



CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT LIBERTY PARK

Salt Lake City Public Lands Department

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Salt Lake City Public Lands Department Team

Kathryn Sonntag
Associate Landscape Architect II Project Manager

Kim Shelley
Department Director

Tom Millar
Former Director, Planning & Design Division

Tyler Murdock
Deputy Director

Nancy Monteith
Senior Landscape Architect

Technical Advisory Committee

Jenna Benson
Council District 5 Constituent Liason

Kelsey Lindquist
Community and Neighborhoods Planning Manager

Ryen Schlegel
Salt Lake City Public Lands Department Special Events
and Permitting

Amy Stocks
Salt Lake City Corporation Policy and Program Manager

Joe Ramos
Salt Lake City Public Lands Department Operations

Joshua Rebollo
Council Districts 1 and 5 Constituent Liason

Justin Potter
District Supervisor

Community Advisory Committee

Margaret Coppin
Chair of Liberty Wells Community Council

Cindy Cromer
Resident

Dustin Reed
Liberty Park Amusement Owner & Manager

Michael Mayo
CIP Application and Greenhouse Restoration Team

Brandy Strand
Executive Director of Preservation Utah

Kristina Robb
Chair of East Community Park Organization, East
Liberty Park CC

Jan Striefel
Resident

Austin Taylor
Community Council, Central City CC

Angie Trumbo
Director of Conservation, Tracy Aviary

Consultant Team

Mundus Bishop
Landscape Architecture and Planning

OV Consulting
Community Outreach



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01

Introduction



Introduction



Constitution Drive, 1911 (image: © 2001 Utah State Historical Society).

This document presents the Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) for Liberty Park (the park) within Salt Lake City (the city). This CLR is the primary treatment document for the cultural landscape. This CLR presents detailed documentation of historical development, existing condition, analysis of integrity, identification of contributing features, and establishes a treatment philosophy and recommendations to guide long-term care and stewardship of Liberty Park.

Numerous projects are underway or are in the planning stages for Liberty Park. This CLR will assist in providing guidance for these projects and in ensuring long-term modifications and additions are consistent with the goals of rehabilitation. City-initiated construction projects during the development of this CLR included

the replacement of Rotary Play. Its replacement began after CLR field investigation, and it is not included in the existing condition documentation and is not evaluated in the analysis of integrity.

Citywide planning initiatives to enhance park facilities, the urban tree canopy, and connections and accessibility of the park highlight the importance of Liberty Park as a critical open space, parkland, and gathering space for the community. These initiatives include the 2022 Salt Lake City Public Lands Master Plan, 2022 Seven Greenways Vision Plan, 2023 Urban Forest Action Plan, 2018 9-Line Trail Extension Study, and Green Loop Concept presented in the 2015 Salt Lake City Downtown Plan.

Report Methodology



Civic institutions, including Chase Home Museum of Utah Folk Arts, attract visitors from throughout the region (image: Mundus Bishop, 2024).

This document was conducted at a thorough level of investigation and documentation for historical research, existing condition assessment, and analysis of integrity. This research methodology focused on the use of select documentation of known and presumed relevance, including readily available primary and secondary sources. This document was prepared in accordance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*.¹¹

Review of select documentation included readily available primary and secondary sources. Document review included planning documents, administrative reports, technical reports, natural resource studies, correspondence, drawings, and photographs.

Drawings and illustrations were prepared using background data provided by the city. This data was supplemented by site reconnaissance in November 2024 to document existing conditions and evaluate integrity. These investigations were conducted according to best practices.

Further Study

Liberty Park's 1980 National Register nomination should be amended to reflect historical research and findings included in the CLR. Future study should include research at additional archives for as-builts, design drawings, and master plans developed for Liberty Park.

Significance and Integrity



Liberty Park is the most visited park in Salt Lake City (image: Mundus Bishop, 2024).

Significance

Liberty Park is significant as one of the first public parks in Salt Lake City and the State of Utah, and for its embodiment of the American Park, City Beautiful, and Modern Movements. Set within the urban setting of Salt Lake City, Liberty Park offers visitors a curated experience created by its walks, central promenade, tree-lined roads, meadows, tree groves, buildings, and views.

Liberty Park is listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) at the state level with a period of significance of 1800 to 1899. This period captures the evolution of the park as a mill and farm and the establishment and improvement of Liberty Park as a public park. The 1980 NRHP nomination for Liberty Park states it "...is significant as one of the earliest and largest urban parks in Utah. Originally purchased by Salt Lake City in 1881 from the estate of Brigham Young, it is Utah's best example of the 'central park.' The park exhibits the spirit of reform of the second half of the nineteenth century, when parks were seen as important factors in civilizing America's increasingly

industrialized cities and improving the moral character of their inhabitants. Many American cities followed the pattern of New York City's Central Park, designed in the late 1850s. Liberty Park is laid out on the site of a mill and farm established by Isaac Chase (the Isaac Chase Mill is listed on the National Register)."¹⁻²

The 1980 NRHP identifies a period of significance of 1800 to 1899 with buildings and features built before 1930 as contributing features, a date chosen because 1930 was 50 years earlier than the registration date of the nomination.

The CLR recommends updating the period of significance to correspond with the opening of Liberty Park in 1882 and to include improvements that occurred after 1930. The recommended period of significance is 1882 to 1970 to capture significant movements, events, and resources that shaped Liberty Park. The end date of 1970 captures the date Liberty Park was considered completed, and distinguishes this from later changes that impacted the park's character.

Integrity

Integrity is the ability of a cultural landscape to convey its significance. Liberty Park was assessed to determine if the landscape characteristics that shaped the cultural landscape during the period of significance are present today.

Integrity is evaluated according to seven aspects or qualities: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. These aspects are defined as follows.

Seven Aspects of Integrity

Location is the place where the cultural landscape was constructed or a historic event occurred.

Setting is the physical environment of the cultural landscape.

Feeling is the cultural landscape's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time.

Materials and Workmanship. Materials are physical elements that were combined or deposited during period(s) of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form the cultural landscape. Workmanship includes the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory.

Design is the combination of elements to create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of the cultural landscape.

Association is the direct link between the important historic event or person and a cultural landscape.

Liberty Park retains integrity through extant features and buildings, circulation, vegetation, and views and retains integrity in location, setting, feeling, materials, and workmanship. Liberty Park has diminished integrity in design.

- **Liberty Park retains integrity in location and setting.** The physical environment associated with the development of Liberty Park remains in its original location with original relationships to downtown, surrounding neighborhoods, and the Wasatch Range.
- **Liberty Park retains integrity in feeling.** It retains the original American Park Movement, City Beautiful Movement, and modern aesthetics of when it was designed and built. It conveys a strong feeling of what visitors would have experienced associated with bringing beauty, nature, and recreation into an urban setting during the period of significance.
- **Liberty Park retains integrity in materials and workmanship.** Contributing features associated with the cultural landscape retain a material palette and workmanship associated with the American Parks Movement, City Beautiful Movement, and modern style. Examples include monumental entrance piers, stone arbors and fireplaces, stone entry monuments, and the granite Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) fountain.
- **Liberty Park has diminished integrity in design.** The design of the Liberty Park is modified by the introduction of new patterns in the cultural landscape, including the removal of historic structures and buildings, and the loss of trees. These changes contribute to less defined and more open portions of the park. The addition of the topographic mound in the historically open landscape north of Liberty Lake diminishes visual and physical connections to Liberty Lake.

Endnotes

- 1-1 Page, Robert R., Cathy A. Gilbert, and Susan A. Dolan, *A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports: Contents, Processes and Techniques*, (Washington D.C.: National Park Service, 1998).
- 1-2 Haglund, Karl T. *National Register of Historic Places Inventory - Nomination Form: Liberty Park*. Utah State Historical Society: Salt Lake City, UT, 1980), 3.



02

Site History

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Introduction



Liberty Lake and view east to the Wasatch Range, c. 1910 (image: © 2001 Utah State Historical Society).

Liberty Park opened to the public on June 17, 1882, and is significant as one of the first public parks in Salt Lake City and the State of Utah. Its initial development embodied the American Park and City Beautiful Movements of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and brought beauty, nature, and recreation to the residents of Salt Lake City.

Post-war modifications and additions to Liberty Park responded to the evolving needs of park users and introduced a modern aesthetic to the design of the park that expressed clean lines, symmetry, minimal ornamentation, and functionality.

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introduced a modern aesthetic to the design of the park that expressed clean lines, symmetry, minimal ornamentation, and functionality.

Liberty Park's importance and legacy are recognized by its listing on the National Register of Historic Places and designation as a Local Landmark Site by Salt Lake City.

This chapter presents the historical context and overview of the physical development of Liberty Park. This is followed by a chronology of the park's physical development.

Historical Context and Overview

Liberty Park is representative of the evolution of public parks in the United States, from its improvement as one of Salt Lake City's first public parks to the reactivation of the park through planning initiatives in the second half of the twentieth century, to its enduring and present-day value to the community as the most visited park in the city.

Mormon pioneers entered Salt Lake Valley in 1847 and were the first Euro-Americans to establish permanent settlements in the region traditionally shared by the Shoshone and Ute peoples. From 1847 to 1857, sixteen cities and towns were established within territory claimed by at least one of Utah's tribes. This included the establishment of Salt Lake City.²⁻¹

Brigham Young, the second president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and founder of Salt Lake City, described his vision for the city when he announced the location of Salt Lake Temple in 1847. Young organized Salt Lake City, one square mile in size, on an orthogonal, east-west/north-south grid with a temple square at its center and a park in each quadrant. Ten-acre blocks were subdivided into eight lots with 132-foot-wide streets. Five- to ten-acre lots were designated south of the city in an area referred to as Big Field for farming.²⁻²

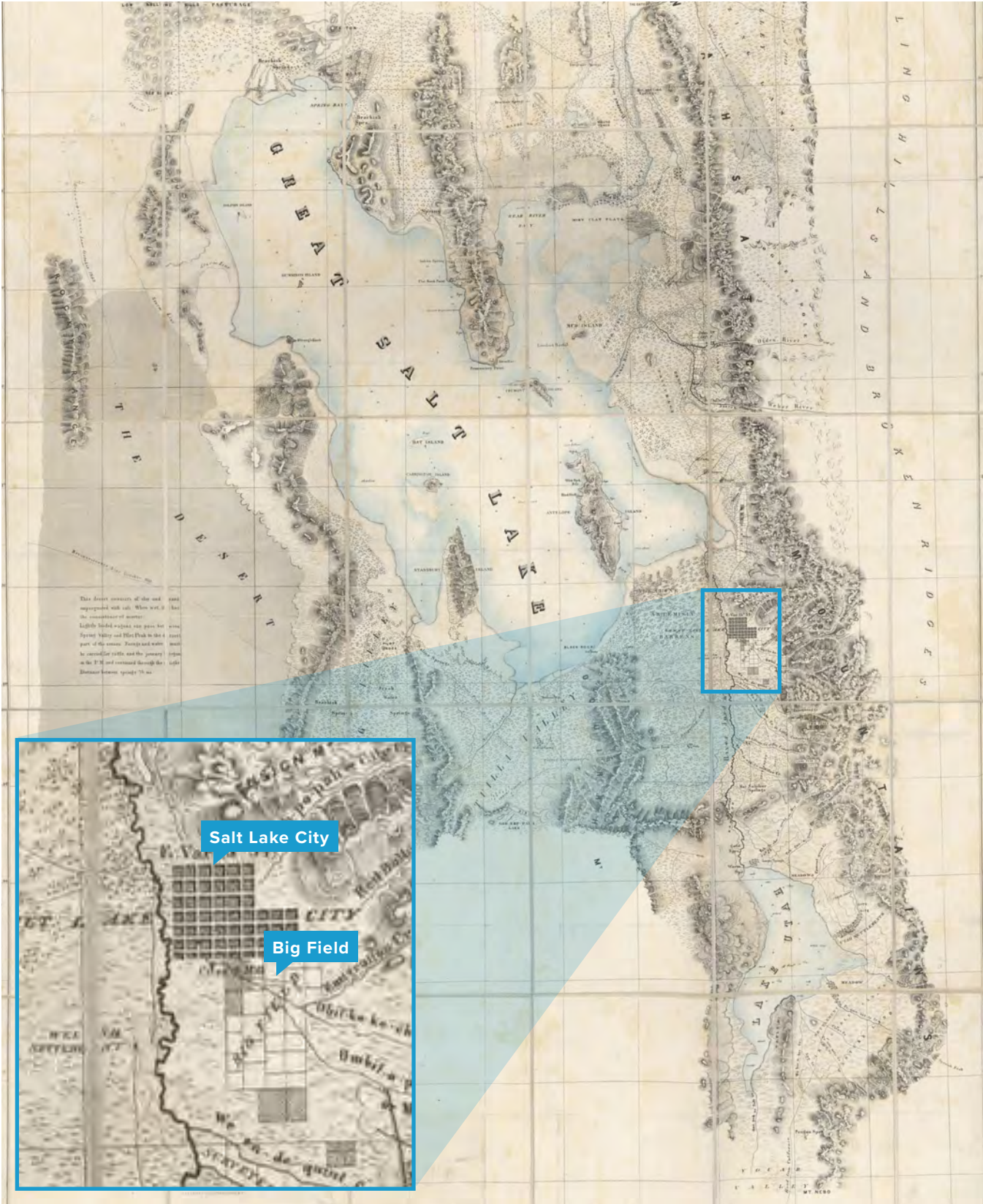
The head of each pioneer family was assigned a city lot and a tract of farmland in the Big Field. Isaac Chase arrived in Utah in September 1847 and received a city lot and a five-acre tract in the Big Field, where he established a mill and farm. Chase's operations were successful, and he eventually acquired over 100 acres of land. The mill and large trees on Chase's lands were notable, and his lands were locally known as Forest Park, Locust Patch, and Mill Farm.²⁻³

Chase exchanged his mill and farm with his business partner, Brigham Young, for a property in Centerville, Utah, in 1860. Chase's mill and farm were incorporated into Brigham Young Farm, which included several thousand acres in the Big Field area.

Young planted mulberry, cottonwood, and other species of trees and used the former Chase property as privately owned open space. Young intended for the open space to be purchased by Salt Lake City "for the lowest price" after his death.^{2-4 2-5}

Young died in 1877, and the city purchased the open space from the Brigham Young estate for \$27,500 on April 20, 1881.

Local newspapers reported the open space's "locust patch is the only grove within miles of the city and is located about three blocks from the First Ward street car tracks. This grove is large enough for all the purposes that can ever be required....The farm contains as much ground as will be needed for a park for Salt Lake in the next two generations at least, and there is so much that it will never be necessary to keep the grounds like a lawn, as would be the case were it but a ten-acre block. The whole can be made to appear rural and rustic, can be sufficiently developed and still give ample room for picnics, for ponds, for walks, for driving and for all other purposes for which parks are used."²⁻⁶



Map of the Salt Lake Valley with enlargement of the area known as the Big Field to the south of the Salt Lake City, surveyed in 1849 and 1850 (image: Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division).



Unpaved road, likely what is now known as Constitution Drive in Liberty Park, 1896 (image:© 2008 Utah State Historical Society).

Liberty Park's dedication was scheduled for July 4, 1881, but was postponed due to the assassination of President Garfield. The park was dedicated and opened to the public on June 17, 1882, the anniversary of the Battle of Bunker Hill.²⁻⁷

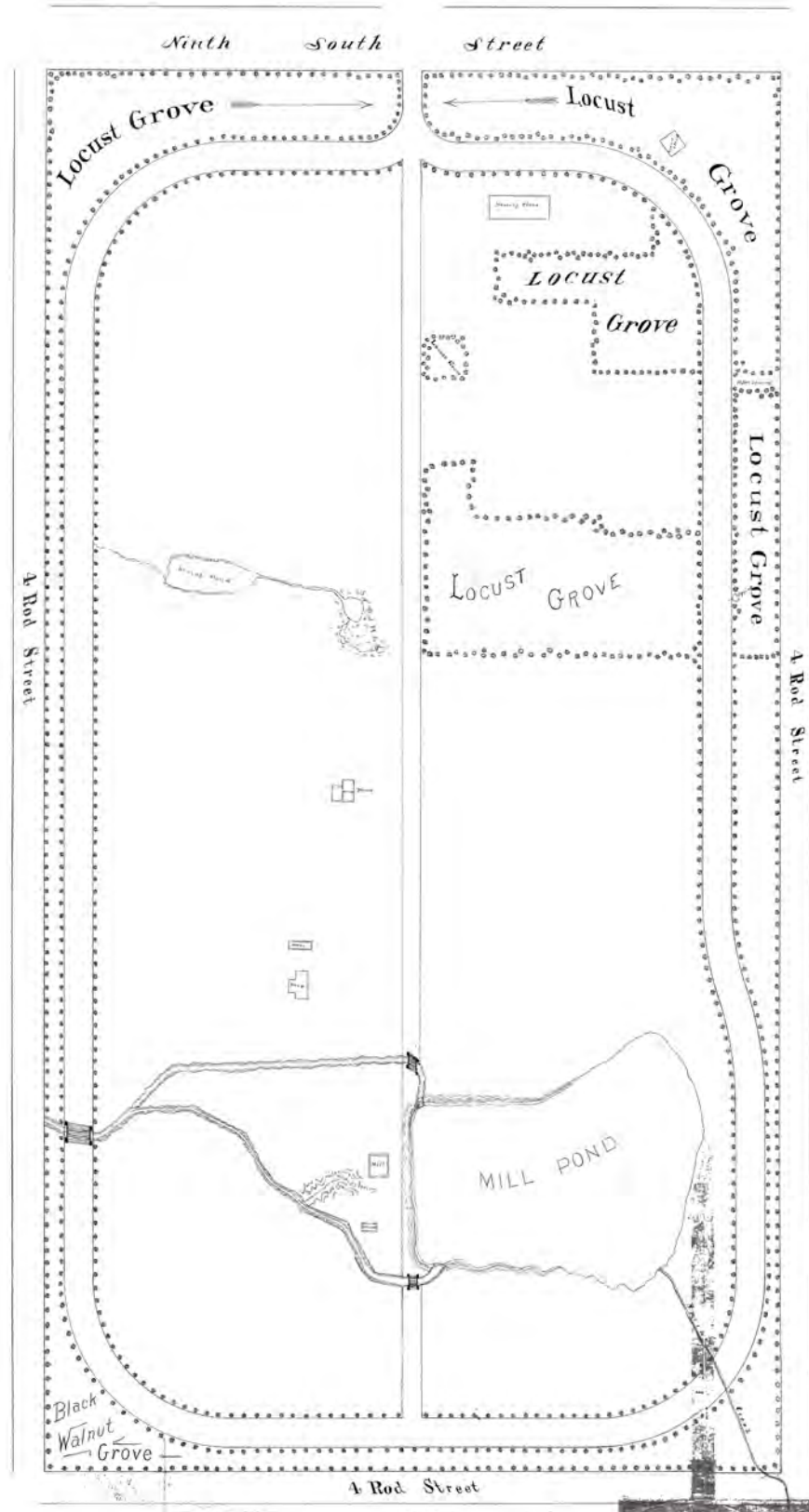
A dedicatory procession formed at City Hall, located at its original location at 120 East 100 South, and included Mayor William Jennings, former Mayor Feramorz Little (who had presided over the purchase of the property), and numerous other city and Mormon Church officials. Speakers at the opening of the park reflected on the popularity and importance of Liberty Park. Ben Sheeks stated that the park "gives to the poor a feeling of interest in his country, and to the rich a satisfaction which ever follows the act of giving to those who needs. And who will say that the man, woman or child does not need the opportunity of enjoying a pleasant walk of beholding the beauties of art or nature even as they need bread. Let us ever remember that sometimes the beautiful is as useful as the useful perhaps more so."²⁻⁸

Mayor Jennings' administration was charged with improving the grounds as public parkland. The city's Committee on Public Grounds hosted a design competition "for improving and beautifying" Liberty

Park, Pioneer Square, Washington Square, and Tenth Ward Square in 1883. Joseph Don Carlos Young won the design competition for Liberty Park and was awarded a prize of \$100.00 (the equivalent of 3,166.33 dollars in 2025). It was noted that the successful entries for the park designs "...possessed a high degree of merit, in point of taste, ingenuity and artistic design and execution."²⁻⁹

Joseph Don Carlos Young had visited New York City's Central Park and other parks inspired or designed by Frederick Law Olmsted in the 1870s. Young's entry for Liberty Park reflected the American Park Movement of the late nineteenth century that capitalized on natural features such as meadows, forested groves, and lakes to create picturesque landscapes, and designed park features to be subordinate and in keeping with the natural beauty of the park.²⁻¹⁰

Mayor Jennings' administration appointed C. H. Wilcken as superintendent of Liberty Park and hired Swiss landscape gardener Arnold Schultess to design the park. Early improvements of the park included a formal rose garden with paths, areas of lawn, and new trees and shrubs throughout the park. The central north-south road, 600 E, was graded and paved with



Map of Liberty Park, 1883 (image: Salt Lake City Public Lands Archives).

gravel. Portions of other roads were paved with gravel and improved with curbs and gutters.²⁻¹¹

Improvement of Liberty Park expanded as part of Salt Lake City's broader citywide initiative to beautify and enhance its parks in the early twentieth century. These improvements were inspired by the City Beautiful Movement that emerged in the 1890s and continued to the 1920s as a reaction to the rapid growth of urban areas and the negative impacts of urbanization.

Advocates of the City Beautiful Movement believed careful planning of cities and parks could promote civic pride and improve the quality of life of its residents. Additions to Liberty Park reflected efforts to bring beauty, nature, and recreation to residents of Salt Lake City. This included a greenhouse (1903), bandstand (1911), playground (by 1912), zoo (1915), tennis courts (1915), and picnic structure (c. 1915). The original 1903 greenhouse building was expanded several times in subsequent decades and cultivated flowers and plants for parks and civic buildings throughout the city and county of Salt Lake. By 1924 park use expanded to include amusement features, including a merry-go-round and building.²⁻¹²

Ernest Victor Fohlin described Liberty Park in his 1908 book on Salt Lake City as “...a most fitting and attractive spot for public use and enjoyment. It contains 110 acres of ground and is a favorite place for outings during the summer season. Celebrations of holidays and various other gatherings are held in this spacious and attractive place. Held’s military band has for a number of years furnished instrumental musical concerts on Sundays and holidays for public entertainment. The park is situated in the southeastern part of the city. Its main entrance is on Ninth South and Fifth East streets and is reached by the street cars.”²⁻¹³



Rustic planting design, 1912 (image: © 2001 Utah State Historical Society).



Crowd at Liberty Park, 1909 (image: © 2001 Utah State Historical Society).

Liberty Park Design — 1882 to 1913

The design of Liberty Park emphasized the picturesque qualities of the site with open meadows, tree groves, tree allées framing long views through the park and to the Wasatch Range, a system of walks and carriage roads creating an orchestrated sequence of movement through the park, and distinct areas for passive and active recreation. Liberty Lake, a former mill pond, was doubled in size with bridges and plantings, further contributing to the picturesque qualities of the park.

Nicholas Byhouwer, Salt Lake City Parks Superintendent, recommended removing all barns, stables, and other features “entirely out of place” with the picturesque character of Liberty Park. New buildings and features reflected the rustic style characteristic of the American Park Movement that advocated for the use of natural building materials—stone, wood, and trunks and branches in their natural and often twisted form. The use of native materials in naturalistic forms enabled early designers of Liberty Park to harmonize man-made structures with the natural setting.²⁻¹⁴



Liberty Lake and swans, 1911 (image: © 2001 Utah State Historical Society).



Rustic style bridge in Liberty Lake, 1911 (image: © 2001 Utah State Historical Society).



Liberty Park rustic two-story shelter, 1911 (image: © 2001 Utah State Historical Society).



Rustic footbridges and stone walls, undated (image: © Utah State Historical Society).

Liberty Park Design — 1882 to 1913 (continued)

The design of Liberty Park and its buildings and features during the early 1900s also expressed the classical forms, symmetry, ornate decoration, and grand scale of the City Beautiful Movement. This includes piers at the northern entrance to

the park, a monumental gateway to the park, the greenhouse, and a formal rose garden. Roads were improved with curbs and gutters and lined with lights, trees, and shrubs that further contributed to the formal landscape of Liberty Park.



Formal gardens and tree plantings, undated (image: © 2001 Utah State Historical Society).



View from Liberty Park north to entrance monuments along 600 East, 1924 (image: © 2001 Utah State Historical Society).



View south to Liberty Park entrance at 600 East with matching entrance monuments, undated (image: © Utah State Historical Society).

Improvement of Liberty Park slowed during World War I, the Great Depression, and World War II. Local newspapers reported that Liberty Park remained a popular destination for summer concert series, recreational leagues, family reunions, and civic events. The 1931 Department of Parks and Public Property described the park as a well-established and much-loved destination within the city.

“Broad driveways bordered by colonnades of shade trees; lawns, flowers, lakes, playgrounds, tennis courts, concerts, and the municipal zoo have long been the outstanding attractions of this extensive park.” ²⁻¹⁵

Major changes in the 1930s included the closure and relocation of the zoo from Liberty Park to its current location in Emigration Canyon in 1931 and the establishment of Tracy Aviary at the location of the former zoo in 1938. The zoo’s shift from Liberty Park to Emigration Canyon was contested by citizens who argued that the park’s central location, streetcar service, and accessibility to the residents of Salt Lake City made it the ideal location for the city’s zoo.²⁻¹⁶

The zoo was removed from the park, and the city established Tracy Aviary in Liberty Park in return for a large collection of birds donated by Russell Tracy and supported by Dr. George A. Allen, who had led the community effort in the early 1930s to move the zoo from Liberty Park to Emigration Canyon, and others. Park use was further modified by the agreement between the city and the Daughters of Utah Pioneers allowing the organization to begin using Chase Mill as a relic hall in 1934.²⁻¹⁷

Liberty Park’s operational infrastructure and recreational amenities expanded in the post-war years. This included a bandstand (1949), a swimming pool and bathhouse (1949), four additional tennis courts and a tennis clubhouse (1955), and a maintenance office, workshop, and vehicle storage building (c. 1950). The greenhouse was further expanded in 1945 with the purchase of an addition from Ickes Braun, a well-known glasshouse manufacturer.



Playground, 1937 (image: Utah State Historical Society).



Boats in Liberty Lake, 1937 (image: Salt Lake City Engineers Photograph Collection).



Amusement area at Liberty Park, August 10, 1950 (image: © Utah State Historical Society).

Design of new park buildings and features shifted to a modern style that expressed clean lines, symmetry, minimal ornamentation, and functionality.

Historic aerials document a change in the design and use of 600 E between 1950 and 1970. The central route was redesigned as a pedestrian promenade—Central Promenade—and closed to vehicular travel. This change restricted vehicular access to the park’s loop road, Constitution Drive, and created a pedestrian core within Liberty Park.

