the city grows and, and the demands on our public lands and grow it, it becomes increasingly hard to keep these spaces up. Um, and even right now, uh, our, our department feels like we, you know, we have Fallen behind for the last decade, at least Um, and it feels like, you know, we're struggling to, to, to come up with, with, you know, with the budget to pay enough staff that have not been enough people out there cleaning up, et cetera, et cetera. We have a lot of challenges, uh, keeping our restrooms even open much less Clean. and so I think we're, we're really open to looking for both, you know, ideas and also understanding priorities in terms of what, what are, you know, in your opinions, what are the most important places that we put our attention related to how we're caring for the spaces we have. That'll turn it back over to you real quickly.

00:29:50 CJ
All right, guys. So I want you to take a minute. I want you to picture your favorite park. Your favorite trail, golf course for us, whatever the place you like to go the most. Picture it in your minds and take a minute and tell me what are some of the ways that that space can be improved? It's a completely open ended question. Look maybe to give you an idea, like maybe there's restrooms that are there that are too old, need to be renovated. Maybe they need new or better playground equipment. Maybe they needs better security and safety. Like whatever you think needs to happen on that piece of land, that piece of public land, that park or that trail or whatever that you like to visit.

00:30:37 Rita

Liberty Park, I've heard stories. Um, there's a lot of drugs getting the drugs off the park, so, more people can have fun running around and not having to deal with the meth or what kind of drug they're doin at the time. Um, also the bathrooms need to be reopened and reivigorated.

00:31:02 CJ

Okay. So Liberty park's bathrooms need to be renovated. There's too much of a drug culture there.

00:31:07 Rita

Yeah. There's some way, way bad drug problem there.

00:31:12 CJ

Thank you Rita

00:31:14 Bill

Basically big brother to pioneer park

00:31:18 Rita

Pretty much

00:31:23 Bill

as far as like trails go, um, Like for example, the Jordan Park way. Um, I think, especially when you go off like the sidewalk trails, and actually you have to go onto a curb trail where you're more up close to the landscape, just people really watching where they're walking and making sure they pick it up, pick up trash or whatever if they drop

00:32:01 Rita

What you're trying to say is you want more trash cans?

00:32:04 Bill
more trash cans with probably quarter about every, a quarter mile of the trail. I think wouldn't help preserve the landscape, the wildlife and all that. Get on some of these trail.

00:32:28 CJ
Okay. So more trash cans recycling bins to dispose of trash.

00:32:33 Bill
yeah, like I said, within like quarter to half mile, instead of like every one to two miles. However they are right now.

00:32:46 CJ
Okay, very good. Anybody else?

00:33:03 Trevor
How about softball games at night?

00:33:05 CJ
Okay, so softball games.

00:33:08 Trevor
Yeah. Okay. Like some, some of the nights, you know, I mean, they do fireworks at night in the summertime but you don't know good hot nightlight and you don't have a coed baseball, softball, something like that. That's a good step.

00:33:26 CJ
So like city league, sporting

00:33:27 Trevor
Yeah. for all ages.

00:33:33 CJ
Gotcha. Very good. Thanks Trevor.

00:33:42
And more hotdogs stands. I'm used to my dog stands in New York everywhere we go there is a hot dog stand.

00:34:05 Paula
I said where I'm from it's fish and chips, fish and chips stands. Yeah, those are always, those are really nice.

00:34:11 CJ

Boston?

00:34:12 Paula

No, I'm from the Pacific Northwest. No Vancouver, good fish and chips.

00:34:27  CJ

Yes. Yeah. Okay. So maybe more options for like food vendors, that kind of thing. Okay. What else remember this is completely open ended

00:34:38 Rita

More drinking fountains

00:34:41 CJ

Ok more drinking fountains

00:34:47 Rita

Liberty Park, i don’t think, has any.

00:34:51 Bill

well, the other thing that would help along with my statement earlier, there's certain completely 100% land on the public land department. It should also, as citizens of the County, the state should fall on us to help. Instead of just depending on hiring. On the city and state hiring more people to do the cleanup. It should, we, as citizens should take responsibility and helping.

00:35:41 Rita

like if you see a piece of trash on the ground just pick it up, it may not be yours but pick it up and through it away.

00:35:48 Bill

Exactly.

00:35:50 CJ

That is an excellent point. and that's actually one of the next questions we were going to ask.
I'm glad I could bring that up preemptively.

All to its logical conclusion. Very good Bill, so let me ask you guys that question. What are some of the ways that you, your neighbors held parishioners? Just people who live in the city can help be good stewards of public ones.

Picking up other people's trash. If they don't see it drop, you know, you're just going to be picking it up.

So even if it's not yours, just picking it up?

Yeah, just picking it up

And that's something we were taught as taught as kids.

If I saw something on the ground, I'd just pick it up right away. I know it's not mine, but jeez. Orange could have not fallen that far from the stairs.

What if, for example, the city were to organize things like trash pickup days or tree planting or even helping install playground equipment.

Like, yes I would totally volunteer

Well, and I noticed the city has gone on several volunteer, asking for volunteers since, we have that, um, windstorm, cleaning out the parks from uprooted, trees. Simple stuff like that.
Anybody else like bold questions, the, uh, the, what do you think needs improvement and how can you personally be a good steward? Clint, Trevor, Paula, Julia, you guys have any thoughts?

00:37:25 Brenda

I was raised if you pack it in, you pack it out. So, um, We never left the car or any place, whether it was on the desert or up in the mountains, we never left trash or anything of any kind. So you pack it in, you pack it out.

00:37:41 Paula

Sorry, what was the question again?

00:37:42 CJ

So there’s two questions. The first is your favorite park or trail or whatever you like to go to. What are some of the ways it can be improved? And then the second question was, how can we as citizens help be good stewards of our public lands. So maybe just to sum up what you were saying, Julia like was creating this culture of stewardship.

00:38:04 Paula

Well, I have a, I have a balance problem. And one of the problems I'm having is uneven, uneven trails like what you were talking about earlier. It really, it really has a problem for me. I have to, you know, if I, if I trip on it, you know, I'm dead, but yeah. But, um, the, the thing I really like about Liberty park is the, uh, the chip trail, you know, the, the, you know, the, uh, you know,

Rita 00:38:30

It’s not concrete it’s not asphalt

00:38:33 Trevor

Wooden chips.

00:38:34 Paula

Yeah, you know the wood chips I see them maintain that a little better. Yes. Kind of compacted and, and, uh, you know, uh, seems to me that, you know, it's, you know, it could be, they could handle, you know, they, they couldn't. Yeah, yeah, exactly. Yeah. They could, they could put it, put a little attention into it.

00:38:50 CJ

Okay. So better maintenance of those wood chip mulch trails.

00:38:57 Paula
Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. That really that's really helped. for me.

00:39:03 Trevor

I was thinking about this. So she said sometimes it's a lot of people who, uh, you know, 30 up the party. Why didn't I have a developed type of like a cleaning crew? Like say we, uh, You sign up one time to another time and then put, a little fee out there and say, Hey, you know, this crew working two hours, you know, they helped to pick up the excess paper that was, you see homeless people there, but it may contribute a lot and may not, but they help everybody who live, you know, Especially in these times, you know, economically.

00:39:48 CJ

So like people signing up every day to volunteer. Okay.

00:39:50 Trevor

The park has a huge crowd say either from maybe from noon to about six it's, the more traffic. And then beyond that from six to about eight, because that's the afternoon who knows the people that like to come in and, you know, do all of the things. But if you can develop a cleaning crew to pay them, if it's 10 bucks, 20 bucks, some of those people still appreciate, and then they appreciate the park being there and wanting to contribute and just helping, you know, keep the park cleaned up.

00:40:24 Rita

I think what else, I know there should be, I don't know if they are, um, curfews at the park, cause you can't stay at a park for this long after like 10, like to close the parks down, so the, homeless can't be there, because those are the only people sleeping out there are the homeless. And that's, what's ruining the parks, and drugs, the homeless.

00:40:59 CJ

So would it be curfews and federal enforcement or [00:41:00] public nuisance ordinances.

00:41:01 Rita

yeah

00:41:04 Trevor

What about, I think we all as youngsters, you know, what about the young lovers, you know, still in high school, like to ride in the park, you know what I'm saying? With his girlfriend in the car, you know, when we were young lovers, we all did that when we were young. You know when we were in high school. Yeah, we used to ride in the park. Everybody went to see all the guys were partially like that. You know, that's not going to ever stop being on me, especially those high schools it's close around me because
that's, that part is like, It’s a real excitement. That is their life. You know, they shut down, but they shut it down.

00:41:43 Rita

Cause the schools sometime like schools do have field trips to a park or something, and then they just see the trash that made them feel like they can't go back to that part.

00:42:01 Bill

Or you a five year old kid go pick up a needle

00:42:05 Rita

It’s like, “Oh honey look there’s a needle”, it like yeah

00:42:12 Trevor

I know that some of that do occur, but that's not as often as you really think, if you really dedicated to the fulfillment of a physical enjoyment at needles and things and people who don't, you know, see that's the that's a different mentality is, but. You know, you, you know, that park, it becomes a way of life to children that grows, and that person, and you can ask, where am I? Yeah, when I was younger. That looked back over at that corner. That should be well, you know, they used to do this. They should sell that. They used to be, uh, uh, ice cream, boom, that, you know, that’s the movie. So it goes from generation to generation. But it becomes a personal excitement, not only that, to those that are going around there, also family. Cause [00:43:00] that's what, you know, Hey, you know, back in the day I learned how to play baseball. Then I learned to do that. I, you know, I knew a teacher that always brought her family there. Ms. Johnson, you know, the art teacher. That plays a part, not only in that community, but everyone’s lives grew up in that neighborhood, you know? So it’s not, as often as you think, you know, I know there are some that have needles in them, but you know, if you are really dedicated in that neighborhood. They fix, you can get that crap out. They don't want it. They don’t want the kids to work with them. And we don't want you to see that they want them to be able to feel free, to breathe free if they want to, or when they go to play or that, you know, even in that sandbox, you want to know that it’s free and they feel, you know, and they feel good about it. Some of that does occur. And some of it, you know, not as much the percentage wisely, it’s not as you. I mean, uh, I mean a, grandma and grandpa, ain't gonna let, little Johnny going there, knowing that there's a pocket of dope fees. You see for an example, It’s just not, and the few are in there. Those adults are going to address that to them. This park, Hey, you know, that dude, woah over there. For these kids, this is just a different mode of understanding the report is for that part to be the end for those kids.

00:44:27 CJ
So to maybe sum up what you're saying, Trevor, it's important to make parks like a fixture of the neighborhood, like a place where everybody can just kind of go to do anything. Just kind of be together as families, as individuals, as a community.

00:44:37 Trevor

Because eventually you say everybody come back on, one day, one day and that day that you could, you know, you go back. (inaudible)wow, man. And I still get that same feeling about this park you know, you know. And from what I said you know with needles, it's just not that often, but it does happen. They are there. And those people do for their know, people do hold the bathroom. Confident, you know, and do crap. Yes. But the percentage of it is not as much as you think, you know, the adults go put a stop on that. And you know, and you ain't no man if you gonna stand back and let them assault a woman in there, or, you know, in that park or where they can breed these types of problems. It does happen, but not a lot. But I understand what she said.

00:46:37 CJ

Does anybody else have any thoughts on either of those questions?...Okay. Well, thank you for your comments on that. I think it was really helpful. Trevor is nodding his head so that is great.

00:45:53 Trevor

Yeah

00:45:52 CJ

Um, so I'm gonna turn it over to Anders here and he will have a couple more questions for you guys.

00:46:00 Anders

Hey everybody, so I just had a few questions about equity, and how we can serve everyone here equally and make sure people are taken care of. Um, So Salt Lake is home to almost 200,000 people and there are 80 languages spoken and that represents a broad range of socioeconomic backgrounds and cultural Heritages. Um, So as in a lot of places in this country. There are gaps in the parks and public lands that we talked about. Um, so when you think about parks and public lands in Salt Lake and the next 10 to 20 years, how can we make changes to make sure that everyone is included and served equally? That's a very open ended question. So just kind of help you kind of think about that, and that could be about where parks are placed in the city or, you know, how accessible they are for different kinds of people, different heritages. You know if you have any thoughts about that?

00:47:07 Bill

Well, I was just thinking of a few things. I know, but there's like the Octoberfest being on Murray Downtown, in April. I mean, there's certain things that go around in the city, and I think if we can have more of those, from different areas around the world. I think it would educate other religions or not
other religions, I'm sorry. Other cultures, how would you better get along with everybody understanding where you're coming from as a French man compared to an English or you as a, from Norway getting along with a vitenamsim. You know what I'm saying? Just kind of different things throughout, like two festivals at the time. Just to get that culture. I think that would work as well with that equality.

00:48:30 Anders

Yeah, thank you, that's a very good point. Does anyone else have thoughts on that? That kind of has, um, you know, what the question is how can we can be more inclusive of different cultures? Um, are there ways you think the city can do that? Like, are there certain events that would be especially helpful or certain activities that you think people would really like, or that you would really like? Are there any events or programs that you've been able to go to in the past,

00:49:13 Paula

You're not talking loud enough.

00:49:14 Anders

Sorry. I was asking if there have been events that you've gone to maybe like cultural events that you've enjoyed in the past, or do you feel like that needs to be more of those kinds of events?

00:49:27 Trevor

Well, jazz festivals, opera

00:49:28 Anders

Jazz festivals, like music?

00:49:31 Trevor

Yeah, like music festivals.

00:49:33 Anders

Yeah. People really like those. The city has been...

00:49:36 Trevor

Well I don’t think they have. Well you can go to Sandy find those. You know, you could walk through the park one day and you could see an opera out there.

00:49:48 Rita

I know that have had a concert at pioneer park.

00:49:52 Anders
The twilight concert?

00:49:54 Paula

Yeah. Yeah. They used to have one every night. Yeah, yeah.

00:49:58 Trevor

With Elvis, that was, well, I mean, you gotta go across the street from the liquor store, that kind of music, other types, you know there’s a couple of Doobies. You see what happened here at the stuff they put out there you know? Yeah. That isn’t good. Yeah. You don’t want that music. That isn’t good. But music festivals, okay, I can agree with that.

00:50:26 Anders

Good to know. Um, all right. Did you want to say something Bill?

00:50:28 Bill

No, I was just agreeing with him

00:50:31 Anders

Um, and then do you feel that parks are accessible to you personally? I know we’ve talked about the sidewalks being a problem, um, but any other issues?

00:50:42 Rita

Sidewalks are a big issue for me.

00:50:44 Anders

Mostly the sidewalks. Any other issues in terms of being accessible, being able to get to the parks in the first place?

Is that a problem? Or is it, do you feel it’s pretty easy to get to a park if you want to go to one?

00:51:04 Paula

What about, what about a map of, you know, like maybe you could do a, a, like a, an information brochure showing us, uh, you know the truth is I’m not from here. And I don’t really know where all these places are, you know, like maybe you, maybe you have it on your website, like a, like a map of where all the parks in the city and, you know, area are. Do you have that?

00:51:23 Anders
I think there is one on the website and then, you know, and these written materials being distributed, um, we actually have a map. I think it definitely could be easier for people to see if there is a sign in the park. Um, just like a physical map that the people could look at. Do you think that would be helpful?

00:51:40 Paula

That would be really helpful there. Yeah. Yeah, yeah.

00:51:44 Anders

Yeah, because the city also has different, you know, bike trails and different connections in that way. People might be able to see how to get from one part to another. So that's. That's a really good idea. Um, any other thoughts about accessibility getting to parks while you're in the park? The trails?

00:52:02 Trevor

More security cameras.

Yeah, just spread those out. Like, you know, plant those tracking devices in there.

if somebody [inaudible], they probably, I don't know if they do, you know, just think of militarily. They would have in some areas, you know, if you're not near their tracking device, the, they know exactly how many people in anyway, you know, if someone, if a kid got just trailed off, you know what I'm saying? You know, just wanted in that area, and they indicate.

You know, kind of the visual of if it's kid, something like that. Or if someone was to enter a park, when they come in with a weapon and it get that right away, you know, there will be some indication, on the south side of the park, you know, we have an indication, is someone coming in with a pistol or something, you know, and just, you know, just keeping track to keep it out. You know what they say, keep the riffraff and the slim, shady people out. Enjoy the beauty of the park.

00:53:05 Anders

Okay. Yeah. Thank you. Um, see, um, with the accessibility, um, how do you usually get to parks? Is it walking? Is it transit? Is it driving? Does it kind of depend?

00:53:25 Rita

[Since] Liberty's not that far-I will walk. I haven't-I don't get out much anymore because of the sidewalks.

00:53:29 Anders

Okay. What about some of you others? How do you usually get to the parks when you go?

00:53:38 Brenda
Walking

00:53:41 Anders

Do you feel like that's a pretty good experience, your safety and comfort?

00:53:45 Brenda

Oh, it's all right. Until Covid.

00:53:46 Anders

Yeah, it makes it a little harder. Okay. Um, do you think, uh, for people who are older or have disabilities, um, do you think the press are accessible for those people? You're shaking your head. What are you thinking?

00:54:07 Brenda

Not all of them.

00:54:09 Trevor

I think Fremont is the only accessibility for people with disabilities. Cause then you can take, you can take the train. The S line, that'll take you right across the street from the park. And right across the street they have the swimming area, you know, so yeah. Yeah.

That's, that's probably the only accessible to somebody who has a disability. That really is a beautiful thing because you know, if you in a wheelchair, you can get from here, to the train, from the train to the S line, you can just ride right on in. Not only that from the across the street, you can enjoy, you know, a movie. And there's an eating area and they're improving that whole area from Buffalo wings to the library, even the library they're improving that whole little area right there. Yeah. So it's much more easier now. That's probably, you know, I think that is the only one that's really accessible to people in a wheelchair, you know?

00:55:19 Anders

Yeah. Good. Now, any other thoughts about the accessibility part of it? Um, we talked about this a little bit already. Um, but looking at it, the programming, Public Lands doesn't have a lot of programs right now. Um, they do work with the arts council and other groups to make sure they can do their programs. Uh, but we want to know what program could be more inclusive of different cultural groups, any groups at all really? Um, were there any other events that would be helpful? That might be good for families or people of different cultural groups? We talked about music, and concerts, any other events like that? That might be fun for people?

00:56:00 Bill
Well, it's like I said before. You've got [inaudible] in April, which is Japanese culture, you've got your October Fest, which is, um, the Germans then you've got, the Chinese new year, but you've got nobody from, or you got nothing for, you know, old Africa. Okay. Or Thailand. Or Vietnam. So I think if we can do something like some kind of festival that, it goes back to equality, because it gives information and stuff about another culture. That would help, as far as the equality. [00:57:00] Well, as far as the policy, which would probably at the same time, it might, it might not, drop the hate crimes between different nationalities.

Rita 57:23

Good luck on that

Trevor 57:25

They got that back East. And every park they do that, they have ethnic festivals in each, each group, you can go to anytime if they have those ethnic festivals, their form of music of and food is also established, brought to the table.

Bill 57:46

Well, think about it. They could. Um, down in Vegas, there's a buffet, that has, like, I got like [00:58:00] 10 different countries and get food from each buffet. So if we could do even something like that, where each region had a booth or something that would probably help too, instead of having every day have anothe festival.

58:35 Anders

Like a festival for lots of cultures.

58:36 Bill

Yeah, food, and education.

58:38 Anders

Yeah. Yeah. Thank you. Um, and lastly, I just wanted to ask, do you think that having any materials in different languages, different transitions, would that be helpful? Do you think so, Brenda? Um, any thoughts about that?

00:58:57 Brenda

Well yeah, they can't speak [00:59:00] English or understand it, or whatever. You've lost the battle because everybody has got their own language and they all need that kind of information so they can learn to live in the United States. So, so anyway, so yeah. That we shouldn't just eliminate, they eliminate it to just Spanish and English only. Cause we have lots and lots of different groups, races of people nowadays.
Yeah. Very diverse here. So I agree. Um, and we talked about, you know, having a map, so maybe that's one thing that would be, you know, have a few different languages on it and languages on it. Um, all right. Is there. Anything else that you want to share about equity, about including people before we wrap this part up?

Oh yeah. On PBS, they have a really good series of the national parks. You know, you could, you know, what would be really interesting is if you could do like a, um, like, like, um, I don't know, like, like, you know, like have like a theater, like at like maybe even an outdoor theater, you could show those, those films. I don't know. Maybe that's being ridiculous. Yeah. Movie night at the park.

Yeah. Yeah had that at Pioneer for a minute. I've heard it done at other.

But you know, just, it would be a, it would be a good way to, um, uh, you know, like, yeah, yeah, yeah. Concentrate, you know, that kind of subject. Yeah, like educational educational, but I mean, it's really interesting, you know, those national parks, uh, films are extremely interesting.

Yeah. Well, thank you so much for your comments and I'll turn it back over to you.

Also. I think we went over some like really good stuff here today, and I'm really pleased with the conversation we had today. And, uh, we're, we're definitely gonna have a lot to use, uh, as we're, as we're writing this up and, uh, moving forward with this process. Um, but as we're concluding today, um, I'd really like to just kind of do exactly what we've been doing.

Um, but I'd like to pose somewhat of a different question and then we'll go through each of you one by one and ask you what you think about it. Um, and the question is. Um, what else should be considered in the development of public land? In the development of the public lands, master plan, um, for natural areas, urban forest and parks.

Um, and Clint, um, I'm gonna start with you, um, is there anything that particularly spoke to you about what other people were saying or that maybe wasn't mentioned

I agree with everything everyone said.
1:01:58 Joseph

You agree? Okay, cool. Cool. Paula,

Paula

I'm sorry, what was the question?

Joseph

So the question is. Um, what else should be considered in the development of parks, public lands, master plan for natural areas? Um, or what, what was some of the things that were said here today that spoke to you that you think really should be a focus of the master plan?

1:02:24 Paula

Hmm. I like the idea of the, um, um, uh, information, you know, I mean, I think one of the biggest problems I had was, I didn't know anything about this. I suppose I could have gone online and looked it up, but, you know, I, I never, I never thought. So you know, maybe you could, uh, um, inform people, you know, about websites and things like that.

I thought, you know, like, you know, get, you know, uh, you know, like, um, um, you know, be a little more, obvious, For I'll give you a really good example where I'm from. I told you we have a big park. [01:03:00] Well, I didn't know half of them was in that park. I never did. And probably like, you know, years ago, years later, I actually saw a map.

Now, I don't know why, you know, it took me so long, you know, apparently every, you know, I guess it was the best kept secret in, in, you know, the city, you know, where all these places were. You know, it's just like, you know, some information, a transfer is really important.

1:03:21 Joseph

Got you. So, so if, if I'm, if I can paraphrase, essentially what you said, um, is essentially outreach. We need public land better at outreach and letting people know exactly what is available.

Paula

A brochure at the library maybe?

1:03:36 Joseph

Okay. Okay. Perfect. Perfect. Uh, ms. Brenda, was there anything that spoke here, um, that was said here today that spoke to you, that you think that, um, the master plan should focus on?

Brenda

All of it. nothing in particular, just there's all of it. You've got to have it all to make it work.
For sure, for sure. It was so like a more comprehensive approach, um, instead of maybe just, just a singular focus of the plan. Okay. Very cool. Uh, Rita, how about you?

Rita

[inaudible] other festivals [inaudible] It can really lower the hate crimes in Utah. A brochure, so people know where the parks area. Pretty much all of it.

Joseph

And so if I can paraphrase, uh, we need to focus a lot on programming. Um, and, and better use of the amenities that we have. Very cool. Very cool. Bill? How about you?

Bill

Um, everybody, you know, I've been listening this entire time and everybody just seems to be on the same page everybody's following each other's in one way or another. So I like the fact that Public Lands is coming to citizens instead of going to the county government, I was thinking of, and the state government. And from the citizens that were right there, they're actually coming to the citizens of said county or city or whatever and getting the input instead of going right to the [inaudible].

Joseph

Right. So, so if I can paraphrase up, so you feel like it's important that the city and the County needs to listen to. Um, the citizen make it citizen oriented as opposed to, um, you know, just don't want building whatever they want. Okay. Very cool. Um, and then Trevor, um, I know that you were out in the hall. I, it, but, um, um, so the question that we're answering right now is. Um, what else should be considered in the development of a public lands, master plan for natural areas, um, urban forest and parks. Um, so essentially, uh, what spoke to you from what everybody else said or what, what you said, what is the focus needs to be when we're developing this plan?

Trevor

Just land improvement.

Joseph

Perfect. Perfect. Okay, cool. Well, um, I'm gonna give Lewis a moment to, to reiterate and say what he heard here today. Um, and, and go from there.

Lewis

Great. Thank you. Yeah, I think, I mean, there's so many interesting points that were made. I really appreciate all of this, all this feedback that yeah, we got today. Um, I think two, two things of special
note to me that I was picking up on one was, was just the importance for, uh, for salt Lake city public lands to be aware of all the things that are potentially barriers to different people to getting out and doing trails, natural areas, you know, whether, whether that’s, um, the lack of, of access to park spaces, via TRAX or is, uh, really poorly sidewalks, right. Orientation. A space that, you know, maybe feel safe to some people, but doesn’t feel safe to others. All of these things create, um, create barriers and it’s, I think it’s critical to us and hearing everyone talk, that, that we are hypersensitive to what different things create barriers and we work hard to resolve those.

Um, then I thought, I thought another particular, um, uh, valuable line of conversation that kind of wove through a couple of the questions was the importance of doing more to activate, uh, our park spaces, to provide programming and those parks spaces, um, provide information on what is out there, what, what, what is available? Um, I think, you know, whether it’s, uh, you know, talking about just getting hot dog stands in the parks or talking about. uh, you know, cultural festivals and the value of that. And I think there’s was, I made a ton of notes here about different, uh, different things that, that we could take into account to make park spaces feel more active at every time of year and every time of day. And I think that there there’s sort of a thread that, that seemed to be running through where if we can activate park spaces is more, I think what I was hearing.

From that comes more ownership and more desire for stewardship and even a sense of, of safety. You know, I think a lot of you spoke about Liberty park, which is our busiest park. And, and I think that, well, while, there are, you know, acknowledged there are issues with Liberty park and some of those came up today. I think also. There is sort of the sense of comfort in just knowing this is a community gathering place. So, um, I thought all of that was extremely interesting and valuable. Thank you.

01:09:30 Joseph

Um, that was great. Um, so, uh, I guess as we’re concluding here today, I just want to say thank you so much.

For, for, um, coming here and in participating, um, in this focus group, um, all your comments were extremely valuable to us. And as I’ve already said, we’ll definitely be including them in our report. Later on. Um, if you haven’t already, uh, I think most of you did fill out a survey when you came in, but if for some reason you haven’t done that, um, we’d love to pick that up afterwards.

And that’s just another opportunity for you. Um, let’s say you didn't feel comfortable saying something to us in this group or whatever. That's just another opportunity for you to say exactly how you feel about the space and make sure that it is heard. Um, additionally, Um, we will be presenting the information that we’ve come out with from not only these focus groups, you guys are one of six focus groups and potentially, um, up to 40 people will be in these four focus groups.

But also we have more than 2000 of these. Surveys submitted. Um, and so we will be presenting that information to, um, the public lands division. Yeah. And we'd like to invite you guys to be a part of that. If you guys are interested, um, essentially we'll be presenting and you guys can, can listen, and that will
be on Zoom. Um, so it will not be in person, but that will be yes. Um, and so that will be happening on November 19th from 9:10 to 10:30. Um, so similar times. Um, now, um, as we had said before, um, your time was incredibly important to us. Um, and we do appreciate it. Um, and so Kendall has some information on, on your, your guys' compensation. Yeah. So we're basically done. Um, I have it's the Walmart $25 gift card for each of you. I'm just going to ask you this, I go around and get a signature from you.

Um, and then also email, if you definitely want some of those updates with the zoom link and such, um, with future meetings. So thank you so much.
Appendix J: References


Focus Group Four

Road Home’s Palmer Court - Families

City & Metropolitan Planning
Public Lands Division
10/22/2020
**CMP Students:**
Luke Dubois  
Maranda Miller  
Megan Leether

**CMP Staff:**
Ivis Garcia, Assistant Professor

**Community Partners:**
The Road Home - Palmer Court
Table of Contents

Introduction 3
Recruitment 4
Methodology 5
Participant Profile 6
Findings 9
  Introduction of Focus Group 9
  Stewardship 10
  Equity 10
  Closure 11
Recommendations 12
Discussion 12
Conclusion 13
Appendix A: Flyer 14
Appendix B: Email Invite 15
Appendix C: Demographic Survey 16
Appendix D: Text Message Follow Up 17
Appendix E: Photographs 18
Appendix F: Focus Group Guide 21
Appendix G: Script 24
Appendix H: Thank You Email 29
Appendix I: Final Presentation Flyer 30
Appendix J: Transcript 31
Introduction

As part of the first phase of the Salt Lake City’s Public Lands Master Plan, students at the University of Utah facilitated focus groups examining what members of the community would like to see represented in the future of the city’s parks and trails. The focus groups were asked questions on current access and use of parks, stewardship, and equity. With these findings, alongside the other efforts in phase one, city staff will develop a clearer vision of what the community believes should guide the next twenty years of investment into our public spaces.

This report reflects the findings from a 1.5 hour focus group conducted with families, held on October 14th at Palmer Court. Attendees to this focus group included parents residing in Palmer Court, a supportive housing development for low income individuals and families. Palmer Court is a part of The Road Home network of homeless shelters and permanent housing developments in Salt Lake City. Its mission is to provide housing and support for individuals and families who have been experiencing homelessness, and help them transition back into permanent housing and the community. Part of a strong community outreach program includes reaching out to underrepresented stakeholders to ensure their voice is heard. Dr. Garcia reached out to The Road Home on our behalf and organized this focus group, so that these community members are included in the vision of the Public Lands Master Plan.

Recruitment

Professor Garcia created The Road Home - Palmer Court specific flyer targeted individuals residing at Palmer Court to come and attend a meeting about public parks. Cerise and Jeneice were contacts at the Road Home that helped coordinate this meeting. The flyer outlined details for our focus group meeting such as objectives, contact information, meeting time and location, and incentives for an hour and a half discussion on our community parks, trails and green space. Please see Appendix A: Flyer for visual.

Our focus group had a mix of demographic profiles. We had a total of eight participants, all located in Central City. 50% of ages were between 41 and 50, leaving 12.5% in each other age group ranging from 22-41 and 51+. Our group was 62% white, 38% non-white; with attendance of American Indian or Alaska Native, Hispanic or Latino (of any race), and other. The majority (75%) of our participants' household income was in the category of $0 - $14,999, leaving 25% in the range of $15,000 - $24,999. In regards to gender attendance, 82% were female and 18% male.

As a group, we were in contact with Cerise and Jeneice from the Road Home for reminders for the event. Unfortunately, we were not provided email addresses prior to the meeting. A text message reminder was sent out the day before the meeting to remind participants about the date and time of the upcoming meeting.
Methodology

Focus groups can be described as group interviews and are used to determine emotional reactions or other qualitative information that cannot be statistically described, according to James Creighton. There can be skepticism associated with focus groups, and they could be perceived to be used to influence the public instead of learning from the public. These groups could be targeting a specific demographic, such as those in supportive housing, or it could be used to survey the general population. Setting up focus groups requires obtaining contact information from registered participants and using that to follow up prior to the event. A focus group should have between eight and ten people, but more may need to register to account for those who don’t show. If the topic does not have many interested parties, compensation may need to be offered to encourage participation. Focus groups typically take place in a room set up with recording equipment and seating in a circular manner in order to facilitate conversation naturally. At least five questions should be prepared, and they should not be written to elicit a desired response. Focus groups should be led in an unbiased manner, and this may require a third-party facilitator to moderate. The session should include opportunities for participants to think independently by writing things down and together by conversing with the other participants. After the focus group is conducted, participants should be followed up with a summary so they understand how their input was used (Creighton, 2005). This focus group technique is useful to target outreach to vulnerable populations that may not respond well to other surveys or feedback opportunities such as public meetings. Focus groups can consist of a set of people with similar characteristics and experiences. Being surrounded by peers provides a comfortable atmosphere. Focus groups can target a demographic of people that were not well represented through intercept interviews or other outreach attempts. It is important to record the demographics throughout an engagement process to determine if any groups are excluded, and if so, their input can be specifically sought through a focus group. Our focus group targeted low-income residents in supportive housing. This approach provided equity to the engagement process because they may not have had the same resources to learn about the survey online and this group was compensated for their time and participation. This group represented economic diversity because the intercept interviews were not guaranteed to reach people with very low income and in supportive housing. The inclusion of their unique perspectives will benefit the engagement process.

The script and accompanying questions for the focus group were formed, by Professor Garcia, by modifying the intercept interview survey questions. This script was then sent to the Reimagine Nature team, including Nancy Monteith from Salt Lake City Public Lands and Amanda Jeter from Design Workshop. The class practiced participating in a focus group using this script prior to conducting the focus groups. This practice provided an opportunity to experience the script in a believable scenario to understand how the conversation could unfold.

Our focus group needed to take COVID-19 precautions including distanced seating and mandatory masks into account when setting up the room. Our focus group used the script, described above and included in Appendix G, loosely, in order to guide the conversation but also allow the participants to have control over the discussion. After the background information was stated and questions were asked, the participants were able to talk freely and many times these conversations carried away from the original topic but usually remained relevant to public lands. This flexibility in the script allowed the participants to feel comfortable providing their honest input throughout the entire process. We discussed two major topics, stewardship and equity,
which encompassed many elements of public lands. Each topic had two or three main questions. For stewardship, participants were asked about current conditions, amenities, and volunteer opportunities. For equity, participants were asked about accessibility and programming.

