

PRIORITIZE THE MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENT OF EXISTING FACILITIES

The Foothills Plan does not provide an evaluation of the existing formal trails within the Salt Lake City Foothills. This is an important consideration for the future capacity to manage the overall system and provide high quality recreation experiences.

Historically, the formal trails in the Foothills have received minimal maintenance. Contrary to the rolling contour, hillside construction that is the modern standard for sustainable, low-impact trail development, many of the existing trails slated for incorporation into the larger system (i.e. Dry Creek, Living Room, Bobsled, Jones Canyon) are located almost solely at the bottom of a stream valley/riparian corridors. While these are not perennial streams, these valleys do experience water flow at times and the trails have suffered erosion or braiding. These impacts increase the footprint of the recreational trail corridor and can exacerbate negative wildlife impacts as the trails are located in some of the few riparian corridors of the foothills.

To evaluate existing trails, the following factors should be weighed:

- the value of existing trails to the overall system outweighs the potentially negative natural resource impacts,
- whether portions or all of these recreational corridors could be relocated outside the riparian corridor, and/or
- if they are to remain in place, how to better manage the impacts of intermittent stormwater/snowmelt on the trail tread.

Other existing trails to be incorporated into the system are located on relic roadbeds (i.e. portions of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail, North City Creek Ridgeline, Morris Meadows, Terrace Hills). These trails require a different level of maintenance need, dependent upon sometimes significant landscape manipulation to provide proper drainage. Widening and braiding are also common on these routes and narrowing of use corridors through fencing and/or vegetative restoration may need to be considered.

As the spine of the trail system, the Bonneville Shoreline Trail (BST) should receive considerable maintenance attention. In addition to the aforementioned issues, the route that was initially utilized through the area was one of convenience rather than ideal recreational trail design. As such, the Foothills BST lacks a consistent character and the quality of the user experience is sometimes low. Ideally, the trail should retain a common specification throughout the North Foothills that would make this segment emblematic of the vision and goals for this long-distance recreational and interpretive facility.

Recent maintenance of the BST in upper City Creek has been successful for better managing water and trail users with little impact outside the trail corridor, and can be a model for future maintenance needed in Hell Canyon, as well as other existing trails to be incorporated into the system that are more contour-oriented (i.e. Skyline, Tomahawk, Lakeview, and Under The Cliffs).



Popperton Seasonal Grass Trimming