The perception of Liberty Park shifted in the 1960s as the park began to gain a reputation for being dangerous. Use of the park further diminished as thousands of Salt Lake City’s residents moved to the suburbs. The challenges Liberty Park faced in the

1960s were indicative of the larger city, as evidenced by the development of the “Second Century Plan” for Downtown Salt Lake City in 1962. The plan notes “as our Downtown enters its Second Century...problems common to most large cities have appeared—lack of general guidelines for growth, transportation and parking problems, a loss of much of its attractiveness, and an over-all decrease in its position as the heart of the rapidly growing metropolitan area.” The plan did not provide recommendations for the city’s parks but identified the need to preserve and rehabilitate historic features and restore the attractiveness of the downtown with areas of retreat, relaxation, and greenery.²⁻¹⁸

Park use declined in the 1960s and 1970s, and Peter Goss, a local architecture commentator, noted “a threat of functional schizophrenia appears to run through today’s Liberty Park. Is it an amusement park or is it the more traditional, albeit romantic, park?” Goss suggested plans for the park should be developed to create a coherent atmosphere to improve the park experience. Additions to Liberty Park during this period continued to reflect the disparate uses lamented by Goss. These included the Merry-Go-Round Building (1960), Horseshoe Building (1960), and Rice Pavilion (c. 1970).²⁻¹⁹

Master plans were developed for Salt Lake City’s park system and Liberty Park in the 1970s. The city and neighborhood association initiated a master plan for Liberty Park to “remove the most incompatible uses and restore some elements of the original park design. These are expected to include the removal of the carnival, the regrading of the lake and the removal of most of its concrete edging, the renovation or reconstruction of a bandstand, and additional landscaping.”^{2-20 2-21}

The city implemented recommendations for the system-wide and park-specific master plans in the 1980s. Children’s Garden opened in 1981 as transitional space for play between Tracy Aviary and Liberty Park. Several historic buildings and structures were also removed. Their removal is undocumented, but likely included a restroom facility, picnic shelters, and pagoda.²⁻²²

The bandstand was deemed inadequate for both small and large performances and was removed in 1982. A topographic mound was created near the bandstand site using excess fill from the excavation of Rice-Eccles Stadium at the University of Utah.²⁻²³

Improvements in the 1990s to present-day included the replacement of the swimming pool, swimming pool building, restrooms, playground and athletic court features, and other park features. Additions to the park

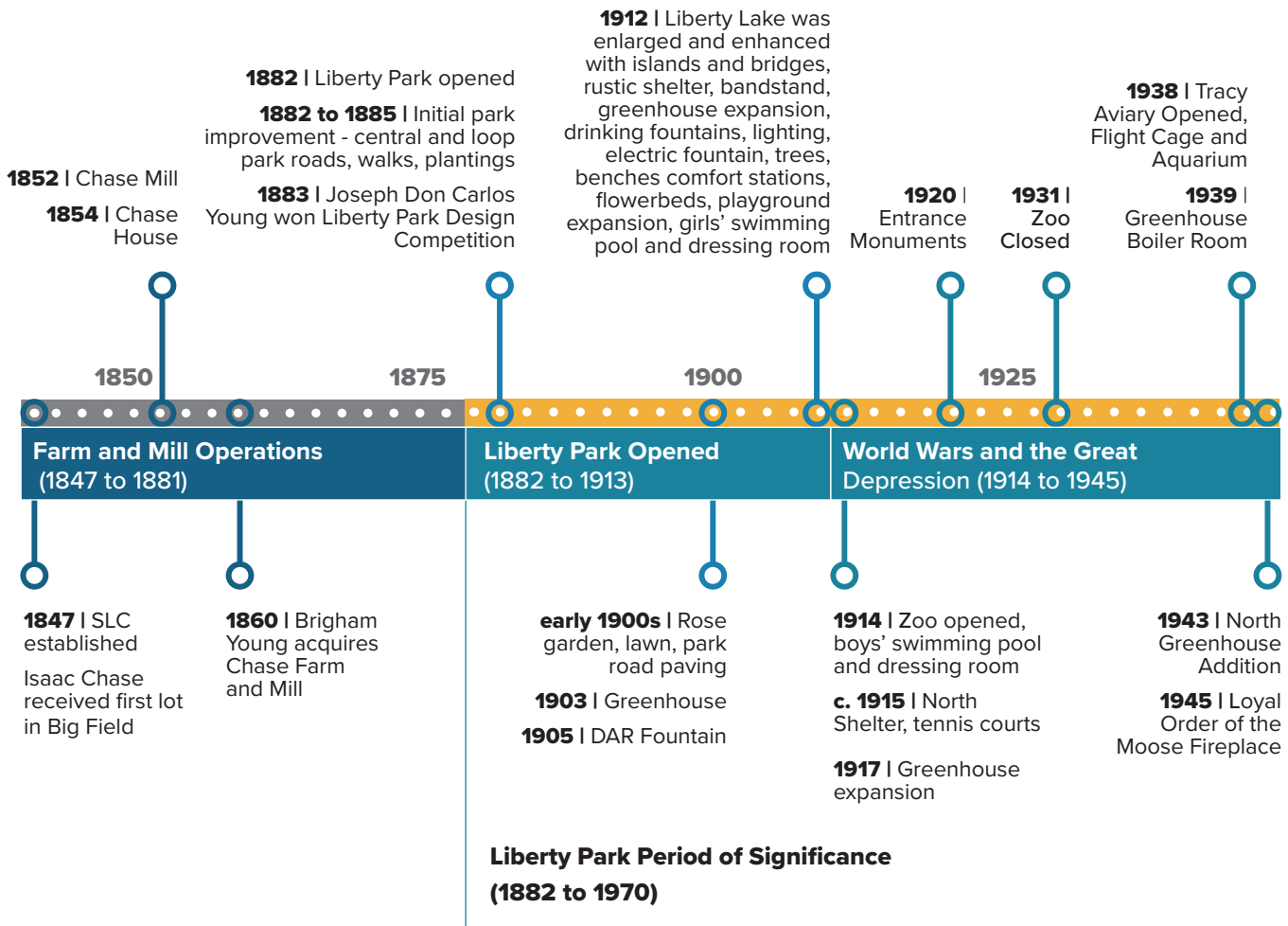
included Seven Canyons Fountain (1993), Liberty Lake Gazebo (2003), and Bridge (2010), and other buildings and features supporting operation and visitor use of the park.

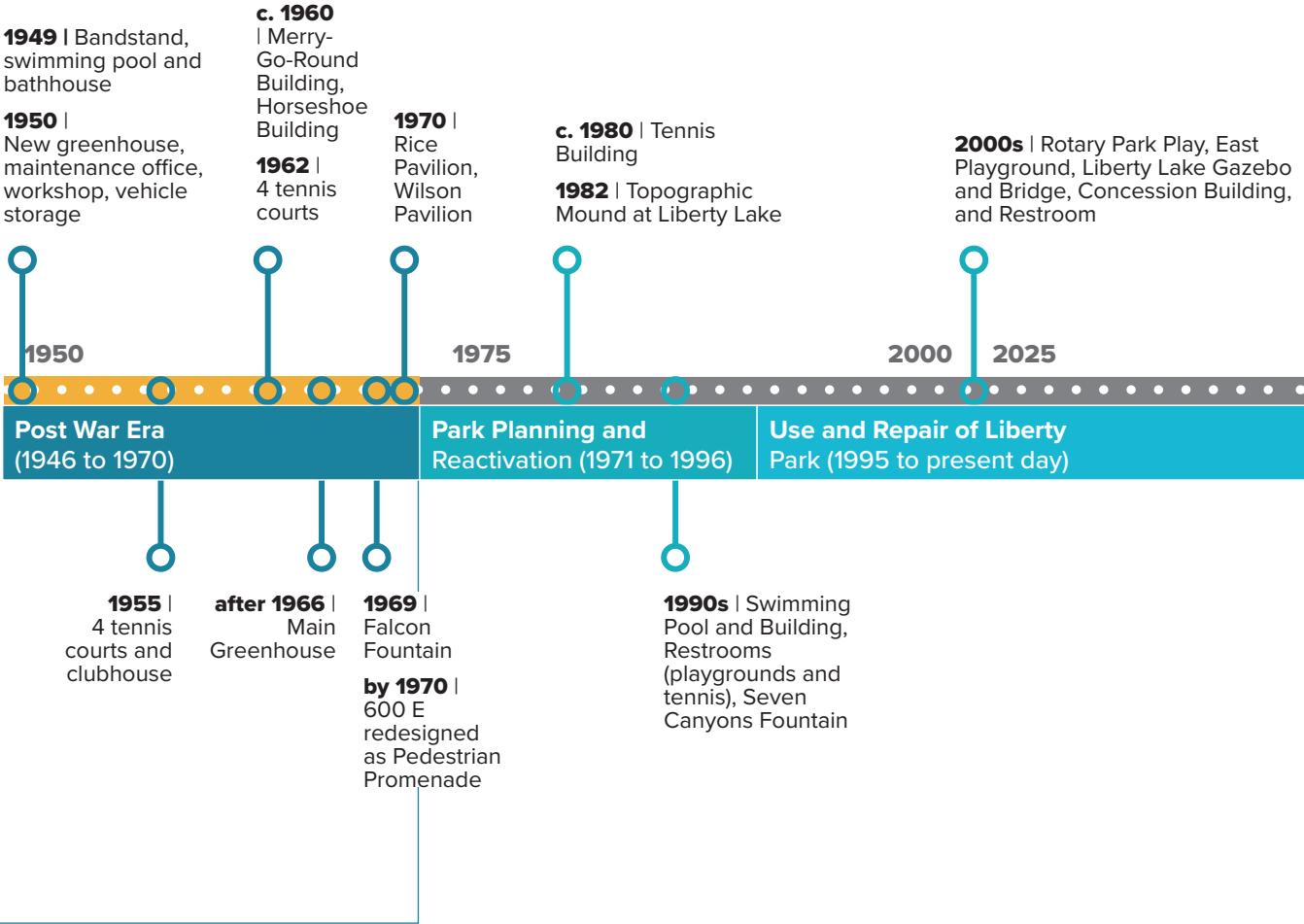
Planning for Liberty Park resumed in 1997 with the development of the Liberty Park Scoping Project. The city and community developed the plan to “restore Liberty Park to its previous beauty and grandeur, and to bring back many of the historic elements that have been lost over the years...Liberty Park should not be substantially changed. People like the activities and features of the Park; however, they recognize that the Park is shabby and worn, and they want to see it upgraded, repaired and renovated.”

Subsequent modifications to Liberty Park included the removal of Boxing Building, North Public Restrooms (built c. 1915), Horseshoe Building (built c. 1960), and Restrooms/Ball Playroom (1985) and the addition of Rotary Play (2002), East Playground (2004), Liberty Lake Gazebo (2003), Concession Building and Restrooms (2008), and Liberty Lake pedestrian bridge (2010).²⁻²⁴

Periods of Landscape Development

Six periods of landscape development describe the physical evolution of the cultural landscape from the earliest use of the area as a farm and mill through the present day. The beginning and end of each period corresponds to and documents major physical changes in the cultural landscape.





Farm and Mill Operations (1847 to 1881)

Isaac Chase arrived in Utah in September 1847 and received a city lot and a five-acre tract in the Big Field where he established a mill and farm. Chase's operations were successful, and he eventually acquired over 100 acres of land, including present-day Liberty Park. Chase selected lands with natural springs for power, irrigation, and to feed his mill pond, present-day Liberty Lake. Water flowed from the mill pond to the mill and continued to a creek to the west.²⁻²⁵

Chase exchanged his mill and farm with his business partner Brigham Young, for a property in Centerville, Utah, in 1860. Young planted mulberry, cottonwood, and other species of trees and used the property as privately owned open space, with plans for his lands to be purchased by Salt Lake City and opened as public parkland upon his death.²⁻²⁶

1847 Isaac Chase was assigned a plot in the original "Big Field Survey" as an early settler of Salt Lake Valley. Chase built an upright sawmill in late 1847 to cut lumber for his home and mill. The farm became locally known as Forest Park, Locust Patch, and Mill Farm.²⁻²⁷

1848 Chase built a small crackling mill.²⁻²⁸ William Weeks designed a mill for Chase, Chase Mill. Chase supervised the building of the Mill and installed irons and millstones that his daughter had freighted to Utah when the family moved to Salt Lake Valley in 1847.²⁻²⁹

1854 Isaac Chase built a house, Chase Home, from 1853 to 1854.²⁻³⁰

1860 Chase traded his mill and farm to Brigham Young for a 100-acre property in Centerville, UT. Chase had purchased three additional tracts adjacent to his original plot by 1860. Chase Farm and Mill was more than 100 acres in size by the time of its acquisition by Young. Chase Farm and Mill was incorporated into Brigham Young Farm, which contained several thousand acres in the Big Field areas. Young planted trees on the former Chase Farm and Mill site, including mulberry and cottonwood trees, and the property was used as privately-owned open space.²⁻³¹

1881 Salt Lake City purchased the former Chase Farm and Mill from the Brigham Young estate for \$27,500 on April 20, 1881.²⁻³²



1875 Birds eye map of the Salt Lake City, looking southeast (image: Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division).

Establishment of the Public Park (1882 to 1913)

Salt Lake City purchased Liberty Park from the Brigham Young estate on April 20, 1881, and opened the park to the public on June 17, 1882. Mayor William Jennings' administration held a design competition "for improving and beautifying" Liberty Park. Joseph Don Carlos Young won the competition with a submission inspired by the American Park Movement of the late nineteenth century. His winning design capitalized on natural features such as meadows, forested groves, and lakes to highlight the picturesque beauty of the park.


Early improvements included a formal rose garden with paths, lawns, and new trees and shrubs. The central north-south road—600 E—was graded and paved with gravel. Portions of other roads were paved with gravel and improved with curbs and gutters.

Use of Liberty Park expanded as part of Salt Lake City's broader initiative to improve its parks in the early twentieth century. These improvements were inspired by the City Beautiful Movement and reflected efforts to bring beauty, nature, and recreation to residents of Salt Lake City. This included a greenhouse (1903), bandstand (1911), playground (by 1912), zoo (1915), tennis courts (1915), and picnic structure (c. 1915). The original 1903 greenhouse building was expanded several times in the subsequent decades, providing flowers and plants for parks and civic buildings throughout the city and county of Salt Lake City.

New buildings and structures reflected the rustic style characteristic of the American Park Movement and the classical forms, symmetry, ornate decoration, and grand scale of the City Beautiful movement.

1882 The park was dedicated and opened under the name "Liberty Park" on June 17, 1882, the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Bunker Hill. The dedication ceremony was initially planned for July 4, 1881, but was postponed due to the assassination of President Garfield.²⁻³³

1883 The Salt Lake Herald-Republican printed public notifications in February 1883 announcing a design competition for several of Salt Lake City's parks.

 Pursuant to authorization of the City Council, the Committee on Public Grounds will receive plans for improving and beautifying Liberty Park Pioneer Washington and Tenth Ward Squares at any time on or before the 15th day of March 1883:

Plans reported by the Committee and approved by the City Council are entitled to the following premium.

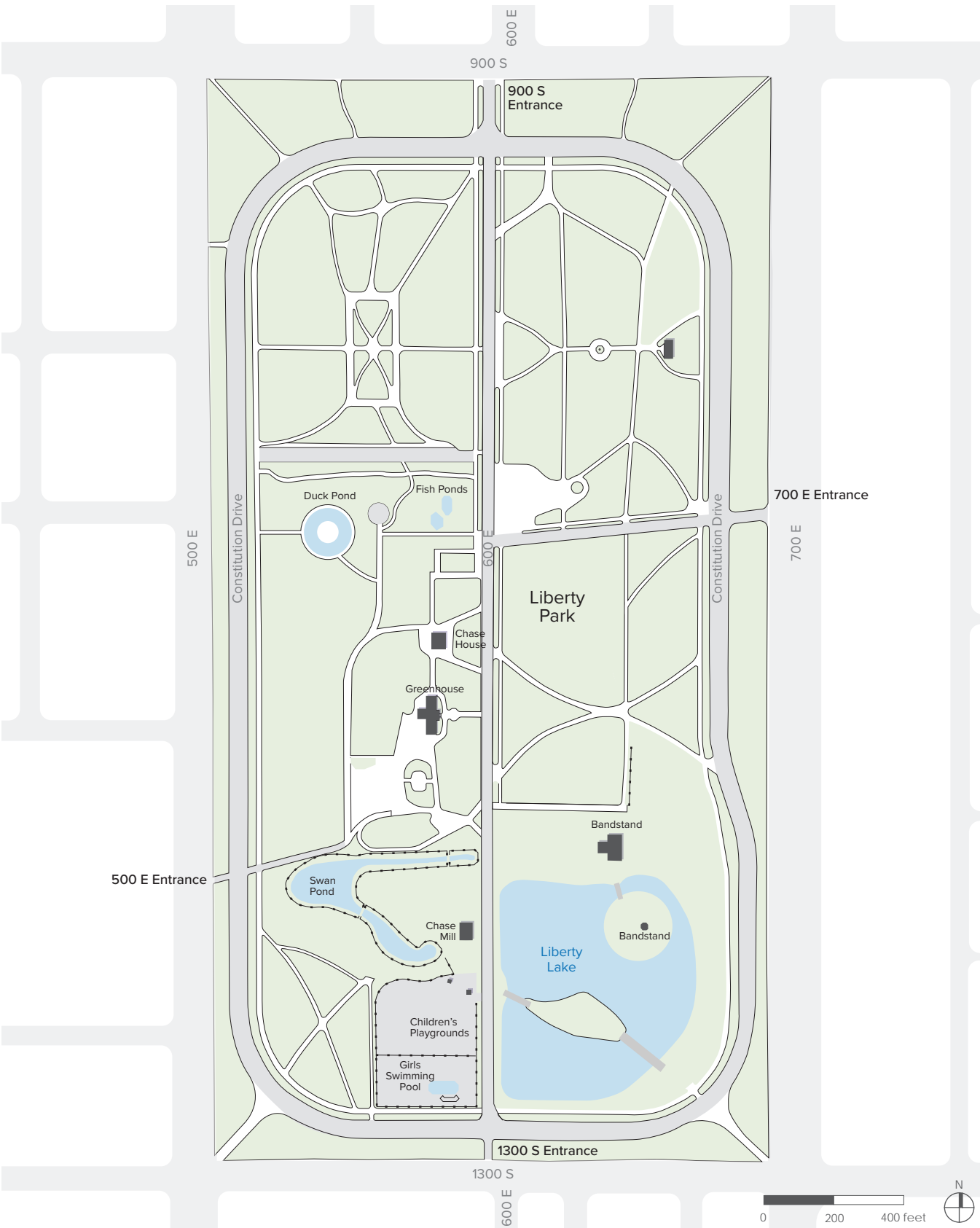
For Liberty Park \$100

For Pioneer Square (partly designed) \$10

For Washington Square \$20

*For Tenth Ward Square \$20*²⁻³⁴





1882 to 1913 Period Plan (image: Mundus Bishop, 2025).

The Salt Lake Herald-Republican printed an article on March 20, 1883, stating eight competitors were being evaluated by the Committee on Public Grounds for their plans for Liberty Park.

The article noted

*...Some of the plans are beautiful specimens of work show careful study of the ground a nicety of arrangement and of detail in the improvement of the ground and are admirable specimens of draftsmanship...Two of the plans are especially notable, both for the excellence of the suggestions and ideas in regard to the improvement of the Park and because of the consummate skill displayed in the mechanical labor...The committee on public grounds to whom the inspection of the plans had been assigned, has spent fully two days in their examination and in reading the specifications. They again meet this morning to continue the labor It is their present desire to make a report to the City Council tonight but whether they will succeed is not yet certain In the event of decision they will report all the plans to the Council and recommend the adoption of that which they deem most practicable and worthy... No time is now being wasted for the reason that spring is evidently here and it will be necessary to commence work on the plan that may be adopted without delay if it is desired to accomplish any work this season.*²⁻³⁵

The Deseret News reported on April 4, 1883, that Joseph Don Carlos Young had won the design competition for Liberty Park and was awarded a prize of \$100.00. The paper noted that the successful entries for the park designs “...possessed a high degree of merit, in point of taste, ingenuity and artistic design and execution.”

1882 to 1885 Mayor Jennings’ administration was charged with improving the grounds as public parkland. The administration appointed C. H. Wilcken as superintendent of Liberty Park and hired Swiss landscape gardener Arnold Schultess to design the park. Chase Home became the residence of the park’s superintendent and continued to serve that function until 1964.²⁻³⁶

The mill, dating to Chase’s ownership of the property, was initially used for its original purpose during the development of the park. The mill eventually became used as a storage building.²⁻³⁷

The Deseret News reported that a “wagon load of spruce trees” were delivered from Pleasant Valley and was planted at Liberty Park.²⁻³⁸

1900s Park improvement in the early 1900s included establishing a rose garden with paths, seeding areas of the park to create lawns, and removing, relocating, and planting new trees and shrubs throughout the park. The central north-south road—600 E—was graded and paved with gravel. Portions of other roads were paved with gravel and improved with curbs and gutters.²⁻³⁹



Formal garden, 1896 (image: © Utah State Historical Society).



Uniform allée of trees planted along 600 E (present-day Central Promenade) with parallel walks, 1907 (image: © 2001 Utah State Historical Society).



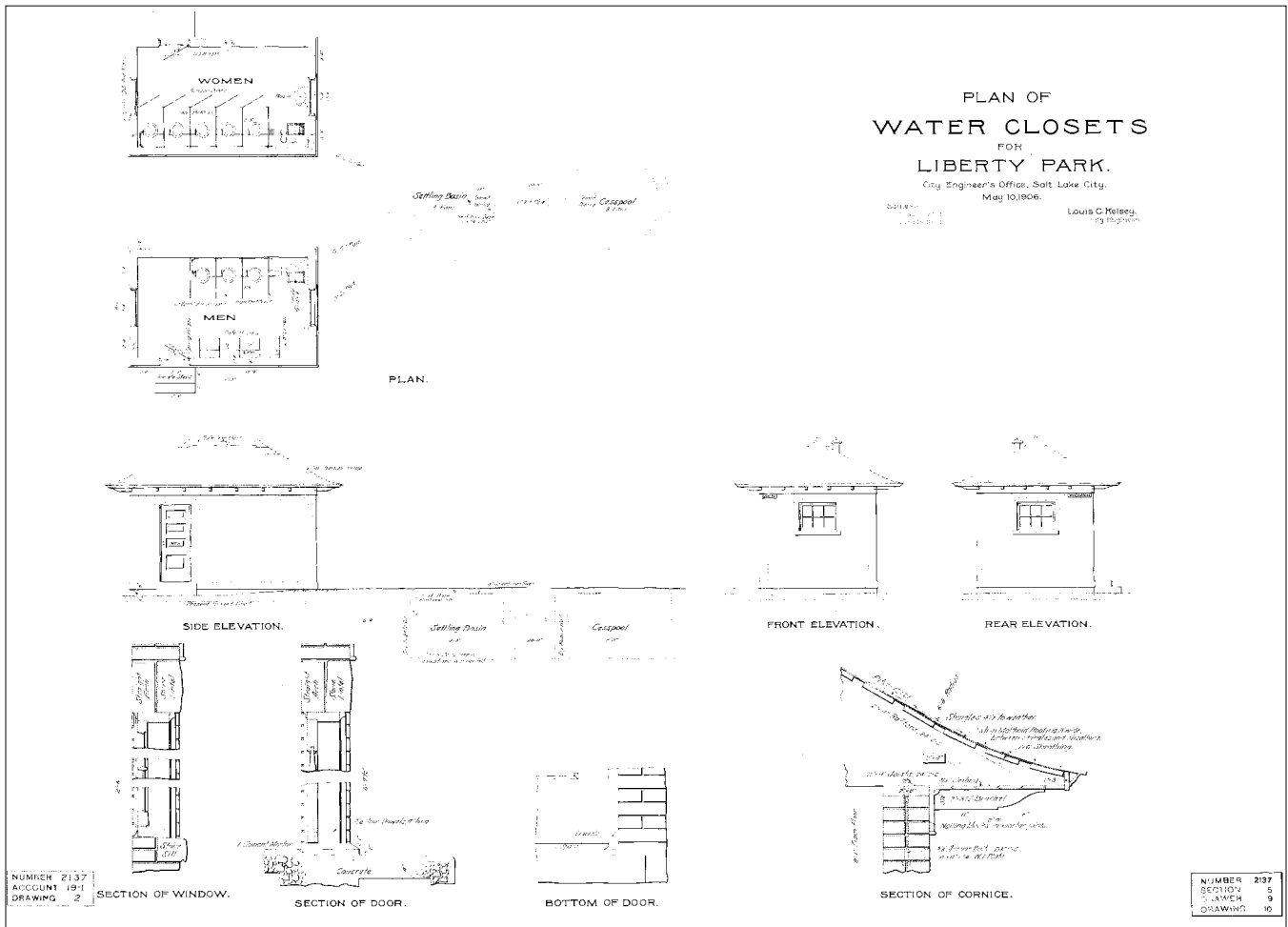
Greenhouse, 1912. The central portion of the greenhouse was built in 1903. Several additions followed in the subsequent decades (image: © Utah State Historical Society).

1903 The city built the greenhouse in Liberty Park for \$7,986.²⁻⁴⁰

Greenhouse structures in Liberty Park were expanded, modified, and replaced throughout the period of significance. The removal of the original 1903 greenhouse may have coincided with nationwide efforts during World War II to recycle material in support of the war, but the date and reason for its removal have not been documented to date.

1905 The Spirit of Liberty Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), dedicated the first Utah DAR monument, the DAR Drinking Fountain Monument, in Salt Lake

City on November 11, 1905. The monument was first placed in front of the Packard Public Library at 15 South State Street. It was later moved to Washington Square and eventually relocated to the northeast quadrant of Liberty Park. The water fountain is no longer functioning and is set in the center of a flowerbed bordered by a rock wall.²⁻⁴¹



Plans for Water Closets developed by the City Engineer's Office, Salt Lake City, May 10, 1906 (image: Salt Lake City Public Lands).

1906 Louis C. Kelsey, an engineer in Salt Lake City's Engineer's Office, developed drawings for water closets at Liberty Park.

1908 Ernest Victor Fohlin described Liberty Park in his 1908 book on Salt Lake City as "...a most fitting and attractive spot for public use and enjoyment. It contains 110 acres of ground and is a favorite place for outings during the summer season. Celebrations of holidays and various other gatherings are held in this spacious and attractive place. Held's military band has for a number of years furnished instrumental musical concerts on Sundays and

holidays for public entertainment. The park is situated in the southeastern part of the city. Its main entrance is on Ninth South and Fifth East streets and is reached by the street cars."²⁻⁴²

1911 Fire destroyed stables, including five horses and two cows, storehouses, and playground apparatus stored during the winter months at Liberty Park.



Parade at Liberty Park, July 5, 1909 (image: 2001 © Utah State Historical Society).



Liberty Park Gateway, c. 1910 (image: 2001 © Utah State Historical Society).



Evergreen tree allée along Constitution Drive with parallel walks, 1911 (image: 2001 © Utah State Historical Society).



Liberty Lake Looking Southeast 1910 (image: 2001 © Utah State Historical Society).



Stone arbors, c. 1910 (image: 2001 © Utah State Historical Society).



Liberty Lake, c. 1910 (image: 2001 © Utah State Historical Society).



Liberty Lake, c. 1910 (image: 2001 © Utah State Historical Society).

1912 Nicholas Byhouwer, city superintendent of parks, submitted his semi-annual report to city commissioners. Recorded improvement of Liberty Park included the enlargement of Liberty Lake to double its former size, with concrete retaining walls surrounding the section of the enlarged lake. Two small islands were created in the center of the lake and were planted with bowers (arbors) and lawn. Two bridges provided access to the islands and were lit at night. Twenty aluminum boats were purchased for visitor use of the lake.

Several structures were removed, and a semi-rustic shelter was built along with other buildings and structures for birds and animals. The conservancy (greenhouse) was expanded for plant propagation with a capacity for 10,000 plants.

Superintendent Byhouwer recommended removing the remaining locust trees on the east side of the park and removing all barns, stables, and other features “entirely out of place...(and)...installing...amusement features such as a bowling alley, scenic railway, etc., at the west side near the middle of the park...” and building a bandstand near Liberty Lake.

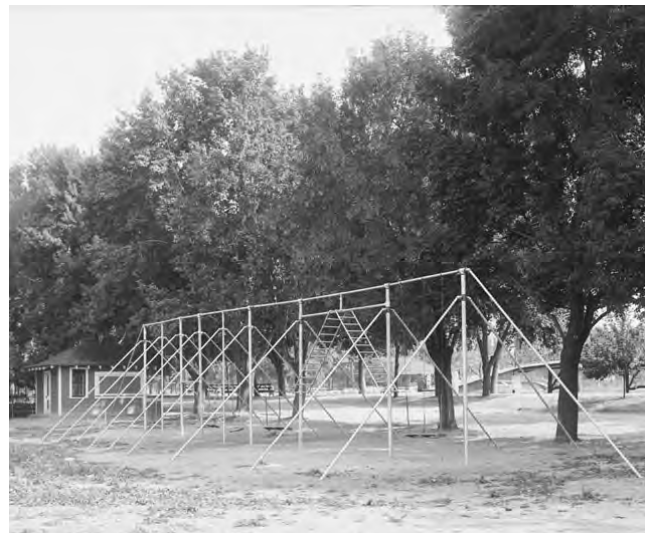
Other park improvements included cobble sanitary drinking fountains, 12 lights, 12 acres of parking (lawn), 1,200 shade and ornamental trees, flower beds and borders, 250 new benches, and two new comfort stations. Improvement of the northwest section of the park included 8,000’ of pipe for irrigation. A bronze 15-foot-tall fountain was set in the center of the northwest quadrant and was surrounded by clusters of incandescent lights to illuminate the fountain at night.

One-third of roads were oiled to test the surface. The surfacing received positive reviews.

The playground was improved, and amenities included a wading pool, swings, see-saws and other playground apparatuses, cobble stone drinking fountains, and a 85’ by 25’ concrete swimming pond and dressing rooms.

The report also mentions that the zoo was established, and free concerts were held on Sundays and Wednesdays.²⁻⁴³

1913 The Salt Lake Tribune reported that 7,000 to 10,000 tourists were taken through Liberty Park monthly in tourist cars.²⁻⁴⁴



Liberty Park Playground adjacent to 600 E with Liberty Lake Bridge in background, 1912 (image: 2001 © Utah State Historical Society).



Rustic design of site features in Liberty Park, 1912 (image: © Utah State Historical Society).



Rustic design of two-story Liberty Park Pavilion, 1912 (image: © Utah State Historical Society).



Rustic design of two-story Liberty Park Pavilion, 1912 (image: Mss C 275; Shieler Commercial Photographers Collection).



Two-story pavilion with Liberty Lake in foreground, 1912 (image: © Utah State Historical Society).