**Participant Profile**

Our focus group was attended by eight (8) people. The demographics of these participants are summarized in the following five (5) tables.

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<th>Table 1. Community Area</th>
<th>No. of Participants</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fairpark</td>
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<td>Poplar Grove</td>
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<td>Glendale</td>
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<td>Westpointe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age Group</td>
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<td>Percent</td>
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<td>------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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### Table 3. Race/ethnicity

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<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
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<th>Percent</th>
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### Table 4. Household Income

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<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prefer to self-describe</td>
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<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The participants in our focus group all live in the central community, near downtown. Only one of the eight participants identified as male. This is very non-representative of the central community, which contains census tracts with between approximately 42% and 59% male residents. The economic demographics of our focus group are very specific to their living situation at Palmer Court, which is a permanent supportive housing development. Those living at Palmer Court may have previously been experiencing homelessness or another unstable living condition. Therefore, no focus group participant reported a household income of more than $24,999 and the large majority made between $0 and $14,999. This differs greatly from the central community household income, which reports a higher median household income. Although there is one census tract in the central community that has 46% of households with an income of less than $25,000, most of this community sees more than 75% of incomes higher than $25,000. Census tracts in the central community are between 70% and 92% white. Focus group participants were majority white, and there was also Hispanic/Latino and American Indian representation. This area is approximately a quarter Hispanic and therefore this race was not well represented by our participants. Our participants were all adults, and some brought children. While these children weren’t directly involved, their preferences and experiences were able to be
conveyed through their parents. The participants’ ages were somewhat representative of the adult population of this community. It is important to note that while Palmer Court lies in the central community boundaries, it borders downtown and the residents seemed more oriented to downtown due to the free public transit and other resources available in that area. Overall, this group was not very representative of the central community demographics, but the participants do describe a vulnerable population with important input to supply to the Public Lands Master Plan.

Findings

While the focus group discussion was sectioned into a few specific guiding topics, general trends started to emerge as being of a higher importance to the group as a whole. The findings are discussed in order of importance, as best as we can infer, based on the topic’s frequency, discussion duration, and the consensus of others in the group.

Introduction of Focus Group

In the introductory section of the focus group meeting, the attendees were asked about the parks and open space they most frequently visit, and how important it is to them that there is open land near their home. The discussion continued with asking what they liked best about the parks they frequently visited. Finally, they were asked what if anything keeps them from visiting parks.

In describing the parks they liked, the biggest contributing aspects were the natural beauty, amenities, and sense of community. A quote that largely sums up the discussion was: “Just going to the park area is more healing and I want to be somewhere where it's nice and well maintained; and having amenities available.” The parks that were regarded as some of the strongest were those that had an array of amenities in addition to natural features. These parks included Memory Grove Park, Liberty Park, and Jordan Park. While describing Jordan Park one said, “They have barbecues and a (pavillion) you can rent out for parties.” Sense of community and camaraderie was an important aspect to parks according to the group. One said they liked going to parks and “seeing people you don’t know. You know, making new friends.” Many missed the sense of community since the beginning of Stay at Home Orders limiting the availability of community events.

A few of the parks that they didn’t like as much also were the ones closest to their home unfortunately. One example of this was Jefferson Park, which is really close to Palmer Court. “They have a little park right on the corner, but they built around it and took all the amenities out except one little section.” Most instead preferred to visit Liberty Park or Jordan Park but reported that these parks were too far away and hard to get to via public transit. “Jordan Trail is still pretty far there really isn't a bus to get there.” Other concerns they expressed about nearby parks was crime saying, “there is criminal activity that is hidden in between and it’s not a safe environment.” Finally, some stated that some parks are crowded, a special concern, due to COVID-19. “There’s a lot of people - too crowded.” Again in response to COVID-19, many community programs were suspended and this for some has decreased the amount of time they spent at parks. “The social distancing has been putting a damper on things, like not having yoga
in the park, not having every community activity.” While the group understood why these events weren’t being held they cited them as a reason for visiting parks less frequently.

**Stewardship**

Next the focus group was asked what they believe are the biggest areas of improvement for parks they frequent, specific to maintenance and amenities. They were then asked if they were willing to participate in any volunteer stewardship activities.

When we first asked what would be the biggest changes they would ask for in terms of maintenance and care of parks someone recommended that there be a place to comment provided within a park. One person proposed we “put a suggestion box in the park... because something may pop up when you're there” to which the rest of the group agreed.

Overwhelmingly, the biggest complaint was a lack of available or clean bathrooms, saying that it impacted the way they use parks. “You go there and you have to rush home because there is no bathroom to use.” They further noted that COVID-19 has exacerbated this problem with many bathrooms being closed to limit the spread of germs without a sufficient replacement. They argued that when you take away the bathrooms “at least replace the bathrooms with porta-potties.” They continued saying that the bathrooms that are available are often not being cleaned frequently enough. “Most of the parks need bathrooms daily cared for… or maybe twice a day.” Finally, they noted that some park bathrooms are old and not fully functional and would benefit by a renovation. “They’re so old that they’re not updated and everything doesn’t work.”

Finally there were concerns raised about planting more trees, especially to replace those knocked over in the windstorms. “Resources for the parks are not there. The trees are dying, they’re not maintained. But we have people who are able to volunteer.”

A few said that they would be willing to volunteer their time for a trash clean-up day or similar activity. One recommended that these volunteer opportunities should count toward community service requirements. In general however the group was somewhat apprehensive about committing any time, with their personal mobility restraints or busy lives.

**Equity**

Discussion of equity was not limited to specific questions, but rather was a part of the entire conversation. Most notably was how their accessibility to parks is defined by the UTA bus routes, especially those included in the free fare zone. One barrier to accessing trails was described when a participant stated, “Jordan Trail is kind of still far because there's not really a bus to get there.” The parks these residents frequent are the ones immediately in their neighborhood, even though they do not offer a lot of amenities. When asked how they travel to parks, all responded either through walking or taking transit.

This group did not focus many of their comparisons on west side vs central vs east side parks in Salt Lake City, but they did bring up other parks in the valley. “Like, Saratoga Springs, they got a park like you would not believe it. So why are they doing all these new areas with a fabulous park, but they, but they pay no attention to go back and update these ones that have gotten
neglected.” This quote shows how Salt Lake City residents see how newly developed areas get more attention than those that have long been existing. One of the amenities they would like to see brought to Salt Lake City parks is fitness equipment such as the one found in Murray Park. “Murray has like a workout activity area. And it's divided up in like six different areas, little mini parks in sections as you go, you have workout equipment out there.”

The Palmer Court members who previously experienced homelessness shared anecdotes about their time living in parks or relying on them for basic needs. One woman remembered a program which she described as, “…teaching yoga, and everybody could go and join. And it was like eight different teachers and they let us drink water. That was awesome, because I don't like when they judge homeless people.” The inclusion she felt as someone experiencing homelessness was really important and impactful to her. She added that practicing mindfulness helped limit her medication to manage her mental health, and that this free and inclusive program helped her. Another participant mentioned that her family relied on the grills in parks to cook while living out of their car. These two examples emphasize how programs and amenities aren’t just a nice bonus to parks, but vital for vulnerable populations to survive.

While discussing accessibility, there was interest to provide opportunities for disabled children to use playgrounds. “They’re starting to get disabled play equipment for children. And that’s safer. Liberty Park has it now and Jordan Park has it now. But the other parks, it's either not enough equipment out there. It's just too small. They have the space.” The lack of benches and bathrooms at regular intervals was identified as a challenge to using trails. “The Jordan walkway, there's nothing there. I mean, they have like one bench at the end of the mile. And again, we have the same issue. There's no restroom area. I mean, you go there, and then one second, you have to go, you can't control it. Gotta go find a bush.” This comment showed the importance of all mobility challenges, especially those that aren’t supported by ADA design compliance but rather through the inclusion of elements, such as benches or bathrooms, to make someone’s outdoor activity more comfortable.

**Closure**

The final part of our focus group was a quick recap of the topics discussed throughout the meeting, asking if they wanted to expand upon anything, or to further emphasize its importance.

The first response was to emphasize how important parks are to them. Someone said, “This is our planet and the parks are our basic society. (The trees) they're breathing there. We need the oxygen, we need a clean environment.” The group emphasized many times throughout the meeting how important parks were to them. They are a community center for many of them where they can “be with others that they don't know, and to learn from others and be a part of the community. And the parks are our community. Yeah, we need to care for them.”

They wanted to reiterate how important amenities like bathrooms, barbeques, and picnic tables were to them. “I think parks need more picnic tables like a pavilion”. Furthermore, they asked that there be “alternative plans when things happen, to close things down.” They also asked that relatively safe and socially distanced programs get extended to provide community activities to their community. “Like the swimming thing they cut off a month early. And it's like if it's not cold enough, they should, you know, continue it week by week and go back. Schools in it so it
cuts down. Well, people like to go swimming on the weekends. The weather's so good." Many of them have relied on park amenities, for special events, a relaxing afternoon, or even for a place to live. “And they'll be nice to have something for our future kids.”

**Recommendations**

As part of the first phase in building a comprehensive Public Lands Master Plan, the students of the University of Utah propose the following recommendations. These recommendations are a compilation of the concerns expressed by the members of the Palmer Court Focus Group. We believe that these recommendations can help the Public Lands staff more effectively respond to the more underrepresented members of the public, particularly those in unstable housing arrangements. These recommendations are stated in order of importance based on order of importance as determined by the participants.

Our biggest recommendation is a focus on bathrooms. Overwhelmingly members of the focus group expressed concerns over a lack of bathrooms impacting their decision to use parks. Reopening closed bathrooms, updating outdated bathrooms, and maintaining a frequent cleaning schedule would go a long way to improving the quality of one's stay in parks. Next they would recommend upgrading the number of amenities in parks and better maintaining those amenities. Specific amenities to improve included were the picnic tables, pavilion areas, barbecues, water fountains, and playground equipment. Trees are another area the public lands staff should focus on. As demonstrated by damages brought on by the windstorm, tree maintenance should become more of a priority. While the city focuses on repairing those damages, and replanting trees, they should extend that focus into maintenance and care. One suggestion directly from a focus group member was to install suggestion boxes at parks to receive a constant supply of recommendations specific to each park. Finally, the Public Lands division should work in conjunction with the Utah Transit Authority to determine how the free fare zone can be modified to better serve residents access to more parks and trails.

**Discussion**

As a team of students conducting our first focus group, it was interesting to see what methods we read about and practiced would work or would not work. Overall, our focus group went well and according to what we had planned. We were afraid of not having many participants, but right before the start time we had the full amount (eight) join us. The biggest difficulty we faced was maintaining control of the discussion. We had a few participants that dominated the discussion, leaving others less time to contribute. We tried to alleviate this issue by taking turns going around the room, but still ran into this issue.

Suggestions on what could be done differently would first be more in-depth training for students on how to properly facilitate or moderate a focus group. This was the first experience for us students being in a focus group, let alone facilitating one, so there were some challenges there. I believe with this training we would have been better equipped to handle issues such as some individuals dominating the discussion. Another suggestion would be providing participants with
notebook paper and pens and encourage them to jot down notes. We did not express this opportunity in our meeting and it would have been beneficial for both us as the moderators and the members of the focus group to remember ideas that come up and go more in-depth on certain issues.

As this was our first hosted focus group, our perceptions of focus groups and community engagement techniques have changed. The understanding we had of focus groups was solely from in-class activities and textbook readings. Being able to conduct a focus group and engage with the community first hand definitely put it into a different perspective. Our experience at Palmer Court showed that focus groups cannot always stay structured and stick to script, sometimes the discussion takes over and people get passionate on certain topics. It was interesting to see how our focus group, the other five focus groups and community intercept interviews were all very similar in findings. Many residents across Salt Lake City all had similar views and wanted the same things changed and improved.

There were certain topics brought up in our meeting that were intriguing to discuss. One of these topics was public transportation availability to parks and public spaces. We had not come across this issue before, so it was an engaging conversation that brought up many points we could discuss. Other topics that were brought up that we were not expecting were comments on the homeless in parks and safety concerns. Conducting this meeting at a shelter, we did not expect to see these kinds of comments. It showed that community members of all parts of the city wanted security concerns addressed. The values of the residents we spoke with and the values of residents all across Salt Lake City aligned very similarly.

**Conclusion**

Phase one of Salt Lake City’s Public Lands Master Plan was focused on gaining awareness of the concerns of stakeholders to develop an extensive and detailed plan for the next twenty years of public lands management in Salt Lake City. These focus groups were intended to hear from underrepresented groups in our community; specifically, from our focus group at Palmer Court, who have previously experienced homelessness. There were common themes and topics among focus groups, including: better maintenance of parks and natural areas, increase in restrooms, and better modes of transportation. Incorporating these results and recommendations from our focus groups will provide a more comprehensive Master Plan that embodies the needs of all community members across Salt Lake City.
Appendix A: Flyer

Salt Lake City Public Lands and the University of Utah invites you to a group discussion to get to know your opinion about the free, open all year-round park, trails, and green areas that surround the Palmer Court for the enjoyment of our community.

**When**
- Tuesday, Oct 6, 10-11:30 a.m.
  - For Individuals
- Wednesday, Oct 5, 5-6:30 p.m.
  - For Families

**Where**
At Palmer Court - Mainstreet Community Room

To RSVP: Call or text Ivis Garcia 801.833.4073 (First 8 people at each meeting get the $25, we encourage you to RSVP).
Appendix B: Email Invite

Unfortunately, we did not receive email addresses from our focus group attendees to send an email invite or reminder prior to the focus group. We were able to receive these emails at our meeting, enabling us to send a follow up thank you email. Below is an email invite from Elizabeth Arnold that included the CMP students, Ivis, and the PLD staff:

---

Hello Everyone,

We are looking forward to our upcoming focus group on Wednesday, October 14th @ 5:00pM-6:30M at the Palmer Court Permanent Supportive Housing (999 S Main St, Salt Lake City, UT 84111). PLD staff, Cerise, and Jeneice, please plan to be 15 minutes early. This will give everyone a chance to introduce themselves as well as to know which PLD staff member will be responsible for the stewardship section towards the end of the focus group. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to reach out.

Best,

Elizabeth Arnold
Graduate Assistant, University Neighborhood Partners
University of Utah

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Appendix C: Demographic Survey

1) Which Salt Lake City neighborhood or community do you live in?
   a) Rose Park
   b) Fairpark
   c) Poplar Grove
   d) Glendale
   e) Westpointe
   f) Jordan Meadows
   g) Central City

2) What is your age?
   a) Younger than 18
   b) 18-21
   c) 22-30
   d) 31-40
   e) 41-50
   f) 51-60
   g) 61 or older

3) What is your race/ethnicity?
   a) Black or African American
   b) American Indian or Alaska Native
   c) Asian
   d) Hispanic or Latino (of any race)
   e) Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
   f) White
   g) Prefer not to say

4) What is your household income level?
   a) $0 - $14,999
   b) $15,000 - $24,999
   c) $25,000 - $49,999
   d) $50,000 - $74,999
   e) $75,000 - $100,000
   f) $100,000 - $150,000
   g) $150,000 +

5) What is your gender?
   a) Male
   b) Female
   c) Non-Binary/Third Gender
   d) Prefer not to say
   e) Prefer to self-describe
Appendix D: Text Message Follow Up

As mentioned in Appendix B: Email Invite, we were unable to send an email invite due to no email addresses provided. We were able to secure our participants phone numbers before the focus group and a text message follow up was sent:

Good afternoon,
I am reaching out to confirm the meeting tomorrow Wednesday, October 14th from 5-6:30p.m. at Palmer Court. If you have any issues feel free to call or text. Our conversation will be based on a survey, we will be providing physical copies.

Thank you all for your willingness to provide input.

Best,
CMP Students
Appendix F: Focus Group Guide

Facilitator 1 - Maranda

1. Acts as a project manager of the team making sure everyone is doing individual tasks.
2. Decide on the meeting dates with your team and keep everyone on track by emailing and following up.
3. Collects everyone’s email and phone information. If needed look under management files in Canvas

At the focus group:
1. Make sure everyone has their act together for the focus group.
2. Acts as the host of the meeting (saying hello making people feel welcome and so on).
3. Welcomes everyone (read or memorize the welcome part in the focus group guide).
4. Closes the focus group discussion at the end.
5. Read the whole transcription and edits if needed.

For the powerpoint:
   a. Gives the introduction
   b. Who is part of your team
   c. When and where your focus group took place
   d. Details on the group that you were targeting
   e. Who was at the focus group (number of people, basic demographics.

2. Summary of the given conclusion.
   a. Main themes that came up.
   b. Choose at least three key quotes that exemplify these themes.
   c. Provide at least three recommendations as the conclusion of the presentation.

For the report writing:
3. Uses the transcription to write the closing session of the focus group guide.
4. Host a conversation or coordinates online so that the team could write the discussion session collaboratively.
5. Compiles all the different parts of the report and makes sure everyone delivers them on time.
6. Make sure the report follows all of the guidelines and all the questions are answered.
7. Edits and proofreads the report thoroughly so it seems one person wrote it. The report should have the same voice, grammar style, and so on.
8. Make sure the report follows the Manual of Style (MOS) of the class.
9. Responsible for the look of the report. Although the report should be written in word, make it look as nice as possible

Facilitator 2 - Split

Before the focus groups
1. Call, text and email (yes, all of the above if they are unresponsive) people that RSVP on the phone to make they are coming
2. Make sure the team has everything you need from Professor Garcia and from the rest of the management team.

At the focus group:
3. Makes sure all the team has all of the materials needed for the focus groups (you can record, you have gift cards, etc.)
4. Does the introduction part as described in the focus group guide.
5. Corroborates that people did RSVP and that they completed the demographic survey: [https://forms.gle/rLkGzL1UynWQS6rN8](https://forms.gle/rLkGzL1UynWQS6rN8). If at Palmer House this person might distribute the paper survey. Enters the survey data into the spreadsheet if applicable (Palmer court or just new people that showed up and did not RSVPed).

6. Invites people to complete the online survey if they have not: [https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/8297d3d87a7940e1a9825cf49c9f6715](https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/8297d3d87a7940e1a9825cf49c9f6715) (English), [https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/30370748005648998072e1cd81e4e1e0](https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/30370748005648998072e1cd81e4e1e0) (Spanish).

For the powerpoint:
7. Summary of the introduction
8. Main themes that came up
9. Chose at least three key quotes that exemplify these themes

For the report writing:
10. Writes the methods and participants profile session of the report.
11. Read the transcription to pull some quotes from the introduction session of the focus group guide. In the findings section write the introduction part.
12. In the findings section makes sure that the rest of the team incorporates the participants subject position in order to add details.

Facilitator 3 - Luke

In general:
1. Make sure the conversations are recorded and transcribed. Might coordinate with facilitator #4 if it needs help.
2. Shall use a main recorder and backup as well as take notes during the meeting.
3. Will act as a backup if facilitator 2 cannot accomplish his or her duties.

At the focus group:
4. Leads the stewardship discussion as described in the focus group guide.
5. It is responsible for making sure that the conversation gets recorded.

For the powerpoint:
6. Summary of the stewardship discussion
7. Main themes that came up
8. Chose at least three key quotes that exemplify these themes

For the transcription:
9. Make sure that the audio recording gets transcribed.
10. You will use a transcription tool of your choice such as Zoom (embedded transcriptions) or Sonix.ai, (free trial includes 30 minutes of free transcription only). There are other tools online. Transcribe the audio recording and clean it up (this can be done by one person or several, just depending on how you would like to divide the labor) as there are often mistakes in automatic transcriptions. Include the transcript as an appendix in the report.
11. Works with facilitator #4 if it needs assistance with the transcription.

For the report writing:
12. Writes the stewardship part of the finding’s session.
13. Writes the introduction as well as the conclusion of the report.

Facilitator 4 - Megan

In general:
1. Timekeeper helps the main facilitator to call on people that are not participating, double checks that the facilitators did not miss any of the questions.
2. Will act as a backup if facilitator 3 cannot accomplish his or her duties.

At the focus group:
3. Leads the equity discussion as described in the focus group guide.
4. Helps the facilitators to make sure that people do not dominate conversations and that other talk. For example, it can say something. I am wondering what X thinks about this topic?
5. Make sure that people sign the gift card sheet and get a gift card.
6. Takes pictures and manages the photo release.
7. Invites people to come to the final presentations by giving them the flyer or emailing them later.

For the transcription:
8. Works with facilitator #3 if they need assistance with the transcription.

For the powerpoint:
9. Summary of the equity discussion
10. Main themes that came up
11. Chose at least three key quotes that exemplify these themes

For the report writing:
12. Writes the equity part of the finding’s section.
13. Writes the methods section.
14. Contributes to the recommendations section.
Appendix G: Script

Facilitator #1 – Welcome! – 15 minutes

[Choose a student to be the main facilitator and give the introduction. Welcome people informally as they enter the SLC Public Lands Master focus group. Engage in small chat and answer questions people have. Tell them to fill out the demographic questionnaire, survey in English or Spanish, and ask them to take a look at the Snapshot (upload in zoom, for in person we will have copies).

My name is [name] and I am a master student at the University of Utah in City & Metropolitan Planning. We are University students working with the City Public Lands Divisions to better understand how people might reimagine the future of parks, trails, and natural areas. And now each team member will introduce themselves to you. [Introduction of other students in the team]. Here with us we also have staff from SLC Public Lands [introduction of SLC Public Lands staff].

As you know from our previous communication, you are here to participate in a focus group (or in other words a group discussion) on a specific topic. The topic that we will be discussing today is what you reimagine the future of parks, trails, and natural areas in Salt Lake City. During this focus group, you all will have the opportunity to share your experiences about going to trails, parks, and natural areas in the city. Most importantly we are interested in your thoughts about how to improve them in the next 10 and 20 years.

We do not want to miss anything that you say, that being said this conversation will be audio recorded. The recording will be used to transcribe the conversation and later pull out some quotes for a report we are writing. We will not use your name on the report. We will give you a fake name. We asked you for your demographics previously to know as a collective who came to all the focus groups, we have six in total and about 40 people will be participating. In the report we will use your fake name with some identifiers including possibly your age, gender, race and ethnicity. We will also be taking pictures to put in our report.

If in person: However, we will be taking pictures of your back or hands. We will not take pictures of your face, where others will be able to identify you.

If in Zoom: If you are in Zoom and you would not like pictures of you, make sure to turn off your camera now, so we can take a quick group picture with our screenshot right now.

[For community councils there is NO compensation. If it is not a community council, mention that we will be offering $25 gift cards as a token of our appreciation. We will talk more about this at the end of the meeting].

All that being said, our discussion will last about 1.20 minutes [change if there is less time due to tardiness. If in person, say, please help yourself to the refreshments throughout the meeting].

Are there any questions so far?

Ground Rules
Before starting with the conversation, we would like to set up some guiding principles. Principles that will help us to make the best of our group discussion:

1. Turn off your cell phones.
2. One person speaks at a time.
3. There are no right or wrong answers.
4. Like in Las Vegas, what is said in this room stays in this room.
5. Talk to each other not strictly to the person asking questions.
6. If you feel uncomfortable please let us know.
7. Would someone like to add something?

I. Facilitator #2: Introduction (20 minutes, student led): First, I will ask you about parks, trails, natural areas near home.

1. Icebreaker: Salt Lake City Public Lands Divisions conducted Needs Assessment which found that, having a park within walking distance of home (half a mile or 15-minute walk) was considered extremely important to 57% of Salt Lake City residents surveyed in 2017 and having a park in biking distance of home was extremely important to 38%. We will go in a circle and we will have everyone introduce themselves. In 1 minute, tell me your name where you live in and how important is to you to have near your home a city park, a recreational trail or bike path, a natural area or open space, a street or public space with abundant trees, maybe a city golf course? [I want to hear specifically about the places that you go near your home so in your neighborhood].

2. Satisfaction: Now I would like to know: What do you enjoy about this place? What is great about it? Prompts: Maybe you feel more connected to nature, it's a great place to exercise or meet friends in the neighborhood, it's clean and well taken off.

3. Unsatisfaction: What prevents you or members of your household from spending more time in these outdoor places? Prompt maybe there are no places nearby, places are too crowded, hard to get there, safety or security concerns? Do you avoid, not enjoy, or feel uncomfortable or not welcome in some city parks or natural areas near your home or in your neighborhood? If yes, can you tell me about some of these locations and what could improve your experience?

4. Exit Question: In general, what would make a park, trail, natural areas, golf course near your home better?

II. Facilitator #3: Stewardship (20 minutes, staff and student led). The next topic we will discuss is stewardship.

1. Students will introduce SLC staff so he or she can talk about stewardship (if SLC staff is not available students will assume this role instead).

   o Public Lands Division Staff Member: When it comes to stewardship of our parks, citizens have indicated they would most like to see the following improvements: maintenance and
cleanliness, additional or improved restrooms, lighting or safety features and additional trees. Stewardship activities in public lands can also support more natural habitat protection, like recent efforts at Fife Wetland Preserve (Link #1, Link #2) or at Friends at Fairmont Park which is a group of citizens in Sugar House that advise the city on issues regarding this park as well as organize their own activities (include other examples that you are personally involved with). [Student note: show images, find online, make a collage if you like. Here are some instructions for printing posters for free at the college: http://www.cap.utah.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Plotting-Instructions_01.pdf].

2. Students will ask questions: Are there any areas for improvement for any of the parks, trails or natural areas that are close to you? Prompts:
   o Add or renovate aged restrooms, playgrounds and other amenities
   o Add and service more bins for trash and dog waste
   o Plant more trees in parks and natural areas
   o Incorporate more native, waterwise or pollinator plants in landscaping
   o Acquire additional natural areas to increase size of existing habitat blocks and wildlife corridors
   o Support “Friends of the Parks” groups
   o Develop ranger/ambassador programs
   o Host educational events to build land ethics
   o Support active modes of transportation to reduce carbon footprint (e.g., walking, biking)

3. Students will ask questions and staff will discuss opportunities for volunteering: Are there ways you can imagine yourself contributing to the stewardship of public lands? For example, you can volunteer for clean-up days, tree planting, etc.

III. Facilitator #4: Equity (20 minutes, student led). Now we will discuss topics related to equity.

1. Introduction: SLC is home to over 196,000 people who speak 80 languages representing a broad range of socioeconomic backgrounds and cultural heritages. As in most American cities, there are gaps in the amount and quality of public lands available to different neighborhoods in SLC. Question: When you imagine our public lands 10-20 years from now, what changes can we make to our public lands system to help serve and include all people more equitably?

2. Accessibility: Now, I would like to hear about how accessible are these places to you? Prompts:
   o Are parks, trails and natural areas located in close enough proximity to you?
You feel that they close by walking distance? Do you have to drive? How do you get there (walk, bike, take public transit, carpool)? Has transportation been a challenge in the past when wanting to visit a park, trail or natural areas anywhere in the city?

Are these places accessible for older adults and for people with disabilities? Once you are there, can you move around freely (sidewalks are good, there are handrails if you need them, etc.)?

2. Programming: Unfortunately, Public Lands does not do significant programming. They only do a small number of events to activate parks. Collaborating departments, such as the Arts Council does cultural programming and Public Lands facilitates access to outside groups that also program their spaces. We still want to learn how you think that programming could be more inclusive to different cultural groups? Let’s use as an example the Hispanic or Latinx, Somali or Pacific Islander community but we might extend our thinking to other ethnic groups.

Could translations of Public Land materials (e.g. website, events, signage at parks, trails, etc.) encourage participation and use?

What about park, trail, and natural area locations in neighborhoods where there are people from different cultures?

How about activities, are there some cultural events or programs for families, youth or older adults that would be appealing to you?

What else would be important for you, your family, and others in your community?

IV. Facilitator #1: Closing (15 minutes).

1. We have arrived at the end of our discussion, like at the very beginning we will go in a circle, hearing from each one of you with a closing question: What else should be considered in developing the Public Lands Master Plan for natural areas, urban forests, and parks? [If people do not know what to say, asked them: what resonated the most with you in this conversation? What is the most important thing that the master plan should include? What is the one message that decision makers should hear from this conversation we just had?]

2. I now have a question for the staff of the Public Lands Division: What were some of the most important things that you heard today?

3. Thanks, you all for coming! Your comments will be very valuable in creating the next Public Lands Master Plan. Make sure that you fill out the full survey online so you can sign up to receive updates on the plan and can be engaged in any future activities.

4. I also would like to invite you to our final class presentation to take place online, using the same link and passcode, on Thursday November 19, from 9:10 a.m.-10:30 a.m. We will be sending you a formal invite a few weeks before the event. At this presentation we will be providing a summary of the six focus groups as well as findings from more than 2,000 surveys that have been collected for this project. [Upload to the chat the invite that is in Canvas under this homework].
5. And now [name of student] will have more information for you about the payment. [Please note that Community Councils would not receive payment].

If in person: I have some $25 Walmart cards for you. I will be going around getting your signature for documentation and I will give you the card.

If in Zoom: We will be sending you an online gift card for $25 to Amazon. We have taken attendance and we have double checked we have your email [please do this]. With your email we can just send you this e-card. However, because we have six focus groups we will be sending these after October 15.
Appendix H: Thank You Email

Hello,

I hope this email finds you well. I wanted to personally thank you for your time to provide insights on how to improve our Public Lands in Salt Lake City. Your comments will be very valuable in creating the next Public Lands Master Plan. Please make sure that you fill out the full survey and demographic questionnaire online so you can sign up to receive updates on the plan and can engage in any future activities.

I would also like to personally invite you to our final class presentation that will take place online, using the zoom link and passcode (https://utah.zoom.us/j/98683614967 | Passcode: 591717), on Thursday November 19, from 9:10 a.m.-10:30 a.m. We will be sending you a formal invite a few weeks before the event. At this presentation, we will be providing a summary of the six focus groups as well as findings from more than 2,000 surveys that have been collected for this project.

If you have any direct questions, I would recommend reaching out to Lewis Kogan, Trails and Natural Lands Division Director (lewis.kogan@slcgov.com), Nancy Monteith, Public Lands Landscape Architect (nancy.monteith@slcgov.com), or Kristin Riker, Public Lands Director (kristin.riker@slcgov.com).

Thanks for all you do for our community,

University of Utah Master CMP Program and Salt Lake City’s Public Lands Re-Imagine Nature Team

Maranda Miller
Graduate Student | MCMP
The University of Utah
Appendix I: Final Presentation Flyer

Survey/ Focus Group Findings and Recommendations

Presented by City and Metropolitan Planning Students

Join us on zoom
Passcode: 591717

9:30-10:30AM
November 19, 2020

REIMAGINE NATURE
SLC PUBLIC LANDS MASTER PLAN

City and Metropolitan Planning
Appendix J: Transcript

Maranda: Let's get started everyone. Thank you for coming and giving our focus group. This is for the Salt Lake new public master plan. Reimagining, redesigning our public parks. My name is Maranda, I'm a student, a graduate student at the University of Utah. We are all graduate students here at the University of Utah.

Megan: My name is Megan, also, a graduate student at the University.


Ivis: Thank you so much for being here. They will talk a lot about parks. So we’re excited about the public.

Maranda: Can you guys hear me, okay?

Kelly: No

Ben: Might want to come up a little closer.

Maranda: Better?

Ben: At least a little bit.

Maranda: Um, so as you guys know, this is a focus group. And the topic we'll be covering today is, like I said, the future of parks. And most importantly, we're interested to hear your thoughts on how to improve these parks, and kind of redesign them for the next 10 to 20 years. So we don't want to miss anything that you're saying that's where we have the audio recordings. To help us kind of transcribe the conversation later. Um, we'll be making reports out of those we won't be using your real names so we'll change your names in the report. So, we asked you her demographic previously to know as a collective, his team, the focus group, we have six in total and about 40 people will be participating and the report actually is freaking and much easier. We will be including pictures in our report but we will not see your faces.

And then at the end of the meeting will be our 25 dollar gift cards. To be passed out at the end of the meeting and are there any questions so far?

So before we get started, just some kind of guidelines and principles - just please turn off your cell phones to minimize noise. We will have just one person speaking at a time and there are no right or wrong answers. We just really want to hear your opinions. Like in Las Vegas, what is said in this room stays in this room. Talk to each other strictly to the other person and ask a question. If you feel uncomfortable, please just let us know. And would anybody like to add anything?

Kelly: The one thing I would like to see improving because of the new homeless shelter that ninth street should be now is the new dividing line for the free bus service that comes up to us. Because it is really hard for them on seventh when they end at fifth. The downtown is downtown. But I think downtown areas gone to my ninth to be like the end to the free zone. Which should go all the way up because now that they move them over here, they either have to walk the two blocks, or the bus driver just let them ride for the two blocks. And it's really hard because some
bus drivers are sticklers and some aren't. And being ninth street is where the main Park is. And everybody wants to get up to that part. But they're not in the free zone. And I think Liberty Park should be considered in the free zone because a lot of people don't like to go to Pioneer Park. Liberty is more of a fun park and it needs a little bit more improvement.

Maranda: I think we do have a question on there about accessibility. Thank you for that. That was because that was...

Kelly: Usually the cops like are at the point like if you - you have to go to night Street. They kind of like ignored it. But if you go past ninth, then you get fined. But at ninth is kind of like the block off because right? It's like a gray area. It's like how do you pay for a monthly bus pass? We only got one bus stop and send your travel is in the free zone, right? Because nobody wants to go in the free zone, because they can't pay for parking, and there's no parking in the free zone. And they said, I always had to park at night, and hop on this whole, you know, I get to the next stop, and I'm, I'm cool. And then when we went to the library, they stopped. And I went to one more after I'm always one one stop in and out of the free zone, like, really?

