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## Hello, Salt Lakers.

Spring is here. While we celebrate progress in many areas, we are also addressing some difficult issues head-on. I want to share important updates on work happening across our city to keep Salt Lake City safe and moving forward.

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### Making Jordan River Parkway Trail Safer

Sections of the Jordan River Parkway Trail are suffering from environmental degradation, increased illegal activity, and infrastructure challenges that threaten the safety of those who use and live near it. We have a duty to act, and we are. As part of a comprehensive effort to address these critical issues, a [temporary closure](#) is now in place between Cottonwood Park and 700 North as we disrupt illicit activity and revitalize these public spaces to make them safer.

Our goal as a City is to reopen a safer, cleaner, and better-designed corridor that serves the neighborhood and our broader community members who use it responsibly.

[Learn more about the temporary closure](#)



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## Clean Air SLC Exchange Opens

The spring season means grass is getting greener—but that also means it's growing fast! Salt Lake City's Landscaping Equipment Exchange program can help—and the [next round of applications](#) opens tomorrow at noon! This popular program lets you apply for vouchers for electric lawn equipment, making it easier to ditch gas-powered tools and cut down on pollution. It's a simple switch that benefits both your yard and our air quality.

Applications open 4/3 at noon

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## Next Steps for Fleet Block

For over a decade, the City has worked to reimagine Fleet Block. Years of community discussion and planning led to steps like rezoning and environmental clean-up to [transform this long vacant land into something new that serves the neighborhood](#). While it's been slated for demolition and redevelopment for many years, in 2020, the block became a gathering space for social justice and the location of anonymously painted murals. As the City held space with the families of people depicted in the murals, we determined how to move forward with redevelopment of the block.

I know many of you saw the environmental clean-up of the block that began in mid-March, which included demolition of the vacant, hazardous warehouses on the property. Seeing the demolition of the murals was difficult. We've talked extensively with families and the local community as we've moved toward this next chapter.

The transformation of this block will continue to be shaped by the community, with the legacy of the murals carried forward in a social justice-inspired commissioned artwork. I hope to see the entire community's continued involvement in shaping this important space. Visit the [Fleet Block website and sign up](#) for updates on feedback opportunities and redevelopment progress.

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## Future of the Sundance Film Festival

The news that [Sundance Film Festival will be relocating](#) after 2026 was disappointing for many of us. For decades, Sundance has been a defining part of Utah's creative culture, and our bid team left nothing on the table in the effort to keep it here. While this chapter is closing, I do not doubt that new opportunities are on the horizon. Salt Lake City remains a hub of innovation and the arts, and we will continue to foster creativity, support local filmmakers, and expand our cultural influence.



## Award-winning Streets

A big round of applause for our Salt Lake City Transportation and Engineering Divisions for winning Utah's 2025 Project of the Year from the Institute of Transportation Engineers! The reconstruction of 200 South underscores our commitment to smart, people-first transportation investments. Work wrapped up in December 2024, transforming downtown with street improvements like:

- 🚌 New bus lanes for faster, more reliable transit
- 🚶 Mid-block crossings & curb extensions for safer, easier walking
- 🌳 36 new trees bringing more shade & beauty
- 🚲 Smoother pavement for everyone on wheels



## Big Openings

It's always exciting to welcome new businesses to Salt Lake City—especially those that showcase the innovation and entrepreneurial spirit that make our city thrive. This month, we celebrated multiple openings.

- [Denali Therapeutics](#), a groundbreaking biotech company advancing treatments for neurodegenerative diseases
- [Trü Frü](#), a Utah success story, is now bringing its delicious, hyper-chilled snacks to even more people from its new headquarters downtown.
- [Huntsman Mental Health Crisis Care Center](#), while technically not in Salt Lake City, I'd be remiss not to mention its opening on Monday. This facility is critical in responding to residents' mental health care emergencies in Salt Lake County and across Utah. It's a monumental step for our statewide system. It's open to adults in crisis 24/7.

As always, feel free to reach out to me at [mayor@slc.gov](mailto:mayor@slc.gov).

**Your friend,**



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