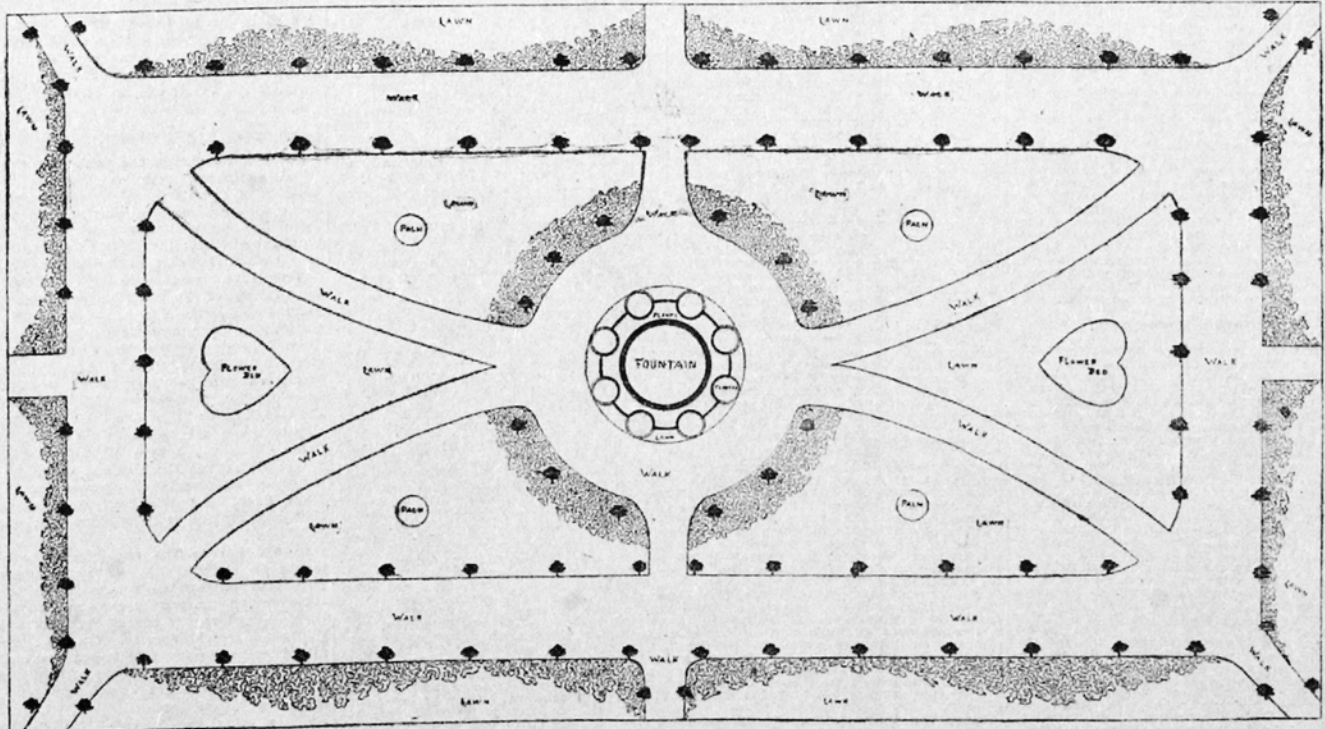


Plantings, concrete edge, and fence along Swan Pond with Chase Mill in background, 1912 (image: © Utah State Historical Society).



Rustic structure and seating at island in Liberty Park with two-story structure in background, 1912 (image: © Utah State Historical Society).

Proposed Electric Fountain in Liberty Park



WHAT was formerly the old baseball diamond in the northwestern portion of Liberty park will be next year converted into one of the beauty spots of Salt Lake City. In the center of this piece of ground it is proposed to erect an electric fountain of elaborate design.

The fountain proper is expected to cost \$600, and with the illumination and basin the total cost will reach approximately \$1200, which amount is provided for in the park department budget for 1913. Neither figure includes the cost of installation, which will be done by the regular employees of the park department.

The ground directly surrounding the fountain will be improved in such a manner as to provide a most exquisite floral display. In the ornamental flower beds will be planted all the choice flowers of the park, with changes at frequent intervals, both in the character of the designs and also in the kind of flowers.

Trees which have been growing for years surrounding the plot of ground will provide ample shade for the walks which will inclose the ground. Nearby will be a bandstand. Rustic seats are to be built which will make it possible for the visitor to both hear excellent evening band concerts and also to witness the playing of vari-colored electric lights in the fountain.

Proposed Electric Fountain in Liberty Park, December 29, 1912 (image: Salt Lake Tribune).



Liberty Lake bridge and duck house, 1912 (image: © Utah State Historical Society).



Flower bed, undated (image: © Utah State Historical Society).

World Wars and The Great Depression (1914 to 1945)

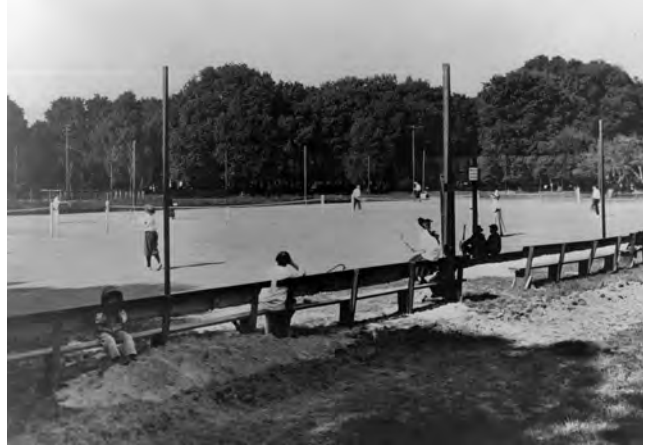
The improvement of Liberty Park slowed during World War I, the Great Depression, and World War II. Liberty Park remained a popular destination for summer concert series, theatrical performances, recreational leagues, family reunions, and civic events. Major changes during this period included the closure of the zoo in 1931 and the establishment of Tracy Aviary at the former zoo's location in 1938. Additionally, in 1934, Chase Mill was repurposed as a relic hall by the Daughters of Utah Pioneers. In 1945, the greenhouse was expanded with the purchase of an addition from Ickes Braun, a renowned glasshouse manufacturer.

1914 Appropriations for a zoo were made in 1914, and the zoo remained open in Liberty Park until the establishment of Hogle Zoo in 1931. Other improvements at Liberty Park included a new swimming pool for boys and seven acres of parking (lawn).²⁻⁴⁵

c. 1915 Tennis courts and bungalow-style North Public Restrooms and North Shelter (present-day YouthCity building) were built.²⁻⁴⁶

1917 A 24' by 58' addition to the greenhouse was completed in January 1917.²⁻⁴⁷

The Salt Lake Telegram reported that plants were transferred to the newly completed greenhouse at Liberty Park in February. The greenhouses supplied flowers and plants for the parks and buildings of the city and county of Salt Lake City.²⁻⁴⁸



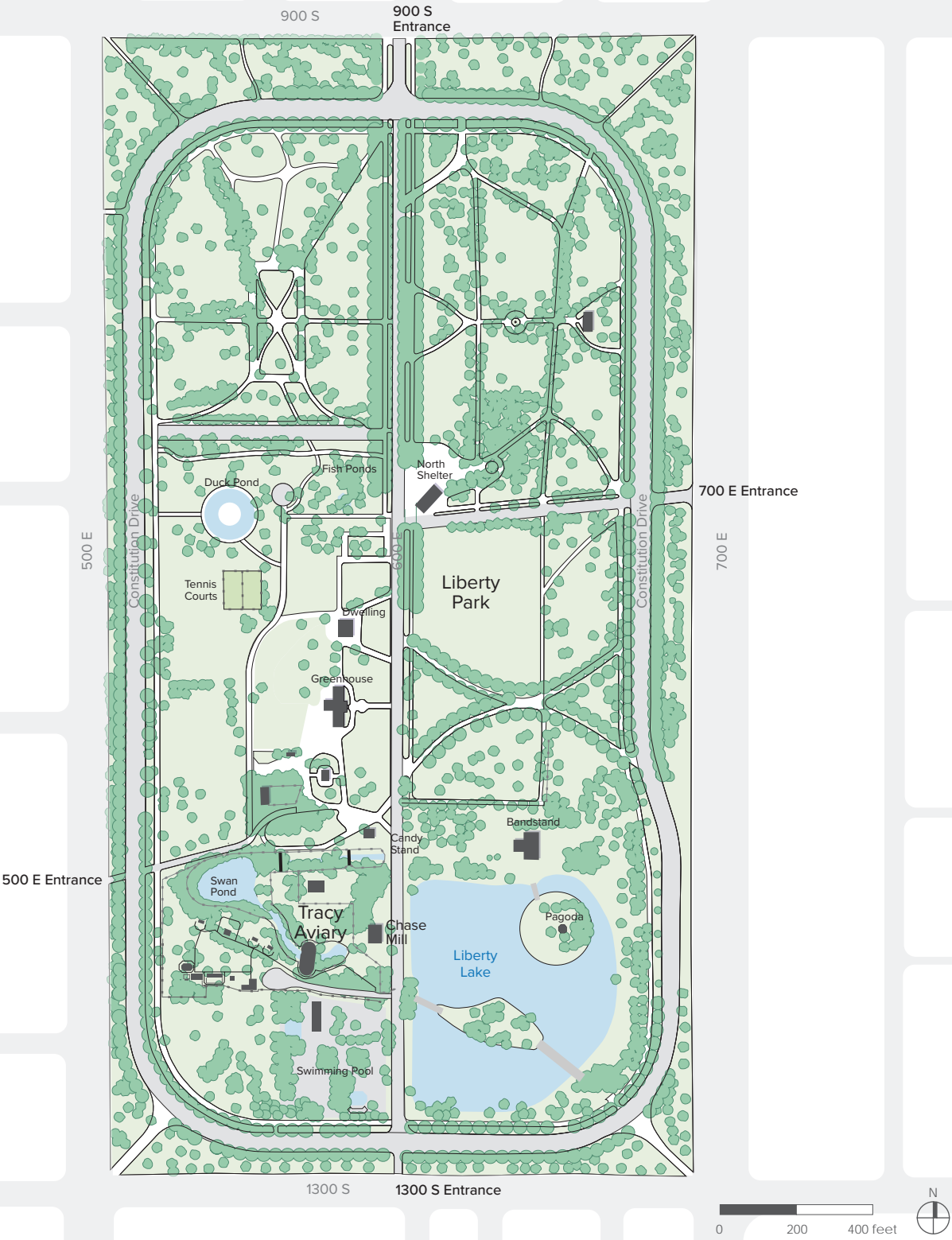
Liberty Park tennis courts, undated (image: © Utah State Historical Society).



Comfort station, 1917 (image: 2002 © Utah State Historical Society).



Liberty Park greenhouse and formal gardens along 600 E, 1922 (image: 2002 © Utah State Historical Society).



1914 to 1945 Period Plan (image: Mundus Bishop, 2025).



600 E with allée, parallel walks, and open lawns to the east and west, 1915 (image: 2001 © Utah State Historical Society).



900 S park entrance with monumental entrance piers, 1915 (image: © Utah State Historical Society).



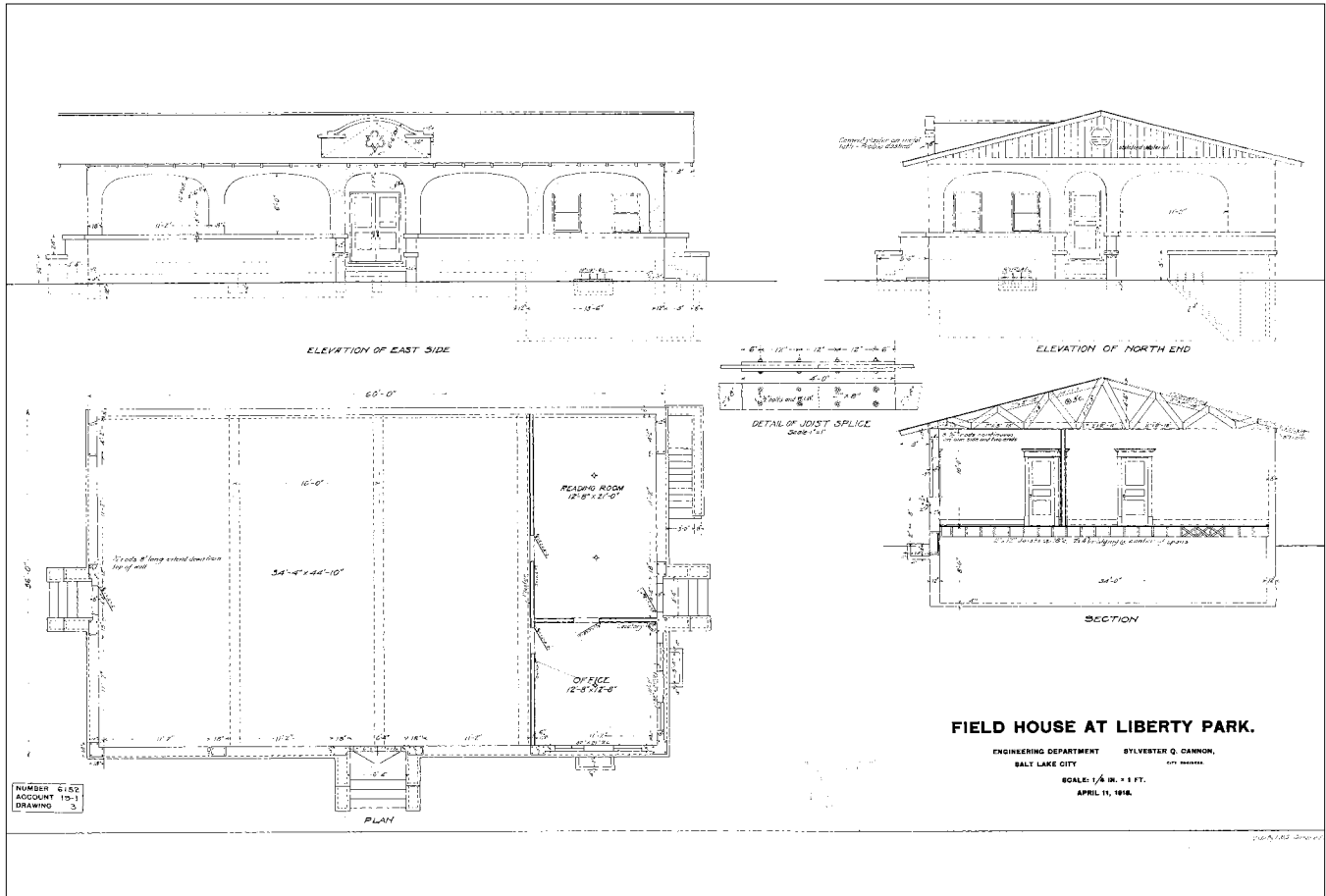
600 E looking North, 1915 (image: 2001 © Utah State Historical Society).



President Harding Welcome Arch, 1923 (image: 2003 © Utah State Historical Society).



600 E after the addition of monumental entrance piers, lights, curbs, and gutters, before 1918 (image: © Utah State Historical Society).



Field House at Liberty Park Plans, 1918. (image: Salt Lake City Public Lands Archives).

1918 The city removed between 80 and 100 dead or dying trees from 600 E. Two inner rows of trees were taken out, and the road was expanded to approximately 90 feet in width. The gate at the park entrance was also removed. The newly expanded road included “parking down the center of the park to the south end, with a sixteen-foot driveway on each side of the center parking. On each side of the driveways will be parking eight feet wide and then walks fourteen feet wide on each side.” Parking is likely used in this context to describe landscape medians.²⁻⁴⁹

Sylvester Q. Cannon, an engineer in Salt Lake City’s Engineering Department, developed drawings for a Field House at Liberty Park.

1920 Monumental entrance piers were built at 900 S and 1300 S.²⁻⁵⁰

by 1920 The Salt Lake Herald-Republican reported that Liberty Park’s rose garden was a “city beauty spot” with 2,500 rose shrubs. The rose garden had been established less than three years earlier and occupied an area of 100’ by 300’.²⁻⁵¹

1931 Hogle Zoo opened in Emigration Canyon, and the zoo in Liberty Park was closed.²⁻⁵²



Chase Mill, 1930 (image: © Utah State Historical Society).

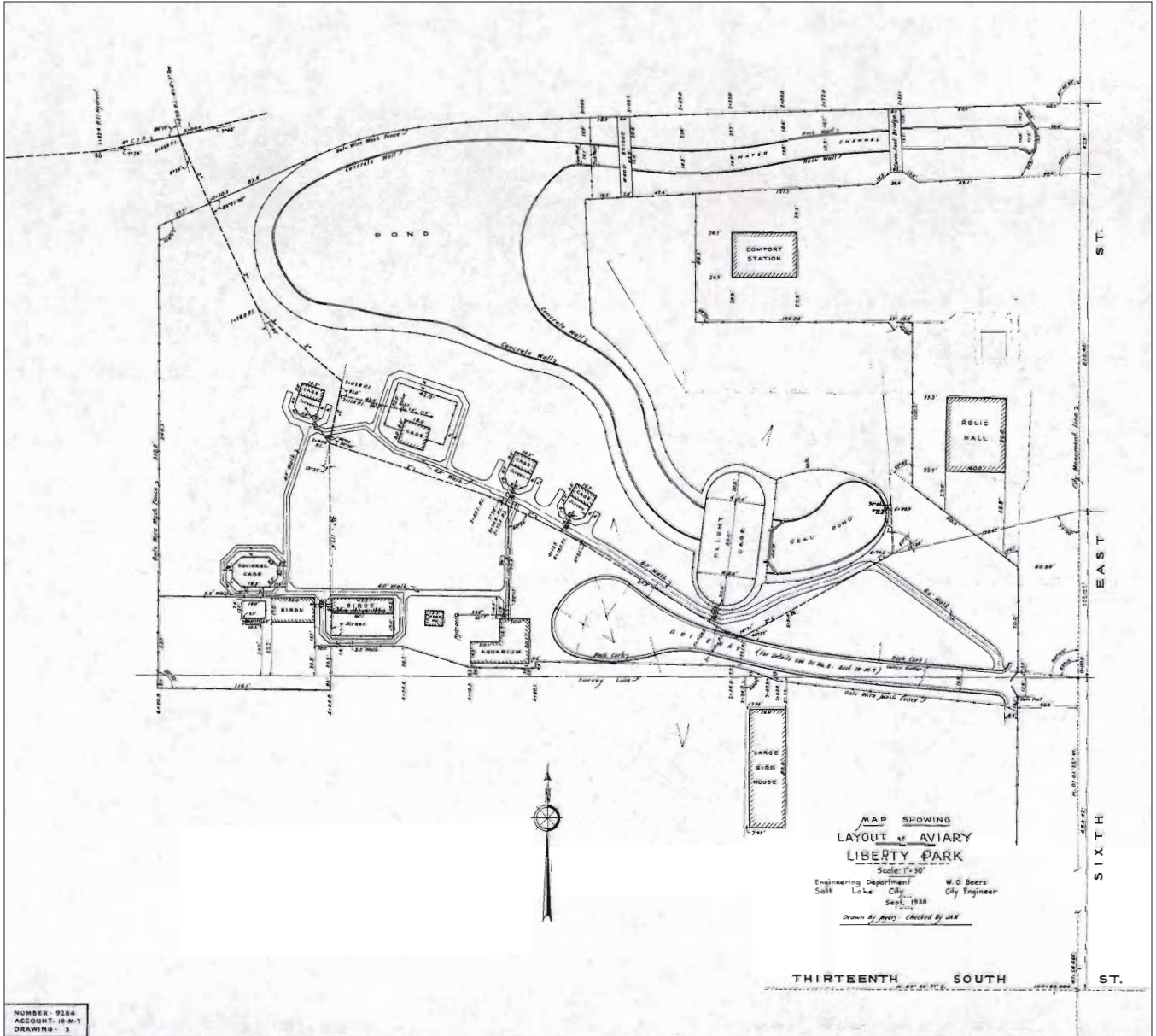
1933 Salt Lake City started leasing Chase Mill to the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers for \$1.00 per year. They utilized the building as a “relic hall.”²⁻⁵³

1938 Russel Lord Tracy donated his collection of 200 birds to Salt Lake City. Tracy Aviary at Liberty Park opened on July 2, 1938. The four-acre facility featured several hundred birds, seals, monkeys, and kangaroos.²⁻⁵⁴

A flight cage and aquarium were built in Tracy Aviary. The aquarium housed four fish tanks and white mice and was later used as

a playhouse, caretaker’s house, housing for interns, and offices.²⁻⁵⁵

Salt Lake City Commissioners authorized the construction of a brick refreshment stand at Liberty Park. The work was completed as a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project with the city allocating \$3,367 in funds and the federal government providing \$2,507 in funding. The city also approved a WPA project to trim and remove dead trees at Liberty Park.²⁻⁵⁶



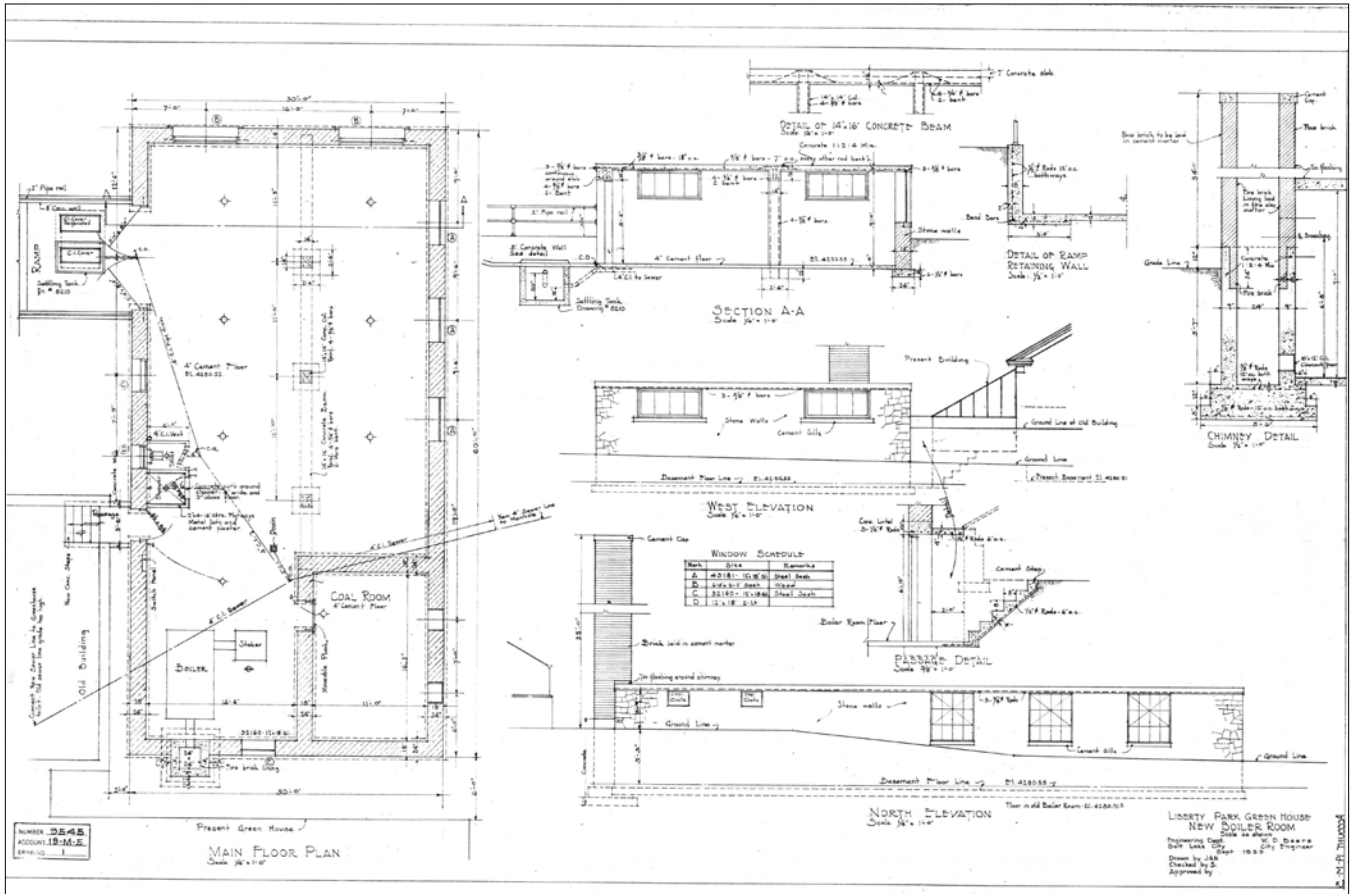
Tracy Aviary, 1938 (image: Salt Lake City Public Lands).



Aquarium in Tracy Aviary, undated (image: © Utah State Historical Society).



Bird flight cage in Tracy Aviary, undated (image: © Utah State Historical Society).



Drawing for Greenhouse Boiler Room, 1939 (image: Salt Lake City Public Lands).

1939 The engineering department of Salt Lake City developed drawings for a new boiler room at the greenhouse.

1943 The city accepted a bid of \$723 for a 30' by 60' prefabricated addition to the greenhouse (north greenhouse addition).²⁻⁵⁷

1945 The Loyal Order of the Moose, Salt Lake Lodge No. 259 sponsored the design and construction of a flagstone fireplace. The fireplace was one of three fireplaces designed by W.S. Edmonds, secretary of the Moose Lodge, and was one of three fireplaces placed in Liberty Park, Fairmont Park, and Jordan Park. The concrete plaques on the chimneys were created by schoolchildren at Mooseheart, Illinois. Salt Lake City Commissioners designated the area surrounding the fireplace as "Moose Grove."²⁻⁵⁸

Post-War Era (1946 to 1970)

Liberty Park’s operational infrastructure and recreational amenities expanded in the post-war years. Additions included a new bandstand (1949), swimming pool and bathhouse (1949), four additional tennis courts and a tennis clubhouse (1955), and maintenance office, workshop, vehicle storage building (c. 1950), Rice Pavilion (c. 1970), and Wilson Pavilion (1970). The design of new park buildings and features shifted to a modern style that expressed clean lines, symmetry, minimal ornamentation, and functionality.

Historic aerials document a change in the design and use of 600 E between 1950 and 1970. The central vehicular route was redesigned as a pedestrian promenade—Central Promenade—and closed to vehicular travel.

1949 Liberty Park bandstand shelter was built and the roof over the existing bandstand was replaced by Fullmer Bros for around \$10,550, including materials. The same year Jacobsen Construction Co. was hired to build a swimming pool and bathhouse for \$66,000.²⁻⁵⁹

A swimming pool and bathhouse were built.²⁻⁶⁰

c. 1950 Salt Lake City park department’s building appropriation fund was drastically reduced. Funds were allocated for a new greenhouse at Liberty Park.²⁻⁶¹

Liberty Park Maintenance Office, workshop, and vehicle storage building were built.²⁻⁶²

1952 Locomotive No. 223 was placed at Liberty Park.²⁻⁶³

1953 A blue spruce, the official state tree of Utah from 1933 to 2014, was planted on the west side of the 900 South entrance on May 6, 1953.²⁻⁶⁴

1955 Four additional tennis courts and a tennis clubhouse were built and the horseshoe courts were expanded.²⁻⁶⁵

1960 Restrooms were built at Tracy Aviary.²⁻⁶⁶

c. 1960 The Merry-Go-Round Building and Horseshoe Building with storage and restrooms were built.²⁻⁶⁷

1962 Four new tennis courts were built in Liberty Park, bringing the total number of tennis courts to fourteen.²⁻⁶⁸

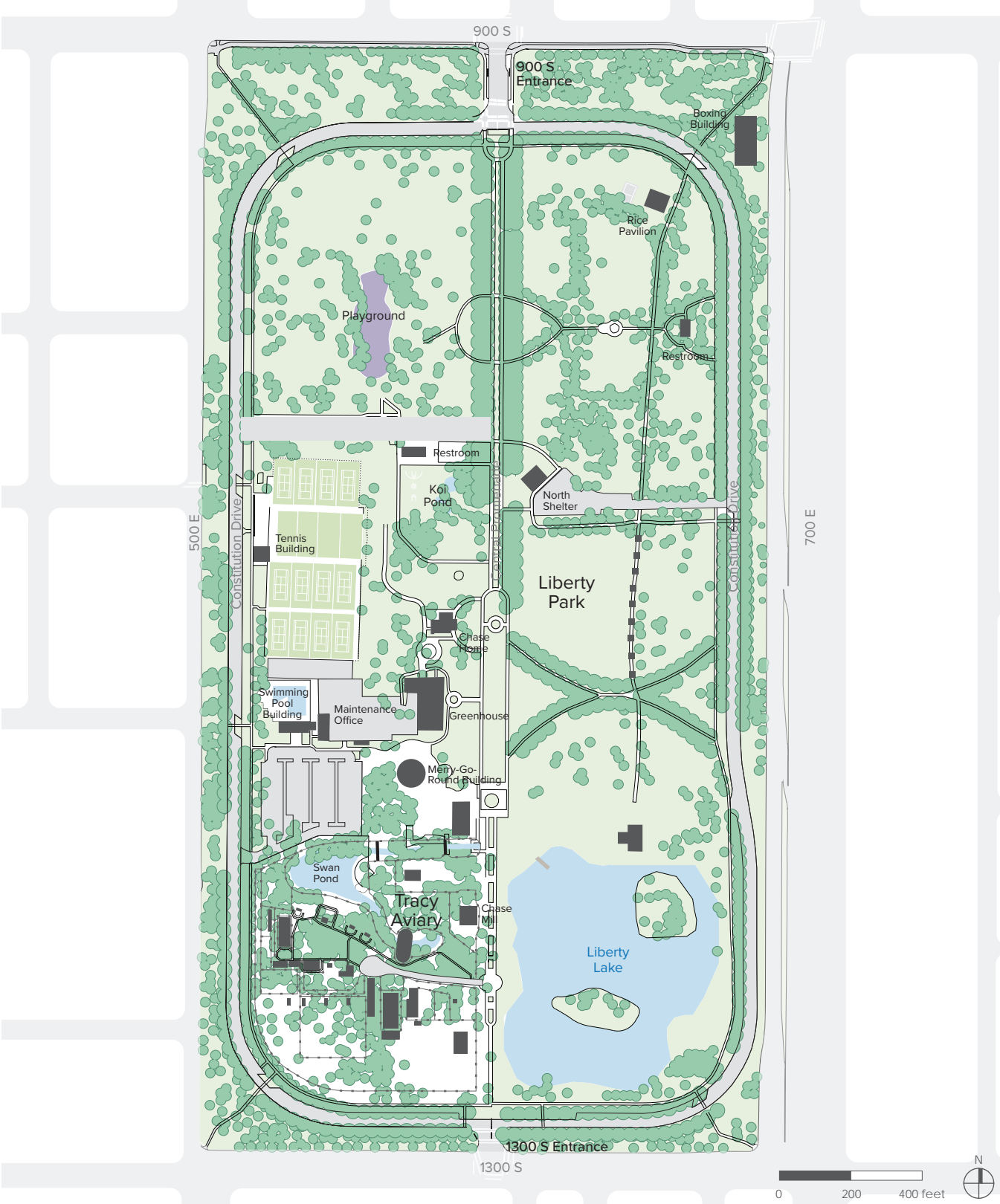
1966 Lord & Burnham Greenhouse Designers & Manufacturers developed drawings for the main greenhouse. The date and reason for removing the original 1903 main greenhouse structure are undocumented. The main greenhouse was built after the development of the drawings dated December 1966.