Maranda: Just not big enough.

Kelly: And it's like I have my card, you know, it's like, you know.

Kelly: The shelter moved.

Ben: Well the bus drivers really ought to be all on the same page, whether it be, whether you like it or not. I mean...

Sarah: They are. And it's confusing, because it's only two more blocks. And if you're carrying luggage or another thing, and you're like two blocks from the free zone. I mean, it's kind of like you're already in it, you boarded in the free zone. And now you can only ride up to the two blocks. And now you have to walk to death. And with the kind of weather we have in Utah? It's really hard on the elderly and disabled and everything else. And I've been asking, and I've been calling into their departments, like, what is going to hurt you for an extra two blocks, because it's not their fault that the Resource Center got moved over here. But they shouldn't include that and then think about and they said and they need to expand it for a little bit because of a change occurred. That was there 30 or 50 years ago now that change appeared. So why are you expecting them to put out expense when they don't have the funds for that extra two blocks. And really what more is in a cost the extra blocks, they're already on the bus. I mean, they're already funded through that area. What's an extra two blocks so they can get to this? This is quite area they already moved them from one Park. Now they're coming to another Park. Now they got to drive five or six blocks and a walkie they could have just rode three because that bus is part of the freeway.

Maranda: It's really good point. Ben did you have something you wanted to say?

Ben: Well I was just speaking on the bus drivers themselves they use their own discretion.

Sarah: Yeah, because they don't care. They just got to get that route and it has to go.

Ben: That way there would be consistency among all the bus drivers.
Maranda: Yeah, those are all really good points.

Sarah: We also live in the block where we're part of the relocation people, and we should be able to have free service up to here.

Oh my gosh. Because of the shelter being just right there. I've been there all over this building. Unsupervised they don't they don't even know anybody in this building. They just wander because the gate is open, it's broken or whatever. And I don't know how they sneak in this building. But last night I had a note on my door saying that. I don't know what it was saying something about I'll buy something from you if you have it. Just a random inappropriate activity. Yeah, an appropriate note and it had a phone number and it had a name. When I called it to chew her out she denied. "I don't know what you're talking about." "Of course, I have the wrong number. You don't even know me." But then they also knock on my door all night long. All day long. Wrong number wrong door. Because that gate on State Street is open.

Kelly: They won't repair it. Or the ones that was illegally parking here. They will either change the codes we can park in

Sarah: And they sleep in the parking lots.

Kelly: Parking pass for vehicles.

Sarah: They sleep in the cars that don't belong to them. Sleep behind the trash can they are drugs behind the trash can.

Maranda: Thank you for sharing all of that. There's something going to come up a lot more throughout.

Kelly: Yeah, because we have our even where to borrow cargo bikes and stuff they come in and they still are stuff. We can have a junk there. We don't even have like storage bins for things that you would have in a normal place to store away and they're using our parking space for their personal storage. But we don't have a place to like to lock our bikes up to be safe to have them. We have to cram them into our rooms. And then it's like saying it's crowded as like well we're gonna put our stuff. I mean, I got in trouble last week for saying this was a hotel like I said, well, it originally was zoned and house as a hotel. And they didn't do very many modifications to change that. So it's a hotel, residence. And everybody gets us confused and they use it as a mental distraction. I'm like, Well, I was here in the 90s, when it was a hotel. So in my mind, it's still a hotel system. Because

Sarah: There's no way it says that it's a hotel. There's no light that says that.

Kelly: I know. No, but is it is still the same structure. Only thing, we don't have maid servers, we don't have this kind of thing and as long term housing, but the rooms were designed for you to stay for about no more than two weeks. And then in the regular home, you would have enough stuff that will sustain you for like two years, we don't have the space to stay in a regular home as two years we're waiting to go. Some people are stuck here for 10 years because of the rent value and utility value together. They can't afford both, or they don't have the safety net that they had here, this company. And you leave this, that's great. Other issues versus going on to your own.
And then you're gonna be back through and come back right back to the cycle again. And it's like, there's no safety net.

Kelly: To get settled in here, they didn't bother to do it already.

Ben: Security needs to take care of all of these issues. Y'all brought up, security does.

Kelly: They don't. I'm harassed everyday.

Ben: Well that's what I'm talking about. It all points in that direction and security.

Ivis: We need to talk more about the parks

Maranda: So that stuff is all really important concerns.

Sarah: Oh, yeah, we want to have a place to secure our bikes and our motorbikes or outdoor activities. Yeah.

Megan: So let's City Public Lands conducted a needs assessment and found that having a park within walking distance, which is about 15 minutes away, considered extremely important to 57% of Salt Lake City residents surveyed in 2017. And Park and biking distance was extremely important to about 30%.

So if everyone can introduce yourselves and tell me your name, where you live, how important it is to have a nearby city park for a recreational trailer bike path for natural areas or open space.

Kathy: Oh, yeah, my name is Kathy. Um, I don't know there's a park close to here between those and Maverick or whatever. Um, so there's a bus, you know, by the blue line busses I don't know if there are any swings in there. I don't know what it's called. Um, you know what kind of little hill and stuff.

Sarah: There, there's one about a block and a half away, down to the west temple. And they had half of it.

Kathy: And yesterday, I was trying to take the bus back. UTA bus back. And anyway, I was going. It was nine o'clock at night. And I had a couple people follow me or whatever. And it would be awesome if there was trees and stuff. I appreciate parks because when you're homeless I was living in them. I have a brother who is doing too much in Liberty Park and I love Liberty Park. Because it's beautiful and there's kids. You know, it's so sweet because it's ropes and stuff. I want to get back to swimming and riding a bike. It would be awesome if they had that park maybe a little bit closer here but I mean...

Megan: It has fewer amenities?

Kathy: Yeah, cuz I sometimes go to church called Gospel Grace Church up by Liberty Park, because my mormon church isn't open yet. Just because I want to be around people. You know what I mean? Like, you know what I mean?

Megan: Thank you.
Kelly: Yeah, they have a little park right in the corner, but they build around it and they took all the amenities with one little section, but there's nowhere like if you want to have a lunch and to eat and then they they it's like dipped, so it's not like handicap accessible. So it's kind of like a little abandoned park but it's in walking distance, a lot of the little kids go there. Okay, they want to go. We have our own playground. Yeah, but during Covid we were cut out. And they said one to give, And they still haven't returned 80% of our services back.

Megan: Oh, wow. Would you like to introduce yourself?

Elinor: I'm Elinor.

Ivis: If you guys would introduce yourself then say something about parks that is nearby

Elinor: Yeah. There are some nice parks here. Me and my family used to go to the parks everyday. My kids could play. There's many that have barbecues because I know we want to cook him in the shelter you can't cook. And we want to be comfortable cooking everywhere... And they don't have water pumps either.

Kelly: I love Jordan Park and they did a total remodel of the Veterans Center. They put a new, clean environment. Jordan, it's the 78 south and Redwood road area. And if they have barbecue and everything out there, they have a whole... You can rent the thing out for parties. I mean, some of the parks they have like a church fun run. I mean, if we didn't have this room here, we couldn't afford to go and have birthday parties anywhere. Yeah. Especially winter time. Exactly.

Megan: Just introduce yourself.

Mandy: Hi, I'm Mandy. Yeah, like going to Liberty Park. My dad actually worked for the parks department. 65 years. And he also did the peace gardens himself. He actually built like, you know, all of it out, like what they did was map it out. He was a Mormon. Oh, wow. He worked under like, John Lemon. And he's still up there. And his crew did the whole parks department. And everything. And also, the parks department was also in charge of Hogle zoo. When that way one point that they the parks own Hogle Zoo, because Hogle Zoo who was going to sell it and then it became the city's and then the whole Hogles like bought it back again. You know, so they were in charge of that. And so, yeah, so I kind of know like a lot about the parks. Yeah, it was my dad, you know, did all the parks and stuff but everything

Megan: Its great that he shared that with you.

Kelly: Yeah, I like that. They donated the broken trees to the zoo.

Megan: Okay. I didn't know that.

Mandy: Why did they do that?

Kelly: Help out the animals. They needed play things.

Ben: They used it and they eat it.

Mandy: Ohh they eat the leaves and stuff?

Ben: The elephants eat the bark off the logs, of the tree
Kelly: ??? play and they lift them up and toss them and whatever,

Ben: They want the bark. They take the bark right off the tree.

Kelly: They lay on them and they add it to their environment. I don't know, you know, the monkeys like out there and different things that giraffes do is just to give them another more tangible.

Mandy: I didn't even know that

Megan: Would you like to introduce yourself? Yeah,

Kelly: I'm Kelly. I've been in child development and nursing for a lot of my time. So we have done a lot of Park trips with the kids. So I'm over my tender and we like to go different places and me relocating from an out of state. This is my second nature and California we always are at a park lake or that's our weekend routine. If we're doing work. We had the weather and or the beach or we had all the toys to enjoy it. I have hiked. I have rode my bike 127 miles on several donation trips and not having the mobility anymore, it's kind of hard. And just going to the park area is more healing and want to be somewhere where it's nice and well tamed, and maintained and having the amenities available. Because when you're not at home, there's things you need, like restrooms and things like that, and being there but having them closed down, you know, just it has been sad the last six months not being able to go swing or hang out. And it's been like, it's just a park. I go, I go 10 miles away from here. They're open, normal. I mean, they cleaned it up and they made it more. Social distancing and more environmental as they got to know to use what composite and materials that are acceptable. But I thought that closing the parks down for the kids to play and I was like, You took the school away, you took the education away, you took everything away, and we can't be locked up in our house. And some of our homes don't have Park-like equipment, just go and get our exercises and it's just like, very sad to lose that. You know that ability. It's really been impossible.

Megan: Thank you for sharing that. Kelly, would you like to introduce yourself?

Sarah: Oh, I'm Anna.

Megan: Anna, do you mind writing that down?

Sarah: And I have no interest in any of this.

Megan: No interest in parks. Okay, interesting.

Sarah: I don't have an interest in filling that out. But I did. I just put zero.

Megan: Okay. Thank you for sharing that.

Ivis Garcia: So for the surveys, the most important thing is the back, you get the demographic data.

Megan: Would you like to introduce yourself?

Ben: Sure, my name is Ben. I'm a divorced man and I worked for the parks for the summer. Working for the day services, you would have to work the 7-1 for the clergyman.
Every year there's been a lot ???

They closed the parks because of the weather temperatures, they closed the bathrooms to blow out the water so that the water clears up. I was doing that over at Memory Grove Park ???

Maybe they should put the porta-potties there when they close the bathrooms

I understand about them shutting down the other bathrooms, the main bathrooms due to the water. But maybe they could put the porta-potties there so that people can still have access.

Megan: That's a great point. Thanks for sharing that.

So a lot of you already touched on this when you shared what parks mean to you. But if there's anything else you'd like to say about what you enjoy about this place, what's great about it, and by this place I mean the parks around you. Does anyone have anything else to add on that front

Kelly: Seeing people you don't know.

Megan: Seeing people you don't know.

Kelly: You know, meet new families.

Ben: The grounds people that are there to do the work to cut the grass keep it looking beautiful. They get involved and work hard at it. The republic?

Kelly: They don't get praised for what they were doing.

Elinor: And all the beautiful plants at the centennial gardens. And how they have all different, and they're pretty to look at. I like all the plants and trees, they should do more.

Kathy: I was gonna say, I don't know if any of you knew Adventure Park in West Valley. When they rebuilt ?? high a few years ago. There was a rocket ship thing. They took out our park and swimming pool. Why do you take out ??? stuff? You know what I mean? Amazing. I'm 41 but we all got to play. You know what I mean? You know when I was homeless I stayed in ??? park with a bunch of kids, while their parents were sleeping or whatever. I'm not bad, That's not what I mean. ???

Megan: Thank you for sharing that. Is there anything that prevents you or your or other members in your family from spending more time in these other places.

Sarah:I just feel like there's a lot of people like a lot of...

Megan: Too crowded?

Ben: I like to spend time out there, you know, the bike trails.

Megan: Yeah, At Memory Grove?

Ben: Yes.

Megan: You ever avoid, not enjoy, or feel comfortable or not welcome at any city parks?
Sarah: Yeah, well, sometimes I do. Notice one bad element was like there's one person that goes out there and they feed the homeless, but also there is criminal activity that is hidden in between, and it's not a safe environment. And they try to crack down but it's, you know, it's there. And you have a feeling of unsafe meanness. And it's just like a Hangout, especially drinking in the park or things like that. They don't want to see

Ben: Especially the bathrooms.

Kelly: Right now even they have the porta potties out but they have the bathroom locked cuz of Covid. But it's like you know, this last six months has been a real like a downer going to the parks. Like you, want to go and we're all scared to be around anybody. And I've held our recovery meeting for last six months out in the parks. And now it's like the weather's declined. Where are we going to go now for the next six months. And it's like, the social distancing has been putting a damper on things and not having like the yoga in the park, not every the community activities. And we used to have the camaraderie it and it's just like, it's like dying there. And it's like, we can't go to what we had. I mean, I was even shocked that the fair got put together. But it was like this was it.

Megan: That's a good perspective.

Kelly: I mean, our movies in the park, we lost so much. Uses, just our workouts in the park and going to see the birds and feeding our birds and then just not having that social interaction right now is then really sad. I'm sorry, it's been bugging everybody else too. And it's like they don't know where to go or not go. And everybody's just like, scared of you.

Sarah: I've always just the park right here, I always just walk over there. Yeah, walk around to get my exercise and walk home. I never think to criticize it. I never thought that thought about it. I never had improvements about it. I just want there and I appreciate what's there. I accept what's there. I don't think anything of it. I just walk around it. And I just came home. And I'm grateful. I don't think oh, they need this, this. They're doing what they're doing. I'm doing what they're doing. They're minding their own business, I might be my own business and I gotta pee so I come home. And that's it. There's nothing to criticize. There's nothing to cry about, just accept what the city has given you. You know, there's no complaints. There's no crying

Megan: You know they are just interested in feedback

We're here to hear what you...

We know you don't have criticism of you know, a great thing. I love hearing that. But we also want to hear from you.

Kelly: But you have to hurry home because there's no bathroom to use.

Ivis: If we can change to the next topic.

Megan: Okay

Ivis: Because it's like, Stewardship.
Megan: Yeah, I think we're okay. All right. So Luke is going to talk about stewardship in the Parks.

Luke: And this is along the same lines of what we've been already talking about. But we want to get some specific feedback about what the city should be doing better, especially in terms of maintenance, ideas, or maybe they need a I don't know, these are just a couple ideas, but you can expound upon whatever you like. restrooms, trash cleanup, lighting and safety concerns, or trees, flowers, that type of thing. Is there anything that you think the city should be focused on in the future of their development in terms of parks

Kelly: More patrol in the parks.

Ben: That I would go along with what Sarah mentioned. And we might not even have any ideas but, put a suggestion box in the park. Just something that comes along then. I might not even think of anything right now. But put that in these boxes because something may pop up when you're there. You know food for thought

Kelly: And then you know who to contact?

Ben: Yeah. So because my guy I agree with Sarah it is what it is right now, it's great. But maybe there's a tree does needs to be taken out, maybe put a tree there to give a ???. Well that's all I got.

Luke: Sarah anything to say?

Sarah: No.

Luke: Just thinking about going around the circle. Kelly?

Kelly: Just more accessibility. So some parks I mean, don't have sufficient parking.

Luke: Parking? Do you want to focus on car parking or bus access or what types of accessibility?

Kelly: I just like some parks don't have enough parking and don't have enough for everybody to use so how to get there. I mean, it's just there's some accessibility issues. It's not there, there's some parks that's been taken away, they didn't come back and to improve on it, what they took away from it. I just went over here has a dip going in. And then all we have is a little place to play but the parents don't have anywhere to sit down and you'll have enough shade there's like a shade spot right here and the rest of the grass is like turning yellow. You know, it's not enough watering for the thing and it's not secure. There's no designed that what this area is used for. It's just an empty hole. And it's like it needs more like if this is going to be a baseball area or gonna be a soccer area or is this going to be you can put up your badminton and play volleyball or something. There's nothing there. There's no table There's nothing to use. I mean, this is a neighborhood park that's pretty much wasted and it needs it needs really some TLC.


Kelly: I mean, there's you go there. And so you got to rush home and there is no bathroom to use.
It's just a block from us. You go right by the church thing and then make a left and another block or two, and it's just right, an apartment complex. It's like...

Sarah: Oh, okay, yeah!

Kelly: They took half the park away to build housing units.

Sarah: That's right. I go there too!

Kelly: And there's not even a bike path around it. There's not even sand pens there's nothing for the kids, but one little play structure. And it's just like, it's like, it looks like it belongs to the apartments. It's not like a community park.

They eat out there, but they had to bring their own stuff. And like, I mean, you gotta walk by the ballpark. A lot of people from the ballpark park there because they don't have enough parking. And it's always, it's always crowded. And it's like, it's like, I would like to go there. I was like, if I'm gonna go to the park, I'd rather avoid that one and go to liberty. If I had the choice. I mean, that one just like, it turns me off.

Luke: Yeah, not enough amenities. And not enough parking.

Sarah: Yeah that park really went downhill. There's no place I used to walk around in it, but now it's all uneven.


Kelly: That park is gone.

Ben: Bad bathrooms, accessible pal. It was a good bathroom, and then at least replace them with porta potties. Because that's when bad people come in, or may not really come in, but then that's what people may look bad. No good. Because they have used that. Take care of your bladder.

Kelly: And then if there's a kid playing. They're potty training at that age.

Ben: That is the responsibility of the city to see that that gets done because even even the right kind of people are gonna have to use a restroom somewhere and they don't want to go behind a tree. You know, that's pretty embarrassing, you know?

And you know, as I'm getting up there, I don't want to be boxed in. But I'm sharing. I felt like I was parachuted down that.

Luke: These are good concerns. Continue with Mandy, do you have anything to add into this?

Mandy: I did put like renovation like the restrooms. Like I said, when I went like the porta potties, they don't really keep them up, especially like the fence, you know, the Friday, Saturday and Sundays. They don't, they don't keep them up. And I think most all the parks need, you know, bathroom run daily, daily care, daily, like somebody hired just go in maybe twice, you know, two times a day, at least,

Luke: Especially with the increased volume.
Mandy: Increase line and bring more public to apart. Like I said, you need to go to the bathroom sometime, when you're there. And if you're there, two to three hours, and you're picnicking or something, you know, there needs to be upkeep. And like Kelly pointed out, like the diaper that you don't want to, you know, change the baby's diaper outside on the lawn, which I had before. But you know what I mean? Like, yeah, you don't want to if there's like a, just a changing, like...

Kelly: You want to be able to wash your hands and stuff like that. And some parks I've gone to in Rose Park, they're there, but they're so old, that they're not updated, and everything doesn't work. I mean, it's just like...

Ben: Given more attention.

Kelly: Yeah, like being in California, we everything has been graffitied. And it says, it just you know, the upgrade is not there and they rent it out for parties. But it's like, here's this section is where everybody's at, but you gotta walk about 10 minutes over to the bathroom. And if you're going trips back and forth in having yourself here and how can you watch yourself and go to the bathroom when you're not having anywhere in the area that the park is that this accessibility is on the other side of the building?

Mandy: That's really rent porta potties for your party.

Kelly: Well, they don't say they can bring it in. I mean, they have like sports, activities they can have in their groups and things like that. But there's nothing there to use. I mean, they don't have stands or they want to bring in taco stands or they want to bring hotdog stands or something like that, you know that they don't have the ability to feed people to have that kind of stuff, they have the facility to host something like that. But nothing is done. We do it in California, but out here, there, it just like, it feels like they have 50% of the project. And they don't know how to get to the other 50%. They're working at it, but we're still a little behind.

Ben: Yeah, that's a good point. In different scenarios can pop up, like you are saying.

Kelly: You're offering something and then it's not there. I mean, it comes out of the housing and their taxes, insurance budget. And when you want to use something like that, it's not being used, it's not maximizing what it's for. And it's just like, just just like, well, if I'm gonna go through all that problem to go, I might as well just stay home. And it's like, it just sits there empty is like a quiet places. I mean, they got trails, they got fishing areas, they got places where you can actually fish and, and there's a lot of stuff to Utah offered and this exibility can't get there. And what people that takes the bus and stuff, they can get up to the canyons, they don't have a bus right up there, that have a bus day to drop this up, and have a picnic for people that wants to go up there but can't. Then have to find a way to get up there on your own your own transportation, and there's no public transportation to get to those exciting nice places you get to not not enjoy them so much. And I have to wait for somebody to take you.

Ben: It would be terrific if they could include that.

Luke: Accessibility is a, it's a big concern. And we're going to be touching on that a bit more with the next presenter, but I wanted to continue for the group if anybody has anything... What was that? Lights, yeah. Lights for safety and comfort walking around. Nice. Anybody else over here?
Elinor: Water faucets and restrooms


Either of you two? Anything from your dad about what this he focused on about maintenance?

Kathy: Bathrooms in parks and safety and...


So the city could be looking for people to potentially volunteer in some types of projects. Would any of you see yourselves as willing to volunteer?

Ben: Sure.

Luke: Yeah. Any particular project?

Ben: Can you do community service also?


Ben: Is that so?

Luke: Yeah, we're specifically kind of talking about like trash cleanup days or tree planting activities. Yes.

Ben: Do that. And then be counted for community service?

Luke: I'm not sure.

Kelly: Does it say here anywhere?

Luke: It doesn't say. I'm not sure if that will count toward any...

Ben: I would inquire about that then.


Ben: It's a valid point though isn't it?

Kelly: The larger parks need more community activities.


Mandy: I would be willing to participate.


Yeah, yeah, it would be. It'd be good to encourage people who have some community service requirements. Yeah. Yeah, I have no idea what they're doing. But that's a good point.

Ben: Thank you.
Megan: Okay, so we're going to talk about equity now, um, Salt Lake City is home to almost 200,000 people with many different backgrounds. There's like 80 languages spoken here and a broad range of socio-economic and cultural heritages.

As in most American cities, there's gaps in the amount and quality of public lands available to different neighborhoods. When you picture our public lands 10 to 20 years in the future, are there any changes you would like to see to include people more equitably?

Start off with that?

Ben: What do you mean by that? Is of the government of the city? There's a lot of land, should we allow that as public?

Megan: Sorry what was that?

Ben: Is it because of the less land that we have? Or should we have more they're available?

Megan: Well, this is more about like the distribution, do it throughout different neighborhoods, maybe language barriers, things like that. If you see any issues with that,

Kelly: Yeah, very important. fair condition. I've, I've been here 10 years, and I see about a 10% improvement. And I show that, you know, there's people here wanting to work and their parks need some help. They're growing new homes and everything else. But our parks are rundown, they look sad. And it's like, it's Utah has been here for a long time. And it's been redeveloped over the last 200 years. But the resources for the parks are not there, the trees are dying, or they're not maintained or planting new flowers and the trees. And it's like they're overwhelmed. But we got people that are able to volunteer and we got some stuff donated to them and are willing to go out there and adopt the park and get it, get it going. And they'll be nice to have something for our future kids.

Megan: So I know Kelly you touched upon this a lot. So accessibility...

Kelly: They're starting to get disabled by equipment for children. And that's safer. Liberty part has it now and Jordan Park has it now. But the other parks, it's either not enough equipment out there. It's just too small. They have the space. But I know it costs about $30,000 to upgrade a park just to have this flexibility there but it's not like Rosa Park is the one that needs help alot too. The one on Redwood road and it's right off of North Temple. And there's like a trailer park right there. There's a an ??? right there. So visitors, coming, they want to come and don't have the things that the visitor Park has. And they go over there and it's like there's nothing to do. Yeah, I mean a lot of the parks used to host the movies in the park, they host activities in the park. And they have the equipment out there to do stuff. But we go out there and when it's hot and I say we've got to go now because there's nothing to eat, there's nothing to prepare. I mean they got a little, two little party areas but the equipment isn't there you can't wash your hand there's not a seat to do anything to bring your guests and stuff. And it's just not fun to just sit there and you're in a hot thing and they need more like shelter for the sun do for the parents didn't watch the kids. And then when it gets too hot, it isn't. But then they put out these new umbrellas to cool the thing down because they're part of the day is too hot to use it. Like when the winter comes. We can't go out there because it's not. I mean, they have been designed like an indoor outdoor park that we
can use. I mean, we have the community centers. You can swim during the winter and do activities indoors, but it's you know, they have the space and it's not being utilized.

Ben: I agree with you, they're there and like Saratoga Springs, they got a park like you would not believe it. So why are they doing all these new areas with a fabulous Park. But they, but they pay no attention go back and update these ones that have gotten neglected. Right?

Kelly: Sugarhouse is getting a major remodel and it looks amazing. They re-cleaned the duck area and they put a whole new path and they do a lot of community events up there. And unfortunately the train got stuck in the middle that they actually are. UTA is actually trying to make another line on the other side of it. They can't connect it because there's no connection between there there's no nobody will give a right of way. And it costs a lot of money. They made the train and I was like, that was kind of like a wasted train when they got the bus to do the same thing. You know?

Elinor: More things for the kids to play

Kelly: More toys.

Elinor: More activities. More people from more different places like...

Megan: Yeah, just so everyone from different backgrounds.

Kelly: They have a workout

Megan: Utilize you know the same amenities.

Elinor: So if they have more people...

Megan: Interested in more parks...

Kelly: Murry, Murray has like a workout activity area. And it's divided up in like six different areas, little mini barks in sections as you go you have workout equipment out there.

Elinor: More barbecues or more. There's no one water faucets around.

Megan: Those seem to be popular.

Do you find that parks, trails, and natural areas are located close enough to you?

Kelly: No.

Megan: This, everyone sort of agree with that.

Mandy: There's no trails around us, but there's a park

Megan: Yeah.

Kelly: Jordan Trail is kind of still far because there's not really a bus to get there, it's the number nine. But it goes a long way. It goes, it goes to North Salt Lake all the way into Jordan. It's quite long. A lot of people like to ride it all the way through. I mean, that's about the best riding area, but there was only one. I mean, compared to others. I mean, a lot of people don't like to write up
to Emigration [Canyon]. And we have a lot of college students they want to get away and just relax and blow off steam. We're in a very big college town. We got three or four colleges crammed in here. And we have multi-diverse culture in this state. That you know, there's so much to do.

Megan: For sure. Thank you. Um, so if you feel like they're not close enough to walk to how do you get there? Do you use public transit? Do you carpool? Do you bike?

Sarah: Public transit or I walk.

Megan: You walk. Walk or public transit? Uh huh. Same with you, Mandy?

Mandy: Yeah,

Megan: Yeah. Me too. And do you feel like these places are accessible for older adults or for people with disabilities? Like once you get there, do you feel like you can move around freely with good sidewalks and handrails?

Kelly: No.

Megan: No. Is there any park in particular?

Kelly: The Jordan walkway, there's nothing there. I mean, they have like one bench at the end of the mile. And again, we have the same issue. There's no restroom area. I mean, you go there, and then one second, you have to go, you can't control it. Gotta go find a bush.

Megan: And I know this has been mentioned a lot. So I will say unfortunately, public lands does not do significant programming. They only do a small number of events to activate parks. Collaborating collaborating departments, such as the arts county council, does cultural programming and public lands facilitate access to outside groups that also program their spaces? But how do you think that programming can be more inclusive to different cultural groups?

Um, and how can we extend this thinking to you know, other other groups that might not necessarily utilize the collaboration with the public lands right now.

I don't know if anyone's thought about this, that you're involved with societies that you feel like don't have don't utilize the park space for programming.

Kathy: Like yoga and stuff?

Megan: Yoga can be a really good example of any sort of event in a park.

Kathy: Um I sometimes visit Memory Grove Park up by the capital, and I walked in there and I saw ??? Milton from the employment center. Teaching yoga, and everybody could go and join. And it was like eight different teachers and they let us drink water. That was awesome, because I don't like when they judge homeless people, you know, I have a lot of a show about doing love yoga meditation. So I'm trying to be on zero meditation, you know, from a mental illness and stuff. But I wish they did yoga here.

Maranda: You wish they did more of that?
Kathy: I used to do Tai Chi with some of the homeless people that I never knew, Tai Chi, I don't know, you don't mean? Okay.

Megan: There's lots of different activities that you might feel inclined to participate in. Um, do you think that translations on public land materials, such as on their website, or signage at the parks, could encourage participation and use from other groups? Yeah. Okay.

Kelly: Cultural events,

Megan: And cultural events. Yeah.

Okay, and so, Kathy said that yoga would be appealing to her. Are there any other programs for families, youth or older adults that could be appealing that you'd like to say?

Kelly: Well, we have the breakup of the Girl Scout and the Boy Scouts, and they go there and they have their learning experience, you know, what I mean, some big parks are large enough they can host emergency camp out weekend or campout night. They can't always get to the large overnight campout locations because sometimes it's a four or five hour drive. And it's like, okay, we're gonna have a city activity like the kids can do their mini camp out if they have like a bathroom to use and a place to cook stuff. And they can go in and have a night out at the park. And see what comes out in the night and she wears this girl was in versus wild animals come. And they're still safe enough, you know, they control it, are blocked off an area and see that the kids can have more, more experience and see the stars and not have to like leave our home area to have a wild night. Behind capital they have a little area and they can require requested overnight. And it's enclosed. It's in a gated area for safety issues. They have nice bathrooms, and facility but it's like, it's very hard to arrange an out area trip because parents don't want the kids traveling very far. And we have the resources here to use that. And I don't see anybody doing it. For sure. Especially with little kids. You know, they're not quite ready for a bonfire yet. And a little bonfire and a little it'd be nice for them to be able to, to experience, to camp out at a small age to put it in your backyard. For sure. And a lot of people don't have a backyard.

Megan: That's great. Thank you for that. Kelly. Um, is there any other input on that question that someone would like to ask? What number is it? Um, I don't think it is a number on your sheet. Um, so we were talking about programming cultural events or programs that anyone you know, youth, older adults, families, any sort of groups may find appealing. You like that idea?

Ben: Absolutely.

Megan: Is there anything else?

Kathy: I remember, I think it was like the cultures center around West Valley. They have a lot of people like Asian people, Native Americans and stuff and I don't know if you've seen America's Got Talent, but they do that thing at carnivals and stuff. Like they fall from stuff. You know what I'm talking about? I was thinking like somewhere at Pioneer Park or you know what I mean?

Megan: Yeah, like an event like to watch.

Kathy: And I went to a farmers market at Pioneer Park the other day and I was like, Where are the bubble things? You know what I mean? And the balloon animal person? So we had a health
fair here a few weeks ago on the playground here. And there was an 18 year old kid that I met. And he made me a balloon animal with a little heart on mine. And I was like "You ever do it at Pioneer Park? And can I give you a dollar for tip?" And he's like "nope." They probably don't you know yeah. That's what makes me happy and I didn't see a lot of people. But I don't know if any of you've heard of the burrito people I call them. They give out free burritos in between Ogden and Salt Lake. We've got burritos. And I met the burrito guy and I said, you guys are the ones who provide it for them to give to the homeless. When I was homeless one time in Pioneer Park, there were five guys from Kaysville. They gave me something, some gloves with their personal thing. And down by the Williams Center on Christmas day last year, people showed up and get us all that thing. And there was a smell that had four babies adopting them all, and they said, I said, "Have you heard of the burrito people". They said "no." And I said "it's people give you burritos and you hand them out to the homeless." They said "we want to know about that." Because they gave all of us beanies. And none of their kids and the parents and dogs didn't have any beanies for them. I've been handed a $10 gift card, McDonald's and I was able to send it to my son in Texas. Christmas. That's what we need to think of something. You know. Please give
to people on the streets, you know,

Kelly: More advertising?

Megan: Oh, no, no, that's really great to hear

Kelly: More advertising there. We don't know what's going to happen.

Maranda: And you'd like to hear about it more?

Kelly: Yeah. Because like in the news. Like they had an activity and was like, gee why did they tell us like it already happened when they in the morning this event gonna be coming up. In the next seven days. Even the news tells us the day of or it just happened - it was a great day. Right. But I didn't know that was happening today.

Megan: Yeah, some more transparency when things are being planned so that you can attend.

Kelly: Yeah, and tell us afterwards is like...

Ben:Where's Big Brother when you need him?

Kelly: Exactly. It was like you advertised to go to spook galleys. And it was like I didn't even know until I drove by, by chance two days before, it's like all the pairs coming. They're gonna do it. And I said, I didn't hear anything about it. They were trying to be quiet about it. I didn't see the big billboards and the fair is coming. And they were like, they didn't know until two weeks ahead of time, that they got the okay. It was like we were all like, sad and like normal things that normally happens when ????. You know, the sci fi convention, anywhere that people congregate together. Everything is shut down, the food people are closed. And then just just for two or three weeks, they tried to shut down Main Street to get people to come back to the businesses and they said, well, the weather's still kind of cool right now it hasn't snowed yet. Why didn't they extend it another two or three weeks until the snow came? And it's like they cut it off a little bit early. And like even with, like the swimming thing they cut off a month early. And it's like if it's not cold enough, they should, you know, continue it week by week and go back. Schools in it so it cuts down. Well, people like to go swimming on the weekends. The weather's so good. I mean,
you're closing our stuff up too soon. I mean, they need to adjust it to what's happening outside, right. And like, and I have even noticed if it was too cold, but we like to go to the parks. They said the bathrooms were too cold to operate. Well, why didn't they put in biodegradable bathrooms, that we don't have to deal with being closed in the wintertime?

Megan: That's great input. Thank you for that. Is there anything else that you'd like to share that's important to you, your family or your community? About public plans?

No, I think we got some really great feedback from you all. Thank you so much for sharing that.

Maranda: We've reached the end. Great job guys. And so now just kind of a closing part of the discussion. I just want to go around. Just kind of hear any last thoughts you have about building our master plan? Any comments came up during discussion that you want to address again or add on? Just so you kind of get everybody's final thoughts. Okay, would you like to go first?

Rachel: I think you're doing a great job to get all the good, all the input from all those places you can post sorry purposes. Yeah, we all need to do it or bit.

Maranda: Great. Thank you.

Sarah: Well, thanks for bringing awareness to the parks because I've never considered talking about parks.

Maranda: Yeah, great. Thanks, Kelly?

Kelly: It's the same thing. This is our planet and the parks are our basic society. They're breathing there. We need the oxygen, we need a clean environment, a peaceful area to reflect, maybe somebody had a bad day and or lost somebody. And have somewhere to go to? Yeah, to reflect in a place safe for a child to play and, and to be with others that they don't know, and to learn from others and be a part of the community. And the parks are our community. We need to care for them.

Maranda: Yeah. Yeah, I think that's a big part of it. And that's why we really wanted to talk to everybody, but we really want to make it a stronger community around parks, and make them welcoming for everybody.

Kelly: Because Utah is really community oriented, they worry for safeties, and a lot of them. I feel like there's no safe place to cross. Yeah, I mean, and like Liberty they have is going one way around, and they got both ways around. And it's just like, when the trees came down, it was like, sad for them. Yeah. And there's like, we lost all these big trees. And we lost half of our users in the park. And we didn't know what was going on. And like we even had our prey that usually goes around there. And people like to camp out. And it's just, you know, we go there and my kid is so is "this is my duck". And follow the ducks and seeing the babies born and go to see the bird Aviary and ride the little Ferris round. So it's like our little mini fair when the fair wasn't here. Yeah. And there's no need for more activities like that in that area. I mean, they don't even have a community service there. And they got space for it. And so it's like, you know, it's just is this sad to see them deteriorating?
Maranda: Oh, thank you for your comments. And yeah, we'll definitely consider that Kelly are great.

Mandy: Well, like the other day when we went to sugarhouse Park first, we were looking for a place to eat because of COVID. I think parks need more picnic tables like a pavilion when somebody goes, Okay, well, we're having a party at the pavilion or ???, and then you drive around, and maybe there might be two or three spots. And now if you know, people, and then so is it then we love sugarhouse Park, and then we you know, we went, you know, to Jordan Park, you know, and then you know, we found a spot but still, you know, just like the going around, and that's where it's scarf is picnic areas. Okay.

Maranda: Yeah. Yeah. That's a good one. Thank you.

Mandy: I think its a great idea what you guys are doing.

Maranda: Any other thoughts or concerns?

Mandy: Awesome.

Kelly: Alternative plans when things happen to when close things down. Uses I mean, it's just like they would be prepared for other problems.

Maranda: And then I know surely that you mentioned the kind of communication there is a spot on the survey to add your email. So that's kind of a good option to kind of stay informed and know about what's happening to the park and events that would be going on. So don't add your email there. It should be on like the second to last page page. That's a good spot to add that. And so I'll go around and pass all the gift cards and I'll collect your surveys at the same time. The most important thing to be filled out with you just need the demographics on the back if you could at least fill that part out.

Sarah: Demographics?

Maranda: Like the last few pages are the most important part.
Focus Group Report: Team #5
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction                                      3

Page | 1
INTRODUCTION

As part of the first window of engagement for the Salt Lake City Public Lands Master Plan, University of Utah students from the City & Metropolitan Planning Department conducted focus groups to ask the community about stewardship, equity, and areas of strengths and weaknesses in the parks and public lands. It's important to capture the values of community residents, as it will help the Salt Lake City Public Lands (SLCPL) Division to create a vision for future change and investment over the next 10 to 20 years.
This report reflects the methodology and findings from a 1.5-hour focus group conducted with the Westside Leadership Institute, University Neighborhood Partners, and the Glendale Community Learning Center, held on October 14, 2020 at 6:30 PM, using Zoom (online interactive platform) to meet. We approached the Westside Leadership Institute, University Neighborhood Partners, and the Glendale Community Learning Center as stakeholders to help us identify residents who would participate in our focus group. The mission of the Westside Leadership Institute is to cultivate leadership on Salt Lake City’s west side and support local efforts to create positive change. University Neighborhood Partners has the mission to support collaboration between the University of Utah and the west side community through shared learning, action, and benefit. The Glendale Community Learning Center works in coordination with nearby public schools to provide additional social services to students and their families. Given all of these organizations’ influence and importance within the west side community, Dr. Garcia contacted each so we could gather information and suggestions related to open space, trails, and natural areas from the community.

Dr. Garcia designed a flyer to promote the project and invite people to participate in these group sessions, as shown in Appendix A. Contacts at the previously mentioned organizations helped us by sending emails to those that might be interested in participating. The flyer outlined the objectives, relevant information about the Master Plan, contact information, meeting location, and participant incentives for their contribution to the project. We also sent an email invitation, see Appendix B.

A short survey was created to determine the participant profile. The questionnaire collected demographic data such as age, race or ethnicity, and household income. Appendix C contains the questions used for the demographic profile. Please note that these questions were the same demographic questions asked in the intercept surveys.

As a team, we communicated with the contact person at each organization in order to remind them of the events. A few days before the focus group took place, we sent messages to those who had signed up to remind them of the date and time of their group meetings (see Appendix D).

Methodology

According to Latino Millennials—The New Diverse Workforce: Challenges and Opportunities the focus group technique “is a meeting with an open and structured group interview modality, where a group of individuals selected by researchers discuss and elaborate on a thematic or social fact based on personal experience.”¹ This

approach is based on a collective representation at the micro level of what happens at the macrosocial level, since the participants’ stories detail the images, concepts, and common places that belong to their community. This process is ideal to look at the changes in a community. Typically between 6 and 10 guiding questions are presented to participants and go from general to specific, from simple to complex. Focus groups last a maximum of 2 hours and are rooted in helping the group feel that their opinions have been validated and understood. This technique helps us advance equity because we choose to invite people we usually do not hear from in public hearings and other

Dr. Garcia used the Salt Lake City Public Lands Master Plan intercept interview questions as a basis for the focus group script. The script was then revised by Nancy Monteith (Public Lands Division) and Amanda Jeter (Design Workshop). The script acted as a guide for how to structure the interviews and discussions in the focus group.

We used open-ended questions designed to encourage each participant’s honest feedback and highlight their personal experience and knowledge on the subject. We had 4 topics and 9 questions in total. The topics that we discussed were satisfaction/dissatisfaction with nearby parks, stewardship, equity, and opportunities for improvements. See appendix F for the questions we asked of participants.
Participant Profile

A total of 6 people participated in the focus group. We collected important demographic variables including race or ethnicity, age, and place of residence. Results are shown in Tables 1-5 below. Our participants were representative of the west side community as a whole and met our target audience.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1. Community Area</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fairpark</td>
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<td>Poplar Grove</td>
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<td>Glendale</td>
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<tr>
<td>Westpointe</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan Meadows</td>
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<tr>
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**Table 5. Gender**

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FINDINGS

Opening

From the outset of our focus group conversation, participants made it clear that they value public lands and are very interested in contributing to the future of these spaces. Group members shared personal experiences from the past, current desires, and hopes moving forward. Our group members use parks and public lands to exercise, walk their dogs, spend time with their children, and beat the summer heat in the shade of the trees. One participant eloquently summed this up in saying,

"[I]t is important to have the green spaces, you know, not just for our physical health, but for our mental health. I'm a transplant from the islands. So I'm used to seeing green all the time. So just being able to see that, especially in the spring. It helps a lot with the mental health side of it as well."

We had a few recurring themes in our focus group, but one that was made very apparent from the start was safety. During our first rounds of questions, our participants made statements that they did not feel safe in the parks on the west side or along the Jordan River Trail. One said, "I do have access to the Jordan River trail, but I don't use it anymore, because it's unsafe. It is extremely polluted and is extremely unsafe in the night, especially for women." Another added,

"[...] the Rose Park area, the Valley and Jordan River area, it just doesn't seem welcoming to go on those trails. [Speaking specifically about the Jordan River trail] it's a lot of trees there, so, you know, it's kind of hidden in an alleyway, in a place where it doesn't feel safe."

One group member raised the issue of safety in regard to the rapid gentrification of her neighborhood. After prompting, she explained,

"I'm kind of inferring white people, that look at us differently, bad, or are around and act like they have to clutch their iPhones when we're walking past. So it's a different kind of folk that is in the Poplar Grove area, part of the Jordan River Trail. And it almost feels like I should watch how I walk or dressed or do things in my own neighborhood so that I don't have to feel uncomfortable about the way that white folks are reacting to my presence."

While engaging the group in conversation regarding the importance of parks as an asset in our communities, their comments generally explained that they value parks, or like a particular park, **BUT** they don't visit them anymore because of issues including maintenance. A group member explained,

"We like Tanner Park. Although, lately people have not been picking up their dog poop... It's a much nicer park than the one by the International Peace Gardens."
But it's been so gross lately that we've stopped taking them there.

Another member added,

I think before we start thinking about creating more parks and eroding more sides of the mountain with new trails, we really need to think, how are we going to maintain these properties? How are we going to keep them safe, for the users, for the citizens? And I think that's a big issue.

From the candor of our focus group members, we were able to identify key themes and ideas that could improve the future of public lands in Salt Lake City. It is essential to address issues of safety and maintenance in our parks and on trails. There is also an underlying, much larger issue at play in the way gentrification and continued population growth is impacting these west side neighborhoods. There was a definite sense of concern as to what would become of the community is things continue as they have been.

**Stewardship**

The stewardship discussion centered around place-making, community volunteering, and areas for improvement of sites. A woman we’re calling Ivy started off the session by explaining her knowledge of the Fisher Mansion renovation into a type of recreation hub near the Jordan River. She expressed that this type of collaboration might be something that SLCPL should continue to foster.

I feel like these are the kinds of things that will work really well—where it kind of like marries historic preservation—which is always expensive and people don't always think is important—with our natural lands. So maybe looking into maybe, if you yourself, your department, doesn't have the budget, who can you pair up with to work on these initiatives?

The call for expanded recreational opportunities was echoed by a man we’re calling Oakley later in the stewardship session. His focus was the need for activities for youth, where they can be safe and spend time outside of their home. One suggestion he posed was the addition of a skate park in Rose Park. Oakley was also concerned about lighting, especially when daylight hours are short, and the impact this has on recreation activities.

…Whenever I play basketball outside—and we play from like 2:00 [PM] to later on—and usually whenever it gets dark, people just end up going home. But they want to keep playing, so we have people who, like, turn their cars on and the gas is wasted because… the light in the car is on, so we can continue to play basketball… why don't we have the option when people want to keep playing? You know, the people stay out of trouble. They're playing basketball, you know, catching up with their friends. There shouldn't be a limit on that.
Folded throughout the session on stewardship was also the discussion of community responsibility and volunteerism. There wasn't complete consensus on the idea of community volunteer efforts in order to maintain or improve the quality of public lands. One participant, Aspen, shared the idea that the expectations of west side residents participating in these volunteer activities shouldn't be the same as east side residents.

I just think it's different to ask like people in Glendale, Rose Park, to take a Saturday to come plant trees, versus like people on the east side of Salt Lake. Like these populations, they're working totally different jobs… a lot of my family and friends who live in those areas, like, they do landscaping or they do some sort of construction job. So, to expect people from those neighborhoods to like maintain their parks, I mean, in an ideal world, yeah, we would all do that. But I just don't see that being very appealing to people in those areas.

Later in the conversation, volunteering was brought up again, but this time it was concerning youth involvement in such programs. Oakley stated, "I feel like if we were to focus these programs of clean-up more towards youth, then there'd be more people involved in cleaning up these neighborhoods because, you know, youth have a lot of energy." This sentiment resonated with fellow participants. Willow later said,

I liked his comment on the youth, because I think that will also create buy-in for keeping them, for keeping them nice and clean. Right? Because if the youth are involved, if they see someone dropping it, you know they're going to call these people out and be like, ‘Hey, we just clean this park. Don't do that. Pick it up and throw it away.’ So I think that's good. But I do like the idea of Rangers, as well, but community buy-in, especially on our west side ones, I think is huge.

This discussion continued in the “chat” feature of the Zoom meeting, with the idea of a youth ranger program being supported by several participants in the focus group. Rose, a youth participant, mentioned that she and her friends are already involved in clean-ups and pick up litter when they are visiting parks.

The final major topic of the stewardship discussion was regarding areas for improvement. Mosquito abatement was mentioned briefly by one participant, and restrooms were mentioned by several. Ivy mentioned closed restrooms in some of the parks, which staff confirmed was due to the COVID-19 pandemic. She then suggested signage when restrooms are closed, so visitors can plan their trip accordingly. Willow mentioned the need for more restrooms in larger parks, saying,

I think even some of the bigger parks, more restrooms, not just one that has like two stalls. That's a big deal. I think both West Point and Riverside just have one restroom with maybe two. I think Riverside might
have more stalls in theirs... But, I mean, it's—these are big parks and then they're just one small area for restrooms.

Stewardship was an important topic for several of the participants. The desire for more amenities and opportunities within our public lands and the idea of involving the community's youth in stewardship led most of this session.

**Equity**

The equity discussion was the final session of the focus group. Focusing time specifically on this topic provided a great opportunity for participants to expand on the comments that had been made earlier in the session regarding equity and inclusion. We were also able to elicit some specific ideas about making public lands and open spaces more equitable.

Accessibility was prompted to gather feedback on how people felt about getting to and from their open spaces. It was evident that this was a major concern for using these public spaces specifically in regards to terrain and certain types of parks. One woman commented on the barriers and limitations that exist for someone in her life. “I have a friend that uses a wheelchair for transportation, and I can never go with them to the dog park, so that's not somewhere we can go together.” Additionally, accessibility in regards to those with special needs and access to recreational equipment is limited. The following comment was from Oakley, a man in his early 30's, who states he would use certain parks more if there were access to equipment.

As we discuss access to parks and activities, I think we've got to also discuss equipment. Well, with equipment, people don't have access to that. So, if you're going to say “we're going to have kayaking, a kayaking spot, then where are people going to get them?” We don't have that in Rose Park, so having access to all that stuff, I think that would make people want to go out and kayak the Jordan River.

It was made clear that equity and representation is lacking when it comes to public open spaces in Salt Lake City. There are some systemic issues which perpetuates inequity that may not be able to be addressed by SLC Public lands, however there were many productive comments that painted a better picture for the future of public lands and open spaces in underrepresented communities. Some of these comments touched on accessibility, programming, and additional efforts that could be improved upon. The following comments were from a woman who was in her mid 30’s. She is specifically touching on representation:

You know, there's like trail markers. How many of those discuss folks that are not from their religious majority or white? That's something to look into for sure, because if I don't see myself represented as like "the trail of like John Smith, who came and lived the life and had a house,"

and there's like this whole, like, marker for them. And I'm like, OK, cool. I
don't know, I want to see one for somebody who looks like me, you know, like we did stuff too. We're still doing it. Where's my face?

I did a project on historic landmarks, and how many of those were affiliated with communities of color. It was three for Salt Lake City. And that kind of really opened my eyes to how little we're valuing the history of folks like us. So I would love to see some maybe renaming of trails or park names, to really reflect the racial and ethnic minorities that built this city as well.

Programming was also a main topic for the focus group. The discussion was specifically around programming that was inclusive and collaborative with the West Side. The following quote was from a woman, in her 40’s, in regards to the lack of events that are held on the west side of Salt Lake City. “Look at our community in Glendale, we have a huge, Latin X, Pacific Islander, refugee... I mean, we've got this really, really rich population, but none of the festivals are held around our areas.” She also emphasized how holding cultural events that represent the demographics that make up the community would also show significant support for local business owners.

While equity was important to the focus group, there is concern about the ways in which it is approached. So often communities aim to improve areas, however it can result in gentrification. Gentrification was mentioned as a real concern. This comment outlined the importance of soliciting input from communities throughout the implementation process. “Poplar Grove, Glendale, has been gentrified, where it almost feels like folks that are moving into the neighborhood have a different attitude, and it makes me feel like I should be uncomfortable in my own neighborhood.” This is where equitability versus equality comes into play. What the communities on the east side of the SLC want in their public spaces may be drastically different on the west side, south side, or north side. Prior to implementation of any of the recommendations to make SLC public lands and open spaces more inclusive, input from all communities is necessary.

Closing

At the conclusion of our conversation, we asked each participant to share what they considered to be the most important thing that should be included in the Public Lands Master Plan. Our focus group members reiterated common themes including the need for increased safety measures, easy access to natural areas for people of every ability, and increasing the availability of equipment rentals.

In regard to maintenance, one group member commented, “One thing would be cleanups.... just maybe more people helping out.” The way she phrased this reminded us all that everyone helping a little can actually help a lot.

Another group member stated, “I think safety, like it’s been a recurring theme. Parents, too, want to be confident that their kids can go to the park and be safe. Women want to
feel safe when they’re in a park or on a trail.” This comment received lots of nods from fellow participants.

Oakley, who I will remind you is the same participant who expressed fear about using the Jordan River Trail at the start of our conversation, ended by noting that what is most important to him is “access to equipment for people [...] to do these programing. Especially kayaking in the Jordan River, I definitely want to do that.”

Another group member decided to speak about accessibility. She said that accessibility should be considered “both for special needs folks, as well as just in general for the community being able to get to a park within walking distance.” Someone else then chimed in with an anecdote about a friend who uses a wheelchair being unable to use the local dog park. She explained,

They can fit through the gate. But it’s also kind of tricky because it usually it's like double-gated, right? So you open like the one side and then you’re in that little square, and then you open like the other side. So like you have to like grow 10 more hands to, like, hold everything, you know, and, like, push yourself.

Lastly, one group member focused on the lack of representation in the stages of decision making processes. She was pleased to be included in this initial conversation and requested that her community be involved throughout. She stated,

I would like for voices like ours to be part of the process all the way up to the very end. A lot of times it's just in the initial stages of data gathering, and then like somebody else will draft it and present it, and then there's no follow-up with a community. So I think it's representation and trying to avoid the recolonization of our communities, and taking knowledge from us without that knowledge coming back to us in some way.

Several others echoed this sentiment and went on to describe places like parks, trails, and natural lands as ideal spaces to encourage representation of all cultures.

**Recommendations**

The participants in our focus group provided excellent suggestions for improving and upgrading our public lands. Though suggestions throughout each segment of the discussion led to our final recommendations, these recommendations can be categorized broadly into improvements in stewardship and equity.

**Stewardship**
In regard to stewardship, several recommendations can be made. The first would be to activate spaces within west side public lands. This could be done by adding lighting and additional restrooms which would allow patrons to stay and enjoy the area for longer. Adding recreation opportunities such as basketball courts, equipment rental options, and skate parks can provide opportunities for youth (and others) to enjoy the spaces more and feel a greater connection to their local public lands. Partnerships with businesses or organizations should be pursued to expand recreation opportunities, whenever possible. In addition to overall enjoyment, increased opportunities for recreation in these areas may have the effect of making these spaces safer for everyone, with more eyes on what is happening on our public lands.

Programs involving the community’s youth should be formed to conduct stewardship activities on west side public lands. This would create buy-in from the younger community members, who in return may hold their fellow community members accountable. This would also take at least some of the onus of public land stewardship off of older residents who may not have the capacity to be involved in volunteering.

**Equity**

At one point in our discussion, Ivy expressed a great deal of concern surrounding the level of gentrification and profiling that occurs in her neighborhood. She stated, “... it makes me feel like I should be uncomfortable in my own neighborhood...” She implied that her own neighbors make her feel unwelcome and undesirable in the community. The dramatic change in demographics in Ivy’s community has led to feelings of exclusion and discomfort as Ivy, a Latinx woman, is quickly becoming the minority in a neighborhood that had been predominantly Latinx for years.

More equitable spaces can be created through an intentional focus on accessibility, programming, infrastructure, and representation.

In regard to accessibility, suggestions centered on improving already existing spaces by making them more accessible for people with special needs as well as adding more green spaces that are easy to access from people’s homes. Additionally, participants suggested increasing access to recreation and equipment for recreation. The Jordan River, in particular, is an asset to this urban area. Equipment to enhance the use of this space, including kayaks, should be readily accessible to community members.

Several suggestions regarding programming were provided, including the creation of events that reflect the different cultures of SLC, such as music and art festivals. One participant added that such events could promote local businesses as well through the use of booths and food trucks. A key to this discussion was highlighting that such cultural events should be located in the areas where the representative demographic resides. Not only would this foster ownership, but it would also encourage residents throughout SLC to explore different parks and neighborhoods. Additional programming recommendations included interactive events such as a scavenger hunt that focuses on
historical education about the areas. Other creative programs ideas included sponsoring little libraries in parks to promote passive recreation such as reading in public spaces.

Representation was a main theme for creating more equitable public lands in Salt Lake City. Participants recommended that informational signs be translated into multiple languages to ensure that residents and visitors alike feel welcome and included. Focus group members also discussed the addition of historical representations, such as monuments, plaques, benches, and signage, that reflect the diversity of current and past residents of the area, including indigenous people. One member specifically suggested that parks and trails should be given names to honor historical figures or events other than those of white pioneer history that so heavily dominates Utah.
DISCUSSION

This first experience conducting a focus group was largely positive and encouraging for our team members. We worked well together and were able to support one another throughout the preparation and presentation process. Something that worked really well for us was editing, revising, and highlighting our script so that it was abundantly clear who was responsible for each section. We also added a “What to Do Before” section as a reminder of what items each team member needed to bring, such as a phone to record audio and the links to needed documents. The inclusion of time stamps in our script was also very helpful. In that way, the leader of each section could determine how much time they had left and so decide when to move from question to question.

Considering that this was a Zoom call, it went as best as can be expected. In the future, it will be a very interesting experience translating what we learned from this into a live conversation. Our group agreed that we had very little understanding of what a focus group would feel like previously and so we were pleasantly surprised by the level of engagement and active participation from each focus group member.

Our team was fortunate enough to have excellent critical thinkers as participants and so many ideas that were shared were interesting and unique. We were all struck by the candidness of the participants and their willingness to share uncomfortable truths, such as the impact of gentrification in a Zoom call led by all white people. That was probably the topic we least expected to hear about, but the information was invaluable. Using public lands is intrinsically linked to one’s level of comfort and feeling of acceptance. Without a sense of security, it is unlikely that community members will enjoy open, unguarded, outdoor space.

Every team member expressed his or her gratitude for the opportunity to speak with such a wide spectrum of west side residents who each had their own area of interest for which they advocated. We heard about the value of abundant trees, but also about the potential danger created by too many trees that could hide potential attackers from sight. We heard concerns about erosion and infringing on natural habitat, but also about the need for more green spaces in our urban city. We heard a desire for specific cultural representation and the desire to include all people regardless of culture.

We had all heard before about the great divide in Salt Lake City - east and west of State Street - and this group presented a stark visual of that split. Every member of our team, including the three representatives from the Salt Lake City Public Lands Division, is white. None of our focus group members were white. The comments that were made provide insight into an experience our team has clearly never had. At times during the conversation, we couldn’t help but feel that we were the problem as much as the ones trying to facilitate a solution. During closing comments, one participant said, “[...] what we really need to do is conscientious planning, not just because we’re going to look good and fill up an agenda and show that we really did something for the community.” We hope this process is more than fulfilling a requirement and that these discussions will lead to tangible results.
CONCLUSION

Focus groups are an instrumental tool for engaging the community in the Salt Lake City Public Lands Master Plan process. Our objective in conducting this focus group was to better understand the perceptions of Salt Lake City’s west side residents in regards to the stewardship, equity, strengths and weaknesses of our existing public lands, and to gather recommendations for future improvements.

Although there was great concern around safety of the west side public lands, very few recommendations for improving safety were offered by participants. This may be because there is no simple fix for this issue. Despite this, a comprehensive effort should be made to allow the public lands to be a more welcoming environment to all residents.

The participants from the Westside Leadership Institute, University Neighborhood Partners, and the Glendale Community Learning Center provided an energetic discussion, where safety, space activation, and community representation surfaced as the key talking points throughout the conversation. Safety was a major concern for most of the focus group participants, and especially when discussing the Jordan River Parkway trail. A desire for more activation of the public lands through recreation opportunities, increased amenities, and community-based programming, was repeated throughout the focus group. Integrating the culture, history and languages of west side residents into the programming, art, and signage of the spaces was also deemed important by participants. Placing emphasis on these points, along with involving youth in stewardship efforts, are recommended to SLCPL staff in the development of the Master Plan.

Moving forward with this information, our team, along with other students from the University of Utah, will be presenting to the Parks, Natural Lands, Urban Forestry & Trails Advisory Board on Thursday, November 5th. This information will also be included in a presentation to focus group members on Thursday, November 19th, allowing a chance for follow-up with the community members involved in this effort. Finally, the information and ideas harvested from this focus group and other focus groups will be folded into the goals and strategies developed by Salt Lake City Public Lands staff for the next SLCPL Master Plan.
APPENDIX

Appendix A: Flyer

We want to hear your opinion about parks!
1.5 hour conversation, $25 gift card

Salt Lake City Public Lands and the University of Utah invites you to a group discussion to get to know your opinion about the free, open all year-round park, trails, and green areas that surround the Palmer Court for the enjoyment of our community.

When
Wednesday, October 14 @ 6:30 PM - 8:00PM

Where
Join Zoom Meeting
Link and passcode will be sent once you RSVP.

RSVP
Go to: https://forms.gle/XXMKd2PNEErEc1f817
Call or text Ivis Garcia 801.833.4073
Appendix B: Email Invite

Re: We want to hear your opinion about parks – 1.5 hours $25 gift card

Salt Lake City Public Lands along with University Neighborhood Partners, the West Side Leadership Institute, and the Community Learning Center invite you to a group discussion to get to know your opinion about the free, open all year-round park, trails, and green areas that surround the West Side for the enjoyment of our community.

The results from this study will help inform Public Lands Division about what would you like to be included in the Public Lands Master Plan, more info here: https://reimaginenatureslc.com/

Come and participate, your voice is important! This will be a Zoom conversation on:

- Thursday, October 1st from 9-10:30 a.m. (Spanish)
- Wednesday, October 14 from 6:00 p.m.- 7:30 p.m. (English)

To sign up to either one of these dates fill out this short survey: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1cOJ8lBv8- pt3qCV2670rs4LqahATAGS50UAEEJJ6MXs/edit?ts=5f7c8fe9&gxids=7757

For more information contact: ivis.garcia@utah.edu.
Appendix C: Demographic Survey

1. Which Salt Lake City neighborhood or community do you live in?
   a) Rose Park
   b) Fairpark
   c) Poplar Grove
   d) Glendale
   e) Westpointe
   f) Jordan Meadows
   g) Central City

2. What is your age?
   a) Younger than 18
   b) 18-21
   c) 22-30
   d) 31-40
   e) 41-50
   f) 51-60
   g) 61 or older

3. What is your race/ethnicity?
   h) Black or African American
   i) American Indian or Alaska Native
   j) Asian
   k) Hispanic or Latino (of any race)
   l) Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
   m) White
   n) Prefer not to say

4. What is your household income level?
   a) $0 - $14,999
   b) $15,000 - $24,999
   c) $25,000 - $49,999
   d) $50,000 - $74,999
   e) $75,000 - $100,000
   f) $100,000 - $150,000
   g) $150,000 +

5. What is your gender?
   a) Male
   b) Female
   c) Non-Binary/Third Gender
   d) Prefer not to say
   e) Prefer to self-describe
Appendix D: Email Follow Up

Dear All,

I'm emailing you because you've expressed interest in participating in a focus group with University of Utah graduate students, University Neighborhood Partners and Salt Lake City's Public Lands staff. I would like to confirm your attendance on **Wednesday, Oct 14 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. via Zoom** (there is an automatic Google hangout link, do not use that. There is zoom information at the bottom of this email). Our conversation will be based on the Salt Lake City Public Lands Master Plan that you can find online here: [https://www.reimaginenatureslc.com](https://www.reimaginenatureslc.com).

There are a few requests I have before our meeting next week:

1. Please RSVP to this email so I know you will be attending.

2. Please take 10 minutes before the meeting next week to explore the Public Lands Master Plan website and take this survey: [https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/8297d3d87a7940e1a9825cf49c9f6715](https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/8297d3d87a7940e1a9825cf49c9f6715). Sign-up for the newsletter for up-to-date news and community engagement events.

3. If you are planning to attend, and you haven't done so already, complete this demographic form to help us keep track of who is providing input in these focus groups: [https://forms.gle/ZjebUumRaNDdALfQ8](https://forms.gle/ZjebUumRaNDdALfQ8).

4. I recognize that not all of us are well-versed in zoom, so please be sure you know how to join meetings, mute/unmute yourself and how to turn your camera on and off.

Thank you all for your willingness to provide input! If you have any issues or questions regarding our upcoming meeting or this email, feel free to call or text me at 813.760.2270.

Best,
Marly Upcavage

[Join Zoom Meeting](https://utah.zoom.us/j/98683614967)

Meeting ID: 986 8361 4967
Passcode: 591717

Appendix E: Photographs
Appendix F: Focus Group Guide
Before meeting:

**Brad**
- Record the meeting audio on your phone
- Record the time of each section and send 1-minute alert via chat to the host of that section

**Molly**
- Make sure the meeting is being recorded via Zoom
- Have a link, or two, pulled up to show “stewardship” opportunities (you will share your screen during your section to show this visual)

**Marly**
- Have the link to the demographics survey
  (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScuzRDMOxKKn_CRVuHV9luVRfTsPDv2rWp9pujihnkJuTYiDAQ/viewform) ready to send out via the chat as individuals enter the meeting.
- You may need to send this link more than once because someone joining after you send the link may not be able to see it. siale, abdikadir, michelle
- Have the flyer for final class presentation ready to send in chat.

**Sophie**
- Have your phone ready to time the meeting as a whole
- If we start late (see below), please send a chat to Brad telling him to shorten each section by a minute or two.

**Maddy**
- Send the “Snapshot” via chat as people enter (uploaded to Google folder).
  **Brad** will direct those that have already completed the demographics survey to skim the Snapshot for a better understanding of the project.

**Everyone:** To end on time (8:00pm), we need to start the script by 6:35 (see the star). If we are behind because of people entering late or taking more time to complete the demographic survey, each section will need to be a bit shorter. Be aware of time.

**Facilitator #1:** MADDY and BRAD – Welcome! – 15 minutes

6:30 – 6:35

*Welcome people informally as they enter to the SLC Public Lands Master focus group.*

*Engage in small chats and answer questions people have. Tell them to fill out the demographic questionnaire* (Marly will put the link in the chat) and ask them to take a
START of SCRIPT: Hello, thank you so much for being here tonight. My name is Maddy McDonough and I’m going to give an overview of what we’ll talk about this evening. We are students at the University of Utah working with the Public Lands Division to better understand how people might reimagine the future of parks, trails, and natural areas in Salt Lake City. We want to know what is great about our public lands and what could be better. I’d like to introduce you to the rest of my teammates from the University. [Order: Brad, Marly, Molly, Sophie]. Here with us we also have staff from SLC Public Lands [introduction of SLCPL staff].

As you know from our previous communication, you are here to participate in a focus group (or in other words a group discussion) on a specific topic. The topic that we will be discussing today is what you reimagine the future of parks, trails, and natural areas in Salt Lake City. During this focus group, you all will have the opportunity to share your experiences about going to trails, parks, and natural areas in the city. Most importantly we are interested in your thoughts about how to improve them in the next 10 and 20 years.

We do not want to miss anything that you say, that being said this conversation will be audio recorded. The recording will be used to transcribe the conversation and later pull out some quotes for a report we are writing. We will not use your name on the report. We will give you a fake/alias name. We asked you for your demographics previously to know as a collective who came to all the focus groups, we have six in total and about 40 people will be participating over all. In the report we will use your fake/alias name with some identifiers including possibly your age, gender, race and ethnicity.

We will be offering $25 gift card as a token of our appreciation. We will talk more about this at the end of the meeting.

All that being said, our discussion will last about an hour and twenty minutes. Are there any questions so far?

Ground Rules
Before starting with the conversation, we would like to set up some guiding principles. Principles that will help us to make the best of our group discussion:
1. Turn off your cell phones.
2. One person speaks at a time.
3. There are no right or wrong answers.
4. Talk to each other not strictly to the person asking questions.
5. If you feel uncomfortable please let us know.
6. When you’re not speaking, please mute yourself to limit background noise.
[Show Zoom tool bar to indicate how to use mute, stop video, and chat]

Now I’ll turn it over to Marly to begin our discussion.
Facilitator #2: MARLY - Introduction (20 minutes):
6:45 – 7:05

1. **Icebreaker:** Salt Lake City Public Lands Divisions took an initial survey in which a portion of residents said that having a green space within walking or biking distance of their home was extremely important to them. [[a green space can be defined as any park, natural space, bike trail, golf course...]]

   I’d like for everyone to go around and tell me your name, where you live, what green spaces are near your home how important it is to you to have these green spaces near you. Because every screen is set up differently, I will call on you to speak. So again that’s: your name, where you live, and how important is having green space near your home.

2. **Satisfaction:** We are specifically asking about parks, trails, and natural areas NEAR YOUR HOME or in your neighborhood. In the next section, we will talk about all city spaces in general.

   Now I would like to know: What do you enjoy about the green spaces near your home? What is great about them?

   Prompts: Maybe you feel more connected to nature, it’s a great place to exercise or meet friends in the neighborhood, its clean and well taken of.

3. **Unsatisfaction:** What prevents you or members of your household from spending more time in these outdoor places?