1968 The aquarium at Tracy Aviary was converted to use as a caretaker’s cottage. It is unknown if the cottage was occupied by the caretaker of Tracy Aviary or by the caretaker of Liberty Park.²⁻⁶⁹

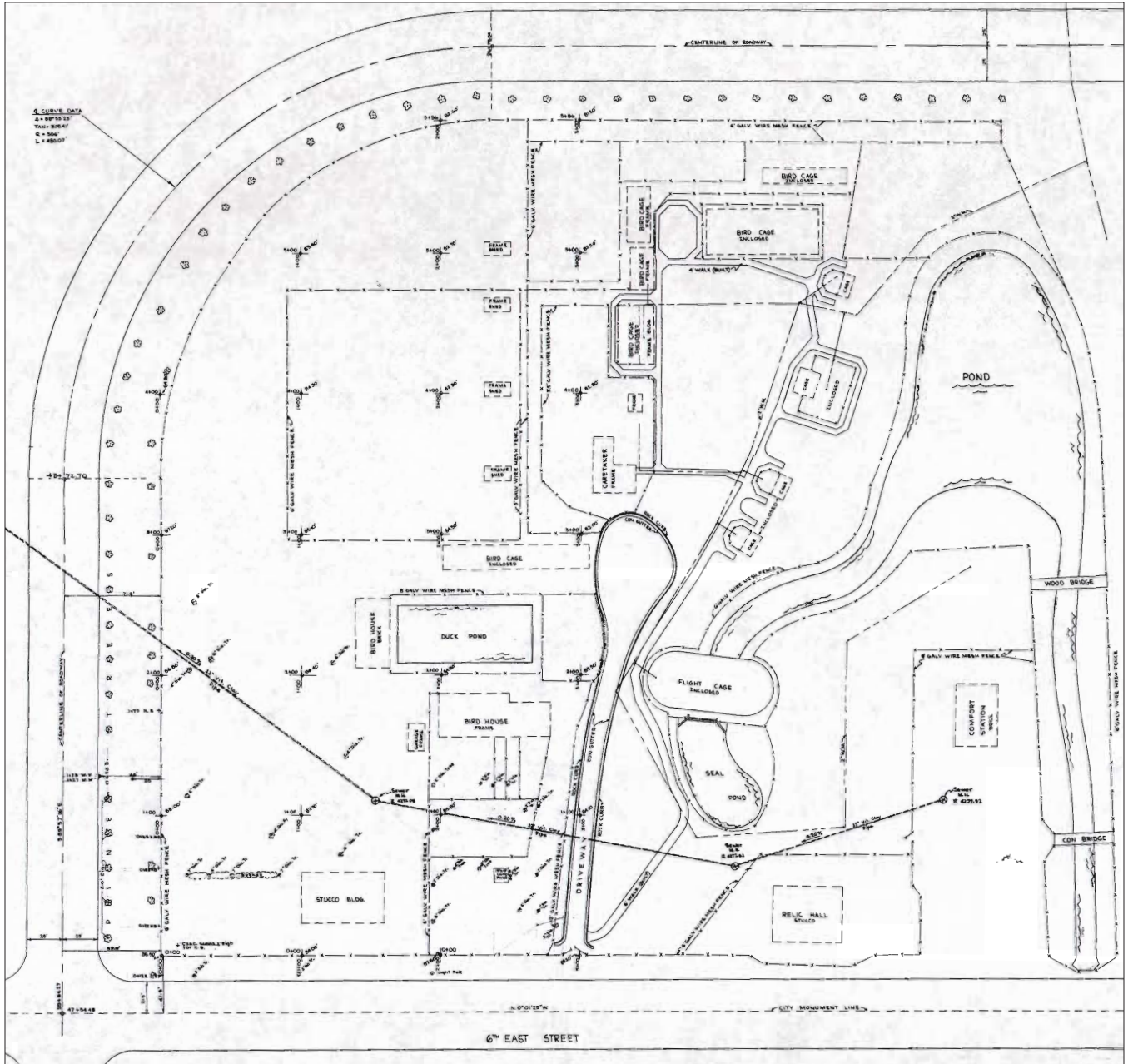
1969 Falcon Fountain was built along the Central Promenade of Liberty Park.²⁻⁷⁰

1970 Wilson Pavilion, Birdhouse 1, and a Storage Building were built at Tracy Aviary.²⁻⁷¹

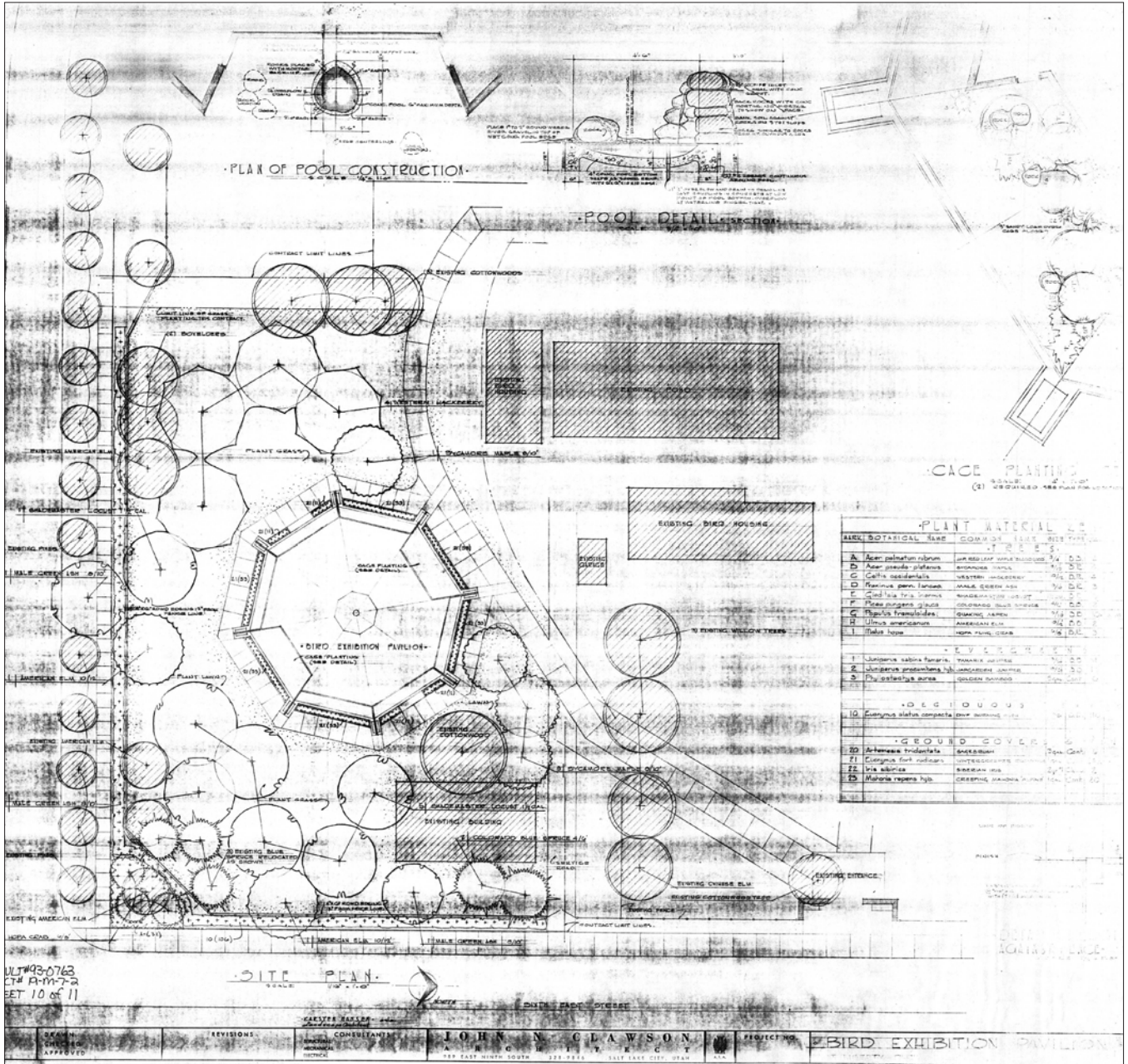
c. 1970 Rice Pavilion was built.²⁻⁷²



1946 to 1970 Period Plan (image: Mundus Bishop, 2025).



Tracy Aviary, 1968 (image: Salt Lake City Public Lands).



Bird Exhibit Pavilion (Wilson Pavilion) site plan, 1969 (image: Salt Lake City Public Lands).

Planning for the Reactivation of Liberty Park (1971 to 1996)

The city and neighborhood association initiated a master plan for Liberty Park in the 1970s to “remove the most incompatible uses and restore some elements of the original park design.” The city implemented recommendations for the system-wide and park-specific master plans in the 1980s. This included the removal of several historic buildings and structures, including a restroom facility, bandstand, picnic shelters, and pagoda. Additions to the park included a tennis building (1980), train storage depot (1980), topographic mound (1983), swimming pool building (1990), Seven Canyons Fountain (1993), swimming pool (1994), and several restrooms (dates vary).

- 1970s** Traffic volumes associated with vehicles continuously driving loops along Constitution Drive became a concern, and traffic islands were installed at the north and south entrances. This prohibited motorists from driving loops around the park, and John Gust, superintendent of Salt Lake City Parks and Recreation, stated the islands marked a shift in people driving to the park, parking their cars, and enjoying the park.²⁻⁷³
- 1978** Dennis Smith created the bronze Doll and Dare Statue. The statue was placed northeast of Rice Pavilion.²⁻⁷⁴
- 1979** Salt Lake City Parks Department and Utah State Historical Society restored Chase Mill to its 1850 to 1860 appearance.²⁻⁷⁵
- c. 1980** Tennis building was built.²⁻⁷⁶
- 1980** Locomotive No. 223 was removed from Liberty Park to create a Children’s Garden north of Tracy Aviary. The train was move to the Utah State Historical Society at the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad Depot.²⁻⁷⁷
- 1981** The Children’s Garden, envisioned as a transition between Liberty Park and Tracy Aviary, was completed. The playground included a maze of cargo nets, pulley rides, tube slides, and sand boxes. An amphitheater was created as a space for city staff to bring animals from the aviary for children’s educational programming in the park.²⁻⁷⁸
- 1982** Liberty Park’s bandstand was deemed functionally inadequate for small and large events. The bandstand was removed and replaced with a topographic mound using excess fill from the excavation of Rice-Eccles Stadium at the University of Utah.²⁻⁷⁹
- 1983** The Utah Art Council worked with the city to remodel the interior of the Chase Home to exhibit work by Utah craft artists. The folk arts program operated tours, exhibits, and educational programs in the Chase Home through the 2000s.²⁻⁸⁰
- 1984** Liberty Park Lake was modified for flood control as a response to flooding that occurred in 1983. Berms were created along its banks to protect homes in the event of a large overflow.²⁻⁸¹

c. 1985 Restrooms north of Chase Mill were built.²⁻⁸²

c. 1990 The swimming pool building was built.²⁻⁸³

Tracy Aviary Maintenance Shed was built.²⁻⁸⁴

1992 Restroom were built near the locations of present-day East Playground and Rotary Play.²⁻⁸⁵

1993 Seven Canyons Fountain was donated to the residents of Salt Lake City as a legacy gift from O.C. Tanner. The fountain's designers, Boyd Blackner, Elizabeth Blackner, Stephen Goldsmith, and John Swain, based their concept on the canyons, waterways, and mountains of Salt Lake City and the Wasatch Front.²⁻⁸⁶

1994 The swimming pool was removed and replaced with a new pool.²⁻⁸⁷

1995 Tennis restrooms were built.²⁻⁸⁸

Planning for the Continued Use and Repair of Liberty Park (1997 to present-day)

The city and community of Salt Lake City developed a plan, Liberty Park Scoping Project, to “restore Liberty Park to its previous beauty and grandeur, and to bring back many of the historic elements that have been lost over the years.” The city implemented recommendations of the plan to upgrade and repair Liberty Park.

This included the removal of Boxing Building, North Public Restrooms (built c. 1915), Horseshoe Building (built c. 1960), and Restrooms/Ball Playroom (1985). Additions included Rotary Play (2002), East Playground (2004), Liberty Lake Gazebo (2003), Concession Building and Restrooms (2008), and Liberty Lake pedestrian bridge (2010).

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>after 1997 Recommendations established in the Liberty Park Scoping & Cost Study were implemented. This included the removal of Boxing Building, North Public Restrooms (built c. 1915), Horseshoe Building (built c. 1960), and Restrooms/Ball Playroom (1985).</p> | <p>2007 Tracy Aviary built the Southern Ground Hornbill exhibit and razed several structures.</p> |
| <p>2002 Rotary Play was built in 2002 as an all-ages and abilities playground in honor of the 2002 Paralympic Winter Games, which were hosted in Utah.²⁻⁸⁹</p> | <p>2010 MGB+A Studio designed a pedestrian bridge to the island in Liberty Lake.²⁻⁹⁴</p> <p>A Salt Lake County bond and private donations funded an approximate \$3M renovation of the Calvin D. Wilson South American Pavilion.</p> |
| <p>2003 Liberty Lake Gazebo, a replica of the historic gazebo, was built at Liberty Lake.²⁻⁹⁰</p> | <p>2011 Tracy Aviary rehabilitated a goose yard to Owl Forest and opened a new Visitors Center.</p> |
| <p>2004 East Playground was built.²⁻⁹¹</p> | <p>2012 Tracy Aviary opened a new bird show theater and a new holding building for off-exhibit holding space.²⁻⁹⁵</p> |
| <p>2005 A 2003 Salt Lake City bond provided \$1.2M to build Destination Argentina at Tracy Aviary. Construction began in 2004 and Destination Argentina opened in 2005.</p> | <p>2014 The city established a secondary irrigation pumphouse in Liberty Park.²⁻⁹⁶</p> <p>Tracy Aviary built a turkey vulture/hawk exhibit near the Kennecott Wetlands Exhibit and King of the Andes.²⁻⁹⁷</p> |
| <p>2007 Private funding was secured to rehabilitate the flight cage at Tracy Aviary into Kennecott Wetlands Experience, a walk-through exhibit featuring native Utah wetland birds and built a feeding aviary—Amazon Adventure.²⁻⁹²</p> | <p>2015 Avian Health Center and the Macaw/King Vulture exhibit were opened at Tracy Aviary.²⁻⁹⁸</p> |
| <p>2008 Concession Building and Restrooms were built.²⁻⁹³</p> | |

- 2016** The Treasures of the Rainforest exhibit opened at Tracy Aviary.²⁻⁹⁹

An engineer's assessment of the aquarium building, built in 1938, determined that the building was not designed to modern standards, making it vulnerable to snow loads and weathering. The report estimated the cost of restoring the structure at \$600,000.

- 2017** The Bird Feeder Cafe opened on the west side of Tracy Aviary, providing a second point of entry to the Aviary and concessions for Aviary and Liberty Park visitors.²⁻¹⁰⁰

- 2018** The city redesigned the plaza at the Concession Building to improve accessibility and connectivity, support amusement area use, and provide new seating areas, lighting, and plantings. The project included new plantings and resetting the plaques at the WWI memorial.

Liberty Park maintenance yard was improved with an upgraded fueling site that included a drain, oil/water separator, and bio-swale to mitigate potential fuel spills.²⁻¹⁰¹

Expedition Kea opened at Tracy Aviary.²⁻¹⁰²

- 2021** Tracy Aviary repaired damage to Swan Pond after a large storm event. This included the removal of the large rock structure in the pond and addition of a deck, arbor, fence, and landscaping.²⁻¹⁰³

- 2023** 9 Line Trail was built along the northern boundary of Liberty Park, south of E 900 S.

Endnotes

- 2-1 Forrest Cuch, *A History of Utah's American Indians* (Utah State University, University Libraries, 2003), 18, 21
- 2-2 Brad Westwood, "Salt Lake as an Early Industrial City and the Beginning of the Relief Society Halls," CCE, November 15, 2023.
- 2-3 Kate (Barnson) Carter and Emmeline B. (Woodward) Wells, *The Chase Mill* (Salt Lake City: Utah Print. Co., 1957), 10 to 12.
- 2-4 Meess, Sara and Sheri Ellis. *Historic American Landscapes Survey Liberty Park*. (Salt Lake City, Utah), 2.
- 2-5 Haglund, Karl T. National Register of Historic Places Inventory - Nomination Form: Liberty Park. Utah State Historical Society: Salt Lake City, UT, 1980), 3.
- 2-6 Haglund, *Liberty Park NRHP*, 3.
- 2-7 Haglund, *Liberty Park NRHP*, 3; Meess, *Liberty Park HALS*, 2.
- 2-8 Haglund, *Liberty Park NRHP*, 4.
- 2-9 "Plans for Improving Public Parks," *Salt Lake Herald-Republican*, February 3, 1883.
- 2-10 McClelland, Linda. *Presenting Nature: The Historic Landscape Design of the National Park Service 1916 to 1942*. (Washington, D.C., 1993), 20.
- 2-11 Fohlin, SLC Past and Present, 127; Meess, *Liberty Park HALS*, 4.
- 2-12 Meess, *Liberty Park HALS*, 3.
- 2-13 Fohlin, SLC Past and Present, 127.
- 2-14 "Progress Shown in City Parks Report," *Salt Lake Tribune*, July 24, 1912.
- 2-15 Meess, *Liberty Park HALS*, 4.
- 2-16 "Primarily Amusement Place for Common People, So Writer Favors Liberty Park Location," *Salt Lake Telegram*, January 23, 1923.
- 2-17 Meess, *Liberty Park HALS*, 4.
- 2-18 *Downtown Salt Lake City Second Century Plan* (Salt Lake City, Utah: Downtown Planning Association, Inc., 1962).
- 2-19 Meess, *Liberty Park HALS*, 6.
- 2-20 Haglund, *Liberty Park NRHP*, 9.
- 2-21 At the time of this CLR, a copy of the 1970s Master Plan for Liberty Park was not available, and the full extent of recommendations and their implementation is undocumented.
- 2-22 Meess, *Liberty Park HALS*, 6.
- 2-23
- 2-24 Landmark Design, *Liberty Park Landscape Scoping Project* (Salt Lake City, Utah: Park Planning & Development, 1997).
- 2-25 Carter, *The Chase Mill*, 12
- 2-26 Meess, Sara and Sheri Ellis. *Historic American Landscapes Survey Liberty Park*. (Salt Lake City, UT), 2; Haglund, Karl T. National Register of Historic Places Inventory - Nomination Form: Liberty Park. Utah State Historical Society: Salt Lake City, UT), 3.
- 2-27 Smith, Melvin T. *National Register of Historic Places Inventory - Nomination Form: Isaac Chase Mill*. (Utah State Historical Society, Salt Lake City, UT, 1970), 3; Haglund, *Liberty Park NRHP*, 3; 2011 *Liberty Park HALS Report*, 2.
- 2-28 Smith, *NRHP Chase Mill*, 3.
- 2-29 Smith, *NRHP Chase Mill*, 3.
- 2-30 Smith, *NRHP Chase Mill*, 7.
- 2-31 Meess, *Liberty Park HALS*, 2.
- 2-32 Haglund, *Liberty Park NRHP*, 3.
- 2-33 Haglund, *Liberty Park NRHP*, 3; 2011 *Liberty Park HALS Report*, 2.
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03

Existing Condition and Analysis

Introduction



Liberty Park is the most visited park in Salt Lake City (image: Mundus Bishop, 2024).

This chapter evaluates Liberty Park’s existing condition and presents an analysis of integrity.

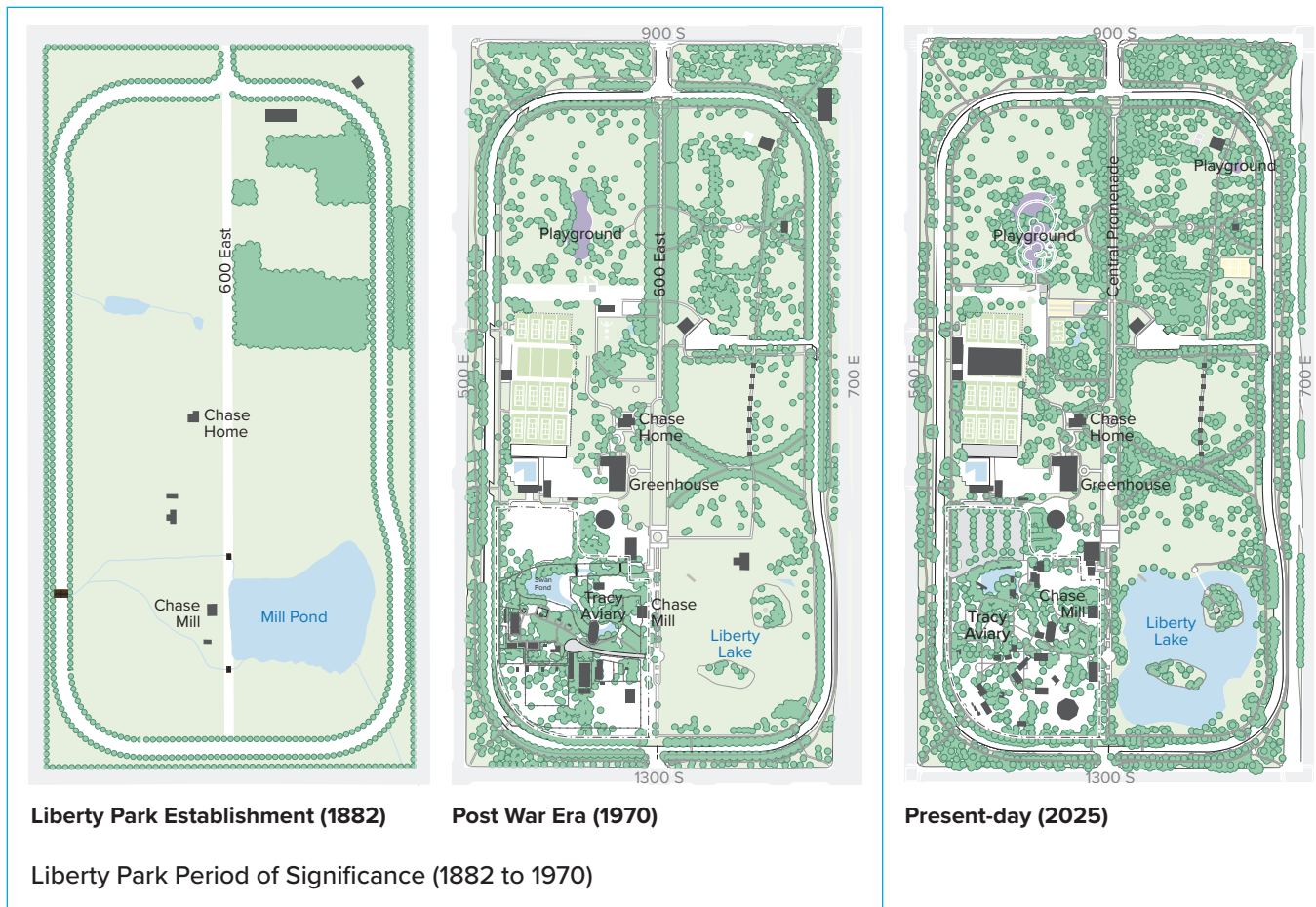
The evaluation and analysis of Liberty Park were undertaken to understand the park as a whole; to identify and document qualities that contribute to its historic character; and to identify individual features that contribute to its significance. Site investigations completed in the fall of 2024 documented the existing condition of the cultural landscape.

Appendix C presents existing condition information for individual features that include tangible and intangible aspects. These include park composition; circulation and connectivity; vegetation; water features; buildings; structures, objects, and features; and park uses and experiences.

Park Composition

Liberty Park is characterized by American Park Movement principles of order, harmony, and structure—ideals reflected in its broad central axis, symmetrical loop road, and balance of formal and informal spaces. The park is arranged as a series of nine spaces. Tree allées, tree groves, open lawn, the central axis, and broad views and vistas create its spatial organization.

Liberty Park is significant for its composition as a series of nine spaces, central axis, loop road, tree allées, open lawns, tree groves, and structures and buildings.



Park Composition Analysis. Liberty Park’s composition includes its organization as nine spaces, a central axis, tree allées, tree groves, and meadows established during the period of significance. These remain and contribute to the cultural landscape (image: Mundus Bishop, 2025).

Axis, Park Spaces, and Loop Road

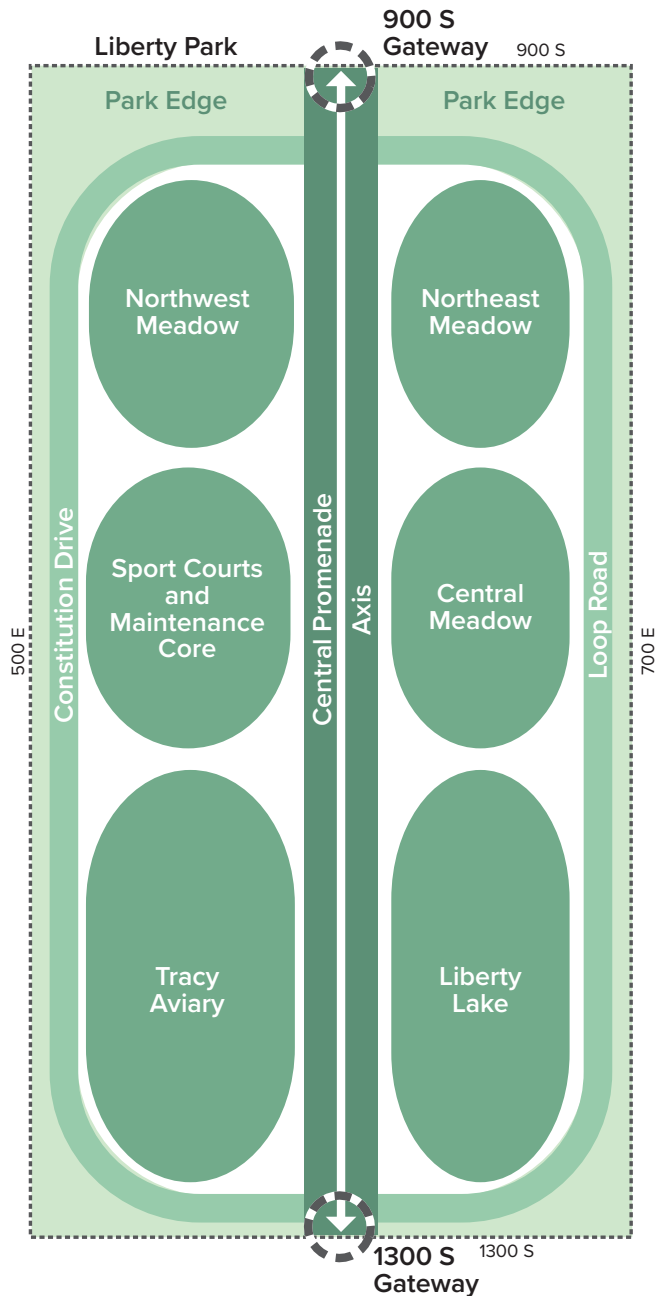
Liberty Park is a distinct rectangular park defined by 900 S, 700 E, 1300 S, and 500 E with a central axis extending from the park entrance at 900 S to the park entrance at 1300 S and buildings and spaces oriented to the central axis—Central Promenade.

Liberty Park is arranged as nine distinct spaces—northwest meadow, northeast meadow, sport court and maintenance core, central meadow, Liberty Lake, Tracy Aviary, Central Promenade, Constitution Drive, and Liberty Park Edge—defined by roads, trails, open lawn, tree groves, and tree allées.