   Prompt maybe there are no places nearby, places are too crowded, hard to get there, safety or security concerns? Do you avoid, not enjoy, or feel uncomfortable or not welcome in some city parks or natural areas near your home or in your neighborhood? If yes, can you tell me about some of these locations and what could improve your experience?

4. **Exit Question:** What I am understanding from your responses is.....

   *Is there anything we are missing?* In general, what would make park, trail, natural areas, golf course **near your home** better?

5. **Molly will now talk about ways in which we take care of our green spaces.**

Facilitator #3: MOLLY - Stewardship (20 minutes, staff and student led). The next topic we will discuss is stewardship.

7:05 – 7:25
1. Student will introduce SLC staff so he or she can talk about stewardship (if SLC staff is not available student will assume this role instead).
   - Public Lands Division Staff Member: When it comes to stewardship of our parks, citizens have indicated they would most like to see the following improvements: maintenance and cleanliness, additional or improved restrooms, lighting or safety features and additional trees. Stewardship activities in public lands can also support more natural habitat protection, like recent efforts at Fife Wetland Preserve (Link #1, Link #2) or at Friends at Fairmont Park which is a group of citizens in Sugar House that advise the city on issues regarding this park as well as organize their own activities (include other examples that you are personally involved with). [Student note: show images, find online, make a collage if you like. Here are some instructions for printing posters for free at the college: http://www.cap.utah.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Plotting-Instructions_01.pdf].

2. Student will ask questions: Are there any areas for improvement for any of the parks, trails or natural areas in the city as a whole?
   - Prompts: If there are few or off-topic comments, you might say: “Do outdoor spaces need more trees/trashcans, etc?” Or “How do you feel about parks having a ranger program?”
     - Add or renovate aged restrooms, playgrounds and other amenities
     - Add and service more bins for trash and dog waste
     - Plant more trees in parks and natural areas
     - Incorporate more native, waterwise or pollinator plants in landscaping
     - Acquire additional natural areas to increase size of existing habitat blocks and wildlife corridors
     - Support “Friends of the Parks” groups
     - Develop ranger/ambassador programs
     - Host educational events to build land ethics
     - Support active modes of transportation to reduce carbon footprint (e.g., walking, biking)

3. Student will ask question and staff will discuss opportunities for volunteering: Are there ways you can imagine yourself contributing to the stewardship, or taking care of, our public lands? For example, you can volunteer for clean-up days, tree planting, etc. Do you have other ideas for how residents can help make parks better?

4. Now we turn to Sophie to talk about equity in our green spaces.

**Facilitator #4:** SOPHIE - Equity (20 minutes, student led). Now we will discuss topics related to equity. Inclusion, welcoming, equal
1. **Introduction:** SLC is home to over 196,000 people who speak 80 languages representing a broad range of socioeconomic backgrounds and cultural heritages. As in most American cities, there are gaps in the amount and quality of public lands available to different neighborhoods in SLC. Some comments in regards to equity have emerged organically throughout this conversation however we would really like to hear everyone expand on this very important component of SLC’s future. Question: When you imagine our public lands 10-20 years from now, what changes can we make to help serve all people more equitably, so everyone feels welcome and included?

2. **Accessibility:** *If this is not brought up during answers to the first question.* Now, I would like to hear about how accessible these places are to you?

Prompts:

- Are parks, trails, and natural areas located close to where you live?
- Do you feel they are in walking distance? Do you have to drive? How do you get there (walk, bike, take public transit, carpool)? Has transportation been a challenge in the past when wanting to visit a park, trail, or natural areas anywhere in the city?
- Are these places accessible for older adults and for people with disabilities? Once you are there, can you move around freely (sidewalks, handrails if you need them, etc.)?
- What would make these spaces more accessible?

3. **Programming:** For this last segment, we will talk about park programming and inclusiveness. There are a small number of events hosted by Public Lands, however collaborating departments, such as the Arts Council administers cultural programming in green spaces throughout the city. We want to learn about how you think programming could be more inclusive to different cultural groups. How might parks, trails, and natural lands be more inclusive of, for example, the Hispanic or Latinx, Somali or Pacific Islander communities? Or other communities that are not mentioned here.

   - Could translations of Public Land materials (e.g. website, events, signage at parks, trails, etc.) encourage participation and use?
   - What about park, trail, and natural area locations in neighborhoods where there are people from different cultures?
   - How about activities, are there some cultural events or programs for families, youth or older adults that would be appealing to you?
   - What else would be important for you, your family, and others in your community?

4. **Conclusion:** I have heard ______. Thank you for your comments.
Facilitator #1: MADDY and BRAD - Closing (15 minutes)
7:45 – 8:00

1. We have arrived at the end of our discussion, like at the very beginning we will go around to each person to share their answers to this closing question: What is the most important thing that the master plan should include?

2. I now have a question for staff of the Public Lands Division: What were some of the most important things that you heard today?

3. I am going to take a picture to put in our report to document your community engagement in the process. You can turn off your camera if you prefer. Group picture via Zoom.

4. Thanks, you all for coming! Your comments will be very valuable in creating the next Public Lands Master Plan. Make sure that you fill out the full survey online so you can sign up to receive updates on the plan and can be engaged in any future activities.

5. I also would like to invite you to our final class presentation to take place online Thursday November 19, from 9:10 a.m.-10:30 a.m. We will be sending you a formal invite a few weeks before the event. At this presentation we will be providing a summary of the six focus groups as well as findings from more than 2,000 surveys that have been collected for this project. [Upload flyer to chat.] Marly will follow up with an email about this.

6. We will be sending you an online gift card for $25 to Amazon. We have taken attendance and we have double checked we have your email [please do this]. With your email we can just send you this e-card. However, because we have six focus groups, we will be sending these after October 15.

Appendix G: Thank You Email

Hello,

I hope this email finds you well. I wanted to personally thank you for your time to provide insights on how to improve our Public Lands in Salt Lake City. Your comments will be very valuable in creating the next Public Lands Master Plan. Please make sure that you fill out the full survey and demographic questionnaire online so you can sign up to receive updates on the plan and can engage in any future activities.

I would also like to personally invite you to our final class presentation that will take place online, using the same link and passcode (https://utah.zoom.us/j/98683614967 | Passcode: 591717), on Thursday November 19, from 9:10 a.m.-10:30 a.m. We will be sending you a formal invite a few weeks before...
the event. At this presentation, we will be providing a summary of the six focus groups as well as findings from more than 2,000 surveys that have been collected for this project.

If you have any direct questions, I would recommend reaching out to Lewis Kogan, Trails and Natural Lands Division Director (Lewis.Kogan@slcgov.com), Nancy Monteith, Public Lands Landscape Architect (Nancy.Monteith@slcgov.com), or Kristin Riker, Public Lands Director (kristin.riker@slcgov.com).

Thanks for all you do for our community,

University of Utah Master CMP Program and Salt Lake City’s Public Lands Re-Imagine Nature Team
Appendix H: Final Presentation Flyer

Survey/ Focus Group Findings and Recommendations

Presented by City and Metropolitan Planning Students

Join us on zoom
Passcode: 591717

9:30-10:30AM
November 19, 2020

REIMAGINE NATURE
SLC PUBLIC LANDS MASTER PLAN

City and Metropolitan Planning
Appendix I: Transcript

[Subject] SLCPL Master Plan Focus Group
[Time] 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM, Wednesday, October 14, 2020
[Location] Online Platform, Zoom

Maddy [00:02:58] Well, thank you, everyone, for being here. If you haven't already, could you please complete the demographic survey? I think Marly is going to put that in the chat for you. Yeah. So if you filled that out yet... If you could, that would be great. We're just gonna use this information to sort of identify some trends that we're seeing through answers. And then we're going to get started in about two more minutes. See if anybody else joins us.

[00:04:26] Okay, hello. Thank you for coming tonight. We really appreciate you taking the time to join us for this conversation. I think we might have a few more people join us later on, but we'll just let them join the conversation when they get here. So, I'm going to start with a brief introduction, talking about what we will be discussing today, and then we'll jump right into the conversation. So my name is Maddy and I'm going to just briefly give you the overview. So for most, of us or some of us, are students at the University of Utah, and we are working with the Public Lands Division to try to better understand how people might reimagine the future of parks, trails, and natural areas in Salt Lake City. We want to know what is great about our public lands, but also what could be better. So I'd like to introduce you to the rest of my teammates now from the University of Utah. So first we have Brad. Say hi, Brad.

Brad [00:05:42] As Maddy said, my name is Brad Potter. I am a Master's student at the University of Utah in the City & Metropolitan Planning Program.

Marly [00:05:55] Hi guys, I'm Marly. I spoke to some of you via email and text. Thank you all for being here tonight.

Molly [00:06:04] Hi, I'm Molly. I am also with the University of Utah. And, yeah, I'm looking forward to this conversation.

Sophie [00:06:14] Hi, everyone. I'm Sophie. I am the final University of Utah Master's student on the call today. Thank you for coming.

Maddy [00:06:24] Awesome. We also have with us some staff members from the Salt Lake City Public Lands Department. So we have Lewis, and Lee, and Nancy. Do you want to introduce yourself Lewis?

Lewis [00:06:41] Sure. Yeah. Thanks, everyone. Really excited about this conversation. I appreciate all of you taking the time to join us. I am Lewis Kogan, Director of Salt Lake City Trails and Natural Lands Division. And I'm really looking forward to all your feedback.
Nancy [00:07:00] Hi, everyone, I'm Nancy Monteith. I'm the landscape architect and planner for Public Lands, and I'm really excited to have this conversation with you and hear about your ideas for our spaces. So thanks for sharing your evening with us.

Lee [00:07:25] Good evening. I'm Lee Bollwinkel, Parks Division Director. Happy to be with you tonight.

Maddy [00:07:33] Thank you. So, as you know from previous communication, you're here to participate in a focus group. In other words, just a group discussion about how you might reimagine the future of parks, trails, and natural areas in Salt Lake City. During this focus group, you'll all have an opportunity to share your experiences about going to these trails, parks, the natural areas. And then we're also interested in your thoughts about how we could improve them in the next 10 to 20 years. Brad unmute yourself.

Brad [00:08:12] Oh, my goodness. Trying to do the right thing by keeping it off. So we don't want to miss anything. So, we just want to let you all know that we will be recording this Zoom chat, just to use to transcribe the conversation that we will later pull out quotes for a report for. We will not use any of your names. You will be anonymous. We'll be using aliases for your names. We asked you for your demographics previously to know, just as a collective, like, who came to all of the focus groups. So, we have a total of six focus groups with about 40 people. That will be put in for the participation overall. In the report, we will use your alias name with some identifiers, including possibly your age, gender, race, and ethnicity.

Maddy [00:09:13] And we're also offering a twenty-five dollar gift card to everyone as a token of our appreciation. And we'll talk to you a little bit more about that at the end of the meeting. So with that, our discussion is going to last about an hour and 20 minutes. Does anybody have questions so far? Great. So before we start, I want to set up some ground rules. So, one, if you could turn your cell phones off. Two, let one person speak at a time. Three, there are no right and wrong answers, share whatever you want and whatever your experience has been. Next, you don't need to talk to just us. Feel free to talk to anybody in the meeting. And then, if you are not comfortable speaking, you can either use the chat feature, or just let one of us know with the direct messages, and we can share your thoughts for you. And while you're not speaking, please use the mute function. It looks like everyone is familiar with that, except perhaps one person. Does anybody need to see a picture of where the mute button is? OK, great. Alright. I'm going to turn it over to Marly to begin our discussion.

Marly [00:10:43] Alright. So Salt Lake City Public Lands Division took an initial survey in which a portion of residents said that having a green space within walking or biking distance was extremely important to them. So green space can be defined as any park, natural space golf course, even just an area that you love that has beautiful trees in it. So I would like everybody to go round the circle and introduce yourselves and tell us where you live. And also tell us about the green spaces that are near your home and how important it is to you to have those green spaces where you live. So I can call on
people, too, or we could go around the circle. If I say your name wrong, please correct me. So the first person on my screen is, was it Aspen?

**Aspen [00:11:39]** Yeah. I live in South Salt Lake area, close to the Winco, like on State Street and 2100 [South st.]. I don't have any parks that are super close, at least that I know. My husband and I, when we go like walk at night, we usually drive to--I'm forgetting the name name of the park, it's in Sugar House area and it's right by like a little rec center, and there's a skate park, and pickleball courts and volleyball courts--Anyways, that's like the park that we go to. But, we usually end up driving there because I wouldn't say it's exactly in walking distance, or we ride a bike there. So.

**Reed [00:12:31]** Hi. Can you all hear me? My name is Reed. We've been in Salt Lake City for the last 23 years. So I've been lucky enough and blessed enough to be part of this beautiful growth that we all witness in the city, that includes schools, hospitals, roads, water treatment plants, all sorts of things. And I'm here to participate and give my opinion of what I see, what a witness, on a daily basis, because, uh, believe it or not, I have to migrate. I do have access to the Jordan [River] trail, to the Jordan trail, but I don't use it anymore, because it's unsafe. It is extremely polluted and is extremely unsafe in the night, especially for women. So and I believe it's time to raise our voices and let the world know, we cannot count these issues anymore. And we need to address them quickly because to me, it doesn't make any sense to make any more parks if we just cannot handle, handle or take care of well enough, the parks that we already have. So, I think before we start thinking about creating more parks and eroding more sides of the mountain with new trails, we really need to think, how are we going to maintain these property? How are we going to keep them safe, for the users, for the citizens? And I think that's a big issue. Before we start thinking about creating more recreational areas.

**Marly [00:14:30]** All right. Thanks to you both for your thoughtful comments. Next up, is it, Oakley?

**Oakley [00:14:44]** Yeah. That works. So I live, I live in Rose Park. And like Reed mentioned, I live close to the Jordan River. And I know like--people have been working on that project--that bridge project--about 10 years now. I know that with the expanding the bridge project, they have been planting almost four thousand trees along the Jordan River. But even even even then, like, you know, not a lot of people go, you know, go on that trail. It doesn't feel safe. It's like, it's a lot of trees there, so, you know, it's kind of hidden in an alley way, in a place where it doesn't feel safe. You know, not open to everybody. And so I've lived in Rose Park for about fifteen years. But I've also lived in other cities. Other cities are so, you know, open doors...whereas the Rose Park area, the Valley and Jordan River area, it just doesn't seem welcoming to go on those trails. So, something has to be done there. But I also like, I'm a runner, so I jog a lot on Memory Grove. And that trail, itself, it seems like it's wide open. People can come--It just seems like welcome. And so, I think--you talk about making trails you have to make--make a welcoming environment where people are opened out and not closed in. So, those are my thoughts of the place that I live in, so yeah.
Marly [00:16:07] Great. Thank you. Ivy?

Ivy [00:16:15] Yes. Well. I'm in the Poplar Grove area. I'm a couple of blocks from the Jordan River Trail, close to the international peace gardens. So, there's a dog park there as well. Honestly, the area is really great. I really enjoy it, but I have started feeling a lot more unsafe. Poplar Grove, Glendale, has been gentrified, where it almost feels like folks that are moving into the neighborhood have a different attitude, and it makes me feel like I should be uncomfortable in my own neighborhood. And that's where kind of like the unsafe part comes in for me, because it's there. It's super close. I can walk over there and I'm going to be candid. My husband is white. I do not go if he's not with me. So they're there. But the demographics are changing, almost aggressively. And it just feels that, with me, I am not necessarily safe in my own neighborhood anymore.

Lewis [00:17:44] Ivy, can I ask you a quick follow up? You said with the changing demographics, you said it feels like it's a--it's sort of a changing perception--

Ivy [00:17:58] --Sorry. Changing perception, how?

Lewis [00:18:00] Well, sorry. Maybe I misunderstood. What do you feel like is leading to the change, the decline in safety in using parks and open space?

Ivy [00:18:11] I'm kind of inferring white people, that look at us differently, bad, or are around and act like they have to clutch their iPhones when we're walking past. So it's a different kind of folk that is in the Poplar Grove area, part of the Jordan River Trail. And it almost feels like I should watch how I walk or dressed or do things in my own neighborhood so that I don't have to feel uncomfortable about the way that white folks are reacting to my presence.

Lewis [00:18:49] OK. Thank you.

Marly [00:18:55] Willow, if you'd like to go next.

Willow [00:18:57] Yeah. So, my name is Willow. I actually live in the Rose Park area. I'm near, literally right across the street is one of the pieces of the trail to the Jordan trail. And then, I live near like the Rose Park Golf Course, and a couple of other, like West Point Park is not too far away. You know, when my kids were younger, these spaces were extremely important to get them outside of the house and, you know, get them into places where they could run around and kind of be free and have fun. And now, it's still an important space, like, the Jordan Trail is a great place for us to go walking or biking, but I agree, you know, like what Reed said, that it's not safe anymore. You know, we went biking, probably a couple years ago, my daughters and I went past a certain area, and there were, there were homeless people there that were just kind of camping out. And we felt extremely uncomfortable. I have four daughters, so, you know that doesn't help. But--but it is important to have the green spaces, you know, for not just for our physical health, but for our mental health. You know, I'm a transplant from the islands.
So, you know, I'm used to seeing green all the time. So just being able to see that, especially in the spring. It helps a lot with the mental health side of it as well.

**Marly** [00:20:37] Great. Thank you. And Rose?

**Rose** [00:20:46] I'm actually just using my mom's phone. Umm. I live between Poplar Grove and Glendale. And it's kind of a sketchy part, I guess. There's nobody, like a month ago, the block right next to us was like closed down, because we heard shots. And we're like, really close to parks, too. So we feel unsafe with everything going on. Especially with, just the lights, the lights kind of make it look a little sketchy.

**Marly** [00:21:42] OK. Well, thank you guys for your feedback on this section. This is a lot of really deep and valuable things we really need to consider, and I hope we can dive even more into these topics, and more of these sections. Or, if they don't get brought up, like, I want to hear more about these things as well. So I'm going to turn it over to Brad and he's going to continue with a few more questions.

**Brad** [00:22:12] Thanks, Marly. Want to make sure my mute was off, so, yeah. Thank you so much for all of your important feedback and comments. From what I think we've gathered, is that there is a large concern around safety. And I'm kind of curious to flip the coin a little bit, and just kind of see a little bit more about why all of you enjoy the parks or the public spaces in your areas? And maybe, what gravitates you towards one park over another? I know some of you aren't living very close to a park, or have access to one. And so I'm just kind of curious as to what gravitates you to go towards a certain park over another one, maybe certain amenities, or the length of the trails, or the dog parks, or something like that. And feel free to chime in, if you guys already answered, that's fine, too, you can answer again.

**Aspen** [00:23:33] I don't know. I can't remember the name of the park, but I think you already know which one—in Sugar House area with a little rec center... we like it because we like all the landscape. There's like a pond, little stream with, like, old bridges, and you can walk or jog, like, you can go all sorts of paths. Like, we mix it up every time we go, and there's like just a lot of green area. And we prefer that park over Sugar House Park because there's a lot less people. And so even we'll do like barbecues and stuff in the summer and we can always, like, find an open pavilion. And I especially like with COVID I didn't feel like there was a lot of people and I felt safe there. And I feel really safe at the park, I feel like. And there's a lot of light, especially like towards that edge. So, like, I, I've never gone without my husband, but I think I would feel good going without my husband, and because there's a lot of lights. Yeah. So that's why we like that park.

**Nancy** [00:24:40] I think that park is Fairmont, that you're talking about.

**Aspen** [00:24:44] Yeah. I think that's right. Fairmont.
Oakley [00:24:50] Like when it comes like recreation, or like rec centers... So, West Valley has the rec center and theirs is a wide open circle, green and bigger. And then last year, they re-did their whole basketball area. And it was like brand new. And so when you come to the rec center in Rose Park, it's not as done and like it's not as many people there as well. As well, it's not too green. And that is difficult because, all my family they live in Rose Park, but they like, they all go to West Valley to play basketball, but they live in Rose Park. And also, I golf a lot, so when I golf I don't even golf in Rose Park. I golf all the way in West Valley, at like Stonebridge golf course, because the grass is wilting, not in West Valley, the one in Rose Park, the grass it's like dying. I've been here for like 15 years and I've never seen the grass green at all. So the maintenance level, it's it's like, you know, when you compare it, it's so much better in West Valley than it is in Rose Park and so, yeah.

Brad [00:25:51] Great. Thank you. Yeah. It seems like a lot of you have given some really good input on, kind of, the condition of some of the parks in your neighborhoods. And then also just a little bit more about the "unsafety" aspect of it. How many of you--have dogs, or use dog parks, I guess? Kind of curious about the dog park situation. Yeah, Ivy, you said that you enjoy the dog park over at... right?

Ivy [00:26:29] Yeah. The the one by the International Peace Gardens is the one that we go most often, because it's closest to our house. But we like the Tanner Park, dog park, better. Although, lately people have not been picking up their dog poop. And it's really annoying. So I don't know what's up with that. What's wrong with humans? Honestly? Because the city can do a lot of cleaning. But seriously, I don't know what's up with people. It's a much nicer park than the one by the International Peace Gardens. But it's been so gross lately that we've stopped taking them there. And we're just sticking with the international peace gardens. It's a lot smaller and it doesn't have any of the, like fun amenities, with like the water and splashes and stuff. But people seem a lot nicer and I feel like they take better care of their dogs. They pick up after them. And it feels like it's more of like, a community because we see each other all the time, you know? So that's really nice. I feel that some dogs, some police dogs get trained at Tanner Park and that freaks me out. So that's also something that just kind of like, keeps me away from--I mean, the canines are cute, but the training not so cute, you know? So, if I'm going to the dog park, it's not to be like freaked out about the things that happen on a daily basis anyway. You know? I got to go there willingly.

Brad [00:28:01] Yeah, absolutely. What about, like, some trails and natural areas? What kind of pulls you all to visit those spaces? Willow, I think you mentioned that coming from the islands, having a lot of green really helps you out with that, kind of the mental health aspect. Do any of you want to kind of elaborate a little bit more on kind of maybe what you'd like to see? Or what you do enjoy seeing currently at the parks themselves? Or the trails and open spaces?

Willow [00:28:38] Oh, I'll answer that. So we tend to gravitate towards places, that have a lot of shade. [Laughter] So, you know, parks that have a lot of shade... Even the trails, like, when we're on them, we'll take the ones that we know have more shady areas just
because it's just too hot. But, yeah, I mean, the Jordan River Trail, because we're right we're right behind Northwest Middle School, and so we usually, when we get onto the main trail--because we're kind of on an offshoot--we usually turn left and we go up towards North Salt Lake area, and that part of the trail is pretty quiet and has a lot of greenery, although I think a lot of the trees have died and fallen since. It seems like it's a lot brighter than it was last year. So but, just a lot more trees, a lot more shady areas, probably a little more pavilions in some of the ones. So like West Point Park, there's only one pavilion there. And it's the perfect park for family gatherings, because there is a lot of shade. There's like bigger fields. There's the tennis court, the basketball court, really nice playground for the kids, baseball areas, but there's only the one pavilion. And so, if one family is using it, then you have to go. You can still go and maybe set up on the site somewhere. But really, there's only that one pavilion there.

Brad [00:30:22] Cool. Great. Thanks, Willow. So I think Marly is going to kind of finish us off in this section with another question, I believe.

Marly [00:30:38] Yes. Thank you all for your responses on these questions. I do want to bring it back to safety just for a moment. I'm curious. I heard a lot about lights, a lot of the parks I'm noticing, and I go to the parks in the West Side, a lot of them are lacking in lights, just in general. Are there any of recommendations you guys would have to help make these spaces safer besides additional lighting at night?

Sophie [00:31:18] Sorry, one more comment, just piggybacking off of Marly, Marly's question. Or in addition to increasing light, also may be decreasing light intensity, as well? Because I think sometimes that fluorescent lighting can be a factor as well.

Marly [00:31:40] OK, well--oh, go ahead.

Ivy [00:31:43] I was just going to say, just general upkeep and maintenance. Because I think, like the lack of lighting and then the shitty looking part of it, adds to the eerie kind of like ambiance. And then that doesn't help. Right. So, if it's well maintained and the lighting is kind of "meh", then you're like, "Eh, maybe I'll, alright, it's good," you know? But if it all looks just kind of terrible and the trees are still falling, because the East Side parks got taken care of before ours did, then you're like, "Ehh, murder behind that tree trunk, might not want to risk it," you know? So.

Marly [00:32:28] Thank you. Well, if anybody else has any other thing that comes to mind, feel free to use the chat. If you don't know how to use that, I can show you. But if any other comments just come up, feel free to write your messages and idea is in there. The chat will also be saved, too, for our reference later on. So it's actually really helpful tool for us in this conversation. So I'm going to go and turn it over to Molly now, and she is going to talk about the ways in which we can take care of our green spaces.

Molly [00:33:03] Hi, so as Marly said, our next topic is going to be about stewardship, or more generally, how we take care of our lands. But before we dive into the
conversation, I'm going to let Nancy or Lewis talk a bit more about current ongoing projects with stewardship and stewardship generally. So take it away.

Nancy [00:33:32] I'll go ahead and get started. So, you know, we wanted to share some ideas about how to partner with the community on stewardship. We are, I think Lewis can talk a little bit about this when he gets to it, but we are continually trying to increase our budgets for maintenance, for parks, for the everyday maintenance. And one of the things that's a real challenge is, we tend to get flat budgets and sometimes a lot of things are funded before parks. But there are ways that the community can partner with public lands to increase the stewardship. And some of the things that we have are tree plantings. So I've heard a lot about trees and shade. And Tree Utah facilitates tree plantings in our parks and we, I think, planted several hundred trees in that way, in the last year. And that's also if the community comes to us, we can find a place that's nearby. There is also park cleanups. And then the other one that is very timely right now is that the community can apply with your community members to do a CIP in a neighborhood park. And so that would be just a community application to the city, to say, we would like this particular improvement to happen, say, in Poplar Grove Park or in Rosewood Park. And then that also gets evaluated with the applications that we add to that. So there's a lot of different ways to collaborate on that stewardship. And that's just one small aspect. But I think a lot of times the more community activity and community around a park--I hear that about dog parks quite a bit. And that was--Sorry, I'm stumbling a little bit. But Ivy was talking about how there was more of a sense of community responsibility around the dog park here in Jordan Park versus Tanner Park. And what a difference that makes. And I think these community efforts can really do that. They can help you know your neighbors and invest in your local space. So those are just a few ideas. And Lewis has some great examples too.

Lewis [00:36:13] Yeah. I just want to, again, thank everybody for your comments up to this point. And I think it's not unexpected, but it's somewhat disheartening to hear how everyone or many of you talk about a feeling of the Jordan River Parkway Trail as unsafe and poorly maintained. And I think that many of us at Salt Lake City Public Lands feel like the Jordan River is really one of the city's jewels, especially in terms of, you know, the natural systems in the city. It's, you know, nowhere else, nowhere else do we have such an extensive contiguous Greenway. Nowhere else do we have so much wildlife habitat all linked together. Nowhere else do we have a river and the related recreation opportunities. But at the same time, we're not blind to all the things that that you mentioned about, you know, the things that make the river unsafe, or at least feel very unsafe. And I think that, you know, there's a lot of different ways that we have been hoping to address that. I think that as the Trails and Natural Lands Division director, one thing that I have perceived as an issue is that the city made a decision a little more than maybe about a decade ago or a little more than that, that the river really should be considered as natural open space and there would be additional parks along it. But much of the parkway itself would be treated as wildlife habitat, and it was put under the management of our division. But there is significant inequity in the resources assigned to the parks division and the natural lands division. And there sort of has been this impression, which I think is false, that natural lands require almost no resources to
maintain. And so I think that, over the last decade or so, has created a number of problems along the river where we just simply didn't have the resources in our division to adequately maintain the river and the parkway trail to the standard that would have been desirable. And even though it was and has been our primary focus. And so I think we're working to address that and looking to put a little more park in our natural area, and at the same time a little more natural into some of our parks to make them more interesting and attractive. I think that some of the things that you mentioned about Fairmont Park, you know, those are things, you know, that the spring and you have all these you know, you have diverse vegetation and meandering walking paths, et cetera. I think that's something that Nancy, and Lee, and I have been looking at a number of West Side parks, is you know, what opportunities do we have to make these spaces feel more interesting, more attractive and, you know, not only better maintained but also just more active and activated? I think there's a--it's hard to understate the importance of just having a lot of people in the parks using them for, you know, normal beneficial uses, to make a space feel safe and welcoming. So anyway, it's just a number of thoughts, I think. I hope that gives some food for thought. But I'm looking forward to getting additional feedback on stewardship from all of you.

Molly [00:40:13] Great. Thank you. And so with that kind of context put in place, do you have any ideas for improvements to any of our parks, trails, natural lands, locally near you or in the city as a whole in terms of stewardship, maintenance, and activation?

Ivy [00:40:38] I mean, I sit on the Landmarks Commission for this city and we just approved the renovation of the Fisher Mansion. And they're using it, as far as I understand, as a recreation hub where folks are going to be able to check out kayaks to go in the Jordan River. Did everybody know this? Did people know about this? No? OK. It's badass. It's gonna be really cool, I think. And I think this is like a good strategy for activation. And that's mostly like the area that I frequent. So I feel like these are the kinds of things that will work really well where it kind of like marries historic preservation, which is always expensive, and people don't always think is important, with our natural lands. So maybe looking into maybe if you yourself, your department, doesn't have the budget, who can you pair up with to work on these initiatives?

Molly [00:41:46] Yeah, that's great. Thank you.

Aspen [00:41:53] I just had a thought. I think while Nancy was speaking about some stewardship, or like with the tree planting in some of these neighborhoods, I just think it's different to ask like people in Glendale, Rose Park, to take a Saturday to come plant trees, versus like people on the east side of Salt Lake. Like these populations, they're working totally different jobs. For example, my husband does like concrete and landscaping. And the last thing he wants to do on his day off is go plant trees, like that's... And I'm not trying to like stereotype or anything, but a lot of my family and friends who live in those areas, like, they do landscaping or they do some sort of construction job. So, to expect people from those neighborhoods to like maintain their parks, I mean, in an ideal world, yeah, we would all do that. But I just don't see that being very appealing to people in those areas. And maybe I might. I don't live there. So
maybe I shouldn't speak. But that's my issue that I see with programs like that. It would take more than just the people in those areas. It's going to take people from, like everywhere to help strengthen those areas and make those parks what they should be.

Nancy [00:43:11] Yeah. Thank you for that. That's really good. And I like that. It's our whole community. And the mayor has, I believe, it's a thousand trees every year added to the West Side. That's happening right now through our urban forestry division.

Oakley [00:43:31] So I do have a comment. And so I understand what you're saying, but this is my take. But I feel like if we were to focus these programs of cleanup more towards youth, then there'd be more people involved in cleaning up these neighborhoods because, you know, youth have a lot of energy. And, you know, the elementary school they have a gardening program, and other kids in the program, they loved it. You know, somebody from the peace gardens comes every single week. They plant the plants together. And it's been going very, very well. Because, if we were to gear these programs toward people who were younger... I think that would increase a lot of it, partly in regards to that.

Molly [00:44:15] That's a great perspective. Thank you. Kind of reaching beyond volunteering and tree planting, are there any comments on certain, like amenities and maintenance of trash receptacles or landscaping?

Maddy [00:44:43] Or bathrooms. That's usually my big thing.

Ivy [00:44:46] Seriously, the bathrooms by the dog park are always locked. What the hell is up with that? It's like I'm going to go to the park, spend all day there, and now I need to pee and it's locked. OK. I guess I'm going home. You know? They're there, I can see them, they're just locked.

Marly [00:45:09] Which dog park are you talking about?

Ivy [00:45:11] The one by the International Peace Gardens. That's like my park, my only park. And they're locked. And it's like, I get it. I mean I'm assuming they don't want people to overdose, maybe in those bathrooms or, you know, decorate them with bodily fluids. But come on, friends. Please let me go into the bathroom.

Lee [00:45:35] [Audio breaking up] This little thing, that--with COVID--we were--we were following these guidelines and actually we had to close restrooms. yeah.

Ivy [00:45:56] What I think I heard Lee say, is that because of COVID we closed the bathrooms? But could they like put a sign outside, so that I don't drink a lot of water while I'm at the park? You know, like, just give me a heads up so I don't have to, like, go and try to, like, open it when I'm, like, ready to go. And then it's like, "Oh, never mind. You're not going in the bathroom." Just give me a heads up.
Willow [00:46:25] I want to add, I think even some of the bigger parks, more restrooms, not just one that has like two stalls. That's a big deal. I think both West Point and Riverside just have one restroom with maybe two. I think Riverside might have more stalls in theirs... But, I mean, it's--these are big parks and then they're just one small area for restrooms. Other improvements, I think, too, is like the mosquito abatement. I don't know about you all, but our mosquitoes are on steroids. I mean, these things are huge, and they're very unfriendly. And I felt like this year it was worse than previous years. Like, it was really, really bad.

Molly [00:47:13] I was just about to say that. Yes, I also feel that getting worse. Thank you. Is there anyone else who would like to make a comment? And so beyond restrooms and everything else. Do any of you have an opinion on things such as Ranger programs, or for maintenance? Or any of the other programs that were mentioned. So a Ranger program is if we expand it, that would kind of bring more people taking care of the parks into our public lands.

Willow [00:48:06] I liked, is it Oakley? I got to look at your name.

Oakley [00:48:18] Oakley, yeah.

Willow [00:48:18] I liked his comment on the youth, because I think that will also create buy-in for keeping them, for keeping them nice and clean. Right? Because if the youth are involved, if they see someone dropping it, you know, they're going to call these people out and be like, "Hey, we just clean this park. Don't do that. Pick it up and throw it away." So I think that's good. But I do like the idea of Rangers, as well. But community buy-in, especially on our west side ones, I think is huge.

Molly [00:48:54] Thank you.

Molly [00:49:01] Maybe just as kind of a concluding question. Do you all think that it's more important for us to maintain the lands that we currently have and invest more in the lands we currently have? Or to have more public land space?

Oakley [00:49:25] A little bit of both. But my only thing is, I would add like a park in Rose Park where it has a skate park. Because if you go to West Valley, West Valley has the skate park and a lot of kids are there on the weekend. They're all over there. You know, there's--but you come to Rose Park, the parks are empty, because the kids are probably at home playing video games, you know? So it's difficult for them to go outside and, you know, or skate where, you know? I thought skate boarding was dead. But when I went to West Valley, it was like, whoa, it's packed, you know, so. And then West Valley, the skate park that actually made last year. And it's been every single weekend that I pass by.

Molly [00:50:08] Thank you. Good. Did anyone else want to comment on that question?
Ivy [00:50:17] I mean, I don't like having limits. I'm going to go with, why can't we have both? Well-funded? I'm not going to be--maybe like the council will cut our budget short. But, I'm not going to sell myself short. You know?

Nancy [00:50:35] I'll interject. I think one of the things that's really challenging is, we do need to take care of what we have, but we also--Salt Lake City continues to grow. And in order for everyone to have the same level of access that they enjoy today, we also need to add. So it's that balance of improving our existing sites and adding to that. And I think one of the things we'll think about a little bit more as we go forward is, what should that new additions look like? Should it be large regional attractions or small, smaller neighborhood parks that are within walking distance? And that's something that we really want to understand from the community. What's important?

Maddy [00:51:45] Like, I personally like little neighborhood parks because I can walk to them and they tend to be less crowded. I mean, like Sugarhouse Park or Liberty Park or like these bigger parks. They're nice, but they're also really crowded. So I don't know. What do you prefer? Do you prefer the smaller parks in the neighborhood or do you prefer these bigger regional works?

Willow [00:52:14] I'd say small maybe, but still have like at least one or two larger parks where they can hold like soccer games or football games and stuff. But I do like the idea of the smaller parks that are within walking distance for folks.

Oakley [00:52:35] Sorry, do all the parts in Salt Lake have the same curfew time? Or do they vary based on location?

Nancy [00:52:46] You know, the regional parks are, you know, the large parks if you're over, I believe it's five or ten acres, they're open till 11:00. And then the smaller parks, so the really neighborhood or pocket parks, are until 10:00. And some areas are dawn to dusk. And so. We generally want to encourage use during daylight hours and not so much after dark.

Oakley [00:53:18] Is that how they justify whether having lights and not lights?

Nancy [00:53:24] That does influence--I would say, it has more to do with how we allocate resources. Because I think we would like to do everything everywhere, but we don't necessarily want to encourage it. In the larger parks where you have events like, say, Pioneer Park or Liberty Park, that events go into the evening... You need lights. And then also the smaller parks, you might have street lighting that, then add some lighting to that pocket park. And a lot of times it's, you know, lighting and restrooms are some of the most expensive improvements we can make to any site. So it's a tradeoff sometimes between adding amenities, recreation amenities, or lighting. But we are thinking a lot about safety and what that means and what the community feels as most important things.

Oakley [00:54:23] Thanks for clarifying.
Lewis [00:54:25] Oakley, I'm curious, what did you have in mind when you asked that question?

Oakley [00:54:30] So whenever I play basketball outside--and we play from like 2:00 to later on--and usually whenever it gets dark, people just end up going home. But they want to keep playing, so we have people who, like, turn their cars on and the gas is wasted because, they can turn the light, you know, the light in the car on, so we can continue play basketball, you know, keep playing. But then we can't play, you know, without light. So you know, that itself has been a struggle and we've had to deal with that for the past five years. And so it has been hard, people want to keep playing and we can't play it. But we've got to get our cars like nearby the park, and turn our lights, on with our cars. And waste gas doing that. But it's worth it. But then again, I'm like, why don't we have the option when people want to keep playing? You know, the people stay out of trouble. They're playing basketball, you know, catching up with their friends. There shouldn't be a limit on that. But I understand, you know, like the age part, like I understand that part, but people want to keep playing, but they just can't because there's no lights. Yeah.

Nancy [00:55:30] I mean, that's really great. And then it's the balance to say it's a little tiny pocket park, and you're right next door to a number of houses... But I think in the bigger parks or if it's not next to houses and there is that desire--

Oakley [00:55:47] Well this just park is big, this is the West Valley recreation center and it's big park. It's not too far from their houses, not too close to me. It's like in a park where, you know, people can play basketball and they're not disturbing the neighbors or anything. It's we're at that distance, why do we have, why do we not have lights to play? And so that limitation gets in the way. So, but yeah.

Lewis [00:56:16] Yeah. I'm glad you made that point. And I think, you know, I've been to some other cities where there are parks that are really active, you know, people playing basketball and other sports and they're well lit late into the night. And just having all the people out enjoying these spaces late, I think sort of lends this feeling of community and safety at that hour of the night.

Oakley [00:56:41] And having daylight savings, which, you know, like 5:00 PM it gets dark outside. It's like, oh, I've got to go home. I think I can probably play one game, then I have to go home. After working, I can only play for four-five games. So that's an issue. But yeah.

Lewis [00:56:59] Thanks.

Molly [00:57:00] Yeah. Thank you. I think we have to move on so we can remain on time. And so I'm going to turn it over to Sophie, who is going to talk about equity in our green spaces.
Sophie [00:57:16] Great. Thank you, Molly, and thank you, everyone, for those really great comments. I'm just going to give a little bit of background before we dive into some of the questions. So Salt Lake City is home to over one hundred and ninety-six thousand people, who speak 80 different languages. These people represent a broad range of socioeconomic backgrounds and cultural heritages. As in most American cities, there are gaps in the amount of quality public lands available to different neighborhoods in Salt Lake City. Some of the comments in regards to equity have emerged organically throughout this conversation over the last, let's see, hour. However, we would really like to hear everyone expand on this because it is a very important component to Salt Lake City's future. So my first question is, when you imagine our public lands in 10 to 20 years from now. What changes can we make to help serve all people more equitably, so everyone feels welcome and included in our parks and open spaces?

Ivy [00:58:30] You know, there's like trail markers. How many of those discuss folks that are not from their religious majority or white? That's something to look into for sure, because if I don't see myself represented as like "the trail of like John Smith, who came and lived the life and had a house," and there's like this whole, like, marker for them. And I'm like, OK, cool. I don't know, I want to see one for somebody who looks like me, you know, like we did stuff too. We're still doing it. Where's my face? You know, some more murals by artists from communities of color--like I want to--so how do you guys read that book? It's about like identity and place and how important it is to see yourself represented. So representation is only seen as like having like a brown council member, you know, but also like the place, what is around you, like the architecture around you, also reflects you. So I did a project on historic landmarks, and how many of those were affiliated with communities of color. It was three for Salt Lake City. And that kind of really opened my eyes to how little we're valuing the history of folks like us. So I would love to see some maybe renaming of trails or park names, to really reflect the racial and ethnic minorities that built this city as well.

Nancy [01:00:15] Ivy, we have a lot of parks that are just named by the street that they're on. So, I think there's some opportunities there.

Ivy [01:00:25] There are cool things here already, you know. So that's something--it's a low hanging fruit.

Sophie [01:00:33] Well, it's really interesting that you bring that up, Ivy, because that was a comment that--we've been now a few months into kind of gathering feedback from the community in the form of surveys and just talking about this equity component--and one theme that I saw, just a few times, actually, but really important one, was how to incorporate, you know, the indigenous culture to this area. Because, I mean, we're very much focused on the immediate future or the immediate past, really. And you know that indigenous Native Americans have a big, big component as a part of our history in Utah and the West as a whole.

Willow [01:01:30] At the community center here in Rose Park, in the back where they have the kids playground, they have one thing, it's kind of spinning thingies. And each of
them, each side of it has, I think it's "hello" in different languages. And so the kids spin it, but they're seeing all of these different languages on this simple little toy. So things like that and the art. And then like Ivy was saying, maybe along the trail, like having information in different languages, but talking about, you know, like the native peoples that used to live here. This used to be, you know, some like points of interest that people could read as they go along.

**Sophie [01:02:25]** Yeah. Thank you, Willow. That's a really good comment. Anyone else have anything to add, before we shift a little bit away? And then we'll come back again. But I just want to make sure we're not missing anything. All right. OK. So I am going to hand it over to Brad. And he is going to talk a little bit about location and accessibility.

**Brad [01:02:56]** Thanks, Sophie. So, yeah, you guys gave some good input, as far as, you know, what sort of you'd like to see in the parks relating to, like diversity. I'd like to ask a little bit more about accessibility and just kind of get a better understanding, to know your opinion on the accessibility of current standing parks within your neighborhood, both through you, like walking distance, you take the train, biking distance, maybe how far you're willing to walk or bike to go to a park. And then if you have any comments or thoughts about accessibility for those wanting to go to the parks that have disabilities, too. Maybe something that you've seen, or a friend or a family member that has expressed some opinion to you as well.

**Ivy [01:04:04]** I have a friend that uses a wheelchair for transportation, and I can never go with them to the dog park, so that's not somewhere we can go together.

**Brad [01:04:17]** Is that because of like, the wheelchair can't fit through the gate, or is it more just like the terrain?

**Ivy [01:04:25]** I think it's the terrain, right. They can fit through the gate. But it's also kind of tricky because it usually it's like double-gated, right? So you open like the one side and then you're in that little square, and then you open like the other side. So like you have to like grow 10 more hands to, like, hold everything, you know, and, like, push yourself. So I think it gets a little tricky there.

**Brad [01:04:48]** OK, cool. What about, are these places accessible for older adults? Have you found that people are able to walk freely around, that there's expression like free movement and ability to do that? Or are there like certain restrictions? Everyone has a park that's accessible to them?

**Nancy [01:05:27]** Some of the--there can be, maybe it's a very busy street. I think sometimes, is it like 900 West? Or I would say getting to West Point, if you were on the wrong side of Redwood Road, to get across... The park, maybe you can see it, but you can't get there. Does anybody have challenges or barriers in that way?
Sophie [01:06:07] Sorry, I'm going to chime in quickly. I have heard from a few of you that Jordan River Park and Trail is one of the areas that you most frequent. And I know that there is a multi-use path that runs along the Jordan River. If there were more multi-use pathways or like more reasonable active transportation measures to get you from your house to a park, would that make your park-going more frequent? Or do you think that really isn't a barrier for how often you frequent parks.

Oakley [01:06:59] That's a good question. I think even if I had--the Jordan River--I've lived here 15 years, I like Memory Grove and I'm a runner, like Jordan River, like it looks nice, like to run, but I guess I just can't get my head around to go for a run there. I don't know. I just, I run like near it, but I just don't run through it. I have to run somewhere else. I've never ran there, 15 years, and I've never ran there. I have to check it out, but I never have. I don't know why. It just bothers me to go run there. I don't know, I just don't like it.

Ivis [01:07:38] Is it Oakley? I'm wondering what you don't like about it.

Oakley [01:07:45] It's just like so closed in. You know, you have houses, and then you have, you know, schools, you're just closed in. And you have all these trees. So if I'm running, and I get attacked... OK, there's no one like right next to me going like "Ay, you just got attacked." you know? It's so closed in that if it happens to me, I'm just screwed. Yeah.

Brad [01:08:37] All right. Well, sweet. Thank you so much for your feedback on accessibility. I know that there were some comments put in the comment box too, by Hugo on that too. So, thank you very much. I'm going to hand it back over to Sophie now.

Sophie [01:08:56] Great. Thank you, Brad. So shifting gears a little bit here, I'm going to talk just a little bit about programming, and this is our last and final segment. So thank you all for taking time to do this. So for this last segment, we will talk about park programming and inclusiveness. So there are a small number of events hosted by public lands. However, collaborating departments, such as the Arts Council, administers cultural programming in green spaces throughout the city. We want to learn about how you think programming could be more inclusive to different cultural groups. How might parks, trails, and natural lands be more inclusive? For example, the Hispanic or Latin X, Somali, or Pacific Islander communities, or any other communities that are not mentioned? And I can give you a little bit of prompts, but if anyone has anything off the top of their head, please feel free to chime in.

Ivy [01:10:05] So I just Googled "public land Salt Lake City programs" because I was like, what are the programs that they do? And the first result is "adopt this spot" program from the public lands division. The second one takes me to the Public Lands Division, and then I do too much homework to try to find what those programs are. So maybe you guys can tell us a little bit about what those are.
Nancy [01:10:31] Yeah. You know, Ivy, we don't have a big programming... A lot of park--there are a lot of Park departments that have parks and recreation. And so there's this intertwined relationship between the spaces and the activities. And somewhere along the line, I think it was probably more than 20 years--maybe Lee can fact check that for me--but all that programming went to the county, at least sort of activities and athletics. So the county will program in the spaces. We do very limited programming. But it is something that we are--we recognize as an important component to creating welcoming spaces, is that you have activities. And the Arts Council and partners do program our spaces. So we permit for events. So what we have currently, a CIP program. We have funding to create a new event space in Jordan Park. But that would be for partners to come and program. And so, I think what we would like to hear is, what kinds of things would make you feel, or create more welcoming spaces, and activate the spaces in the way that you would like to see them? Does that make sense? Does that answer your question?

Ivy [01:12:02] Yeah, a little bit. I guess, I don't know. Like my curiosity is, if this is not your jam, then like what's prompting the interest to expand? And would you have the capacity to build the programming or would it be, I don't know, more strategic to be like, "hey, university neighborhood partners, you can do something on the first Monday of, you know, the month." That's what I'm curious about. You know.

Nancy [01:12:35] I think it's more from a strategic standpoint, to see if we can enhance our partnerships in order to bring that. And if there are places that are underutilized or, you know, I think we've done this with Pioneer Park. That programming really changed the culture of Pioneer Park. So when we talk about safety, and sense of place, and seeing yourself in it, what would those activities be? And, you know, right now we're a stewardship organization largely, but this is an opportunity to ask that question--Lewis has something to add.

Lewis [01:13:24] Yeah. And I think regardless, it's true. It's not really our jam right now. But I think, you know, this exercise is about trying to reimagine where we're going to be at in the future. And regardless of whether we grow to provide a program or we work with partners to do it, I think, you know, we all acknowledge there is significant value to having more active spaces and in providing programs that get people excited to come out to the parks and the natural areas. So I think what you know, what I personally am really curious about is, just what will people like to see in terms, you know...Is it more valuable to have, stewardship programs? Or education programs to educate about the, you know, the history or the natural history of the space? What about, you know, traditional recreation programs like ball sports, or less traditional recreation programs that are focused on passive recreation, like paddling or mountain biking or things like that? I think, you know, also there's festivals, arts, entertainment, music, all those things, I think, have the potential to activate our park spaces. But we're, you know, I think a big part of this exercise, especially around programming, is trying to figure out do we need to grow, regardless of where the capacity comes from? And if we do, which direction do we need to go?
Ivy [01:15:05] Oh, OK. Now I have ideas. I would like to do a scavenger hunt to learn about the history of Salt Lake, especially as it relates to underrepresented groups. To like hide stuff, have us look for it while we're doing that, we are learning about our own history... And Park City does a Latino arts festival every year. So they gather Latin X artists from across the state and they bring them all to one place, and they have dance and music and all kinds of things. And I think something like that would be really great. I mean, say we're reimagining, right, so there's no COVID in my world right now. So something along those lines works, works really well, I think. And then, I personally and selfishly would love a reading nook in a park, where I could just go there and sit there and people leave me in alone. Because as I said, I have two dogs; reading in peace is not something that happens very often. But imagine like a little reading nook where you can just go there and sit... that would be so cute.

Willow [01:16:12] Can I add to that, Ivy? Like the little give-and-take book boxes where people can share books. OK, you have my heart. I was also, I guess a question too, is, you know, how much does it cost, these entities to come and hold like a festival, like a cultural festival at our parks? Because, you know, I don't see that in Rose Park at all. And look at our community in Glendale, we have a huge, you know, Latin X, Pacific Islander, refugee... I mean, we've got this really, really rich population, but none of the festivals are held around our areas. So, like, what is the cost for those entities to do that? And also, you know, like the food truck gatherings. You know, North Salt Lake, they've got food trucks that come and park at one of the parks. You know, because then that helps also our local businesses as well, and featuring like cultural food so people can go and they can buy. But they're also supporting local businesses, as well.

Oakley [01:17:32] I do want to add one thing. So as we discuss, you know, as we discuss access to parks and activities, I think we've got to discuss also like equipment. Well, with equipment, people don't have access to that. So, if you're going to say, you know, we're going to have kayaking, a kayaking spot, then where are people going to get them? We don't have that in Rose Park, you know, so having access to all that stuff, you know, I think that would make people want to go out and kayak the Jordan River. I had to read the article, you know, on the West View. And I was like, you know what? I'm gonna go check it out. Because, I want to go kayaking in the Jordan River. I want to do that. Before that, I was like "hell no, I'm not going to the Jordan River." Now I want to go to the Jordan River, you know, because I want to kayak. And you know, when I was a student at USU, like if you're a student, at USU, you were like, exposed to the outdoors, right? And so if you're a student, you know, if you rent a kayak, you'll get Friday, Saturday and then Sunday, and then bring it back Monday. We have nothing like that in Salt Lake that we can do that with. And that makes it hard. So.

Sophie [01:18:36] You all had really great comments. I think that we got the flow going, and there's so many good ideas. And Oakley, just so you know, the University of Utah does have an outdoor program that rents out outdoor gear, and you can rent it out for a whole weekend, whether or not you're a student or affiliated with the university at all. So, just so you all know, that is available. But great. Thank you again for all this
information and your comments. And just to close it off in the next 10 minutes, I'm going to pass it back to Maddy and Brad.

Maddy [01:19:18] Great. Thank you. Loved hearing about all the book things. I used to teach English, and I love it. So thank you for that. We're almost at the end of our discussion and like at the very beginning, I want to go around to each person and ask this question: What is the most important thing that should be included in the Public Lands Master Plan? So I'm going to give you a second to think. It's a tough one. OK, I'm going to start with Willow, please.


Maddy [01:20:01] Great. In what way?

Willow [01:20:04] Both for special needs folks, as well as just in general for the community being able to get to a park within walking distance.

Maddy [01:20:17] Yeah. Thank you. Hugo, did you want to add to your written comment, or are you good? OK. We'll come back to you. Aspen, what do you think?

Aspen [01:20:40] I was kind of saying something similar to Willow, but I think safety, like it's been a recurring theme. Parents, too, want to be confident that their kids can go to the park and be safe. Women want to feel safe when they're in a park or on a trail. So, I think safety is an important aspect of it.

Maddy [01:21:00] Thank you. Ivy.

Ivy [01:21:04] I'm going to go with representation in all different aspects. Like I said, with representation on the trails and stuff. But also, I would like for voices like ours to be part of the process all the way up to the very end. A lot of times it's just in the initial stages of data gathering, and then like somebody else will draft it and present it, and then there's no follow-up with a community. So I think it's representation and trying to avoid the recolonization of our communities, and taking knowledge from us without that knowledge coming back to us in some way.


Oakley [01:21:54] So I am a student here... I'm a graduate student.. I didn't even know that, so thank you for telling me that for sure. But I do want to add, I do want to say, have access to equipment for people to do in order to do these programming. Especially kayaking in the Jordan River, I definitely want to do that.

Maddy [01:22:14] That's awesome. Rose, are you there?

Maddy [01:22:25] OK. What is the one thing that you would want included in the master plan for public lands?

Rose [01:22:32] One thing would be cleanups. Sometimes, me and some of my friends go to a park, do community service, cleanups. But then, like, a few days, a week or two passes, and then we see trash again. So like, just maybe more people helping out.


Hugo [01:23:11] I just need to make a very important comment. We talk about safety, we talk about cleanliness, and accessibility, and all these other stuff. But, one thing that I almost forgot is, let's try not to forget Mother Nature. I can see that on City Creek Canyon. I see a crew that came from North Carolina or South Carolina, and they are going like crazy, creating trails. I bet you they're not going to use all these many tricks; it's just causing erosion on the side of the benches, erosion on the side of the mountain. So what we really need to do is conscientious planning, not just because we're going to look good and fill up an agenda and show that we really did something for the community. Just creating huge issues, like landslides or any other big picture issues for the community. We really need to think about what we're doing. Especially take care of the plants and trees that we have and making consensus in the community before we go crazy on any changes or developments.

Maddy [01:24:24] That's a really good point. Thank you for sharing that. For sake of time, I'm going to switch over to Brad to tell you about our delightful picture.

Brad [01:24:37] Yes, indeed. So if you don't mind, I'm going to take a screenshot of our lovely faces on Zoom Chat. This is just to be put into the report, as part of the process. Again, the names that are showing up, those will be voided and aliases will be created for them. They won't be shown. If you don't want to have your picture taken, that's totally fine. Just go ahead and turn off your camera on Zoom. Yeah. So if everyone is ready, I'll do a little bit of a count here. One, two, three. All right. Awesome. Thank you so much. Yeah. So, like we mentioned, we will be handing out a twenty-five dollar gift card for Amazon. That will be sent to you through your email. So please make sure that we do have your correct email address for that. Also, your comments tonight are very valuable in creating the next public lands master plan. So thank you. Make sure you fill out the survey online so you can sign up and receive updates on the plan and can also be engaged in any future activities.

Maddy [01:26:09] Yeah, thank you.


Ivis [01:26:20] My name is Ivis Garcia, and I'm the Assistant Professor at CMP. So I'm the professor of this class. Nice to meet you all.

Damian [01:26:28] So sorry, Professor. My name is actually Damian. I just changed my name for that photo. So I am also a student, a master's student, in the city planning program at the University of Utah. I wasn't involved with this focus group, but I'm involved with the Glendale Community Council. I'm an intern for them right now. So I was just listening in to your guys' responses as to what you want to see happen in those parks, because for the next year I will have some influence as to actually implementing some of those things in the Glendale community.

Ivy [01:27:15] Thank you, so not spies, then.


Maddy [01:27:25] And last thing I wanted to say, is just to invite all of you to our class presentation on Thursday, November 19th. That's going to be from 9:10 to 10:30 in the morning. An odd time if you're working. Apologies. But we will send you a formal invite in the next couple of weeks. Marly will follow up about that. And at that presentation, we're just going to share a summary of people's comments, the answers to our surveys... We've had over two thousand surveys thus far on this topic. And so that would be another good way of staying informed about what's going on with this project and let's see... Lewis or Nancy, do you have any final thoughts you'd like to share?

Lewis [01:28:12] I, I just really want to thank everybody for participating. This is on behalf of all the public lands. This is an extremely important project to us. And getting this kind of detailed feedback from a focus group, just like this, is extremely valuable. And we only have a handful of these focus groups and really appreciate everybody taking the time to be here with us tonight, and to speak up, and let us know what you're thinking. It's just a special opportunity, and I hope that we'll continue the conversation.

Nancy [01:28:49] Yeah. And I'll just... Lewis said that so beautifully. I have so appreciated all of your honesty and forthrightness in sharing what you'd like to see in the community and what's important to you about the parks. And I hope we have more conversations as the plan progresses. So we'll be reaching out again, and certainly you'll see more opportunities to engage with the project. And then, just one last request. If you haven't taken our digital survey, it closes tonight at midnight. So please do that.

Maddy [01:29:27] You can find that at ReimagineNatureSLC.com. Thank you all for coming tonight. Really appreciate it. And we'll reach out with updates in the next couple of weeks.

[01:29:40] *Goodbyes*
[END OF FOCUS GROUP]
CMP Student Authors
Katie Bussell
Emily Meadows
Fabiha Pinaz
Damian Rodriguez

CMP Staff
Ivis Garcia, Assistant Professor
Elizabeth Arnold, Westside Studio Teaching Assistant

Public Lands Division Staff
Nancy Monteith, Public Lands Landscape Architect

Community Partners
Turner Bitton, Glendale Community Council Chair
Table of Contents

Introduction
Methodology
Participants Profile
Findings
Introduction
Stewardship
Equity
Closure
Recommendations
Introduction
Signage
Stewardship
Equity
Closure
Discussion
Conclusion
Appendix
Appendix A: Flyer
Appendix B: Email Invite
Appendix C: Demographic Survey
Appendix D: Email Follow Up
Appendix E: Photographs
Appendix F: Focus Group Guide
Appendix G: Thank You Email
Appendix H: Final Presentation Flyer
Appendix I: Transcript
INTRODUCTION

For the first window of community engagement for the Salt Lake City Public Lands Master Plan, the University of Utah students conducted focus groups to ask the community about the current conditions of Salt Lake City’s Public Lands and what they would like to see improved. Focus groups were conducted to better understand what values are important to community residents as it will help the Public Lands Division to create a vision to guide future change and investment for our public spaces over the next 20 years.

The following report outlines the results of a 1.5-hour focus group conducted with the Glendale Community Council, held on Thursday, October 15th, 2020.

The Glendale Community Council was invited to this focus group because it was identified as a critical stakeholder for this plan. They have significant influence and community trust in Glendale, so Dr. Garcia contacted them to allow us to gather information and suggestions from the community about improvements and general recommendations related to open space, trails, and natural areas.

The mission of the Glendale Community Council is to support residents in beautifying the community and provide guidance for community endeavors. For years Glendale Community Council has been advocating for improving the quality of life of west side residents. This is reflected in recent projects such as the Keep Glendale Beautiful project. The mission of this plan is to support residents in taking action in the neighborhood to prevent litter and promote overall beautification. Numerous other plans brought by the Glendale Community Council show they have a deep connection to their area and concern for their residents.

Professor Garcia designed a flyer to promote the project and invite people to participate in these group sessions. Contacts at the Glendale Community Council helped us by sending emails to those that might be interested in participating. The flyer outlined the objectives, relevant information about the Master Plan, contact information, meeting location, and participant incentives for their contribution to the project. See Appendix A with a flyer. We also sent an email invite; see Appendix B.

A short survey was created to determine the participant profile. The questionnaire included demographic data such as race, gender, and income. See Appendix C for questions of demographic profile. Please note these questions were the same demographic questions asked in the intercept surveys.

As a group, we communicated with the contact person at the organization in order to remind them of the events. A few days before the focus group, we called or texted those that signed up to remind them of the date and time of their group meetings. We also sent emails (see Appendix D).
METHODOLOGY

A focus group is an in-depth discussion with a small group of people used as a common technique to gather information from the public. This approach is a valuable method to tap into the social dynamics, practices, and experiences of the community members involved in a project and can be one of the most productive and cost-effective engagement methods. This process is ideal for understanding the needs of a community. We used the structure of a traditional focus group, including an introduction, lead-in question or ice breaker, topic discussion, and a final wrap-up.

To respect the time of participants, the focus group lasted one hour and thirty minutes. A chat box was also utilized during the virtual focus group as a resource to ensure that opinions could be shared freely at any point in time and to emphasize that all thoughts and opinions were validated and crucial to the conversation. The focus group technique helps us advance equity as we chose to invite people from the Glendale Community Council, which gave participants an opportunity to share their insights in a less formal setting in comparison to a public hearing. A script including the focus group questions and discussion topics originated from the intercept interview survey, which was written and revised by Nancy Monteith (Public Lands Division), Amanda Jeter (Design Workshop), and Professor Ivis Garcia.

We used open-ended questions designed to encourage each participant’s honest participation and highlight their personal experience and knowledge on the subject. We had seven main topics and ten questions in total. The topics that we discussed were as follows; an abundant concentration of homelessness on the west side, safety concerns within parks and Jordan River Trail, ranger programs to increase both safety and stewardship measures throughout the public lands, volunteer opportunities and barriers, accessibility to amenities for youth sports, programming ideas to make equipment accessible to residents on the west side, and repurposing or rehabilitating amenities to correlate with popular sports activities in order to meet the needs of residents. See appendix F with the questions asked of participants.

PARTICIPANTS PROFILE

A total of nine people participated in the focus group. We collected the most important demographic variables (e.g. community they live in, the household income, their age, race/ethnicity). Results are shown in tables 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1. Community Area</th>
<th>No. of Participants</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rose Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fairpark</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poplar Grove</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>No. of Participants</td>
<td>Percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glendale</td>
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<tr>
<td>Westpointe</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan Meadows</td>
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<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central</td>
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<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Side</td>
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**Table 2. Age**

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<tr>
<td>22-30</td>
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<tr>
<td>31-40</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11.11</td>
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<tr>
<td>41-50</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>51-60</td>
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<td>22.22</td>
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<tr>
<td>61 or older</td>
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<td>-</td>
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**Table 3. Race/ethnicity**

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<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>No. of Participants</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian or Alaska Native</td>
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<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino (of any race)</td>
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<td>Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
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<td>55.55</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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**Table 4. Household Income**

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<th>Income Range</th>
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<td>$100,000 - $150,000</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$150,000 +</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>No. of Participants</td>
<td>Percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Female</td>
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<td>55.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Binary/Third Gender</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prefer not to say</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prefer to self-describe</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
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FINDINGS

Introduction

At the very beginning of the meeting, participants were asked about their nearby parks and how they access those parks. Then the participants stated their satisfaction and dissatisfaction with being a regular visitor to those parks. Most of them were very happy as the parks are in close proximity to the place they live in. A young female participant mentioned, “I live really close to the International Peace Gardens, and that was just a huge reason for me to move to the area. The Peace Gardens and also the Jordan River Parkway, the trail access is really great, and for me, it’s important.”

In addition to that, most of them were also satisfied with the maintenance and cleanliness of the parks they go to. A 58-year-old white man who lives in Glendale mentioned, “International Peace Gardens is the epitome of what a really good park is. You know, there are different types of parks, but for public parks and usage, that gets the most. And it’s also the cleanest. It stays that way because they maintain it. They input a lot of resources into it.” Some issues, however, incorporated an aspect of concerns: “There are other parts of the parkway that are not nice and have different elements and different levels of crime because of that I just want to see it improved.”

When they were asked about the unsatisfactory issues which concerned them, various aspects of dissatisfaction came up. A 54 years old Hispanic woman who lives in Glendale showed her concerns about the homeless issue. She mentioned: “I like all the paths between 17th and 21st South. It’s usually cleaner than the one between 17th south and 800 South. That area behind the peace gardens, increasingly getting homeless population, makes it a little frightful.” A 58 years old white man supported those facts and raised the need for security acts by saying,

There’s a lot of people experiencing homelessness along the trail, homeless camps, in fact. In the Fife reserve, there’s been a homeless camp for a couple of months, and they’re in the park next to it too. They sleep on cement pads that the city has had there for a while. They are in the park with their leftovers from home because it’s a clean, easy place for people experiencing homelessness to sleep. It’s right at where the stub street hits the trail and, you know, and you see there's a white minivan that comes there, and I see homeless people get in and out of it. I don't know what they're doing, probably drugs, but I don't know that. But talk to the police, and they'll tell you there's a lot of that. So, it'd be nice to have more security on the trails.

Some suggested not to accuse the homeless people of the drug incidents or crime as it’s the City who shut the shelters down and leave those people with no choice but to roam around near the parks. A young female participant mentioned:
I see a lot of people criminalize homelessness, and I don't know that police would make all of the residents in this community feel safer. So, I just want to add sort of a voice to say Salt Lake City has done a lot to really harm homeless services by closing the road home and by reducing funding. And I think it's just to tie it back, like, if this is going into an official report anyway, something needs to be done in terms of having closed down the shelter.

In the focus group discussion, participants shared their concerns more than satisfactory issues. All of them want a safe and clean environment to enjoy nature freely and without any trouble.

**Stewardship**

The topic of stewardship in this focus group was to discuss what actions could be taken in our public lands to better promote stewardship. This includes things such as renovating aging infrastructure, incorporating more native and water-wise plants in landscaping, adding more natural areas for habitat, and including more educational opportunities. Nancy Monteith from Salt Lake City Public Lands gave a brief overview of some of the initiatives already seen in our public lands, and some they are currently exploring, such as a ranger program to increase security and provide education of the park and ways to behave in the park. These behaviors include picking up after oneself, not engaging in illicit activities, and ensuring people feel safe.

The stewardship discussion shifted almost immediately to the ranger program idea. When brought up, it was discussed that yes, this would be beneficial, but utilizing people from the neighborhood rather than outside would be more effective to have a connection to the community. An elderly Latina woman residing in Glendale said, “I do think that the implementation [of the ranger program] on socialization needs to take deeply into consideration our local students, K through 12.” This illustrates the need for a social connection to the neighborhood to help ensure the people in the ranger program care about what they are protecting. This sentiment was further echoed by a 26-year-old woman of Latino descent, as she said, “It’s a great idea in regards to they probably have a greater capacity to add to the areas, but it would be nice that they do have some connection to the community where they can implement programs like focus groups like these to discuss any ideas.”

The conversation also shifted early on to discuss partnerships in the community and public lands. This was discussed as a way to generate funding in the area. An elderly Latina woman stated expanding partnerships and “looking for funding applications that show partnership. That can help organize the community through the City Council. I think that is viable, but it does require resources.” Another comment brought up was how to make this idea a reality. A 29-year-old male of the Glendale area stated, “one of the ways the parks department could really work with communities is through a community grants program.” These sentiments indicate more partnerships,
and more funding is necessary and wanted by the residents of Glendale to help improve public lands in their neighborhood.