Liberty Park is bisected by Central Promenade—the north-south axis established with the original design of Liberty Park. Central Promenade follows the historic alignment of 600 E, extending from the park entrances at 900 S to the park entrance of 1300 S. This axis establishes the symmetry and cohesion of the park design and reflects the broader orthogonal street grid of Salt Lake City.

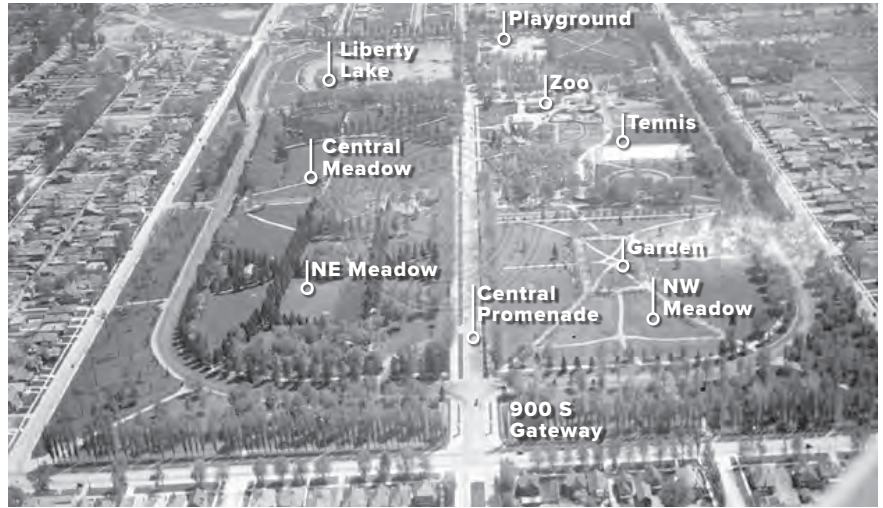
The size and design of the built park landscape was modified throughout the period of significance, but retains its original organization of nine distinct spaces reflecting the early design of Liberty Park. The organization was maintained and strengthened as the park was modified through the design of circulation features, open meadow, and vegetation that defined those spaces.

Central Promenade retains its historic alignment along this axis. Central Promenade was converted from a vehicular road to a pedestrian route during the period of significance. It retains its original alignment and remains as a central space of the park defined by a tree allée. The promenade was altered by the addition of Seven Canyons Refuge, War Memorial, and Falcon Fountain after the period of significance.

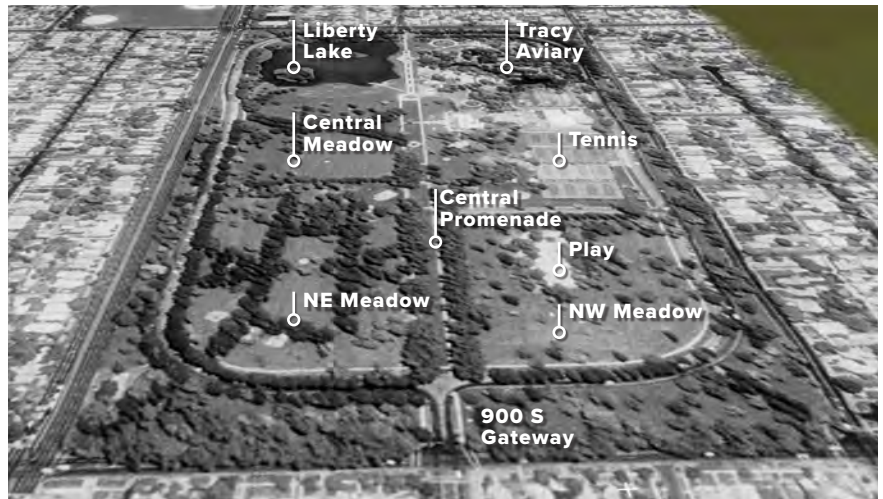


Axis, Park Spaces, and Loop Road Analysis. Liberty Park is arranged on a six-square grid with six distinct spaces—northwest meadow, northeast meadow, sport court and maintenance core, central meadow, Liberty Lake, and Tracy Aviary—defined by Constitution Drive and Central Promenade (image: Mundus Bishop, 2025).

Early to mid 1900s
view south



1970
view south



Liberty Park
Period of Significance
(1882 to 1970)

2023
view south



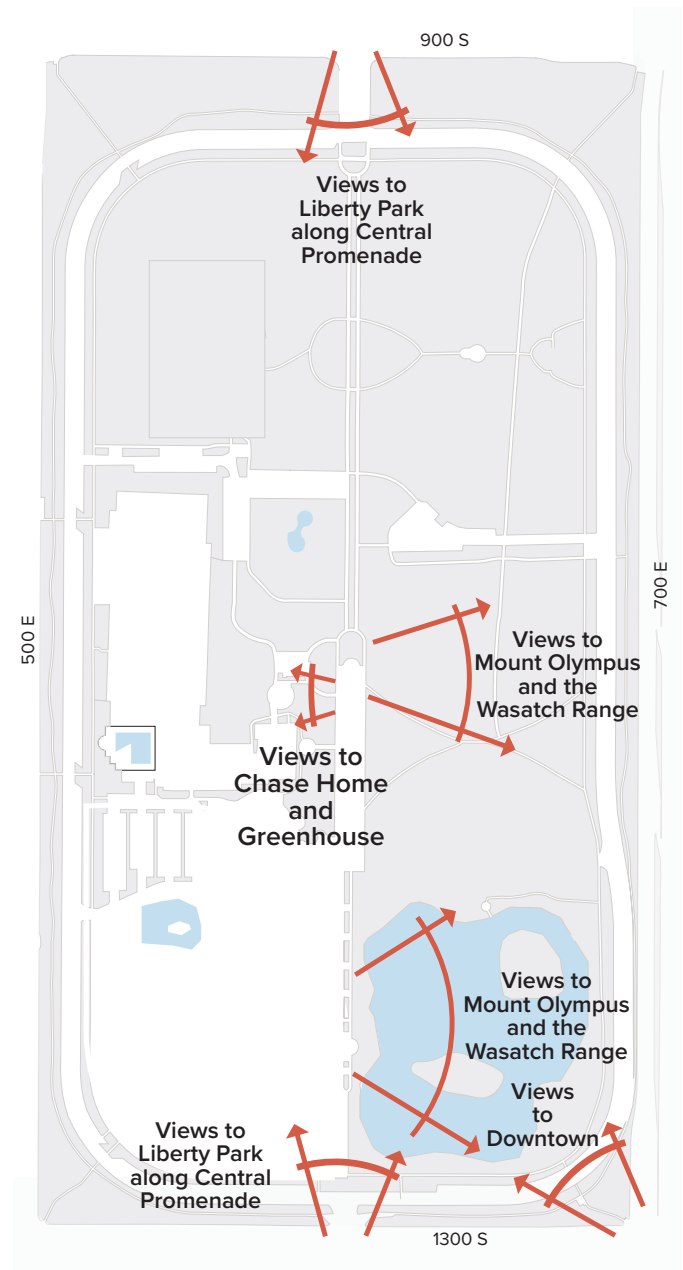
Park Composition. Liberty Park was modified throughout the period of significance but retains its organization of six distinct spaces. Historic aerials document how established spaces were maintained when new uses were introduced—e.g., the northeast meadow was modified from a garden to playgrounds. New uses and designs maintained a focused area of visitor use surrounded by open space (image: Mundus Bishop, 2025).

Views and Vistas

Views orient visitors to the meadows, tree allées, and water features of Liberty Park and its surrounding natural setting.

Prominent views include views to Mount Olympus and the Wasatch Range from Liberty Park, views to Liberty Lake, views along tree allées, and views from adjacent streets to Liberty Park. Historic views included pastoral views of meadows, tree groves, and lakes, views to Mount Olympus and the Wasatch Range, and an orchestrated sequence of views to park spaces framed by uniform tree allées along walks and roads.

Trees planted along the borders of Liberty Park buffered views to adjacent development from within the spaces of the park. Mature trees along the perimeter continue to provide this function.



Views and Vistas Analysis. Contributing views include views to the Wasatch Range from Liberty Park, views to Liberty Lake, views along tree allées, and views from adjacent streets to Liberty Park (image: Mundus Bishop, 2025).



Views and Vistas Analysis. Views across Liberty Lake to the Wasatch Range remain from the period of significance. Mature trees along the perimeter of Liberty Park continue to buffer views from within the distinct spaces of the park to adjacent development (image: top image (1910) © 2001 Utah State Historical Society; bottom image (2024)).

Views and Vistas Analysis. Views along the Central Promenade remain and contribute to the character of Liberty Park (image: top image (undated) © 2001 Utah State Historical Society; bottom image (2024)).

Topography

The topography of the park is relatively level with a man-made topographic mound overlooking the southeast corner of Liberty Park (Liberty Lake) and the central meadow area. The hillside steeply rises

20' from adjacent lands, providing a backdrop to the meadow to the north and Liberty Lake to the south. The historic topography of Liberty Park was modified by the establishment of a topographic mound north of Liberty Lake.

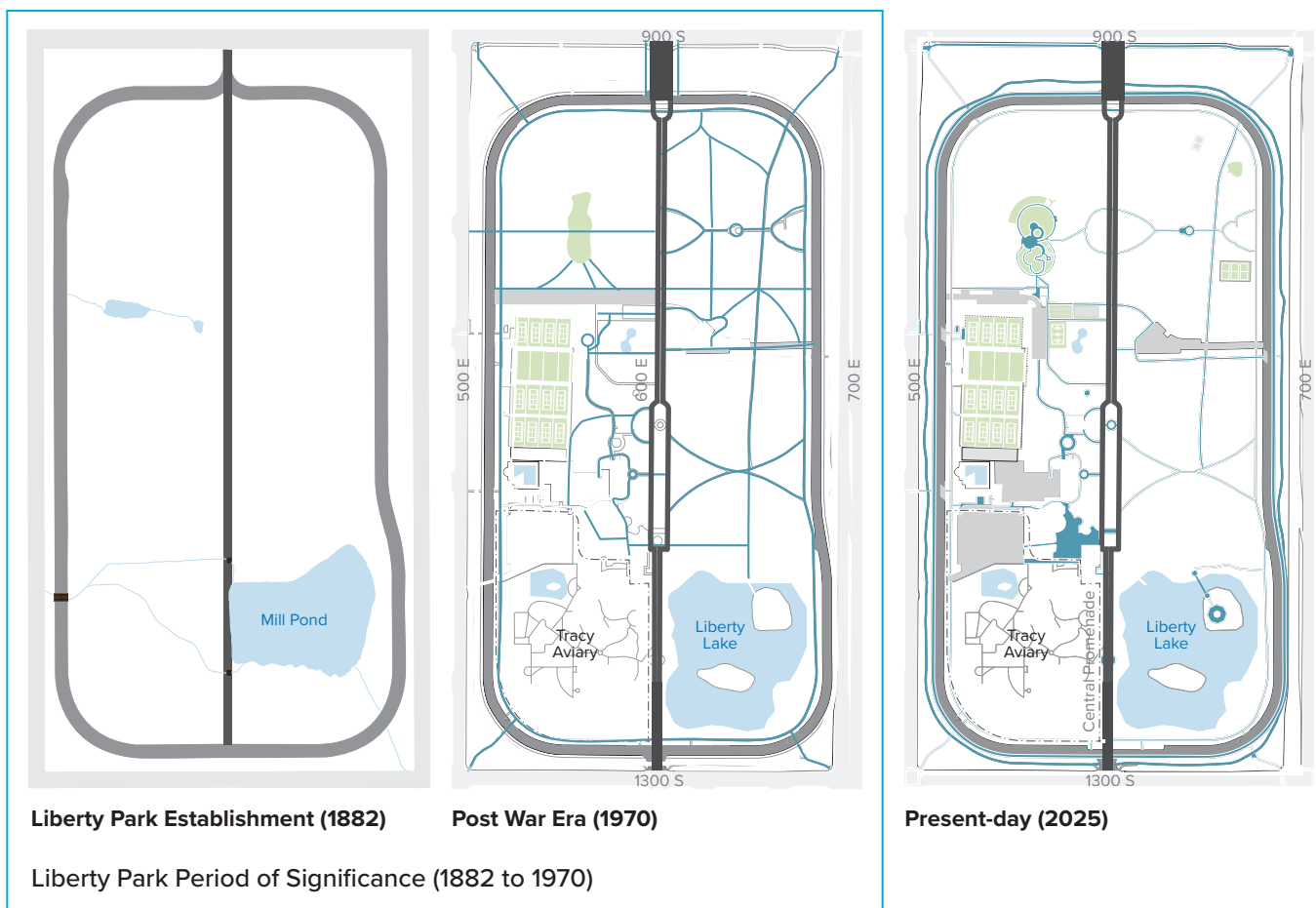


Topography Analysis. The topography of Liberty Park is modified by the creation of the topographic mound in 1982. The landform alters the relationship and views from Liberty Lake to the Central Meadow to the north (image: Mundus Bishop, 2025).

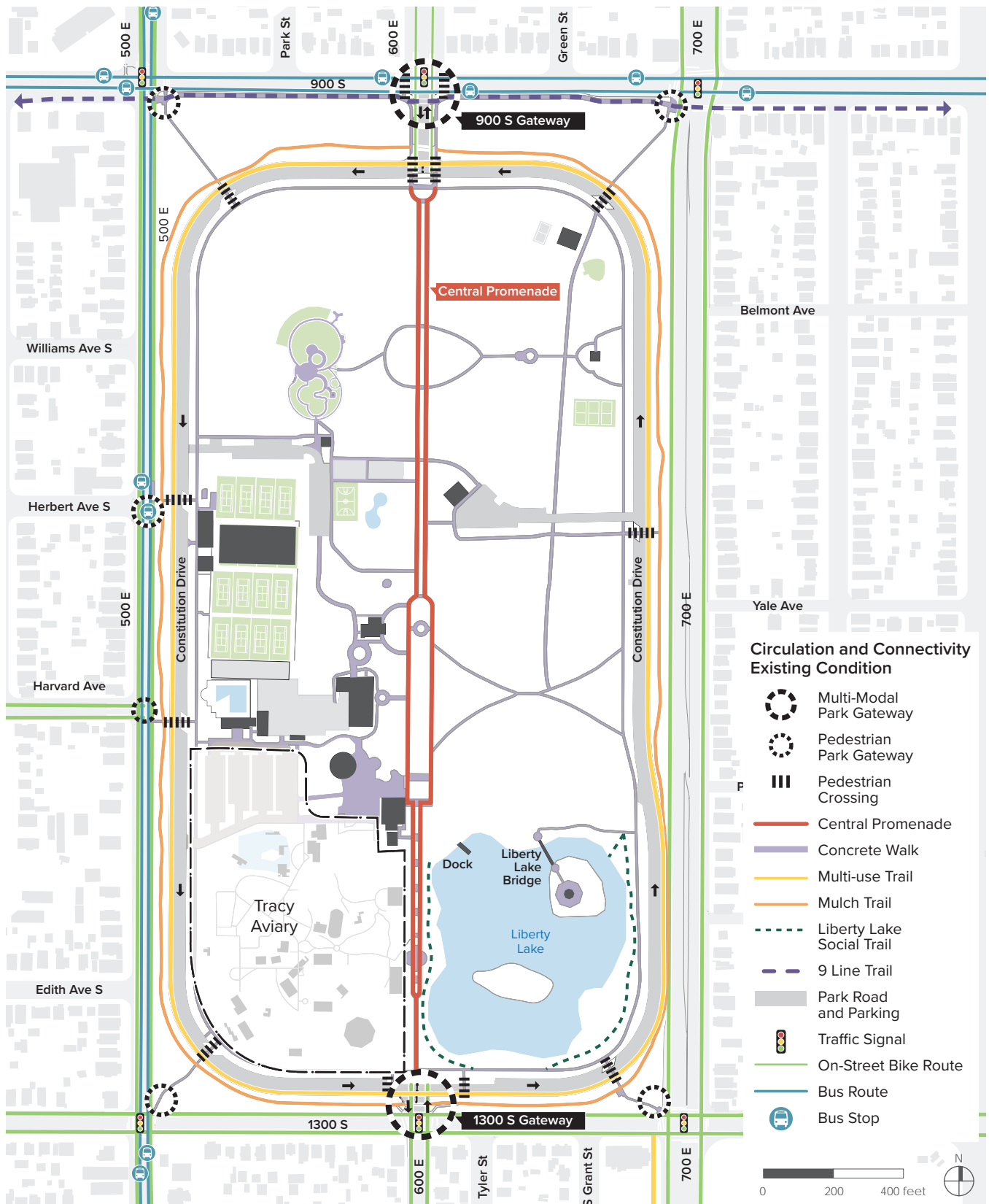
Circulation and Connectivity

Liberty Park circulation is characterized by two primary gateways that provide multi-modal access to the park, four non-vehicular gateways, and a hierarchy of vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle routes that provide access to park destinations. They create a curated experience of moving through the park and assist in defining the park's distinct spaces. Circulation was modified throughout the period of significance to accommodate changing park use. The overall arrangement and circulation pattern remain from the period of significance.

Liberty Park is significant for its arrangement of circulation patterns. This includes Constitution Drive and Central Promenade, which date to the initial development of Liberty Park in the 1880s, and pedestrian routes throughout the park that connect to prominent spaces and park destinations.



Circulation and Connectivity Analysis. Liberty Park's overall arrangement of circulation patterns remains from the period of significance and contributes to the cultural landscape (image: Mundus Bishop, 2025).

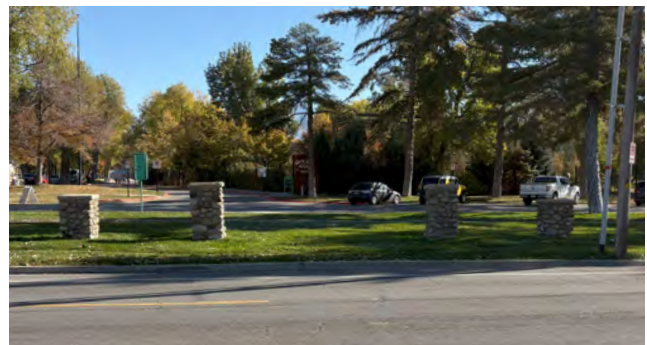


Gateways at 900 S and 1300 S define primary entries to Liberty Park. These monumental gateways are characteristic of formal City Beautiful design and provide multi-modal access to the park. Gateways remain similar to the period of significance with contemporary additions to facilitate contemporary use, including gates and infrastructure to restrict vehicular access and delineate patterns of one-way circulation; regulatory signage; and bicycle and pedestrian intersection improvements. The 1300 S gateway is further modified by the removal of monumental entrance piers. 900 S monumental entrance piers remain.

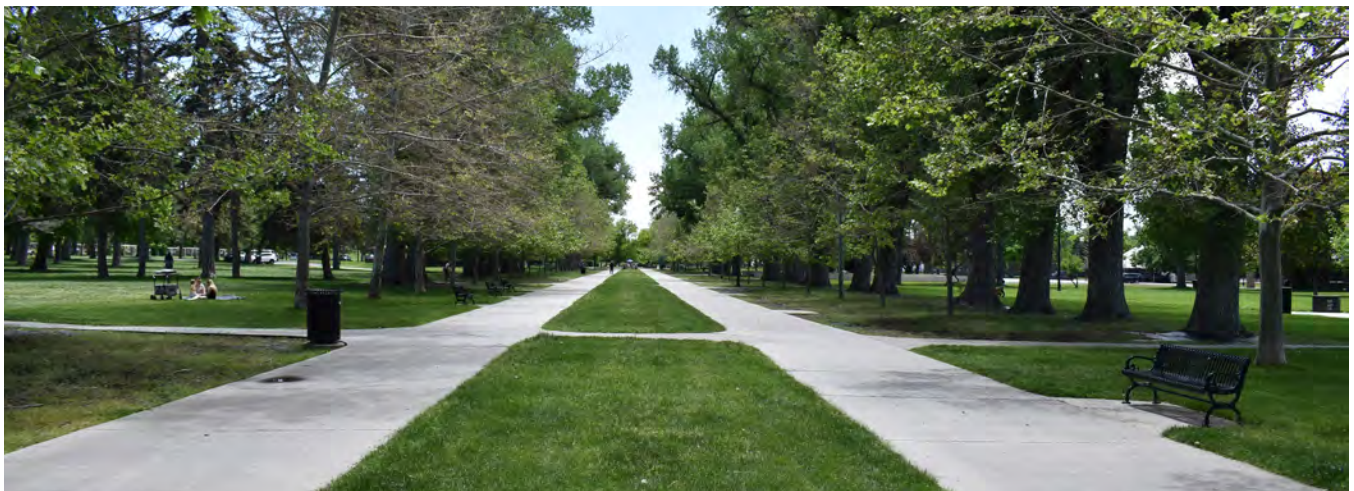
Two non-extant secondary entrances for vehicles included an entrance at the eastern boundary of the park that aligns with the present-day access drive to North Shelter parking and an entrance at the western boundary of the park that aligns with the present-day access drive to Tracy Aviary parking. The non-extant eastern entrance was located west of 700 E between Yale Avenue and E Belmont Avenue. The non-extant western entrance is marked by four piers on the east side of 500 E, between Harvard Avenue and Edith Avenue.

Vehicular routes contributing to Liberty Park include Constitution Drive. Constitution Drive was established with the initial improvement of Liberty Park and retains its original alignment. The route was initially developed as a two-way route and was converted to a one-way, counter-clockwise loop road after the period of significance.

Constitution Drive was modified during the period of significance as use of the route shifted from a broad unpaved carriage route to a paved road with curb and gutter to a pedestrian promenade closed to vehicular travel. Contemporary modifications to the route include the addition of pull-in parking and attached sidewalks on the interior of the road, an attached multi-use trail on the exterior of the road, and raised sidewalks and traffic control devices for pedestrian safety and to regulate vehicular access and circulation patterns.



Park Gateway Analysis. Gateways at 900 S and 1300 S were established during the period of significance as primary entries to Liberty Park (top image). Gateways are modified by contemporary additions to facilitate park use and enhance safety for all modes. Historic monumental entrance piers remain at the 900 S entrance (middle image). Four piers mark the non-extant western entrance along 500 E (image: top image: © Utah State Historical Society, 1915; middle image: Mundus Bishop, 2024; bottom image: Mundus Bishop, 2024).

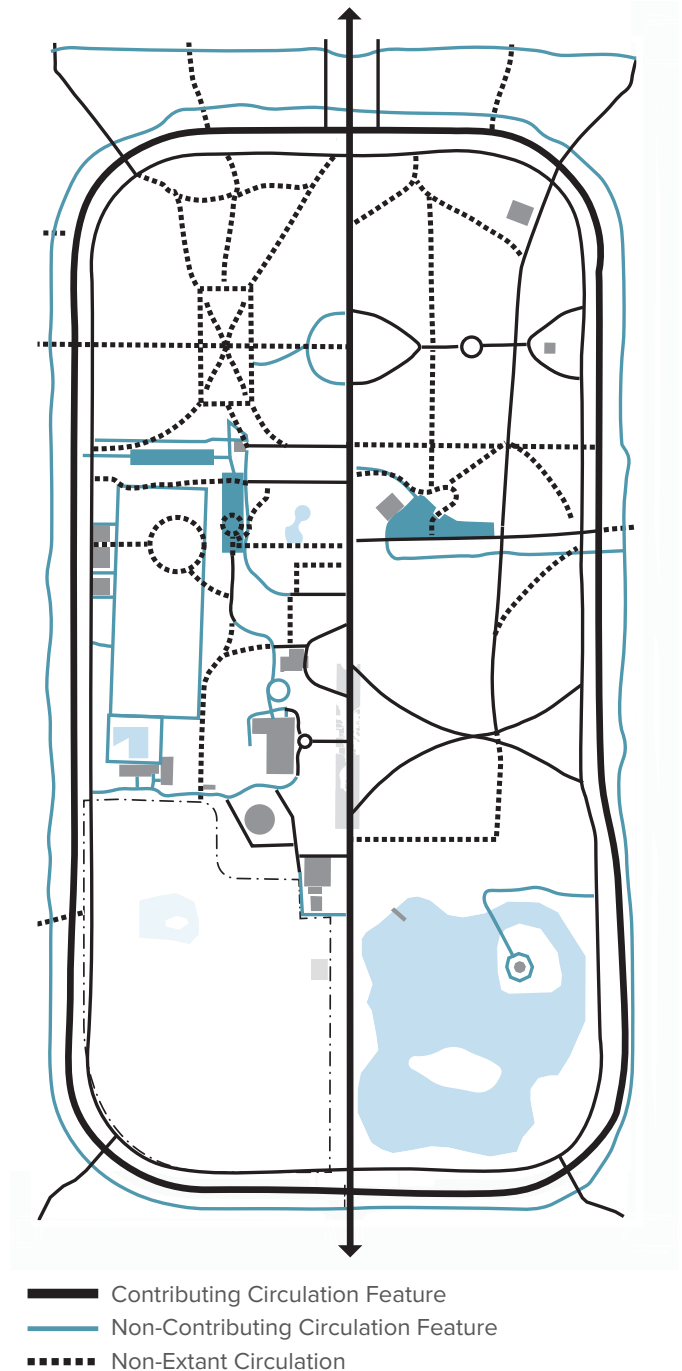


Central Promenade Analysis. Central Promenade was modified from a wide vehicular route (600 E) with parallel sidewalks (top image) to a paved vehicular route (600 E) with curb and gutter and parallel concrete walks (middle image) to its present-day configuration as a pedestrian route (bottom image) (sources: top image: Shipler Commercial Photographers Collection, 1915, middle image: Shipler Commercial Photographers Collection, 1922, bottom image: Mundus Bishop, 2024).

Pedestrian routes include a walk paralleling the interior of Constitution Drive, a multi-use trail paralleling the exterior of Constitution Drive, a mulch loop trail, walks connecting to buildings and destinations throughout the park, 9 Line Trail, and Central Promenade. Central Promenade is a feature of the original design of Liberty Park and predates the park. It aligns with the surrounding street grid and provided access to Chase Home and Chase Mill. The design and use of the Central Promenade was modified during the period of significance from a broad unpaved carriage route to a paved road with curb and gutter to its present configuration as a pedestrian route.

Walks connecting to buildings and destinations throughout the park, including the four walks from each corner of the park to Constitution Drive, remain similar to the period of significance.

The walk along the interior of Constitution Drive, 9 Line Trail, and the mulch loop trail were added after the period of significance.



Circulation Analysis. Contributing roads and walks remain from the period of significance (image: Mundus Bishop, 2025).

Vegetation

The vegetation of Liberty Park is characterized by its mature tree allées, tree groves, meadows, and gardens. The overall arrangement of vegetation is similar to the period of significance, with modifications related to the loss of formal gardens and mature trees and urban tree canopy throughout the park.

Liberty Park is significant for its patterns of tree allées, tree groves, and open lawns.

Liberty Park's urban forest includes 1,990 trees comprised of 119 species, with trees extant from the period of significance. 62% of Liberty Parks trees are classified by the city as specimen trees.

Trees vary in condition and are impacted by inadequate irrigation, invasive pests, and natural disasters. The city lost a significant number of trees during a hurricane-force windstorm in 2020, including 26 trees at Liberty Park. ³⁻¹

Liberty Park's trees are arranged as formal tree allées and tree groves. Isaac Chase and Brigham Young planted trees on the lands that would become Liberty Park. The significance of Liberty Park's trees predates the establishment of the public park, as indicated in early local names for the property, including "Forest Park" and "Locust Patch." Early descriptions of Liberty Park indicate its locust patch was the only grove within miles of the city.

The 2019 Salt Lake City Parks and Public Lands Needs Assessment highlights the enduring significance of Liberty Park's trees to city residents and park visitors, with one-third of survey respondents indicating trees are their primary reason for visiting Liberty Park. ³⁻²

Liberty Park Trees

1,990
trees in Liberty Park

1,225
specimen trees

119
tree species in Liberty Park.