One of the final themes discussed in the stewardship portion of the focus groups was the issue of safety and creative ways to solve this through volunteering. The idea of volunteering was addressed, as many seemed to want to volunteer or have already. A 27-year-old white female stated in the chat on Zoom she has “volunteered with cleanups and would participate in them in the future.” This idea was further built on as a way to promote safety in public spaces, specifically along the Jordan River Trail. A 58-year-old white male wrote in the Zoom chat, “it might be tricky at first, but I think getting groups to have activities in the park would help [with safety].” This was not exclusive to volunteering events, but community events and gathering spaces in the park to help have more eyes in the area and discourage illicit activities.

**Equity**

The topic of equity for this focus group was guided to discuss the changes that could be made to make the system help serve and include people more equitably. The conversation was started as a 58-year-old white male first stated,

> There’s a lot of ways to look at equity, but if I or somebody else feels threatened in a park, then that kind of inhibits equity, right? You don't go there. You can't use it, you know? You don't want to use it. You feel like you don’t want to use it. That can apply to anybody.

From this perspective, in order for the parks to be more equitable, it reiterates the need to ensure that the parks are safe. Following this statement, more insights regarding equity followed. An elderly Latina woman advocated for making an effort to provide amenities for youth and adult sports. She stated,

> We have a lot of youth of color in our westside schools, [the] most popular sport is soccer. Nevertheless, all the soccer leagues that are well equipped are in the east. And there are not soccer fields available lately. There should be more support for outdoor sports that are more popular. Like, we have a good Pacific Islander community who like to play, I believe it's rugby...So I know of groups who have difficulties in finding spaces where to practice in regular space.

Her remarks expound on the reality that there is an unequal distribution of facilities throughout Salt Lake City. Those comments were built upon by a Pacific Islander male who shared that “from a Pacific Islander lens [parks] usually [revolve] around sports.” He mentioned a high demand for pickleball courts and noted that tennis courts located at the 17th South Park are rarely used and could be transformed into pickleball courts. Creating spaces and amenities which are of interest to the public is crucial and creates opportunities for parks to be more inclusive, utilized, and equitable. Additionally,
informing the public of resources they can access could also improve the system to be more equitable as many residents are not aware of the resources available to them due to the privilege that is associated with the ability to recreate, utilize, and enjoy the public lands.

A young adult white female also shared interest in involving the youth throughout the decision-making process in the chat, “I would be interested in engaging with Youth City at Glendale community center to ask younger folks about their access to parks.” All participants were in agreement that renovating tennis courts to facilitate access to more popular activities as a young female noted, “I think mostly everybody hit [on] what are popular activities in the community and how can we put funding towards this.”

Lastly, a question regarding programming was posed, and Public Lands Division Nancy Monteith added that the Public Lands Division was interested in what kinds of things would the community be interested in the spaces that would make them feel more welcoming. A white male commented that he has consistently and repeatedly heard families share that there is a lack of equipment on the west side. He proposed figuring out a check-out system as a method to provide greater access to equipment, thus enabling communities to utilize a variety of amenities. He said,

> [H]aving them be checked out at the local library or something, so that kids have access to equipment to actually be able to go use the facilities that are there. And this also works for larger equipment in terms of like picnic tables and such..., if there was a way to increase or to kind of bridge that equipment barrier I think that would help residents [and] provide that next level of access, [which] is another thing that could really help the neighborhood.

**Closure**

At the end of our facilitated discussion concerning public spaces, stewardship, and equity, we began the closure of the focus group with a final question, “What else should be considered in developing the Public Lands Master Plan for natural areas, urban forests, and parks?” This question is intentionally open ended. It is meant to draw out any observations, ideas, or concerns that participants may have either overlooked throughout the previous discussions or was inspired by the previous discussion.

Ideally, a response would have been provided by every focus group participant still in attendance. However, during the introduction, we provided a very specific timeframe that participants could expect the focus group duration to last. As other portions of the discussion exceeded their expected time, we made providing a response to this final question optional for participants. We did allow for a good amount of time for reflection and volunteering, and we believe that this change of structure benefited the conversation. The final information volunteered was both new and passionate.
The first topic discussed was golf courses and the immense amount of public resources devoted to them. This topic was presented almost immediately after we proposed the final prompt, and it was presented by Daryl (a white male, 51 - 60 years of age). Daryl was primarily concerned with the space and funds currently being consumed by golf courses at the expense of more beneficial public investments. “We have got too many golf courses,” he began, “and they don’t support themselves,” Daryl would continue to accurately relate this recreation prioritization as an equity issue, “it’s kind of an elitist sport,” he continued. “Like, particularly on the west side where football and soccer are very popular, and rugby as well.”

Immediately after Daryl’s contribution, Patricia (a hispanic woman, 51 - 60 years of age) reinforced his position, explicitly calling it an issue of equity. “I’m speechless, because that speaks to equity,” she started. “The number of golfers living in the westside, they are receiving a huge subsidy versus the other sports.” Patricia made it clear that this was not the first time that this topic had appeared in such a setting. She would go on to say, “That is a consistent presence in discussions with those who live in the neighborhood.”

Patricia would also provide some discussion concerning the lack of sports funding and programming for the youth of the westside. “we should be looking at serious practices, but the county hires yearly high schoolers who are not real coaches,” she mentioned concerning her perceived coaching inadequacy for the youth of Glendale. Many of her arguments were reiterations or expansions upon a topic that she had touched upon in previous discussion sections of the focus group, but her passion for the topic inspired me to include these words that she shared with us in closing.

Lastly, Megan (a white woman, 22 - 30 years of age) felt the need to emphasize wildlife connectivity being a focus of the master plan. “I’m not going to go super into it,” she began, “but I definitely want to echo, and support that sort of being looked at and taken into consideration.”

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Introduction**

Some useful recommendations can be made to make the parks more user friendly. The recommendations drawn from the introductory portion of this discussion deal with safety, prevention of crime, law enforcement, maintenance and cleanliness, regular supervision, and so on.

All of the participants agreed that security should be increased by enforcing laws, adding infrastructure, installing lamps, and regular supervision. Crime came out as a genuine concern for the Glendale community. Safety issues related to homeless people also fall into that category.

The necessity of maintenance and cleanliness was emphasized in the discussion. From the participants’ point of view, good maintenance should be provided by the city or
authority to keep the parks usable, waste-free and clean. The idea of community volunteers for such works came up in the discussion as well. The city can also provide a water quality report to the public so that the people of the community can be notified about the water quality prior to using the river for recreational purposes. Regular supervision is mandatory in maintaining parks. Security personnel, assigned community members, or authority can make that happen regularly. Moreover, to assist in aiding the homeless population, a frequent presence of social workers would be beneficial. With the authority’s help, he/she can facilitate a better system for people who are unsheltered, as this is the common problem which the Glendale community is dealing with. These recommendations should be addressed by the Government and the City to encourage the Glendale community to use the parks regularly without any concern and let them enjoy the parks with family and friends.

**Stewardship**

From the stewardship discussion, some general recommendations can be made. Out of the ranger program, if implemented, it should be a volunteer basis only. This will help ensure people from the community volunteer for this program rather than hiring people from outside the community who may not have as deep a connection or, frankly, concern for the area. This can be achieved by having a volunteer sign-up circulate throughout the community to help recruit volunteers to walk the Jordan River Parkway Trail, host educational events in parks, and patrol areas to ensure there are no unwanted behaviors occurring, such as littering.

To help create more partnerships, Salt Lake City Public Lands can help generate deeper partnerships between them and the community through a community grants program. Other partnerships, specifically with Glendale, could be explored with non-profits. Further, the City could facilitate partnerships with community councils and neighborhoods to garner more collaboration in the area. This could be through a matching program where a list of willing organizations and non-profits could be provided. Thus, organizations within communities could reach out and see if a partnership could be possible.

Finally, more volunteer opportunities could be provided by Salt Lake City Public Lands in the area. This could include seasonal options and events in the winter, rather than just in the spring and summer. Further, creating more events in parks, not only in Glendale but city-wide, could help deter crime from occurring as there would be more of a presence in the area and more eyes. Events should be tailored to the communities they are in to ensure they are attended and wanted in the neighborhood. If implemented, these recommendations have the potential to build partnerships and encourage more use of the parks.

**Equity**
The following recommendations have been gathered from the equity portion of this discussion and are given to assist the Public Lands Division in their goal to make Salt Lake City public lands more equitable. First, there should be a concentrated effort to provide facilities and amenities that are of most interest to the community on the west side. Repurposing underutilized infrastructure such as tennis courts, golf courses, and the dilapidated waterpark into popular activities such as pickleball courts, soccer, football, and rugby fields would be a great use of these resources which are empty or only available for an elite population.

Second, implementing an equipment check-out system. This is a simple yet impactful solution that would assist community members to have greater access to sport and recreational equipment. Partnering with a local library or community council to store and maintain such equipment could be considered. A variety of equipment could be included, such as basketballs, pickleball rackets, yard games, picnic tables, etc. Not only would this support youth sports activities, but it also can benefit families who have a desire to gather with friends and their community.

**Closure**

The following recommendations are based entirely on the closing discussion of this focus group and reflect my best understanding of the Glendale Community Council’s concerns, ideas, and aspirations for Glendale’s parks, trails, and natural areas. These recommendations are meant to be complementary to those presented by the other authors of this report, and I believe they would be most effective when reviewed together.

Subsidies for neighborhood golf courses should be reviewed. It is the unchallenged opinion of the community council that public funds would be better used in the funding of soccer, football, and rugby leagues. This additional support for youth sports has great potential to activate more residents per dollar as the diverse residents of the Glendale Neighborhood are very interested in using their parks for sports, youth training, and athletic activities.

Consider converting the Raging Waters Site to a natural area. By 2040 the City will require 94-acres of additional park space in order to continue the current level of service enjoyed by residents. The addition of the Raging Waters Site would contribute more than 17-acres of those future needs, and at least one member of the community council has expressed interest in providing for biodiversity and wildlife connectivity.

**Discussion**

This team found that the questions and discussion prompts were very effective in stimulating conversation. On several occasions, information was eagerly volunteered immediately after the posing of a question. The thoughtful responses of some
participants would often inspire an immediate follow-up though from another participant. In this sense, the discussion had a natural, lively, interactive flow often. There were times when it seemed a disappointment when we pressed the transition of topics due to time constraints.

The clear, and clearly stated, structure of the discussion served us all well in keeping the discussion relevant and on topic. From some of our experiences, questions of stewardship were rarely understood while conducting intercept interviews. Often examples of stewardship would need to be provided, to which the respondent could simply and quickly agree with a proposed example without giving this important issue any further thought. This was not at all the case in our focus group.

The many perceived successes of our focus group did not come without some challenges. Timekeeping proved to be more of a difficulty than we had initially expected. The robust responses to our prompts came at significant time costs, and often one thought completed would lead to another thought. On several occasions multiple topics would be thoroughly covered in a single prompt response. Again, the content of these responses were very focused and valuable to our efforts, but we found that they left little time for other respondents if we were to strictly adhere to our time appropriation per discussion topic.

We generally agree that we could do a better job of engaging the less active participants in the future. At times, calling on a participant who had, for a time, previously been silent rendered an insightful suggestion. These engagements would have been especially useful in the closing prompt when many participants did not readily volunteer their thoughts. The facilitator condensed this section due to time anxieties, which we all agree to be a novice mistake that should not be repeated.

The team did expect to hear concerns about litter and safety, specifically around the Jordan River and homeless camps. Our prior surveys of the area had proven this to be a prominent issue. Some of us were surprised to learn that neighborhood locals are generally not comfortable with the idea of increasing police presence in the area. We were relieved to find out that a locally-based ranger program is an idea that community residents could consider.

Ultimately, our understanding of focus groups has expanded in invaluable ways. The team agrees that focus groups are a powerful method of community engagement that can provide a wealth of knowledge when carefully planned and conducted.

CONCLUSION

This focus group’s purpose was to gather information from the Glendale Community Council on what is working well for parks and what could be improved. We were trying to understand what values are essential to Glendale community residents to help create a vision to guide future changes in Salt Lake City’s public lands for the next twenty or more years. Three main points that came up in this focus group were (1) the issue of safety in Glendale, (2) the case of people experiencing homelessness, and (3) the
programming of public spaces to fit the needs of the community. The problem of security was pervasive throughout the discussion. Some did not feel comfortable going to parks or the Jordan River Trail due to people experiencing homelessness or other activities occurring. However, our participants acknowledged that homelessness is a multifaceted problem and that the city needs to do something about this rather than criminalize those experiencing homelessness. Finally, the reprogramming of the Neighborhood's existing public spaces to fit the needs of the community was expressed multiple times throughout the discussion. Many residents stated tennis courts and golf courses within Glendale are underutilized, while demand for fields of other sports such as soccer and rugby does not exist in their community.

There were three recommendations that emerged from this discussion. The first was to help prevent crime. This could be through multiple different means, such as a community-based ranger program, better lighting of public spaces, or regular supervision of the area. It should be emphasized this does not mean a greater police presence, however, because as one resident stated, it may not make every resident feel safer. Another recommendation was to renovate or repurpose underused amenities to meet the needs of community members. This would include adding rugby fields, repurposing the tennis courts in the area to something community residents would better enjoy, and renovating the water park to meet the needs of the community. Finally, the last main recommendation is an equipment check-out system. This would provide families with equipment to recreate without having to make expensive purchases. It is also something that could be implemented relatively easily and with little cost.

There are some questions we still have that could be addressed through another discussion. For example, we would like to know more about how the city could address the homeless problem. We would also like to learn more about how Glendale residents feel about biodiversity and habitat connectivity, as that was only mentioned briefly at the end of the focus group. Other stewardship activities such as how they think the trash bins being emptied in a manner they agree with, or if they could be emptied more often, or if there should be more. Further, how Salt Lake City Public Lands can better represent diverse cultures is another question we would have liked to discuss.

Looking to the future, we look forward to presenting our findings to the Salt Lake City Public Lands Advisory Board to gather feedback on our findings and recommendations. We hope they will provide insight into what could feasibly be accomplished and implemented. Once this feedback is gathered, we look forward to presenting this information to focus group participants on getting their feedback and ensuring some of their ideas have been heard.
APPENDICES

Appendix A: Flyer

Reimagine Nature
SLC Public Lands Master Plan

We want to hear your opinion about parks!
1.5 hour conversation

Salt Lake City Public Lands, the University of Utah and the Glendale Community Council invites you to a group discussion to get to know your opinion about the free, open all year-round parks, trails, and green areas that surround Glendale for the enjoyment of your community. We hope this discussion will also feed into the Glendale One conversation.

When
Thursday, October 15 @ 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Where
https://utah.zoom.us/j/98683614967
Passcode: 591717
+1 669 900 6833
Meeting ID: 986 8361 4967

To RSVP
Go to https://forms.gle/XXMKd2PNErEc1f817
Call or text Ivis Garcia 801.833.4073
Appendix B: Email Invite

Re: We want to hear your opinion about parks

Salt Lake City Public Lands along with University Neighborhood Partners, the West Side Leadership Institute, and the Community Learning Center invite you to a group discussion to get to know your opinion about the free, open all year-round park, trails, and green areas that surround the West Side for the enjoyment of our community.

The results from this study will help inform Public Lands Division about what would you like to be included in the Public Lands Master Plan, more info here: https://reimaginenatureslc.com/

Come and participate, your voice is important! This will be a Zoom conversation on:

- **Thursday**, October 15 from 6:00 p.m.- 7:30 p.m. (English)

To sign up to either one of these dates fill out this short survey: [https://forms.gle/ZjebUumRaNDdALfQ8](https://forms.gle/ZjebUumRaNDdALfQ8)

For more information contact: ivis.garcia@utah.edu.
Appendix C: Demographic Survey

1. Which Salt Lake City neighborhood or community do you live in?
   a) Rose Park
   b) Fairpark
   c) Poplar Grove
   d) Glendale
   e) Westpointe
   f) Jordan Meadows
   g) Central City

2. What is your age?
   a) Younger than 18
   b) 18-21
   c) 22-30
   d) 31-40
   e) 41-50
   f) 51-60
   g) 61 or older

3. What is your race/ethnicity?
   h) Black or African American
   i) American Indian or Alaska Native
   j) Asian
   k) Hispanic or Latino (of any race)
   l) Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
   m) White
   n) Prefer not to say

4. What is your household income level?
   a) $0 - $14,999
   b) $15,000 - $24,999
   c) $25,000 - $49,999
   d) $50,000 - $74,999
   e) $75,000 - $100,000
   f) $100,000 - $150,000
   g) $150,000 +

5. What is your gender?
   a) Male
   b) Female
   c) Non-Binary/Third Gender
   d) Prefer not to say
e) Prefer to self-describe
Appendix D: Email Follow Up

Dear All,

I would like to confirm the meeting for the day after tomorrow Thursday, Oct 15, 2020 from 6pm-7:30 p.m. via Zoom (there is an automatic Google hangout link, do not use that). If you have any issues feel free to call or text 385.444.0894.

Our conversation will be based on a survey that you can find online here: https://www.reimagineenatureslc.com. Please take 10 minutes before the meeting tomorrow to explore the Public Lands Master Plan website and take this survey: https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/8297d3d87a7940e1a9825cf49c9f6715. Sign-up for the newsletter for up-to-date news and community engagement events.

If you are planning to attend the meeting please complete a survey to help us keep track of who is providing input in these focus groups: https://forms.gle/ZjebUumRaNDdALfQ8. Thank you all for your willingness to provide input.

Best,

Fabiha Pinaz (385.444.0894)

Join Zoom Meeting
https://utah.zoom.us/j/98683614967
Passcode: 591717
Dial by your location
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
Appendix E: Photographs

Appendix F: Focus Group Guide
Facilitator #1 – Welcome! – 15 minutes

[Choose a student to be the main facilitator and give the introduction. Welcome people informally as they enter to the SLC Public Lands Master focus group. Engage in small chat and answer questions people have. Tell them to fill out the demographic questionnaire, survey in English or Spanish, and asked them to take a look at the Snapshot (upload in zoom, for in person we will have copies).

My name is [name] and I am a master student at the University of Utah in City & Metropolitan Planning. We are University students working with the City Public Lands Divisions to better understand how people might reimagine the future of parks, trails, and natural areas. And now each team member will introduce themselves to you. [Introduction of other students in the team]. Here with us we also have staff from SLC Public Lands [introduction of SLC Public Lands staff].

As you know from our previous communication, you are here to participate in a focus group (or in other words a group discussion) on a specific topic. The topic that we will be discussing today is what you reimagine the future of parks, trails, and natural areas in Salt Lake City. During this focus group, you all will have the opportunity to share your experiences about going to trails, parks, and natural areas in the city. Most importantly we interested in your thoughts about how to improve them in the next 10 and 20 years.

We do not want to miss anything that you say, that being said this conversation will be audio recorded. The recording will be used to transcribe the conversation and later pull out some quotes for a report we are writing. We will not use your name on the report. We will give you a fake name. We asked you for your demographics previously to know as a collective who came to all the focus groups, we have six in total and about 40 people will be participating. In the report we will use your fake name with some identifiers including possibly your age, gender, race and ethnicity. We will also be taking pictures to put in our report.

☐ If in person: However, we will be taking pictures of your back or hands. We will not take pictures of your face, where other will be able to identify you.

☐ If in Zoom: If you are in Zoom and you would not like pictures of you, make sure to turn off your camera now, so we can take a quick group picture with our screenshot right now.

[For community councils there is NO compensation. If is not a community council, mention that we will be offering $25 gift card as a token of our appreciation. We will talk more about this at the end of the meeting].

All that being said, our discussion will last about 1.20 minutes [change if there is less time due to tardiness. If in person, say, please help yourself to the refreshments throughout the meeting].

Are there any questions so far?

Page | 22
Ground Rules
Before starting with the conversation, we would like to set up some guiding principles. Principles that will help us to make the best of our group discussion:

1. Turn off your cell phones.
2. One person speaks at a time.
3. There are no right or wrong answers.
4. Like in Las Vegas, what is said in this room stays in this room.
5. Talk to each other not strictly to the person asking questions.
6. If you feel uncomfortable please let us know.
7. Would someone like to add something?

I. Facilitator #2: Introduction (20 minutes, student led): First, I will ask you about parks, trails, natural areas near home.
   1. Icebreaker: Salt Lake City Public Lands Divisions conducted Needs Assessment which found that, having a park within walking distance of home (half a mile or 15-minute walk) was considered extremely important to 57% of Salt Lake City residents surveyed in 2017 and having a park in biking distance of home was extremely important to 38%. We will go in a circle and we will have everyone introduce themselves. In 1 minute, tell me your name where you live in and how important is to you to have nearby your home a city park, a recreational trail or bike path, a natural area or open space, a street or public space with abundant trees, maybe a city golf course? [I want to hear specifically about the places that you go near your home so in your neighborhood].
   2. Satisfaction: Now I would like to know: What you enjoy about this place? What is great about it? Prompts: Maybe you feel more connected to nature, it’s a great place to exercise or meet friends in the neighborhood, its clean and well taken of.
   3. Unsatisfaction: What prevents you or members of your household from spending more time in these outdoor places? Prompt maybe there are no places nearby, places are too crowded, hard to get there, safety or security concerns? Do you avoid, not enjoy, or feel uncomfortable or not welcome in some city parks or natural areas near your home or in your neighborhood? If yes, can you tell me about some of these locations and what could improve your experience?
   4. Exit Question: In general, what would make park, trail, natural areas, golf course near your home better?
II. Facilitator #3: Stewardship (20 minutes, staff and student led). The next topic we will discuss is stewardship.

1. Student will introduce SLC staff so he or she can talk about stewardship (if SLC staff is not available student will assume this role instead).
   - Public Lands Division Staff Member: When it comes to stewardship of our parks, citizens have indicated they would most like to see the following improvements: maintenance and cleanliness, additional or improved restrooms, lighting or safety features and additional trees. Stewardship activities in public lands can also support more natural habitat protection, like recent efforts at Fife Wetland Preserve (Link #1, Link #2) or at Friends at Fairmont Park which is a group of citizens in Sugar House that advice the city on issues regarding this park as well as organize their own activities (include other examples that you are personally involved with). [Student note: show images, find online, make a collage if you like. Here are some instructions for printing posters for free at the college: http://www.cap.utah.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Plotting-Instructions_01.pdf].

2. Student will ask questions: Are there any areas for improvement for any of the parks, trails or natural areas that are close to you? Prompts:
   - Add or renovate aged restrooms, playgrounds and other amenities
   - Add and service more bins for trash and dog waste
   - Plant more trees in parks and natural areas
   - Incorporate more native, waterwise or pollinator plants in landscaping
   - Acquire additional natural areas to increase size of existing habitat blocks and wildlife corridors
   - Support “Friends of the Parks” groups
   - Develop ranger/ambassador programs
   - Host educational events to build land ethics
   - Support active modes of transportation to reduce carbon footprint (e.g., walking, biking)

3. Student will ask question and staff will discuss opportunities for volunteering: Are there ways you can imagine yourself contributing to the stewardship of public lands? For example, you can volunteer for clean-up days, tree planting, etc.
III. Facilitator #4: Equity (20 minutes, student led). Now we will discuss topics related to equity.

1. **Introduction:** SLC is home to over 196,000 people who speak 80 languages representing a broad range of socioeconomic backgrounds and cultural heritages. As in most American cities, there are gaps in the amount and quality of public lands available to different neighborhoods in SLC. Question: When you imagine our public lands 10-20 years from now, what changes can we make to our public lands system to help serve and include all people more equitably?

2. **Accessibility:** Now, I would like to hear about how accessible are these places to you? Prompts:
   - Are parks, trails and natural areas located in close enough proximity to you?
   - You feel that they close by walking distance? Do you have to drive? How do you get there (walk, bike, take public transit, carpool)? Has transportation been a challenge in the past when wanting to visit a park, trail or natural areas anywhere in the city?
   - Are these places accessible for older adults and for people with disabilities? Once you are there, can you move around freely (sidewalks are good, there are handrails if you need them, etc.)?

2. **Programming:** Unfortunately, Public Lands does not do significant programming. They only do a small number of events to activate parks. Collaborating departments, such as the Arts Council does cultural programming and Public Lands facilitates access to outside groups that also program their spaces. We still want to lean how do you think that programing could be more inclusive to different cultural groups? Let’s use as an example the Hispanic or Latinx, Somali or Pacific Islander community but we might extend our thinking to other ethnic groups like.
   - Could translations of Public Land materials (e.g. website, events, signage at parks, trails, etc.) encourage participation and use?
   - What about park, trail, and natural area locations in neighborhoods where there are people from different cultures?
   - How about activities, are there some cultural events or programs for families, youth or older adults that would be appealing to you?
   - What else would be important for you, your family, and others in your community?

IV. Facilitator #1: Closing (15 minutes).

1. We have arrived to the end of our discussion, like at the very beginning we will go in a circle, hearing from each one of you with a closing question: What else should be considered in developing the
Public Lands Master Plan for natural areas, urban forests, and parks? [If people do not know what to say, asked them: what resonated the most with you in this conversation? What is the most important thing that the master plan should include? What is the one message that decision makers should hear from this conversation we just had?].

2. I now have a question for staff of the Public Lands Division: What was some of the most important things that you heard today?

3. Thanks, you all for coming! Your comments will be very valuable in creating the next Public Lands Master Plan. Make sure that you fill out the full survey online so you can sign up to receive updates on the plan and can be engage in any future activities.

4. I also would like to invite you to our final class presentation to take place online, using the same link and passcode, on Thursday November 19, from 9:10 a.m.-10:30 a.m. We will be sending you a formal invite a few weeks before the event. At this presentation we will be providing a summary of the six focus groups as well as findings from more than 2,000 surveys that have been collected for this project. [Upload to the chat the invite that is in Canvas under this homework].

5. And now [name of student] will have more information for you about the payment. [Please note that Community Councils would not receive payment].
Appendix G: Thank You Email

Hello,

I hope this email finds you well. I wanted to personally thank you for your time to provide insights on how to improve our Public Lands in Salt Lake City. Your comments will be very valuable in creating the next Public Lands Master Plan. Hope you all have filled out the full survey and demographic questionnaire online so you can sign up to receive updates on the plan and can engage in any future activities.

I would also like to personally invite you to our final class presentation that will take place online, using the same link and passcode (https://utah.zoom.us/j/98683614967 | Passcode: 591717), on Thursday November 19, from 9:10 a.m.-10:30 a.m. We will be sending you a formal invite a few weeks before the event. At this presentation, we will be providing a summary of the six focus groups as well as findings from more than 2,000 surveys that have been collected for this project.

If you have any direct questions, I would recommend reaching out to Lewis Kogan, Trails and Natural Lands Division Director (Lewis.Kogan@slcgov.com), Nancy Monteith, Public Lands Landscape Architect (Nancy.Monteith@slcgov.com), or Kristin Riker, Public Lands Director (kristin.riker@slcgov.com).

Thanks for all you do for our community,

Fabiha Pinaz
University of Utah Master CMP Program and Salt Lake City’s Public Lands Re-Imagine Nature Team
Appendix H: Final Presentation Flyer

Survey/ Focus Group Findings and Recommendations

Presented by City and Metropolitan Planning Students

Join us on zoom
Passcode: 591717

9:30-10:30AM
November 19, 2020

REIMAGINE NATURE
SLC PUBLIC LANDS MASTER PLAN

City and Metropolitan Planning
Appendix I: Transcript

00:29:14.340 --> 00:29:18.300
Tiberius: Yeah, I'm not very musically inclined either, but I did just upload the current snapshot for Salt Lake City Public Lands. If you guys haven't had the opportunity to take a look at that yet I think now would be a good opportunity.

00:29:35.460 --> 00:29:37.230
Tiberius: Marci, do you mind sharing the link to the demographic survey?

00:29:42.210 --> 00:29:42.570
Tiberius: Thank you.

00:29:46.380 --> 00:29:48.060
Tiberius: Hi. Is it Kenneth?

00:29:52.890 --> 00:29:53.730
Kenneth: Yeah, that's right.
Tiberius: Welcome. Thank you.

00:29:55.530 --> 00:29:56.700
Tiberius: Thanks for joining us.

00:30:06.030 --> 00:30:08.370
Tiberius: So we are now six minutes after six. So we're going to go ahead and get started.

00:30:14.520 --> 00:30:27.210
Tiberius: My name is Tiberius Rodriguez and I'm a Master's student with the University of Utah and I'm in the city and metropolitan planning program. My colleagues and I are working with the city's Public Lands management to better understand how residents and community leaders, like you guys, how you currently see our parks trails and natural areas in the city and also how you'd like to see those natural areas in the future.

00:30:46.230 --> 00:30:54.780
Tiberius: So we're going to take a few moments. And we're just going to go ahead and let each member of our team introduce themselves starting with Marci.
Marci: Hi, I'm Marci. I'm a second year masters student at the CMP, City Metropolitan Planning Department, and I am happy to be here today. Thank you.

00:31:15.720 --> 00:31:17.070
TATIANA: I can go next. So, I'm Tatiana Bussel, I'm also a second year student with the masters of City metropolitan planning program, and very interested in public lands and we're very excited to help shape them for the future and we're very excited to hear your input.

00:31:37.050 --> 00:31:42.300
Esmeralda: And I'm Esmeralda. I'm a first year in the City and metropolitan planning Masters program and like we mentioned, I'm really excited to get your guys's input and learn from you all.

00:31:56.430 --> 00:32:04.740
Tiberius: Alright thanks team. So here with us. We also have staff from Salt Lake City Public Lands Elizabeth, do you mind going ahead and introducing Yourself.

00:32:07.320 --> 00:32:24.690
Elizabeth: I'm Elizabeth and I'm the landscape architect/Park planner for the public lands divison at Salt Lake City, and I really want to thank you for sharing your evening with us tonight. This is the sixth focus group, we've had in
Elizabeth: I haven't been able to participate. I think I participated in, I'm gonna say three and a half and the conversations have been so rich and really, I think will be really useful and helpful in how we (inaudible) charged with you, the future for public land. So thank you for being here.

London: And I'm London, I am just observing. I'm an assistant professor in City and Metropolitan Planning and the professor of this class. So last night, somebody asked me if I was a spy, um, because I didn't introduce myself; so, I'm not. I'm just observing the focus group so thank you for being here.

Tiberius: Thank you. London. Thank you, Elizabeth. So as many of you already know, you're here to participate in a focus group which is just a fancy way of saying a focused group discussion, and the topic that we will be discussing tonight is how you might reimagine the future of our parks, trails, and that natural areas here in Salt Lake City.

Tiberius: During this focus group, all of you will have the opportunity to share your experiences about trails, parks, and natural areas in the city, but most importantly were interested in your thoughts about how to improve these community assets over the next 10 to 20 years.
Tiberius: So, we also don't want to miss anything, and that being said, this conversation is going to be audio recorded.

00:34:07.050 --> 00:34:15.150

Tiberius: The recording will be used to transcribe the conversation and later we’re going to pull out some quotes for a report that we are going to write up, and we will not use your names on the report and we'll be giving everyone fake names. Our discussion is expected to last about an hour and 20 minutes. Thus far, are there any questions?

00:34:33.030 --> 00:34:33.840

Tiberius: Okay, great. So, we’re just going to establish some guiding principles, or in other words ground rules, and these principles are really just put in place to help us facilitate this group discussion and keep it smooth; there’s six of them in total. I’m going to go ahead and post those in chat. I will also briefly discuss them.

00:35:20.370 --> 00:35:27.600

Tiberius: So the first one: turn off your cell phones, please. Second: one person speaks at a time, which you guys are all Community Council members. I’m sure your etiquette is on point when it comes to these group discussions by now, but this is just a friendly reminder. Third: there are no right or wrong answers. So, don’t let that discourage you from giving us your voice, and four: what is said in this focus group stays in this focus group.

00:35:54.570 --> 00:36:05.130

Tiberius: I realized that most of you already know each other. So, we ask that you don't repeat anything that anyone else says outside of this focus group.
Tiberius: Five: talk to each other and not strictly to the person asking the questions, so myself or any of the other facilitators. And, six: If you feel uncomfortable for any reason, please feel free to let us know. You can send us a private message using zoom chat.

Tiberius: Lastly, do you feel like there's anything else that should be added to the six principles.

Tiberius: Do you think we should have any other rules to guide this discussion.

Tiberius: Okay, great. If not, I'm going to go ahead and turn the time over to my colleague Marci and she's going to give you a more detailed introduction to the initiative and she's also going to start the discussion.

Marci: Thank you Tiberius.
Marci: So first we're going to talk about the parks, trees, and natural areas near your home, and we will have like 20 minutes for this discussion. We will go in a circle and ask every one of you about this.

Marci: So, Salt Lake City public land division conducted a needs assessment which found that having a park within walking distance of home, like half mile or 15 minutes walk, was considered extremely important to 57% of Salt Lake City residents, 2017, and having a park in biking distance of home was extremely important to 38%.

Marci: So we will go in a circle and we will have everyone introduce themselves and we will do that in One minute per person.

Marci: You just have to tell me your name, where you live, and how important it is to you to have nearby your home city parks, recreational trail or bike paths, a natural area, open space, streets or public space with abundant trees, maybe a city golf course. So, especially I want to hear about the places that you go near your homes. So in your neighborhood.
Marci: So we can start with Brandon?

369

00:38:25.500 --> 00:38:27.840

Marci: So just talk about your age.

371

00:38:30.630 --> 00:38:38.430

Cornelius: Yeah, thanks. Um, my name is Cornelius. I am not a resident of the west side. I actually live in South Salt Lake, but I'm working with Turner, Lily, and the Glendale Community Council on a plan for the Glendale neighborhood as part of my professional project up at the University. I'm a Master's student in the planning program, currently in my second and final year, but I do think parks are very important. I always try to make sure I utilize the parks in my area.

374

00:39:03.990 --> 00:39:19.860

Cornelius: I live pretty close to some parks, Fitz Park, a city park down here in South Salt Lake is like a three minute walk from my house. The city I used to live in before, I lived like a block from a really awesome, gigantic city park called Forest Park.