Liberty Park's most common trees species include:

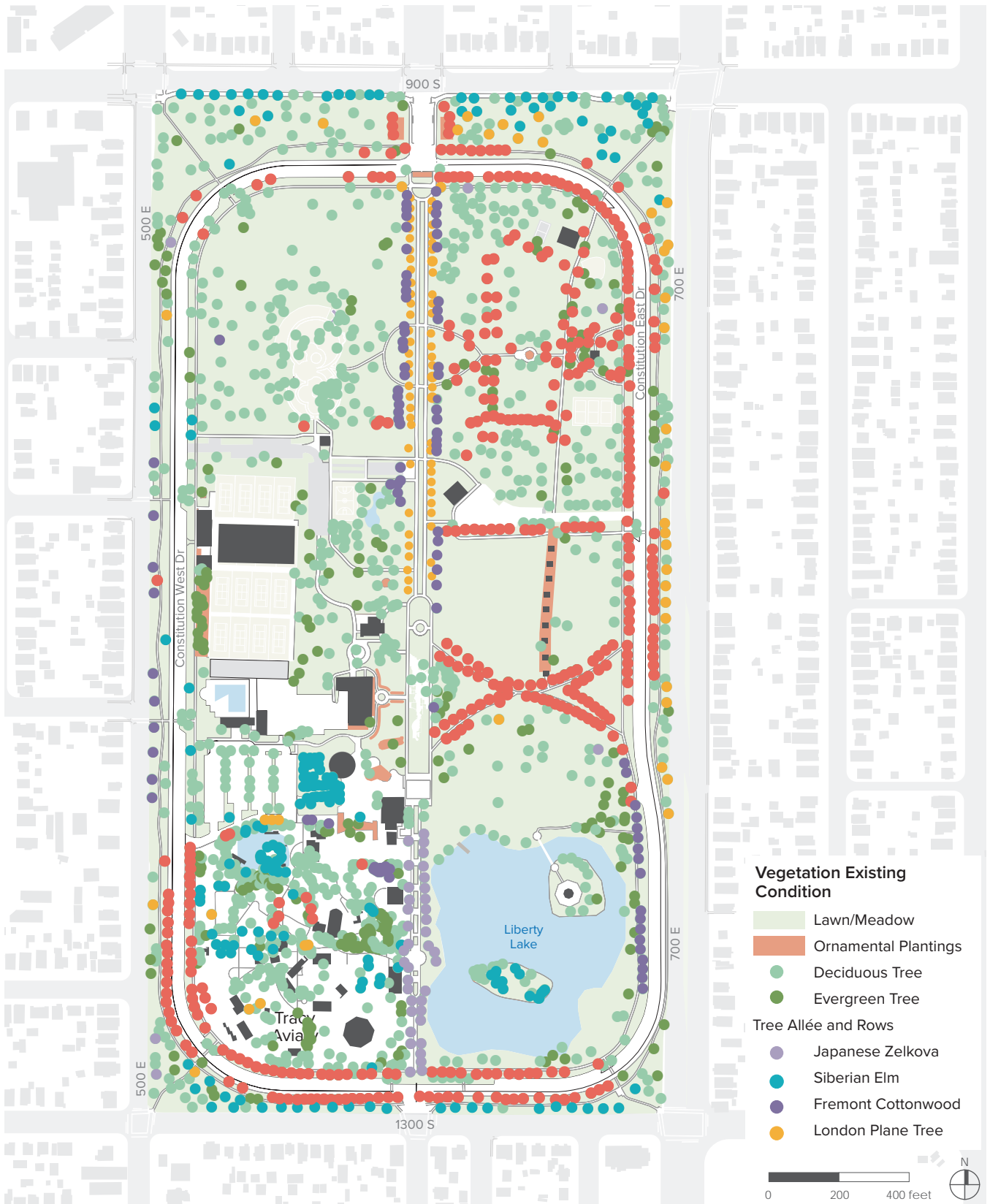
Austrian Pine
430 trees (22%)

Siberian Elm
209 trees (11%)

London Plane Tree
110 trees (6%)

Fremont Cottonwood
103 trees (5%)

Littleleaf Linden
84 trees (4%)



Vegetation (image: Mundus Bishop, 2025).

Successional Tree Planning

Salt Lake City Trees

The overall age distribution of public trees in Salt Lake City is optimal from a resource management perspective, with 41% of trees measuring less than 8” diameter at breast height (DBH) and 12% of trees measuring larger than 24” DBH. This range in DBH reflects the diversity in the age of the city’s trees. This diversity enables the city to plan for urban forest succession to ensure new trees are planted with sufficient time to establish and replace trees with mature canopies.

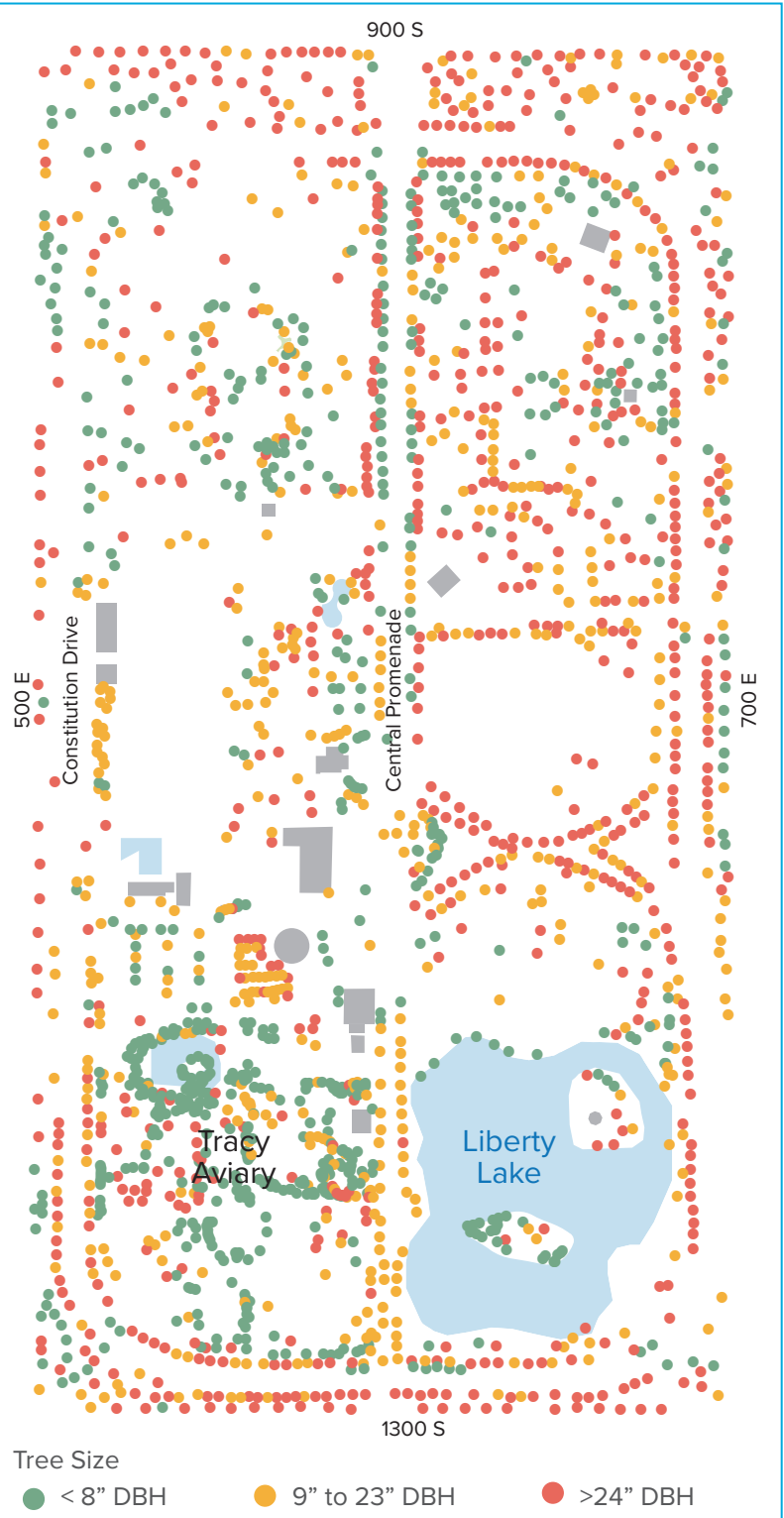
Liberty Park Trees

The current age distribution of trees in Liberty Park is less diverse than citywide averages. Its trees are larger and older than citywide averages, with 36% of trees measuring less than 8” DBH and 41% of trees measuring larger than 36” DBH.

Increasing the age distribution and diversity of species within Liberty Park is critical to maintaining the iconic tree allées and shaded tree groves that contribute to the historic character of the park.³⁻³

“Liberty Park is Salt Lake City’s most visited park, and over one-third of visitors describe the trees as their paramount reason for visiting.”

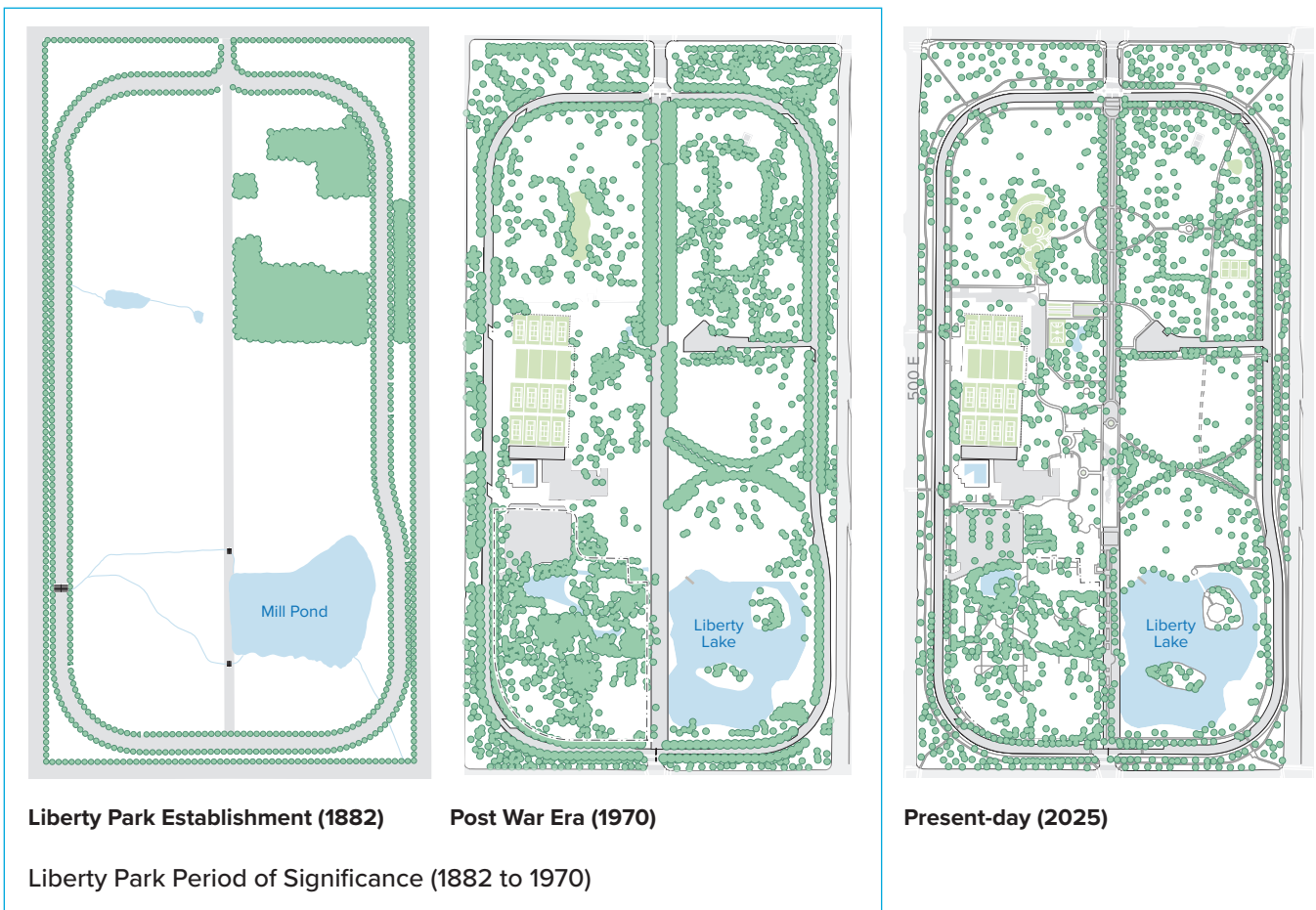
2023 Salt Lake City Urban Forest Action Plan ³⁻⁴



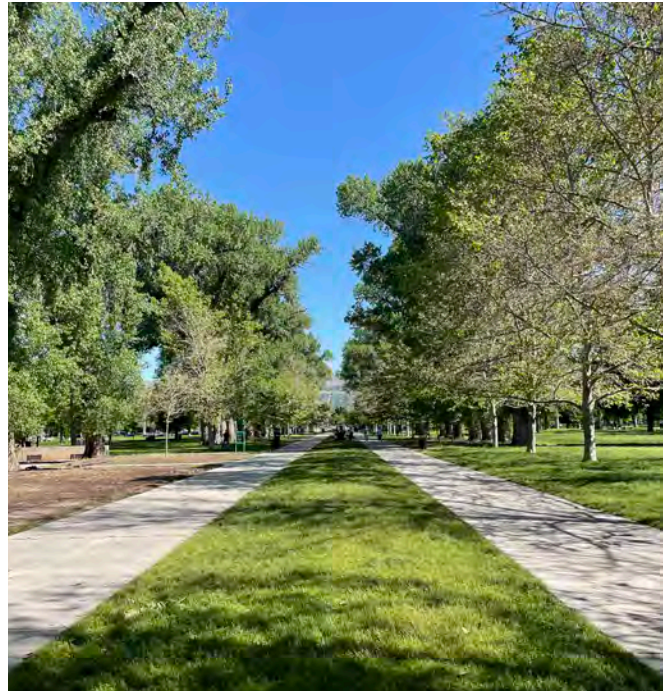
Formal tree-lined walks and roads are characteristic of City Beautiful parks and contribute to the historic character of Liberty Park. Tree allée species include Austrian Pine (*Pinus nigra*), Fremont Cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*), Japanese Zelkova (*Zelkova serrata*), London plane tree (*Platanus x acerifolia*), and Siberian Elm (*Ulmus pumila*). Tree allées date to the period of significance and are modified by the loss of trees and gaps in the long rows of evenly spaced tree plantings. The significance of maintaining the historic tree allée along the Central Promenade as an iconic feature of the park is reflected in the successional

approach to establishing a parallel tree allée of London plane trees. London plane trees planted below mature Fremont Cottonwood trees are failing to establish as mature canopy trees. Under the mature canopy of the Fremont Cottonwood trees, London plane trees do not receive adequate sunlight, produce thin or weak growth, and grow slowly.

Tree groves were historically established to define space and provide shade. The design of tree groves with irregular boundaries defining open meadows



Vegetation Analysis. Liberty Park’s patterns of tree allées, open lawn, and tree groves established during the period of significance remain and contribute to the cultural landscape (image: Mundus Bishop, 2025).



Tree Allée Analysis. Mixed deciduous and evergreen tree allée plantings were established during the period of significance (top image). These patterns remain and contribute to the historic character of Liberty Park (bottom image) (sources: top image: Shipler Commercial Photographers Collection, 1912, bottom image: Mundus Bishop, 2024).

Central Promenade Tree Allée Analysis. Uniform tree allées were planted and maintained along the Central Promenade throughout the period of significance (top). The tree allée remains and contributes to the historic character of the park (bottom image) (sources: top image: Shipler Commercial Photographers Collection, 1915, bottom image: Mundus Bishop, 2024).



made the spaces of the urban park appear larger and more naturalistic than the formal tree allées.

Gardens include planting beds at 900 S and 1300 S Gateways, at Liberty Park Greenhouse, and at buildings and monuments throughout the park. Early park improvement included a rose garden with paths. Historic photographs indicate formal gardens were planted during the period of significance, varying from small planting beds to large, expansive gardens featuring paths, sculptures, and arbors. The historic design of Liberty Park is modified by a reduction in the number, size, and formality of these gardens.

Vegetation Analysis. Vegetation is modified by the removal of large formal gardens in Liberty Park. Smaller areas of formal plantings remain (top image). Formal plantings were established at buildings (middle image) and throughout the park (bottom image) during the period of significance (sources: top image: Mundus Bishop, 2024, middle and bottom images: © Utah State Historical Society).



Water Features

Liberty Park is significant for its extant water features, including Liberty Lake and Koi Pond, that reflect American Park and City Beautiful Movement public park design that provided for necessary stormwater functions in urban areas while contributing to the picturesque qualities of the park.

Liberty Lake, set in the southeast corner of Liberty Park, functions as a retention/detention pond for water received from the 1300 S Storm Drain and Red Butte Canyon drainage system and includes a concrete culvert in the southeast corner that serves as the inlet for Red Butte Creek and Emigration Creek. Water levels fluctuate during high water runoff months and can rise several feet to temporarily store water during storm events or release stormwater into the 1300 S Storm Drain. Water levels remain relatively static for the remainder of the year, with water from Emigration Creek largely remaining within the 1300 S Storm Drain.

Water from Liberty Lake supplies water to ponds in Tracy Aviary and the secondary water-supplied irrigation system throughout Liberty Park. The 2010 Red Butte Creek oil spill cleanup of Liberty Lake included deepening the lake by several feet, replacing the concrete rim around the lake, placing perimeter rock, and planting sections of the lake edge with native plants.³⁻⁵

Liberty Lake's water features were excavated and fed by naturally occurring springs. Isaac Chase historically took water from springs for power, irrigation, and to feed the millpond, present-day Liberty Lake, that he excavated east of Chase Mill. Water flowed from the millpond to the mill, and continued to a creek to the west.³⁻⁶

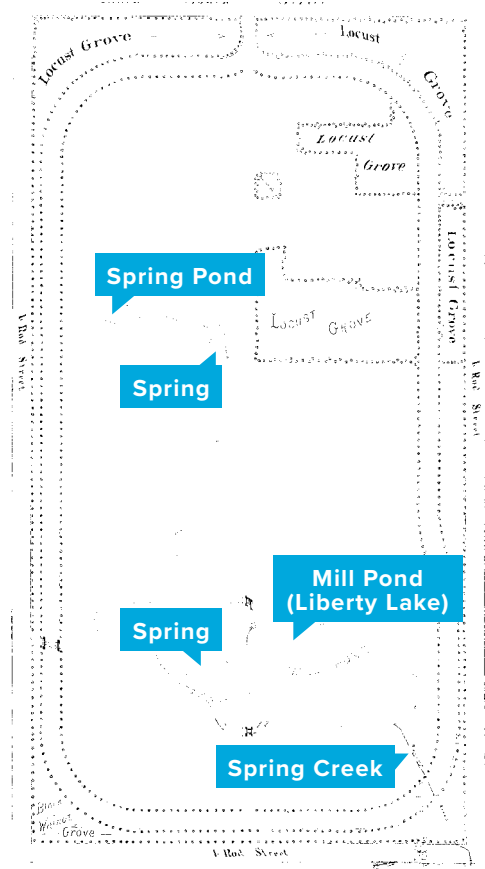
An 1883 map of Liberty Park illustrates Chase's "Mill Pond," springs, and ponds at the location of present-day Koi Pond and another to the west. The number and locations of water features were modified throughout the period of significance, with Liberty Lake and Koi Pond remaining in their original locations with

modifications to their size and configuration. Historic springs remain and supply the Koi Pond and water features within Tracy Aviary with water.

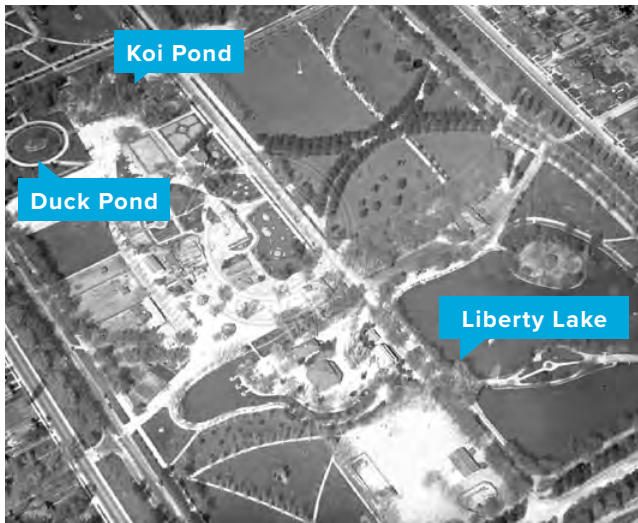
Early maps of Salt Lake City illustrate Red Butte Creek east and Emigration Creek south of present-day Liberty Park. Creeks throughout the region were largely diverted into stormwater pipes through urban areas in the early 20th century. Red Butte and Emigration Creeks are diverted to stormwater pipes that converge at Liberty Lake and continue west to Jordan River via the 1300 S Storm Drain. The 2022 Seven Greenways Vision Plan presents a 100-year vision to create greenway corridors along the seven major creeks flowing from the Wasatch Range.



Hydrological context of Liberty Park, 2025 (image: Mundus Bishop).



1883 Liberty Park map illustrating springs and Mill Pond (image: Salt Lake City Archives).



Liberty Lake's 1912 expansion doubled the size of the original mill pond (image: © Utah State Historical Society, 1937).



Liberty Lake remains similar to the period of significance with modifications to its size (image: GoogleEarth, 2023).

Buildings

Buildings throughout Liberty Park share a similar scale, massing, and material type and are designed to be subordinate to the landscape. Six buildings remain from the period of significance—Chase Mill, Chase Home, North Shelter, Greenhouse, Rice Pavilion, Maintenance Office, and Merry-Go-Round Building.

Liberty Park is significant for the historic arrangement, orientation, and location of its contributing buildings, including Chase Mill, Chase Home, North Shelter, Maintenance Office, Merry-Go-Round Building, and Rice Pavilion, and the Office Building, Flight Cage, and Wilson Pavilion in Tracy Aviary.

Buildings established during the period of significance reflect distinct aesthetics associated with the American Park Movement, City Beautiful Movement, and modern architecture movement. Contributing buildings include the North Shelter, Maintenance Office, Merry-Go-Round Building, Rice Pavilion, Office Building, Flight Cage, and Wilson Pavilion.

Chase Mill (1852) and Chase Home (1854) predate the establishment of Liberty Park and are significant for their association with the early settlement of Salt Lake City. Chase Mill is listed individually on the National Register of Historic Places and is the only grist mill that remains in its original location, as established by early pioneers in Salt Lake City. Chase Home is significant as one of only a few homes remaining from the early settlement of Salt Lake City.³⁻⁷

Portions of the Greenhouse and site retain characteristics from the period of significance, but alterations and changes in use impact the integrity of the building. Significant portions of the Greenhouse associated with the City Beautiful movement were removed and replaced with later additions that are not significant in the history of the park and no longer convey its association or workmanship of the City Beautiful movement. Integrity is further impacted by changes in use. The building no longer functions as a greenhouse, and the feeling of an active greenhouse cultivating plant material for parks and public buildings throughout the city no longer remains.

Contemporary additions reflect the scale, massing, and materials of contributing buildings and are compatible with the cultural landscape. These include Swimming Pool Building (1990), Restrooms (1992), Tennis Building (1995), Ranger Station (date of construction is undocumented), Gazebo (2003), Concession Building and Restroom (2008), and Pumphouse (2014).



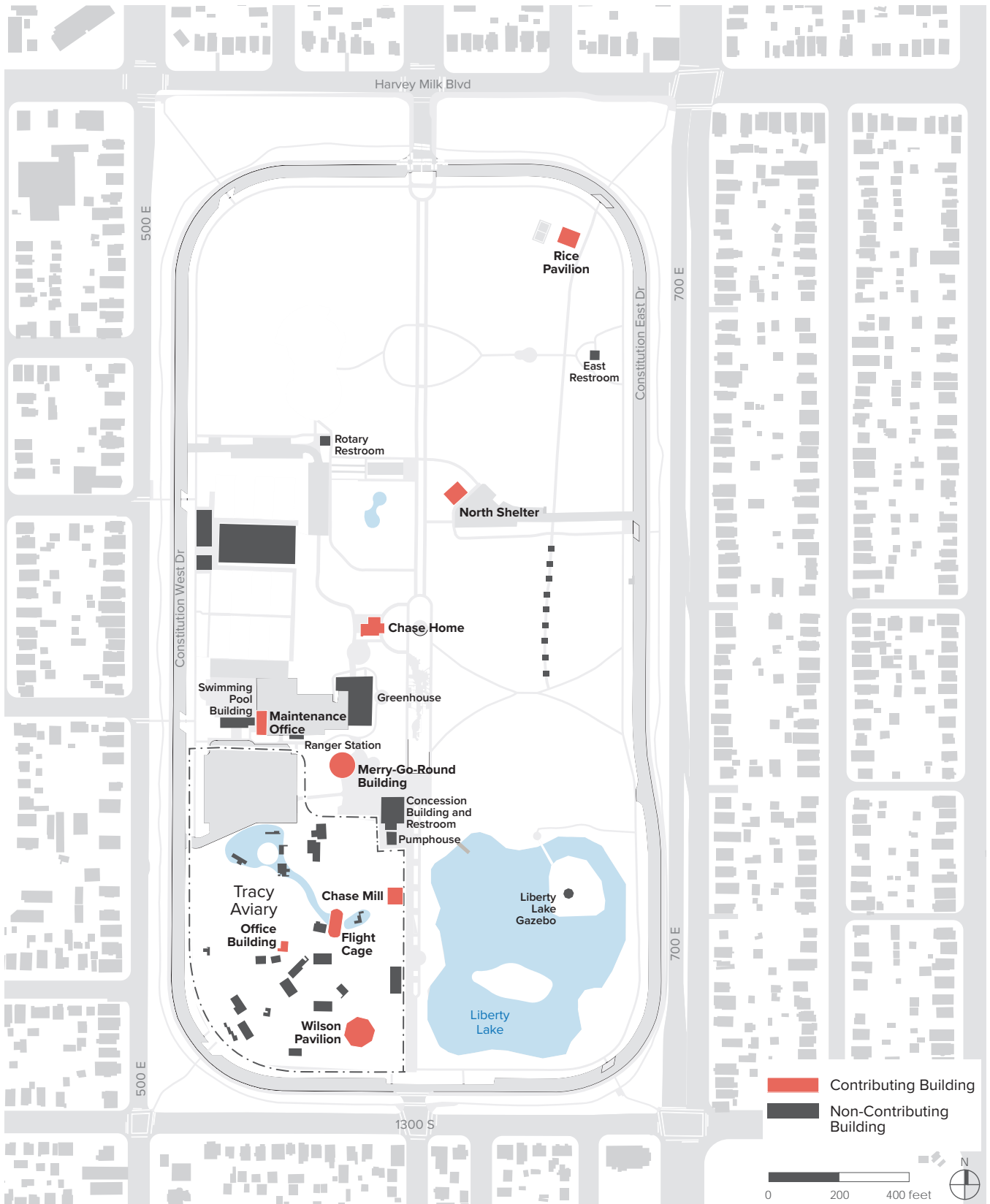
Non-extant rustic style Liberty Park Pavilion built during the American Park Movement, 1912 (image: © Utah State Historical Society).



North Shelter built during the City Beautiful Movement (image: Mundus Bishop, 2024).



Merry-Go-Round Building built during the modern period (image: Mundus Bishop, 2024).



Contributing and Non-Contributing Buildings (image: Mundus Bishop, 2025).

Structures, Objects, and Features

Structures, objects, and features were established during the period of significance to facilitate visitor and operational use of the site.

Liberty Park is significant for its structures, objects, and features dating to the period of significance, including benches, 900 S and 1300 S Gateway monuments, rustic stone fireplaces, several fountains, rustic stone arbors, and stone planters.

Structures, objects, and features are located throughout Liberty Park to facilitate visitor use of the park and operational functions. These include bike racks, bollards, drinking fountains, fences, fountains, grills, park lighting, picnic tables, planters, play equipment, recycling receptacles, Seven Canyons Fountain, signage (e.g., regulatory, wayfinding, directional signage, park identification), sports equipment (e.g., nets, fences, bocce stops), statues, traffic control devices, trash receptacles, and walls. These features are largely contemporary additions. Historic photographs indicate structures, objects, and features varied throughout the period of significance and served similar visitor and operational functions. These features are largely non-extant.

Historic structures, objects, and features from the period of significance include the 900 S monumental entrance piers, artesian drinking fountain, Chase Mill Marker, piers with planters at the Concession Building, Liberty Park Marker at 900 S entrance, rustic stone fireplaces, rustic stone arbors, DAR Fountain, concrete bridge west of the Concessioner Building, and select benches.



Bandstand benches, undated (image: © Utah State Historical Society).



900 S monumental entrance piers and fences, 1915 (image: © Utah State Historical Society).



Metal benches throughout the park and piers with planters at Concession Building are similar to features in historic photographs and may date to the period of significance (image: Mundus Bishop, 2025).

Cultural Traditions

The use and form of Liberty Park reflect the community, settlement and evolution of Salt Lake City, and the original enduring vision of Liberty Park as a place to promote civic pride and improve the quality of life of its residents. The cultural and emotional ties, including both physical and intangible marks, of Liberty Park are ingrained in the collective memory of generations of park users. Liberty Park is significant for its reflection of the community’s identity and the evolution of urban parks in the life of Salt Lake City.

The following physical and intangible connections highlight Liberty Park’s lasting ties to the community, settlement of Salt Lake City, and importance as a place of civic pride and center of urban life.

Early Settlement of Salt Lake City. The community of Salt Lake City is reflected in physical landmarks throughout Liberty Park, including Chase Mill and Chase Home. These connections to the early settlement of Salt Lake City and association with Issac Chase, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and founder of Salt Lake City, Brigham Young,

are reinforced by programming and exhibits at these buildings and annual celebrations and gatherings spanning generations.

Community Gatherings. Liberty Park has, since its establishment, hosted community gatherings, ranging in scale from family reunions to Pioneer Day commemorations, and has provided publicly accessible parkland to the community. The importance of the park as a place of gathering is reflected in the continued use of the park for picnicking. Newspaper articles throughout the twentieth century cite the popularity



Pioneer Day Parade along Constitution Drive (image: Utah State Historical Society).

of the park for gatherings and music and theatrical performances. Liberty Park's picnic sites remain a key feature as the park has evolved to meet trends in urban parks over the last century. Liberty Park's picnic sites remain popular and are connected to the celebrations, milestones, reunions, and everyday life of Salt Lake City's residents.