376

00:39:24.180 --> 00:39:32.430

Cornelius: I'm mostly here just to kind of listen more to what people have been saying because our plan for the Glendale neighborhood is going to include a lot of stuff related to parks. So, I might not talk as much as some other people but I might chime in if I have some stuff to say now and then.
Marci: Thank you, Brandon. We can move on to DB then.

Daryl: Oh, I'm David (DB) Troester, David Troester, and I live in Glendale. I'm on the steering committee for the vision Glendale, is that the proper name?

Cornelius: One Glendale

Daryl: One Glendale. Thank you. And, you know, I try to be active in my community as well and want to see the parks improve. I live on the Jordan River Parkway. So I do use it every day. I just took a walk, actually, before this meeting. I go north and south on the trail. That's the directions that it runs mostly.

Daryl: Can you hear me. Am I talking loud enough?
Daryl: Okay, and I love, like, the peace gardens. To me, the peace gardens is, (the international peace gardens) is the epitome of what a really good Park is. You know, there are different types of parks, but from for public parks and usage, that gets the most. And it's also the cleanest and it also keeps...It stays that way because they maintain it. They input a lot of resources into it. There are other parts of the parkway that are not as nice and different elements and different levels of crime because of that I think, you know, and because of where they are, but I just want to see it improve and yeah, I think that's it.

Marci: Thank you, DB. So, now Janet, can you tell us about your nearby parks and where you go?

JENNIFER: Yeah, my name is Janet and I live like in Poplar Grove Park and at the U, so, I'm living in both kind of, and I really like like going to the parks, and like, The actual Poplar Grove Park is where I grew up, mostly, and yeah, and like, the Jordan Trail, I feel like I really go there a lot too. Yeah, I don't really have much to say.

Marci: Thank you. So, now Taylor. Can you share?

Megan: Yeah hi. Sorry. I think my audio, like, got weird and I was interrupting earlier. So, I apologize. I live really close to the international peace gardens and that was just a huge reason for me to move to the area. The peace gardens and also the Jordan River
Parkway, the trail access is really great, and so for me it's important. I have a dog. I love to go out and take the dog for a walk, and I really enjoy getting to like spend time in the parks. What were the other questions I was supposed to answer?

00:42:40.620 --> 00:42:46.170

Marci: Yeah, just which places do you choose to go nearby your home, like a five-minute walk or a 15-minute walk?

00:42:49.800 --> 00:42:56.820

Megan: Okay, great. Yeah. So, I'm a very close walk from all of anything near the peace gardens, the new park that's being built, the Three Rivers one, and yeah, I just love the area specifically because of the access to parks.

00:43:06.210 --> 00:43:06.780

Megan: Thank you Taylor. So Lily, do want to talk about your ones or can we move on?

00:43:15.990 --> 00:43:21.390

Jasmine: I'll just sort of echo what Cornelius said. Yeah, I'm working with Brandon, and Turner with The one Glendale plan. And so I'm kind of acting as a fly on the wall during this meeting. But thank you for extending the invitation. Yeah, I am not a Westside resident either. I live in the avenues and I really don't...I don't participate in the parks up here. I don't know if that's helpful for you that much. I go to the, like, the l. Street JOHN Park and the foothills trails more like up by the BST, which are a huge asset to this neighborhood, I think, but it's a much different geographical setting than the west side and works with slope and stuff. So, but, yeah, we're really excited to be here and my
camera might be off for a lot of this too. Sorry, all four of my roommates and I have night classes. So our bandwidth gets kind of chewed up. But yeah, thanks for hosting.

429

00:44:17.340 --> 00:44:18.660

Marci: Thank you Lily. So can we move on to Kimberly?

431

00:44:22.830 --> 00:44:45.540

DELILAH: Yes. Hello, I'm Kimberly and I live in West Point. And I guess to answer kind of the parks, I go to, um, I go to the West Point Park sometimes, mainly for like 15-minute walks. I also bike on the Jordan River Trail, and like, I go sometimes to the park behind the elementary school that's nearby that's pretty open. Um, I don't know what other questions there were.

439

00:45:13.860 --> 00:45:18.030

Marci: No, I guess you answered. Thank you. So now we can move on to Theresa.

443

00:45:31.620 --> 00:45:37.530

Patricia: My name is Teresa Molina. I live right behind the Jordan River, close to California Avenue, and I use the Jordan Trail every day.

448

00:45:51.750 --> 00:45:52.410
Patricia: I walk with my dog, my son, and sometimes with both at once, biking. But, it's a great asset, and I like to see it better. I'm here as a resident. I work for the University Neighborhood Partners.

00:46:26.490 --> 00:46:27.000
Marci: Thank You. Can we move on to Kenneth?

00:46:36.720 --> 00:46:39.690
Kenneth: Yes, yeah you pronounce it right. I'm Kenneth Hafoka. I'm a resident in Glendale, longtime resident, born and raised in the area. I've been away the last four years, but I recently came back in, came right back to Glendale. I was in California the last four years, but, uh, it's good to be back and definitely use the trails. I'm right by the 17th South Park, use that trail all the way up, North and South, up to Jordan Park and beyond and out the other way towards old school raging waters. Yeah, that's pretty much it. I'm just excited to be a part of the conversation. Thank you.

00:47:33.570 --> 00:47:34.350
Marci: Thank you, and Turner, do you want to share or...

00:47:42.450 --> 00:47:43.980
Henry: Yeah, my name's Henry, the chair of the community council.
Marci: Now. Can you guys share your satisfaction about the places you go? Some of you already did mention how you enjoy that, but you have to add something to that.

Patricia: An example, I like all the paths between 17 and 21 South. It's usually cleaner than the one between 38 17 south and 800 South. That area behind the peace gardens, it's a increasingly getting homeless population, it makes it a little frightful. I think more supervision, police supervision, on that could be very nice and care for the area. I don't know. There used to be a group of kids in urbanization who would organize cleanups, but I haven't seen that happening. And with the increasing use of the area behind or across the street from seven peaks.

Patricia: Now we have more teams and sometimes during the weekends live games, and a lot of waste that happens. It happens there without appropriately cleaning afterwards. That's something that I've been looking forward to, to share in this meeting, because I think that, at least my property taxes kept growing and growing and growing and I'd like to see that reflected in the care of this area, nature-wise.

Marci: That's a genuine concern. So, we will now talk about satisfaction, like what prevents you or a member of your household from spending more time in this or other places?

If there are no places, nearby places are too crowded, or if there are safety or security concerns, like, to avoid, not enjoy, or feel uncomfortable or not welcome in some city.
parks or natural areas? For yes, then can you tell me about some of these experiences? What could you grow your experience like Theresa said

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Daryl: I would echo what Teresa said. There are a lot of people experiencing homelessness, and whether it's safe or just the perception of insecurity, it doesn't really matter. I have a friend who lives on the trail and she drives to sugar house park in the morning because she's afraid to walk alone on the trail. Literally, last week I was in the Modesto Park, which is on my block and it's along the Jordan River Parkway. There's a little children's playground there. I was just sitting on the swing one evening, right about now even, like earlier than now. There's a half circle there and youth hang out and party in the circle, in their cars, and in the park. Other people and I have been just sitting on the swing and a youth came through, and I think I was in their space, so to speak, and they couldn't get high or whatever and so they started harassing me, verbally threatening me, you know, and they thought that I was a cop. I just ignored them at first, you know? I was just like "go away." "What's your problem?" but we didn't have to deal with that, and there's all kinds of incidences like that. And there's a lot of people experiencing homelessness along the trail, homeless camps in fact. In the Fife reserve, there's been a homeless camp for a couple of months and they're in the park next to it too. They sleep on cement pads that the city has had there a while. They're there, leftover probably from a home, but they're in the park and it's a clean easy place for people experiencing homelessness to sleep. It's right at where the stub street hits the trail and, you know, and you see there's a white minivan that comes there and I see homeless people get in and out of it. I don't know what they're doing, probably drugs, but I don't know that. But talk to the police, and they'll tell you there's a lot of that. So, it'd be nice to have more security on the trails.

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Patricia: I, I would say also there was, like, almost camping in the High Street, right across the peace garden for several days; bunch of people living there, drumming at night, and really makes it harder to feel so...eh, that area has better lights now but still when there are this many people and you can clearly smell the use of substances, I get scared. And I don't want to judge my neighbors, but I do think that some protection
needs to happen. I have seen increasing use of this area, which I love, but along with that, also some good fighting. I call 911 couple of weeks ago, at least the person who was picking up the phone call...I was asking for the police to come and make a round. They didn't even understand where the Glendale park across from seven peaks was located. She kept referring me to the tennis court, to the tennis court. By the time she picked the location, the fight was over, they had left in their cars. I never received a phone call back from the police about my report, when she said somebody was on a call me.

542
00:55:25.440 --> 00:55:27.930

Marci: Yeah, that's concerning. Thank you Teresa.

543
00:55:30.600 --> 00:55:37.680

Megan: I think just one comment to sort of piggyback off of that, I worked in homeless outreach for two years. This was a couple of years ago now, but I think beyond just policing, because I see also a lot of people criminalize homelessness, and I don't know that police would make all of the residents in this community feel safer. So, I just want to add sort of a voice to say Salt Lake City has done a lot to really harm homeless services by closing the road home and by reducing funding. And I think it's just to tie it back, like, if this is going into an official report anyway, something needs to be done in terms of having closed down the shelter.

I mean, come on, you know. Just like, I understand when there's serious danger concerns like fighting and other other things where you need to be able to have the police be there for you, but I think to just criminalize homelessness in and of itself does nothing to help the problem either.

Megan: And another, I do have one other comment, just about like, you know, the river is right here, and it's one of these things where I don't really know if it's safe to recreate in the river. So, I don't even know, like, where the data is or what the water quality is, and I think that is something that prevents me from... I've gone kayaking in it once or
twice, but, you know, like, actually, how good is the river is a question I have, and that prevents me from utilizing it more.

557

00:57:12.750 --> 00:57:20.100

Marci: That really interesting. So Kenneth, do have something on satisfactory in your park?

558

00:57:20.340 --> 00:57:25.800

Patricia: I wanna talk on both of those concerns. Thank you for mentioning not criminalizing our neighbors or homelessness.

560

00:57:37.980 --> 00:57:38.850

Kenneth: I feel like whatever you're saying in terms of the homeless population that kind of is on the trail, for me and my family, we come in contact with a lot but you know we don't have any issue with, you know, recognizing that a lot of services have been dropped. That's just kind of a given, you know? You can probably go somewhere where it might be a little bit less traffic, or I don't know, a place that may seems secure and safe and the trail is kind of one of those places. It's tough, you know, so I think...I'm really not keen on police being in the area. I don't know if I'd feel comfortable if that was the case.

Again, I don't have any solutions in terms of other possibilities of security. You know, granted, like, compared to myself and my spouse, you know, I know my spouse has has mentioned many times that she feels uncomfortable if I'm not around and it's a very different situation if I'm going compared to her and the kids, but, uh, overall, the experiences has been good, you know?
I've seen things kind of develop from a young age till now, where there was no trail. I don't know. It's pretty crazy. Just how that's kind of been created throughout the years and coming back and seeing more enhancements to the area. It's pretty cool. You know, we're just trying to enjoy it as much as we can, and I don't really have too many complaints. We joked around as kids, like, you know, swimming in the Jordan River, but man that was like danger zone. I don't know. I never knew what was gonna exist down there, in terms of like water quality, you know? I've seen some plans of, like, possibilities of recreating and then I'm like, man, that's pretty wild. I don't know what it's going to take to do that and which areas that will be, I guess, safe to do that in.

But other than that, yeah, no complaints right now, but I do want to acknowledge some of the possible safety concerns. I think more for me, just the litter, the trash that is found, especially what Teresa was saying, from like 21 to eight South. But yeah, other than that good for now.
Henry: This is Turner. I thought that the the way that maybe we could address some of these issues, as I've talked to more neighbors, because it seems the neighborhood has a general distrust of law enforcement handling this type of thing, but I am interested in the fact that, like the urban treehouse and specific areas of the Community will always kind of be a magnet. And I'm wondering if we could explore something like social workers assigned to specific geographic areas. Not necessarily to do like case management of every person there, but to help connect to other resources and to like VOA and that type of thing. I think the idea of having...and you could contract with like the harm reduction coalition or different groups that are very trusted by the community to have someone there able to make connections and kind of facilitate a better system for folks who are unsheltered because that's generally kind of the problem we're dealing with now. I imagine as homelessness is is resolved or as that issue kind of gets under control that there would be other issues that could potentially come up to replace that. I just think the idea of having someone assigned to a specific area, really paying attention to it could help combat some of these problems because a lot of it is, you know, folks will camp for seven days and then someone will come along and ask them to move and then within 24 hours. They're back because it's a it's a good geographic location. So just kind of thinking about it as location based as opposed to client base, if you will. I think it could be powerful for the system.

Megan: I Want to say I like the sound of that idea and at the same time, like that was exactly my position and homeless outreach. I was assigned the Rio Grande area and it's an area where there's already a huge amount of services, and our team was created in the sense of "Why are there still so many people outside?" A lot of what we figured out there was a lot of the people who are there and not accessing services were there because they didn't really need services. Some of them even had places, they could go home to. So, they just wanted to be there for the more of the illicit activity.

I think closing down several hundred beds of the shelter is just like, It's just such a huge problem because the model we were operating off and saw, I mean like, there was already the homeless outreach program, which would come along the Jordan River and there has always been people who camp along the Jordan River, but they're the kind of
people who don't want to be around the chaos of the shelter and I think now with the shelter being gone it is pushing people who otherwise would have hung out in that area to look for this area, you know? So, I think, social workers are great. I have both my bachelor's and master's in social work. But I'm also just a little skeptical because a lot of times, having done that work, it just felt like putting a bandaid on the problem, you know, and yeah, the city just did something extremely irresponsible shutting down the shelter and not offering the same amount of beds and other capacity.

618
01:04:55.980 --> 01:04:56.460
Marci: Yeah. Thank you. So, we will move on now.

621
01:05:06.660 --> 01:05:08.850
Patricia: I want to mention that there's another camp now happening quite regularly. There's a family who does what Turner just described, comes back and forth, back and forward. And there is another one by the wetlands, by the island. I don't know the boundaries of Glendale.

629
01:05:50.490 --> 01:05:53.520
Marci: Thank you. So, we will move on to stewardship.

631
01:05:59.010 --> 01:06:01.410
TATIANA: Um, so I will be taking over the stewardship portion of this focus group. So thank you Marci for everything. I'll turn it over to Elizabeth to give a brief overview of what the city has already done in terms of stewardship activities.
Elizabeth you're muted.

01:06:34.350 --> 01:06:55.050

Elizabeth: I want to thank everyone for the thoughtful conversation, particularly about the homeless issues. I think they are enormously complex, and the thing that I hear is definitely a recognition that it's a much larger problem than sort of the spaces that they occupy. I think we're trying to work with partners as much as we can on that and the public lands did get additional funding for, I believe, about a year and a half to do additional cleanups and address the impacts of camps in those spaces.

But, um, the city is looking for other solutions and it is an integrated thing. Some of the other things I wanted to bring up, I've heard a lot about security and wanting a sense of oversight. One of the things we've been thinking about and proposing for a while is a ranger program. And so that would be something that's similar to Rangers. The National Parks, but they are dressed more they're dressed like a ranger. They also do interpretation of our areas and they're more like a host and they do not carry firearms, but they work in close coordination with the police department. They would be solely dedicated to our parks and natural lands. So, as we move forward, I would be interested in hearing some of your responses, if that would be a more welcoming solution to security. You'd have a presence, but it's more of a friendly, a host like presence.

Then a couple other things I wanted to mention, I appreciate Kenneth, it's nice to see that when you have a long view over time. And you can see the changes. It's nice to hear that, and we have done a lot with trying to kind of regenerate the natural areas along the river. Particularly with the five wetland preserve that we've restored kind of connection to the groundwater and brought in native plants and I would say it's a work in progress. They're delicate systems and they take a while to to restore but that's something we're thinking about. And then we've also added another park in on Fairmont Park, we actually created a fishery. So trying to add more natural systems to our spaces. Then there's also a number of kinds of ways the community can partner with Public Lands on the stewardship of our spaces and I would also be interested in hearing if you think it would be interesting to your community and there's things like volunteer cleanups.
I've heard in another group that working with kids and the volunteer cleanups build a stewardship ethic early on. Also now, Tree Utah is doing a lot of plantings with the community, in particular, really looking at replacing all the trees that were lost in the wind storm, but also adding more trees particularly on the west side. One of the things that I did in particular with tree Utah was do planting plans for a lot of parks on the west side so that we can use those tree plantings to add to the kind of space creation of those parks. So, you create places for people to gather

And then there's partnering with other groups to do programming in our parks and seeing what's interested, what people are interested in seeing. And I think the last one which is prescient for now is that the city does except constituent applications for capital improvements to public spaces. So the community, and I think it's when the Community Council or community group can can identify things that are really important and needed and provide it application to the city think it tells it gives us a lot of information about what's important to the community.

And so I would be interested in any kind of reactions to any number of those ideas or if you have other ideas about stewardship in our public spaces.

659
01:11:32.490 --> 01:11:34.830
TATIANA: Thank you for all that info and Elizabeth.

662
01:11:39.780 --> 01:11:42.120
TATIANA: So yeah, we really just want to know if you can think of any general, you know, improvements to the parks and natural areas near you, specifically related to stewardship. Some of the things we've already mentioned, such as picking up trash improving infrastructure such as lighting. And then implementing a ranger program as we discussed, but it can include other things as well, such as implementing more native pollinators or water wise plants, trying to expand our biodiversity, and things like that. And we also would like to know if there are any ways you can imagine yourself
contributing to the stewardship of these lands, such as through volunteer activities through the city, picking up trash planting trees, things like that.

Patricia: Well, I think that definitely a partnering with other organizations, like the Jordan River Commission has locally partnered with the Utah Museum of Natural History and with huddling community for youth and families with the Tracy Aviary, so expanding that and looking for funding applications that show partnership. That can help organize the community through the city council and I think that is viable, but it does require resources.

For the Ranger program. I think it will be a mix of social organizing. And we have nearby the community learning center, where they are parents and families for families and organizations through reaching out, like there has been for for two years in a row with a Fish and Wildlife agency. And some opportunities for that with the sovereign citizens swap was a (inaudible) section that was protected by the state.

(Inaudible)

It's a ranger program that does a professional job and wants to help in terms of conservation.

Daryl: I'm having a hard time hearing you. I don't know if you're covering your microphone with your hand or...
Patricia: Oh, sorry. It's better?

TATIANA: Yes.

Patricia: Okay. I was done. I'm so sorry. But that's so bad, but also people who are connected with the community with a local community. So, there has to be a purpose for hiring of those rangers. It's not anybody or someone with high credentials. I like when the DWS says the best resume is not always the best candidate because there is no community connections that can draw the community to engage.

So, all these ideas that were discussed are great ideas. I do think that the implementation on the socialization needs to take deeply in consideration on our local students, take 12, organizations caring for the environment and local organizations like the sports organizations, we should not see them as as a problem because they have the games and they leave all the garbage. They are helping our kids to to exercise. Right. But there is a civic engagement, that needs to happen with those a sport athletes that teach them to be more responsible in terms of how they manage that the areas that are being just for for them.

So I do love the ideas and I'm a resident. I'm speaking as a resident. But as someone who works also for the University Neighborhood partners. I know that we can engage with a staff people in these efforts, particularly in the Glendale and all the West area.
TATIANA: Awesome. Great. Well, thank you so much for your input. Kimberly. You've been a little quiet. Do you have any thoughts on this.

DELILAH: Yeah, I guess, with regards I use the Jordan trail for biking mostly and if I ever do walk, I mostly do with family. I guess for security reasons, I would agree with kind of what to Teresa was saying. I think it's a great idea in regards to they probably have a greater capacity to to add to these areas, but it would be nice that they do have some connection to the community where they can implement programs like focus groups, like these, to discuss any ideas.

TATIANA: Awesome. Thank you. This is all very helpful. Anyone else?

Henry: So my perspective on this, I think one of the ways that the parks department could really work with communities is through, like, a community grants program. I think if there was, well, so there's a lot of groups out there that want clean up events and kind of organize on litter issues and that type of thing. But there's often costs that go along with that, not only like the equipment, but advertising, marketing, you know, just providing food. There's just all kinds of little costs that come up and that can often be like a prohibitive barrier to organizing anything. I see so many of my neighbors out picking up garbage and just kind of walking around and doing it, one-on-one, but the second you start organizing there becomes a need for a little bit of funding, and I think similar to like the Salt Lake City Arts Council, there could be an issue. It would not have to be a very large amount of money. I think even $10 or $15,000 a year. You could do mini-grants to groups that want to do this type of cleanup. So, doing a pancake and a puncture vine event, even just paying for pancake mix and making sure you have big enough mixing bowls for 100 people can be cost prohibitive to a church or to a small
group. And so, even just little grants of 100 and $250 would go a long way and supporting community ability to do this type of work.

01:20:22.950 --> 01:20:26.820

TATIANA: Thank you. I love the pancake and puncture vine idea. That's great.

Janet, do you have anything to add.

01:20:34.770 --> 01:20:40.890

JENNIFER: Um, no. I can't think of anything off the top of my head about this topic right now.

01:21:17.460 --> 01:21:30.270

Elizabeth: Yeah, we do have a puncture vine pancake event, but I think there's a lot of puncture vines out there and I like Turner's idea about the small grants.
You know the tree planting. The other thing, too, is it's a way to meet your neighbors and to grow community as well as take care of these public spaces. We also have adopt a spa, which is you as a group or organization. You can pick areas along the Jordan River and kind of own them. I think there's a variety of volunteer options, but we could definitely grow it more.

I think, how people want to contribute also kind of becomes indicative of what those values are. If it's planting or if it's contributing to kind of the native landscape or maybe there's a like a neighborhood watch or this is something new, but something where you're A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH THAT INCLUDES THE PARKS. And then I think it's also important to recognize that it's going to take a whole bunch of different strategies working together, that the city does it's, you know, does quite a bit, and then the community learns about what the city can do and then we work with other partners.

TATIANA: Awesome. All right, well, if no one has any other thoughts on this issue, we can go ahead and move on and I will turn it over to Esmeralda.

Esmeralda: Awesome. Thank you Tatiana, and thanks everyone for your thoughts. like, we were saying, thanks for the people who throwing thoughts up in the chat.

Now we're going to talk about equity salt lake city is home to over 196,000 people who speak over 80 different languages, representing a broad range of socio-economic backgrounds and cultural heritages. As in most American cities, there are gaps in the amount and quality of public lands available to different neighborhoods in Salt Lake City. So when you imagine our public lands 10 to 20 years from now. What Changes Can we make to make the system help serve and include people more equitably.
And let's throw it to DB. If you want to start, that'd be great. Oh.

Daryl: Actually, you'd have to repeat the question. Sorry, I was just

Daryl: Equity is an issue. You know, that's a hard issue across the board in everywhere, in every bureaucracy, in every government organization, in society as a whole. Are they not equitable now? I mean, anybody can have access to them. There's a lot of ways to look at equity and I don't know really how to answer your question, but like if I or somebody else feels threatened in a park then that kind of inhibits equity right? You don't go there. You can't use it, you know? You don't want to use it. You feel like you don't want to use it. That can apply for anybody.

Daryl: That's the downside, but I mean access, equity is all about access, right? And it'd be accessible to People like neighborhood parks. You know, I don't go to sugar house park. I ride my bike to liberty Park sometimes. There are other parks, but equity is a tough issue. And that's a broad question too. Do you have anything a little more honed in or specific? What what exactly do you mean by equity?

Esmeralda: Yeah, I mean I definitely agree it's very overarching and it connects to a lot of different points. We can talk about accessibility and if places are accessible if they're not for all, you know, like people of older ages, people with disabilities, and people of minority groups.
Elizabeth: It's so unique in that one of the things we need to do for Salt Lake City, what is equity mean here? and you know on theme we hear quite often is that the parks on the east side are nicer than the parks on the west side. And how do we talk about that and how do we address it?

But then there's also, when we look at the level of service, which is really Park acres per person. There's actually quite a lot of parks on the west side, and more parks on the west side than say downtown in central city, so liberty Park, the central city area actually has fewer Park acres per person than, say, the west side. As a as a government entity, we want to serve people equity and equitably in the city, but part of that is, what's the definition for Salt Lake City?

Patricia: I think there are a lot of perspectives, but I can tell you that the winner, we have a lot of youth of color in in our westside schools. Very specific, so, most popular sport is soccer. Nevertheless, all the soccer leagues that are well equipped are on the east. And there are not soccer fields available lately. They have allowed to use the space next to peace garden, and this year, I've seen another soccer club practicing on on the Glendale park on 17 South.

But, it's a matter of experience. We have a large population of color that live on the west side. our knowledge of the United States system, who is in touch of what how the focus groups happen, how they consult. Several years ago somebody was asking if the golf course, there on 17 South next to seven peaks should be used in a different way. I don't think there was enough participation. People didn't know what to ask or how to ask.

Definitely, there are not only as a sector base policy on managing nature or man or Parks and Recreation, but the recreation part has to be spoken and not only to draw the
population. There should be more support for outdoor sports that are more popular. Like, we have a good Pacific Islander community who like to play, I believe it's rugby. Now, I don't know the name of the sport. I can see how they are overlapping here on the Southland, a park when some days the soccer, some days rugby.

810

01:30:56.700 --> 01:30:59.460

Patricia: So I know of groups who have difficulties to find spaces where to practice on regular space. You know where they go? and they have salt lake city clubs, but they go to West Valley. They go to South Jordan, they go to the farther west locations because for some reason they are more friendly spaces over there for the sports that are popular on the west side.

813

01:31:33.000 --> 01:31:37.110

Esmeralda: Yeah, thank you so much Teresa. Kenneth, do you have any thoughts on this?

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01:31:44.370 --> 01:31:46.350

Kenneth: Yeah, just taking everything in, and I think this might encompass some of the questions as well in terms of what we talked about in the beginning, to stewardship to equity. For me, I kind of think about the population that exists within our area and, you know, honestly, we're using the trail. There's a certain privilege that that we have of understanding what resources exists, and the ability to have time to use the resources. A lot of times, that doesn't really exist for those who might have a nine to five and other obligations and so it makes it very difficult to then get into the stewardship part of taking care of the area.

With 4th South closing. You have a lot of other homeless populations coming into these areas, primarily coming to the west and not necessarily to the east. And when I think of
the west side there's already so many of these other types of resources that exist within our areas, such as a halfway house. There's a couple, and other other entities that exists, but there's hardly any that I see that exists on the east side. And so when you're looking at different populations, where are they going to go, they're going to come to the west. If that's the case, then you start getting into these issues of safety, of people not wanting to engage, even if they have the time to use the areas will they use the areas because of issues around safety?

828
01:33:39.330 --> 01:33:51.000

Kenneth: And so then that issue that Elizabeth brought up in terms of all the east side looks better than the west side. You know, I think there's all these external factors that aren't necessarily being understood when when going about the discussion that we're having.

And so like going into equity, you know, who gets to use it and how often does it get used. You know, I'll speak on it maybe from a Pacific Islander lens, it is usually around sports, and I've had talks with with Turner about this but you know there's a high demand on pickle ball. Yes, that could exist. That would be really...I know 17 South has all those tennis courts and even if two of those courts were transformed into pickle ball courts that could end up being about 6 to 8 courts and you'd still have the tennis courts there.

Yeah, in terms of what Teresa was talking about in terms of rugby, A couple years ago, before I left to California, I was involved in a little league football team. Not because I have any kids that play football, but I felt like community members wanted something to happen, and we were able to slowly get areas that were more closer than having to travel to the east side to play youth sports. That did a number where it made things a little bit closer for families. There was less travel. Parents could be at home doing home cooked meal. So you have all these other things rather than having to go to Little Caesars or McDonald's on Redwood. These are like the hot spots that I think a lot of kids and parents know because there's not a lot of access to other types of foods too.

So anyways, that's a lot to take in, or...
Esmeralda: Thank you. That's super helpful and much needed. Taylor, do you have anything you want to add?

Megan: Just in the chat, yeah. Just thinking about engaging with the youth. I think kind of following what's already been said. Getting creative and engaging with the city or something like that.

Access is assumed, you know that everybody wants to use the park for one thing, but if we're using the same demographic, then you know, are we missing something really big?

Esmeralda: Thanks. Let's see, Janet or Kimberly, do you guys have anything?

JENNIFER: I would just like to go off of what Kenneth said, like using the tennis courts and renovating it to something more people use, because I don't really see the tennis courts being used. Honestly, I haven't really seen the tennis courts being used at all. So, I feel like if it was renovated to something else that more people use, like soccer fields or football fields, stuff like that, would they would use it more?
DELILAH: Yeah, exactly, the same here. As I was listening, I think mostly everybody hit that in respect to what are those popular activities in the community and how can we put funding towards this. I think someone even said, like, how can we rehabilitate the waterpark. And so, stuff like that I think would be really great in being creative too.

Esmeralda: Yeah, thank you. Thinking about programming, unfortunately, public lands doesn't do a significant amount of programming, they only have a small number of events, but do you guys think that there could be some programming that could be more inclusive to different cultural groups and some maybe something like translations to be more accessible and more inclusive throughout the public lands.

Elizabeth: And I'll just add that we're really interested. We recognize the role that having activities, positive activities, like athletics, cultural activities, and other kinds of things happening in parks really create successful spaces. So, what we're interested in is what kinds of things would you be interested in in the spaces that would make them feel more welcoming to you?

Henry: Um, if I can hop in a little bit. I'm not necessarily speaking for myself. I'm repeating some things that have come up repeatedly in my time with the Community Council, but one of the things that I hear consistently is that there's a lack of equipment on the west side. I think figuring out a way of providing that kind of equipment. So I've thought a lot about maybe the Community Council's helping store or having 20 pickle ball rackets or basketballs, that type of thing. Or maybe it's the city, and having them be
checked out at the local library or something, so that kids have access to equipment to actually be able to go use the facilities that are there. And this also works for larger equipment in terms of like picnic tables and such. I know I've noticed some new picnic tables down at Glendale Park, and that's one thing I've heard from from several families is wanting to do events and things there, but there's only a limited amount of space and tables. So, if there was a way to increase or to kind of bridge that equipment barrier I think that would help residents better access these and I can see using for small equipment like basketballs and stuff using the city library to check out that kind of equipment, something like that, though, that would provide that next level of access, I think, is another thing that could really help the neighborhood.

Esmeralda: Awesome. Thank you so much. Turner for sharing that perspective. I will turn it over to Tiberius to close with some final thoughts.

Tiberius: All right. Thanks Esmeralda. First of all, I'd like to thank everyone for coming and I really appreciate the feedback. Everyone gave really thoughtful feedback. Like at the beginning. We're going to go around in a circle hearing from each one of you, if you don't mind with a closing question. What else should be considered in developing the public lands master plan for natural areas urban forests and parks? And, that's open to all of you. I'd like you to just give a second to think about anything that you feel we haven't touched on in the previous questions.

Daryl: Well, I'll just kind of repeat what I said in the chat. We have got too many golf courses and they don't support themselves, you know? I didn't say it in the chat, but it's kind of an elitist sport. Like, particularly on the west side where football and Soccer are very popular, and rugby as well; actually in Jordan Park, you know?
That space could be better used probably and the 1.2 million that, I think it's 1.2 million, someone can verify that, that subsidizes the golf courses that shouldn't be subsidized, and I've made this point to my councilman and the City Council. We could use that money elsewhere and rehabilitate the waterpark or look at rehabilitating it. I don't know how suddenly, it became a $20 million rehabilitation, and we were just using a couple years ago.

But still, if you have 1.2 million, you could...The waterpark was very popular and would be popular. That's one activity, but there's things you could do with those golf courses and the resources that are applied there. That's just one idea.

Patricia: I'm speechless because that speaks to equity. I mean, the number of golfers living in the website, they are receiving a huge subsidy versus the other sports, who have been completely desert in support. I don't think for that sake that really the issue is engaging the community. That is a consistent presence in discussions with those who live in the neighborhood, because people don't get excited and engaged if they don't see familiar faces, if they don't hear what they really care for.

The public library as a it was suggested by Turner, is a good channel. The CMC, the heartland, There are organizations who care for the westside and we should engage them. The Soloman center, they were side multipurpose center or those are facilities that are in our staff. They represent a cost for the county, for the City, and they could work.

Patricia: Or have some staff to support the sports, like, if we really want to develop the youth in soccer and other sports, we should be looking at serious practices, but the county hires yearly high schoolers, who are not really coaches, so they keep soccer at a
recreational level instead of more competitive level with real coaches and real soccer clubs.

There is an initiative of the westside, the sports through university neighborhood partners. And I think, as I said before...in that capacity, I cannot personally engage, but we have a staff who could support the community and the City, and enlarge the impact and empowerment of our populations who do live on the west side. That would be my answer to the last question.

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01:46:17.940 --> 01:46:18.690
Tiberius: Thank you. Teresa.

918
01:46:27.420 --> 01:46:30.210
Tiberius: Anybody else like to leave us with the last thought

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01:46:33.300 --> 01:46:51.060
Megan: I saw it on the survey and we didn't talk about it much in this format but wildlife connectivity was sort of mentioned there. I'm not going to go super into it but I definitely want to echo and support of that sort of being looked at and taken into consideration as well.

920
01:46:57.450 --> 01:46:58.710
Tiberius: Great Megan. Okay, I guess that leaves us with just one last order of business. We'd like to take a group photo and that's for use in our report.