Urban Forest. Liberty Park's urban forest illustrates a physical connection to the settlement of Salt Lake City. Tree groves and tree allées reflect Salt Lake City's early settlers' efforts to establish trees throughout the valley. The importance of trees to the community was solidified when Salt Lake City was incorporated in 1851, and residents were required to plant and maintain trees along streets for the benefit of all. These patterns of tree-lined streets and groves are illustrated on early plans of Liberty Park and are reflected in early local names for the property, including "Forest Park" and "Locust Patch." The link between Salt Lake City's

residents and the trees of Liberty Park endures and trees are cited when asking why residents visit the park, what they value about the park, and what the most pressing issue is to address.

Water Features. Water features and patterns of circulation and vegetation at Tracy Aviary reflect and were influenced by Liberty Park's original zoo. Princess Alice, an Asian elephant, donated by schoolchildren in 1916, served as a major attraction to Liberty Park and remains an iconic figure in Salt Lake City's history. The importance of the zoo to the community of Salt Lake City was reflected in arguments from residents to keep the zoo at Liberty Park as its central location and streetcar service made it accessible to all. The zoo moved to Emigration Canyon in 1931 but its location at Liberty Park remains ingrained in the memory of the community.



Princess Alice and calf Prince Utah with keeper at Liberty Park, 1918 (image: Utah State Historical Society).

Park Uses and Experiences

Liberty Park is significant for its diverse opportunities for passive and active recreational uses that were established during its period of significance and contribute to the historic character of the park. These include walking, bicycling, picnicking, wildlife viewing, passive recreation, active recreation, informal gatherings, and special events.

Liberty Park's existing recreational facilities include trails and walks, playgrounds, a basketball court, bocce courts, horseshoe courts, tennis courts, sand volleyball courts, a concrete volleyball court, handball courts, a swimming pool, a children's amusement park, and paddle boat rentals. Common passive recreational activities include wildlife and lake viewing, picnicking, community gatherings, and special events. Historic documentation indicates active and passive visitor use evolved throughout the period of significance to meet increased demand for facilities and respond to evolving trends. Active and passive recreational uses remain similar to the period of significance.

Liberty Park is a regional destination and major hub for community events with over 78 events a year, including annual community events held at the park. The city balances the demand for special events with everyday park use by limiting special events to one event per weekend. The popularity of Liberty Park as a central gathering space dates to the early establishment of the park in the late 1800s with reports by local newspapers documenting family reunions, community events, and holiday celebrations. Liberty Park continues to serve as a central gathering space of Salt Lake City with special events and permitted and informal gatherings occurring weekly.

Liberty Park Current Uses

16
tennis courts

10.5 miles
trails and walks

10
horseshoe courts

5
handball courts

3
bocce courts

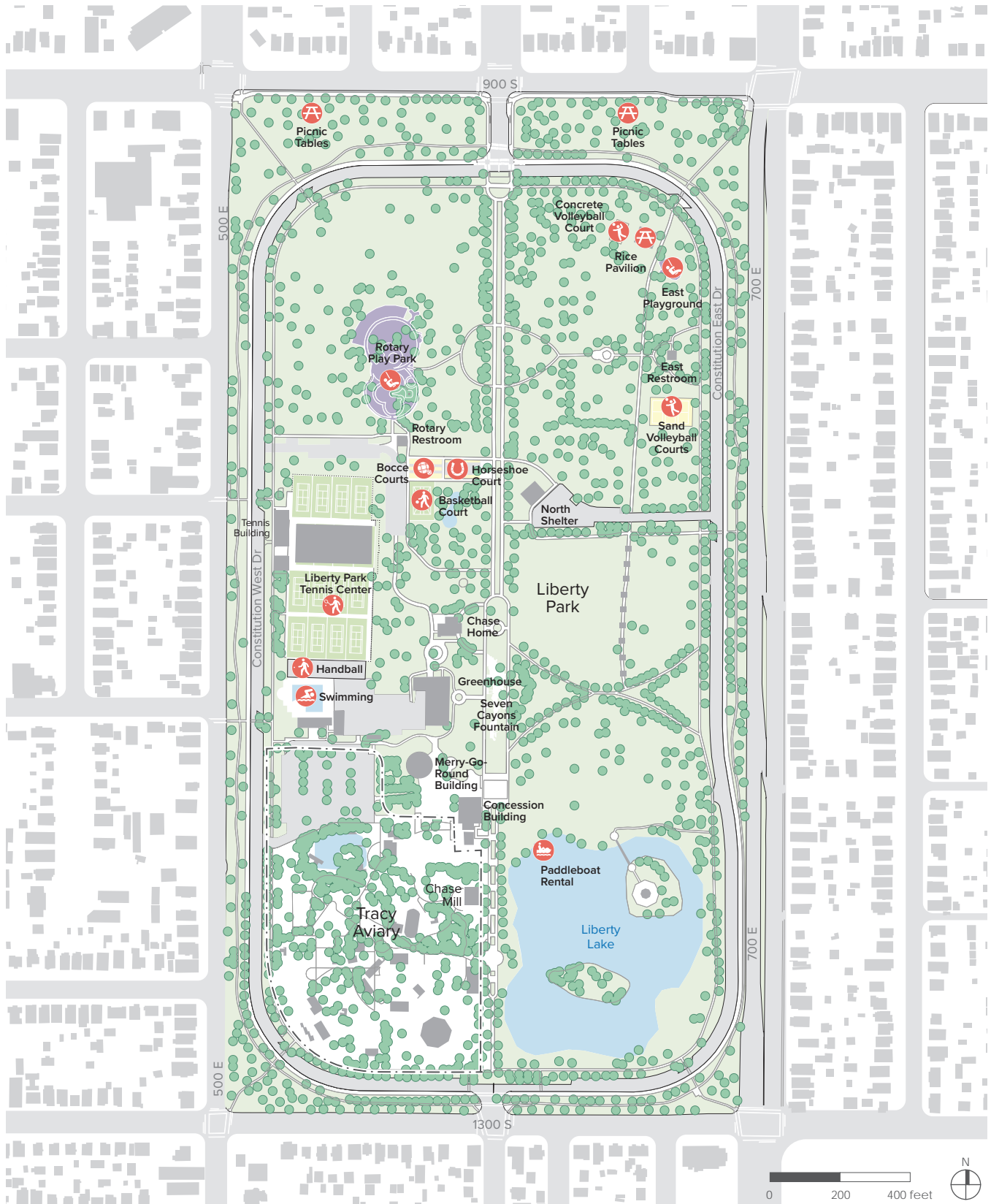
3
sand volleyball courts

2
playgrounds

1
basketball court

1
concrete volleyball court

1
swimming pool



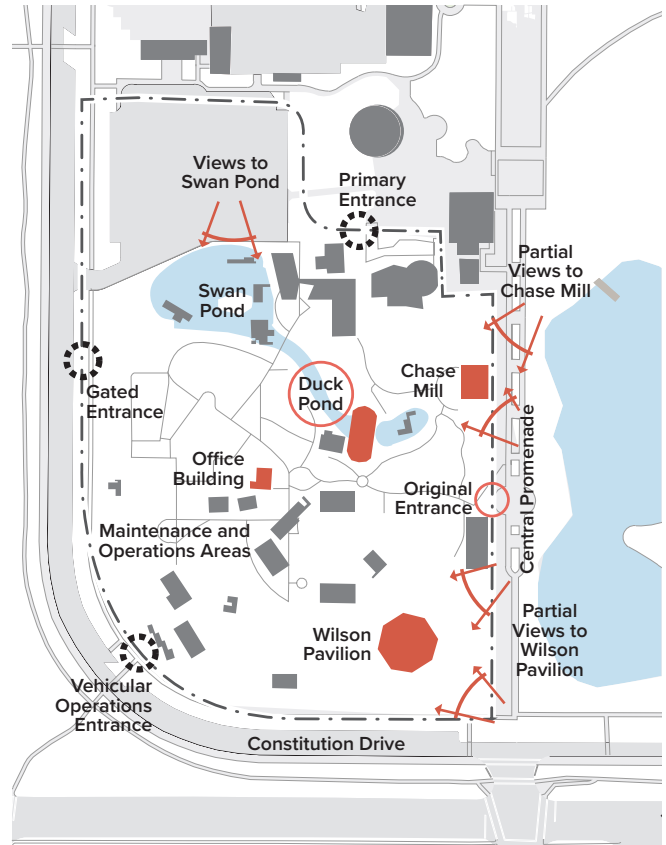
Park Uses and Experiences (image: Mundus Bishop, 2025).

Tracy Aviary

Tracy Aviary is located within the southwest corner of Liberty Park on an eight-acre site defined by a perimeter fence and vegetation. The primary entrance to Tracy Aviary is along its north boundary with a gated secondary access along Constitution Drive, vehicular operations entrance along Constitution Drive, and its original entrance along Central Promenade. The location of the original entrance is marked by a gate. This entrance is not open for visitor use.

Buildings and exhibits are oriented to a network of curvilinear walkways and water features. Primary views from Liberty Park to Tracy Aviary include views from Central Promenade to Chase Mill and Wilson Pavilion and views from the parking area to Swan Pond.

The number of buildings, circulation, and features of Tracy Aviary was modified as the aviary expanded in use and size throughout the period of significance. Contributing features include Chase Mill, Wilson Pavilion, Office Building, Duck Pond, Flight Cage, and Original Entrance. The composition of Tracy Aviary is modified by the removal and addition of buildings and exhibits and by the addition of perimeter fences. Perimeter fences obscure physical and visual connections from Liberty Park to Tracy Aviary and Chase Mill.



- Contributing Building
- Contributing Feature
- Non-Contributing Building

Tracy Aviary Existing Condition (image: Mundus Bishop, 2025).



The historic setting and relationship of Chase Mill to Central Promenade (top image) and the larger park is modified by vegetation and fencing obscuring physical and visual connections between the building and park (center image) and establishment of a gathering area surrounding the mill (bottom image) (images: top image: © Utah State Historical Society, 1930; middle image: Mundus Bishop, 2024; bottom image: Mundus Bishop, 2024).



Views to Swan Pond (image: Mundus Bishop, 2025).



The bridge west of the Concession Building marks the location of a non-extant water feature that conveyed water from Liberty Lake to Swan Pond Tracy Aviary (image: Mundus Bishop, 2025).

Endnotes

- 3-1 2023 Urban Forest Action Plan, 16.
- 3-2 2023 Urban Forest Action Plan, 20; 1980 NRHP, 3.
- 3-3 2023 Urban Forest Action Plan, 21
- 3-4 2023 Urban Forest Action Plan, 16.
- 3-5 Liberty Lake Landscape Scoping Project, A-4; RECONNAISSANCE-LEVEL CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY OF LIBERTY LAKE, 6.
- 3-6 The Chase Mill, 12
- 3-7 1970 Chase Mill Nomination; 1980 Liberty Park NRHP

04

Treatment Guidance



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Introduction

This chapter presents treatment guidance to ensure Liberty Park’s historical and architectural integrity is maintained. Treatment guidance is provided to inform repair, modifications, and additions to Liberty Park following similar design principles employed during the period of significance.

Liberty Park is significant as one of the first public parks in Salt Lake City and the State of Utah, and for its embodiment of the American Park, City Beautiful, and Modern Movements. Liberty Park’s composition, central promenade, meadows, tree groves, tree allées, buildings, views, and relationship to Tracy Aviary reflect its historic significance.

These recommendations establish overarching treatment guidance to preserve Liberty Park’s composition, views, trees, buildings, structures, objects, and features, and ensure the park continues its legacy as a central community gathering space within Salt Lake City.

This treatment guidance complements recommendations presented in the 10-year Vision Plan for Liberty Park.

Rehabilitation Treatment Approach

The treatment approach for Liberty Park is rehabilitation. This treatment approach emphasizes preservation of the study area and allows for the repair and addition of compatible improvements.

Rehabilitation is defined as the act or process of making possible a compatible use through repairs, alterations, or additions if those portions or features that convey its historic, cultural, or architectural values are preserved.

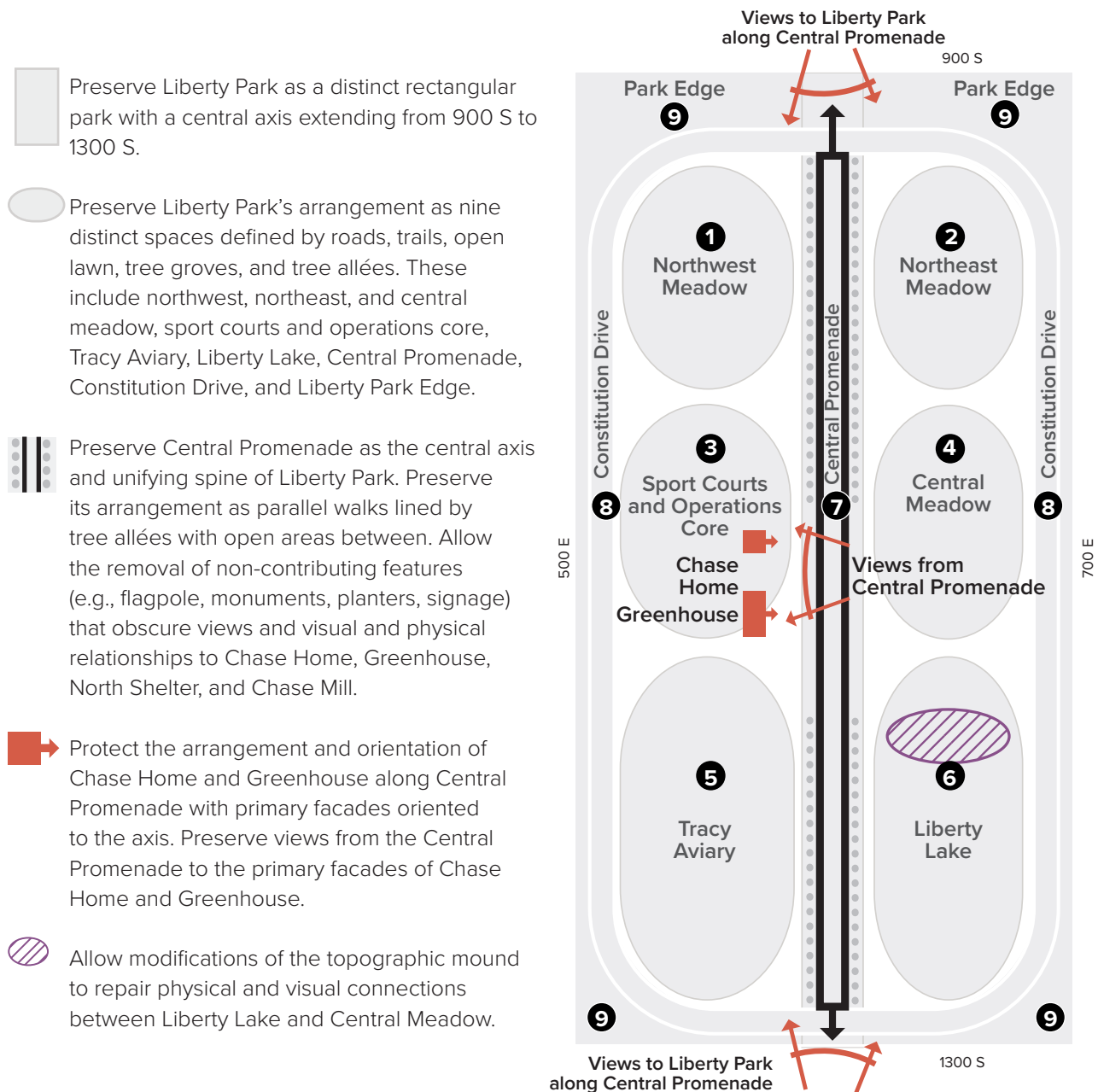
Rehabilitation allows for new additions to be integrated within the cultural landscape in a manner that preserves established patterns, spaces, features, and scale of the historic park. Additional actions include those that preserve, restore, or repair contributing features and qualities that contribute to the study area’s historic character.

All future work planned for the district will be guided by *The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties—Historic Landscapes*. Appendix B summarizes terminology used in this CLR to describe recommended actions.

Park Composition

Liberty Park is characterized by American Park Movement principles of order, harmony, and structure—ideals reflected in its broad central axis, symmetrical loop road, and balance of formal and informal spaces. The composition of Liberty Park is the foundation of the park, establishing its historic character.

Preserve Liberty Park’s composition by protecting and repairing its organization as a distinct rectangular park composed of nine spaces, Central Promenade, and the arrangement and orientation of buildings and spaces to Central Promenade.



Preserve Liberty Park as a distinct rectangular park with a central axis extending from 900 S to 1300 S.

Preserve Liberty Park’s arrangement as nine distinct spaces defined by roads, trails, open lawn, tree groves, and tree allées. These include northwest, northeast, and central meadow, sport courts and operations core, Tracy Aviary, Liberty Lake, Central Promenade, Constitution Drive, and Liberty Park Edge.

Preserve Central Promenade as the central axis and unifying spine of Liberty Park. Preserve its arrangement as parallel walks lined by tree allées with open areas between. Allow the removal of non-contributing features (e.g., flagpole, monuments, planters, signage) that obscure views and visual and physical relationships to Chase Home, Greenhouse, North Shelter, and Chase Mill.

Protect the arrangement and orientation of Chase Home and Greenhouse along Central Promenade with primary facades oriented to the axis. Preserve views from the Central Promenade to the primary facades of Chase Home and Greenhouse.

Allow modifications of the topographic mound to repair physical and visual connections between Liberty Lake and Central Meadow.

Views and Vistas

Views and vistas orient visitors to the meadows, tree allées, and water features of Liberty Park and its surrounding natural setting and contribute to the historic character of Liberty Park.

Preserve and repair contributing views to Liberty Lake, Mount Olympus, the Wasatch Range, the skyline of Salt Lake City, Chase Home, Greenhouse, Chase Mill, and along Central Promenade.

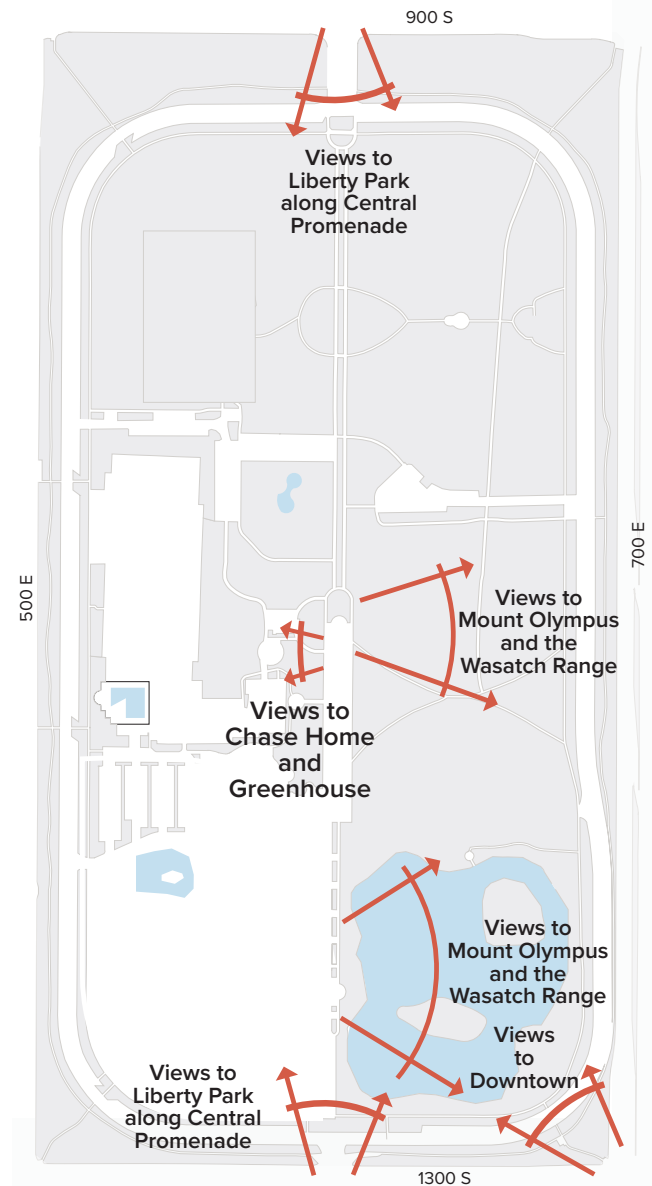
Remove, move, or modify non-contributing features that obscure or detract from contributing views and vistas (examples include signage, trash receptacles, light poles, and fences).

Selectively remove or prune vegetation to reestablish or protect contributing views and vistas. Ensure tree allées are protected and removal or pruning does not modify historic patterns of tree allées or the characteristic form of individual trees.

Ensure new features, including park amenities and infrastructure, do not detract and are located outside of contributing views and vistas.



Preserve and repair contributing views across Liberty Lake to Mount Olympus and the Wasatch Range (image: © Utah State Historical Society, undated).



Circulation

Liberty Park is significant for its arrangement of circulation patterns that include Central Promenade, Constitution Drive, 900 S and 1300 S Gateways, and contributing walks and trails.

Protect the integrity of Liberty Park's circulation patterns and features through preservation and repair of extant features and repair of non-extant routes. Enhance safety and accessibility for visitors of all ages, abilities, modes, and backgrounds by providing new routes and allowing modifications to contributing features that protect the historic character of Liberty Park.

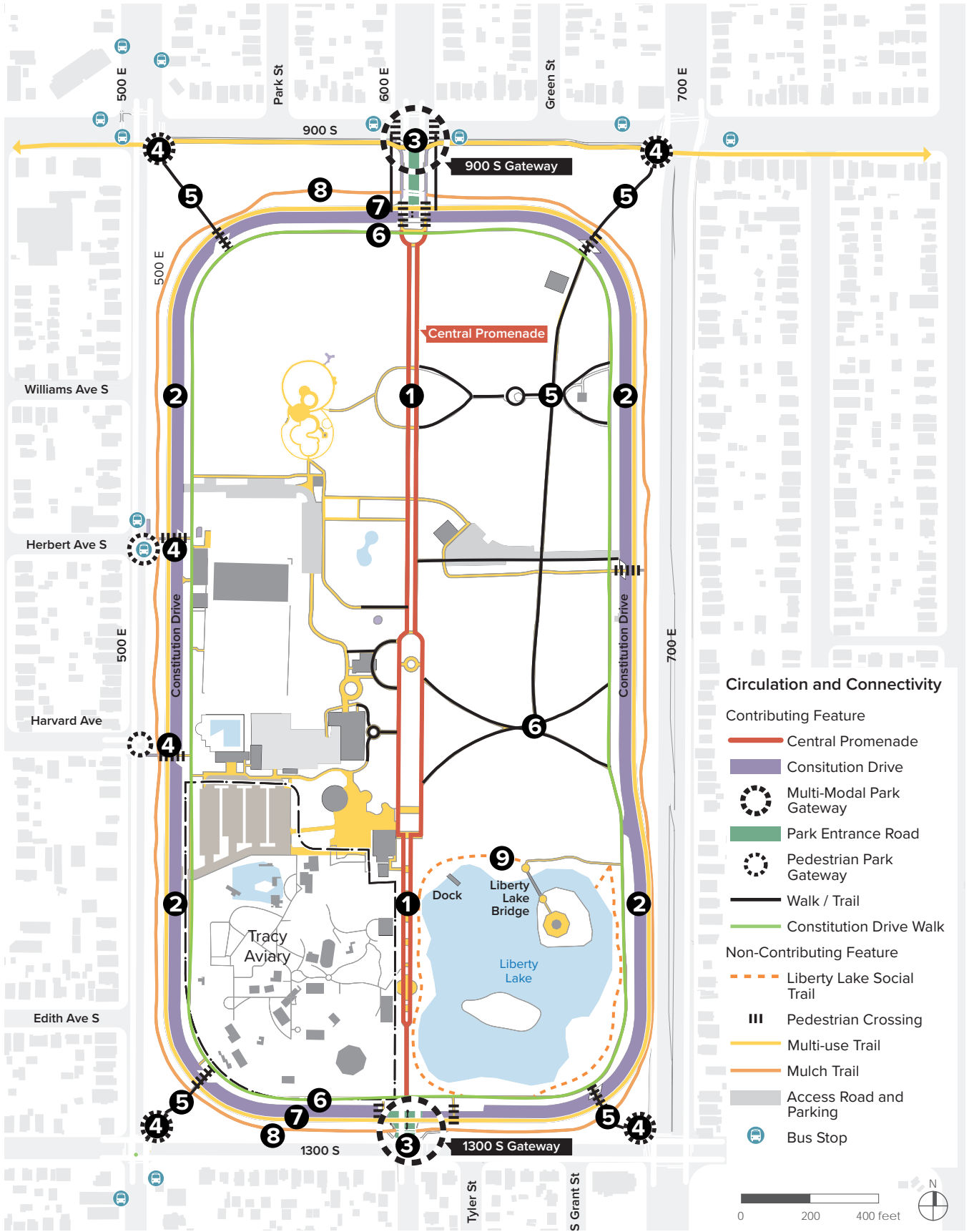
Ensure future improvement of roads, walks, and trails preserves and repairs historic vegetation patterns, including tree allées. Provide the minimum signage and striping necessary to mark pedestrian and bicycle crossings, assist in vehicular wayfinding, and provide for bicycle use while ensuring placement and design protect contributing views and vistas.

Consider re-establishing non-extant routes to provide access to destinations and repair historic connections.

- 1 **Central Promenade.** Preserve Central Promenade as the primary route through the center of Liberty Park with a hierarchy of adjacent routes. Retain its historic alignment, tree allées with a central open space, and relationships with 900 S and 1300 S Gateways, park spaces, Chase Home, Greenhouse, Chase Mill, and North Shelter.
- 2 **Constitution Drive.** Preserve Constitution Drive as a loop road and retain its historic alignment, width, and relationships with 900 S and 1300 S Gateways and park spaces. Maintain speed tables where necessary to lower vehicle speeds while allowing modifications for shared bicycle use. Ensure the interval of expansion joints does not contribute to the sound of vehicles in the park.
- 3 **900 S and 1300 S Gateways and Park Entrance Roads.** Preserve 900 S and 1300 S gateways as the primary multi-modal entrances to Liberty Park. Preserve original alignments of park entrance roads and relationships to gateway monuments. Allow curb extensions and medians to increase the visibility of crosswalks, shorten crossing distances, slow vehicle speeds, and serve as

visible cues to vehicles that they are entering a park. Ensure modifications do not impact views along Central Promenade.

- 4 **Pedestrian Park Entrances.** Allow improvements to ensure ADA compliance and provide adequate clearances and passing zones to enter and exit Liberty Park. Consider re-establishing the historic Williams Avenue S entrance.
- 5 **Walks and Trails.** Preserve and maintain walks and trails along historic alignments.
- 6 **Constitution Drive Walk.** Preserve and maintain the alignment and width of Constitution Drive.
- 7 **Multi-Use Trail.** Preserve and maintain multi-use trail. Allow improvements to reduce conflicts and ensure ADA compliance. Consider increasing its width to accommodate higher trail volumes. Ensure widening does not result in the removal of tree allées and tree groves.
- 8 **Mulch Trail.** Maintain mulch trail and consider route realignments at 900 S and 1300 S Gateways for safer pedestrian crossings. Maintain concrete curbs and consider replacing the mulch surface with a soil solidifier for an all weather, abrasion-resistant path surface.
- 9 **Liberty Lake Loop.** Formalize a pedestrian route to assist in protecting vegetation and reducing soil compaction. Allow for a boardwalk along steep and narrow bank segments. Remove social trails and revegetate disturbed areas to prevent erosion.



Circulation and Connectivity

Contributing Feature

- Central Promenade
- Constitution Drive
- Multi-Modal Park Gateway
- Park Entrance Road
- Pedestrian Park Gateway
- Walk / Trail
- Constitution Drive Walk

Non-Contributing Feature

- Liberty Lake Social Trail
- Pedestrian Crossing
- Multi-use Trail
- Mulch Trail
- Access Road and Parking
- Bus Stop



Urban Forest

Liberty Park is significant for its patterns of tree allées, tree rows, and tree groves, and the enduring significance of the urban forest to residents of Salt Lake City.

Support Salt Lake City’s commitment to the stewardship of the urban forest and establish Liberty Park as a model for urban ecological function and resiliency for the next 100 years. Strengthen and repair the urban forest using historic patterns and locations of existing and historic trees as a guide.

Liberty Park Urban Forest. Develop a park-wide urban forest plan to identify locations for new trees, replacement trees, and tree removals. Coordinate plantings and removals with the city’s tree management system.

Protect trees over 10” DBH as “specimen trees” as directed by zoning code 21A.48.135.

Manage extant trees for health and longevity.

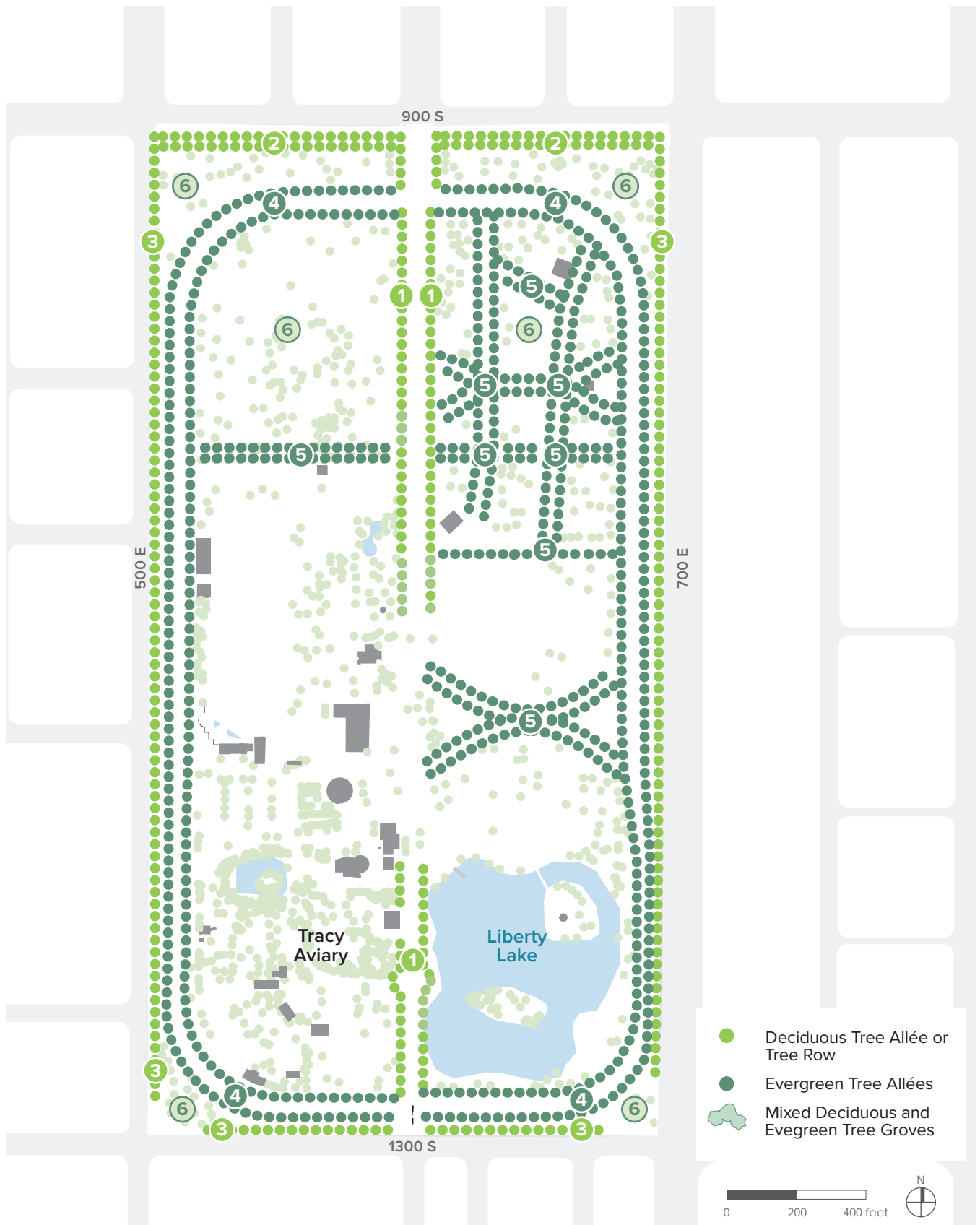
Provide regular care and proactive replacement of the urban forest in historic patterns and locations.

Water Conservation. Support water conservation to address drought and declining Great Salt Lake levels. Install a dual use irrigation system to separate zones for lawns and trees with the ability to adjust irrigation for lawn during droughts while continuing to irrigate trees at appropriate levels. Apply mulch within the dripline of trees.

Climate Change Resiliency and Adaptation Design. Select replacement trees that are drought-tolerant, disease resistant, and hardy tree species that can tolerate shifts in heat and hardiness zones and other potential vulnerabilities associated with climate change. Select replacement trees that are similar in habitat, form, and character to historic trees.

Tree Allées, Tree Rows, and Tree Groves. Preserve and restore historic patterns of tree allées, tree rows, and trees groves with species that are similar in habitat, form, and character. Reestablish missing tree allées, tree rows, and trees groves.

- 1 Central Promenade Deciduous Tree Allée
- 2 900 S Deciduous Tree Allée
- 3 500 E, 700 E, and 1300 S Deciduous Tree Row
- 4 Constitution Drive Evergreen Tree Allées
- 5 Interior Evergreen Tree Allées
- 6 Mixed Evergreen and Deciduous Tree Groves



Buildings

Liberty Park is significant for its contributing buildings and their historic arrangements, orientations, and locations. Contributing buildings date to the period of significance and include Chase Mill, Chase Home, North Shelter, Maintenance Office, Merry-Go-Round Building, and Rice Pavilion, and Office Building and Wilson Pavilion in Tracy Aviary.

Preserve the historic significance of these buildings by protecting and repairing their historic arrangement, orientation, and location within Liberty Park and ensuring their preservation and repair is in accordance with the Secretary of Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Buildings and the Salt Lake City Landmark Preservation Design Guidelines.

Preserve and repair contributing buildings.

Complete annual inspections to assess the condition and appearance of foundations, structures, roofs, finishings, drainage, and building systems. Maintenance work should be undertaken “in-kind” to match the original or in size, shape, material, color, scale, and design.

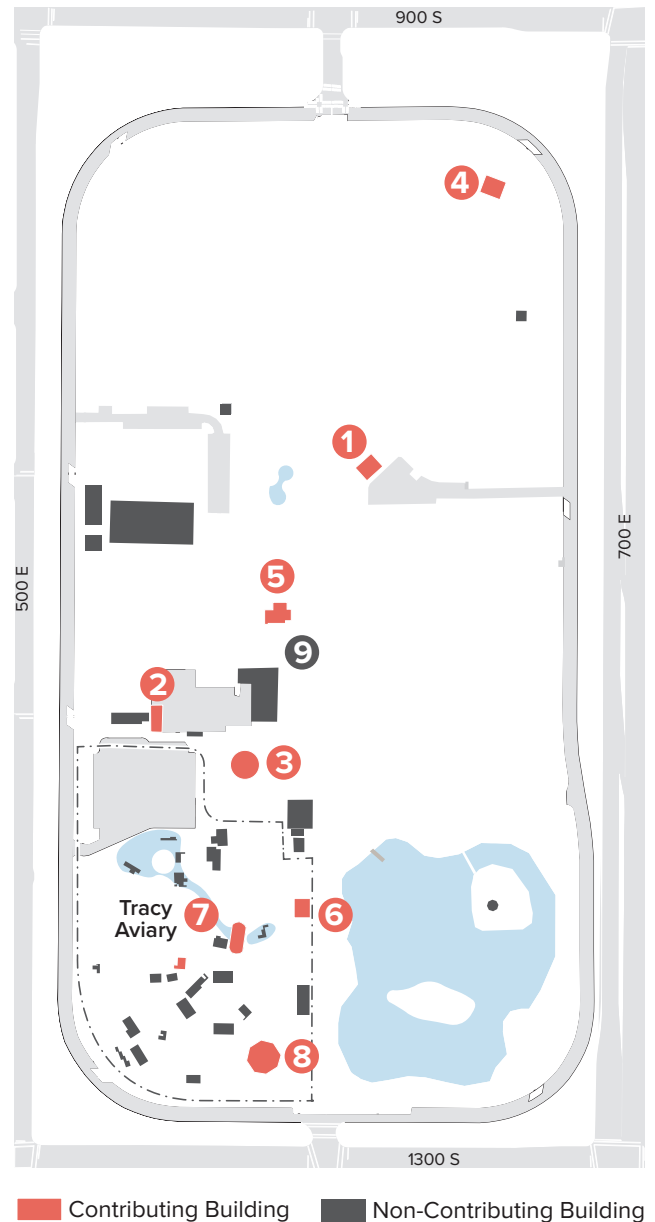
Ensure modifications are compatible with character defining features of each building and Liberty Park’s historic character and are contemporary and of their own time. Consult the Secretary of Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Buildings and the Salt Lake City Landmark Preservation Design Guidelines for accepted preservation practices.

Require detailed specifications and documentation for the repair or replacement of features and any maintenance work.

Preserve and repair historic materials before replacement with new materials. Repair original materials to preserve their original character, using original materials for patching or replacement. Use material similar in color and texture, matching the finish of the original material if replacement is necessary.

Ensure applicable standards for accessibility and sustainability requirements are met while respecting the historic character and preserving contributing features.

- 1 **North Shelter.** Preserve and repair North Shelter. Allow minor modifications to accommodate compatible community and partner uses and access. Consider removal of infill brick walls to rehabilitate North Shelter as an open air structure.
- 2 **Maintenance Office.** Preserve and repair Maintenance Office. Allow minor modifications to accommodate compatible administrative and operational uses and access.
- 3 **Merry-Go-Round Building.** Preserve and repair Merry-Go-Round Building. Allow minor modifications to accommodate compatible visitor and concessioner uses and access.
- 4 **Rice Pavilion.** Preserve and repair Rice Pavilion. Allow minor modifications to accommodate compatible visitor and concessioner uses and access.
- 5 **Chase Home.** Preserve and repair Chase Home.
- 6 **Chase Mill.** Preserve and repair Chase Mill. Allow minor modifications to accommodate compatible partner and community uses and access.
- 7 **Office Building.** Rehabilitate the Office Building using accepted preservation practices. Allow the relocation of the Office Building. Ensure the relocation of the Office Building preserves the historic integrity of the building and cultural landscape and does not adversely affect the significance of the historic setting of the new site and Liberty Park.
- 8 **Wilson Pavilion.** Preserve and repair Wilson Pavilion. Allow modifications to accommodate compatible administrative and operational uses and access.



Allow removal of non-contributing buildings.
 Consider reuse of these sites as new park space or for locations of future park additions.

9 Greenhouse. Allow the removal and replacement of the Greenhouse with a building of a similar mass, scale, form, and footprint to the original. Consider Historic American Building Survey (HABS) documentation prior to deconstruction of the building. Ensure the removal and replacement of the Greenhouse structure is implemented as one distinct project to preserve the integrity and prominence of the Greenhouse along the Central Promenade.

Preserve a footprint similar to the historic Greenhouse.

Ensure the building is compatible with the park character and Liberty Park’s range of architectural styles. Design the new building in a contemporary style and practice, as a product of its own time, and reflective of its function and location.

Respect Liberty Park’s architectural scale when designing the new greenhouse. Ensure new features are proportional in height, mass,

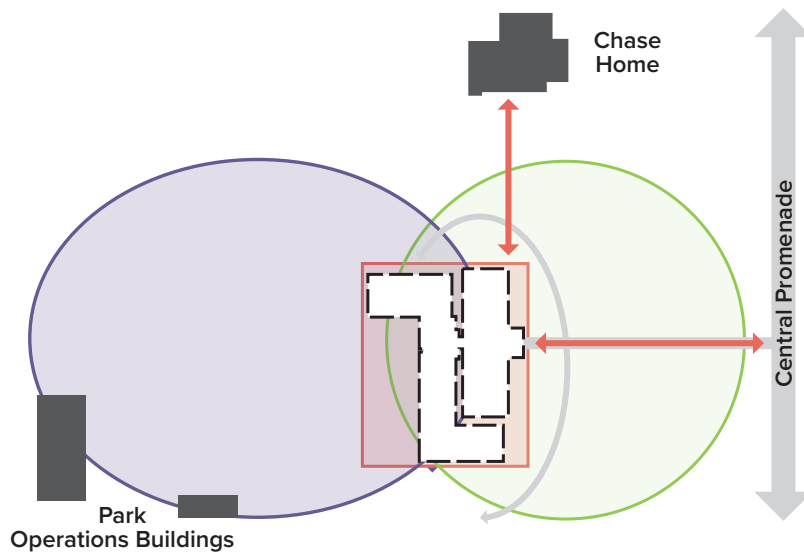
and scale, but are subordinate to contributing buildings, with simpler forms and details reflecting the utilitarian function of the building. Ensure the new greenhouse provides a human scale that engages park users.

Incorporate interpretation of the historic Greenhouse into site and building design. Identify opportunities for re-use of existing materials, if feasible, for interpretation or in the design of the new building.

↔ Maintain original views, relationships, orientations, and setbacks of the Greenhouse to Central Promenade and Chase Home.

○ Preserve the distinct setting of the Greenhouse, characterized by its formal composition to the north, east, and south of the building. This includes mown lawn, formal gardens, geometric walkways to primary building entrances, a central walk to the main entrance, and views to the Greenhouse from the Central Promenade.

○ Allow for utilitarian uses west of the Greenhouse and new community uses that complement interior use.



Allow new buildings and shelters that support everyday park use (e.g., restrooms, picnic shelters, and operations facilities).

Consider new open-air picnic shelters at the Northeast Meadow, Rotary Play, and Koi Pond.

Design new buildings and shelters to complement and be subordinate to contributing buildings and structures. Ensure new buildings and structures are designed with the same care and consideration as Liberty Park's historic buildings and structures.

Design new buildings and features to be of their time while also being compatible in mass, form, and scale with the original buildings and features of Liberty Park. Design new buildings and structures as low-profile and horizontal forms with low slope or flat roofs and oriented to capitalize on views to the mountains, meadows, and historic features.

Ensure new buildings and features support everyday, year-round use of Liberty Park and are accessible to the public. Ensure new buildings and features are reviewed and supported by the Department of Public Lands, Historic Landmark Commission, and community of Salt Lake City.

Structures, Objects, and Features

Liberty Park's significant structures, objects, and features date to the period of significance and include benches, 900 S and 1300 S Gateway monuments, rustic stone fireplaces, fountains, rustic stone arbors, and stone planters.

Preserve the historic significance of contributing structures, objects, and features by protecting and repairing their historic arrangement, orientation, and location within Liberty Park and ensuring their preservation and repair is in accordance with the Secretary of Interior Standards.

● Preserve and repair contributing structures, objects, and features. Consult the Secretary of Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Buildings and the Salt Lake City Landmark Preservation Design Guidelines for accepted preservation practices.

Require detailed specifications and documentation for the repair or replacement of features and any maintenance work.

Preserve and repair historic materials before replacement with new materials. Repair original materials to preserve their original character, using original materials for patching or replacement. Use material similar in color and texture, matching the finish of the original if replacement is necessary.

- 1 900 S Monumental Entrance Piers.** Repair cracks on stone piers and planters and clean historic markers adhered to piers.
- 2 Chase Mill Stone Marker.** Repair cracks on mill stone and clean historic marker.
- 3 Falcon Fountain and Amphitheater.** Repair cracks and spalled concrete at foundation of Falcon Fountain and along amphitheater steps. Maintain Falcon Fountain as a dry art feature. Determine stewardship and maintenance responsibilities with Public Lands and Arts Council.

4 Artesian Drinking Fountain. Repair spalled concrete fountain basin and step and repoint missing mortar. Maintain Artesian Drinking Fountain as an operational water fountain.

5 Stone Gates. Straighten stone gate piers. Provide pre-deconstruction documentation to ensure piers are reconstructed accurately. Reset original stones to the greatest extent possible. Ensure new stones are compatible in composition, texture, color, and size to the existing wall.

6 Stone Arbors. Repair and straighten stone piers. Provide pre-deconstruction documentation to ensure piers are reconstructed accurately. Reset stones to the greatest extent possible. Ensure new stones are compatible in composition, texture, color, and size to the existing wall. Replace wooden trellis and beams. Consider removal of vines and other vegetation to deter further deterioration of arbors.

7 DAR Fountain. Repair masonry. Provide a firm, stable surface with positive drainage away from stone fountain and walls.

8 Rustic Stone Fireplaces. Preserve the recently repaired stone fireplaces. Consider future removal of bricks to reestablish features as functional fireplaces.

● Preserve and repair potential contributing features as contributing structures, objects, and features. Conduct additional research to determine if features date to the period of significance.

9 Stone Planters and Piers. Straighten stone piers and secure stone planter to piers. Repair cracks on stone piers.

10 Stone Planters. Repair cracks on stone planters.

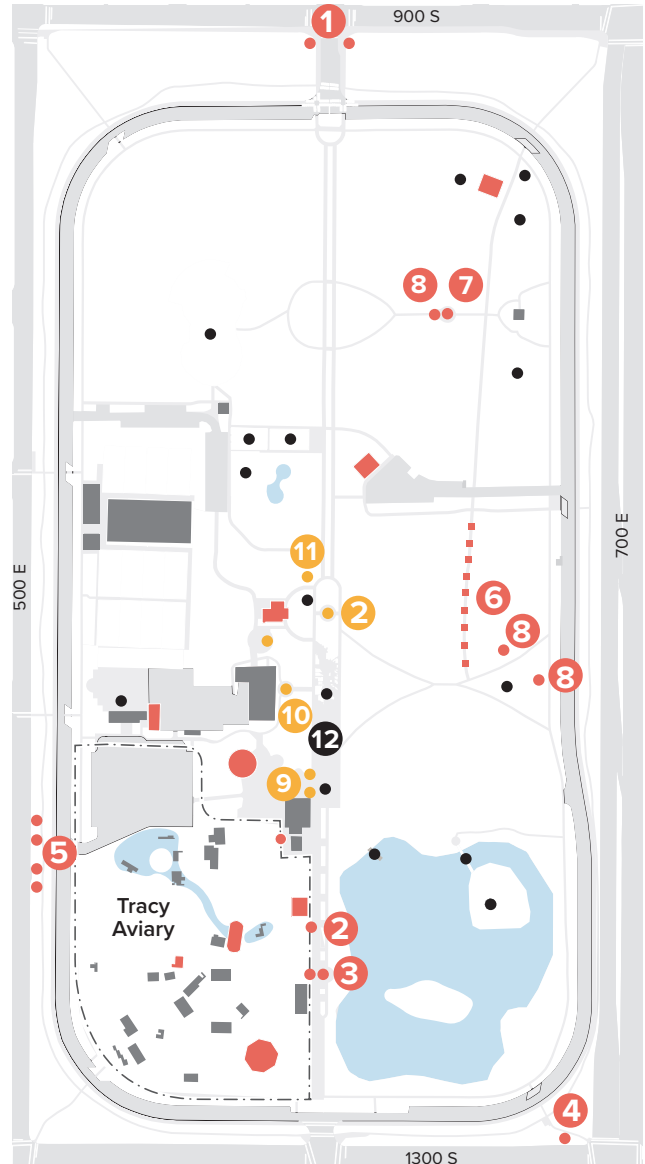
11 Chase Home Fountain. Repair spalled concrete on basin walls, remove vegetative growth from pavers lining the bottom of basins, and treat and protect fountain from future corrosion. Maintain Chase Home Fountain as a dry art feature.

Metal Benches (located throughout Liberty Park). Replace missing hardware and repair metal bench frames. Paint slats and metal frames to harmonize with the historic setting and aesthetic of Liberty Park.

● Maintain non-contributing features that facilitate park use and operations. These include bike racks, bollards, drinking fountains, fences, fountains, grills, park lighting, picnic tables, planters, play equipment, recycling receptacles, signage (e.g., regulatory, wayfinding, directional signage, park identification), sports equipment (e.g., nets, fences, bocce stops), statues, traffic control devices, trash receptacles, and walls.

Allow removal, relocation, and modifications to non-contributing features where they diminish integrity.

12 Seven Canyons Refuge. Maintain Seven Canyons Refuge as a dry art feature. Continue to provide vegetation management to maintain views from Central Promenade to the amphitheater.



- Contributing Structure, Object, and Feature
- Potential Contributing Structure, Object, and Feature - Requires Further Research
- Non-Contributing Structure, Object, and Feature

New Elements

Liberty Park reflects Salt Lake City's original and continued commitment to improve urban life through its public park system. Liberty Park serves as both the central gathering space of Salt Lake City and much-loved park that residents enjoy on a daily basis.

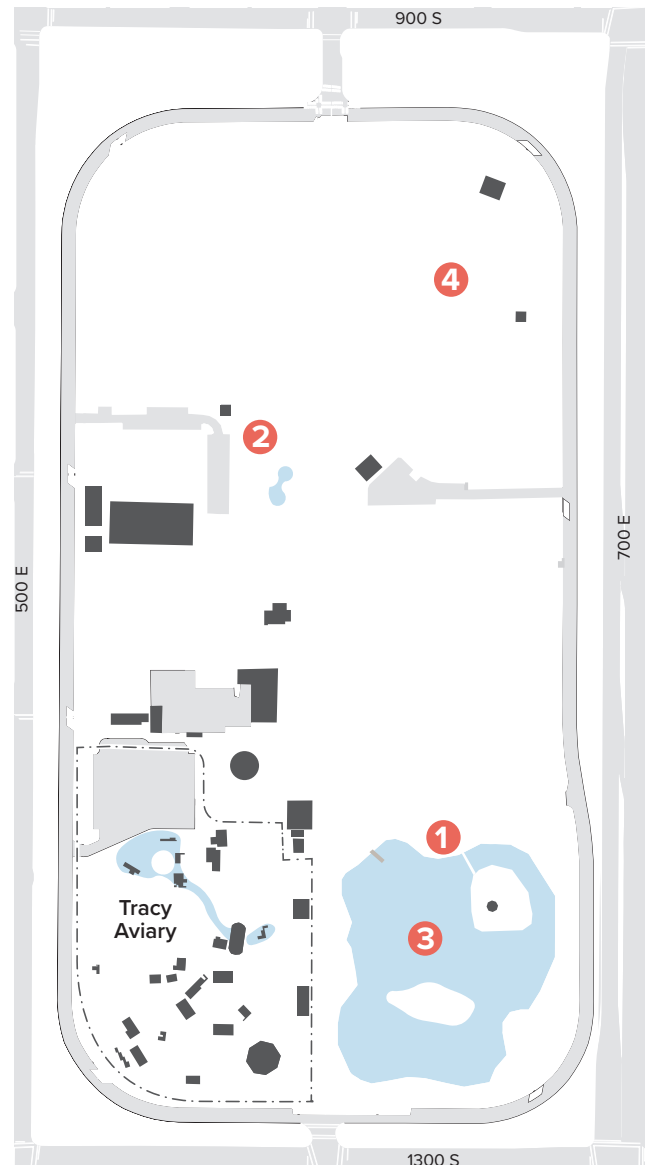
Repair and allow new park spaces and amenities to facilitate use of existing amenities, respond to evolving trends in park use, and preserve Liberty Park as the central gathering space of Salt Lake City, offering diverse opportunities for the community to relax, recreate, gather, and celebrate.

Ensure new elements, including park features, amenities, and spaces, do not detract from the visitor experience, obstruct contributing views, or diminish the character of Liberty Park.

- Ensure new elements express a consistent aesthetic, complementing the historic development of Liberty Park in materials, size, scale, and color. Ensure materials are durable to freeze-thaw cycles and high numbers of visitors. Ensure features are of a human-scale, designed with the highest level of craftsmanship and quality materials, and are compatible with the character of Liberty Park, including wood, painted steel, and stone.
- Design new elements to be of their time while also being compatible in mass, form, and scale with contributing buildings and features of Liberty Park.
- Ensure new elements are subordinate to, and harmonize with, the natural setting and provide spaces to immerse visitors in Liberty Park through thoughtful siting, orientation, and design.
- Ensure applicable standards for accessibility and sustainability requirements are met while respecting the historic character and preserving contributing features.
- Allow improvements and additions that provide for park and recreation purposes while ensuring these do not affect park use and protect the park's historic integrity. Site and design new elements to protect the cultural landscape. This includes locating new elements in areas traditionally used as operational areas; ensuring scenic views, vistas, and the visitor experience are protected; and designing new elements to be a scale, material, and color that harmonizes with the historic setting and aesthetic of Liberty Park.

Reestablish and reinforce key park spaces, including Liberty Lake, Koi Pond, non-extant bandstand, and Northeast Meadow. These spaces will contribute to increase visibility and safety throughout Liberty Park.

- 1 Reestablish the site of the non-extant bandstand as a community gathering space, incorporating the topographic mound, designing memorable places to play, gather, and enjoy Liberty Lake and views to the Wasatch Range. Design spaces north and south of the topographic mound as unified spaces, integrating the north-south axis between Liberty Lake and Northeast Meadow.
- 2 Consider removal and potential relocation of bocce, horseshoe, and basketball courts before replacement of infrastructure occurs. Design the space to repair the historic Koi Pond setting and provide amenities to enhance use of Koi Pond and playground to the north (e.g., walks, picnic sites, picnic shelter).
- 3 Reinforce Liberty Lake as a focal point of Liberty Park by providing formalized routes, overlooks, and small gathering areas and establishing wetland / riparian vegetation to enhance habitat, biodiversity, and water quality. Ensure improvements enhance its ecological and stormwater functions.
- 4 Reinforce the Northeast Meadow as a destination for picnicking and court sports, including volleyball, basketball, horseshoes, and bocce. Repair existing picnic sites and consider an additional picnic shelter and sites. Reestablish historic walks throughout Northeast Meadow.



Tracy Aviary

The relationship of Tracy Aviary to Liberty Park contributes to the historic character of the park. This relationship will be preserved and repaired by repairing physical and visual connections between Tracy Aviary and Liberty Park.

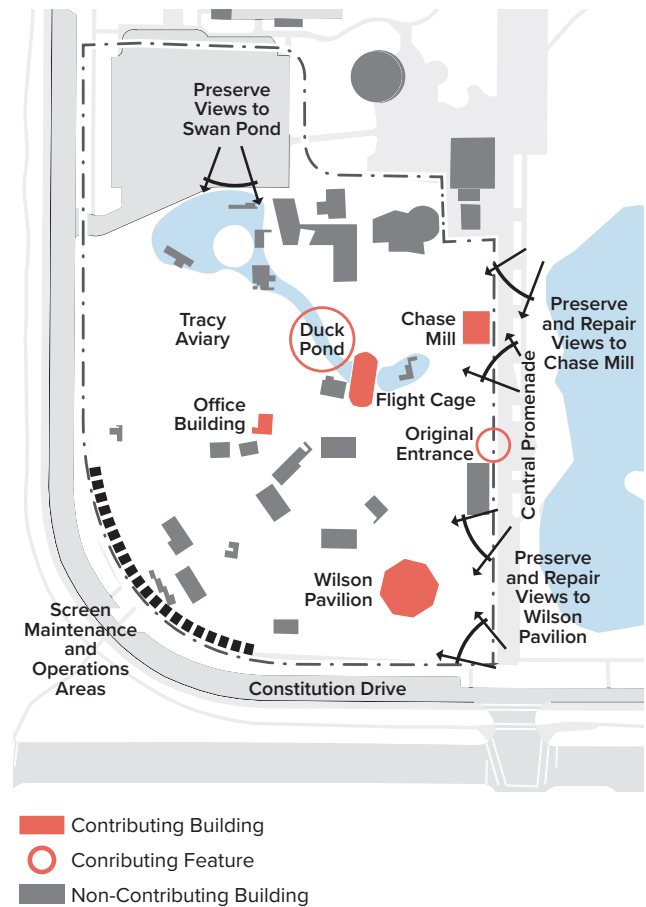
Preserve and repair views from Liberty Park to historic and iconic buildings and features within Tracy Aviary—i.e., Chase Mill, Wilson Pavilion, Office Building, Duck Pond, Flight Cage, and Original Entrance—through vegetation thinning, transparent fencing, and other methods that assist in highlighting specific features.

Screen maintenance and operations areas.

Improve the interface between Tracy Aviary and Liberty Park. Design a cohesive composition of buildings, walls, fences, openings, and vegetation that define and identify the boundary of Tracy Aviary with views that provide visual connections between Tracy Aviary and Liberty Park. Design buildings, walls, fences, and other boundary delineators in a subdued color palette using a simple palette of materials. Design gates for operational access points as part of the composition, using similar materials and colors.

Consider modifications to non-contributing buildings and features to be more inconspicuous as viewed from Liberty Park and to function as background features.

Ensure new building facades and features are expressive and identifiable as features of Tracy Aviary when viewed from Liberty Park.



Appendices



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Appendix A: Bibliography

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Appendix B: Treatment Terminology

The following terminology is used in this report to describe recommended actions.^{A1}

Consider is to routinely evaluate if a treatment action can be undertaken. Budget constraints and long-term maintenance may result in delayed treatment action. As circumstances change, the treatment action should be reevaluated and eventually completed.

Design intent refers to the creative objectives that were applied to the development of a historic property.

Introduce is the addition of a new, nonhistoric feature compatible with the cultural landscape. This may also include the replacement of a missing historic feature.

In-kind refers to the replacement of features extensively deteriorated or missing parts of features using materials that match the historic detail, configuration, and appearance as closely as possible.

Maintain refers to measures that sustain the form, integrity and materials of contributing features, either on a regular basis or as a nonrecurring event.

Preserve refers to those measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity, and materials of contributing features. It includes initial stabilization work, where necessary, as well as ongoing preservation maintenance and repair of historic materials and features.

Protect refers to actions to safeguard a historic feature by defending or guarding it against further deterioration or loss. Such action is generally of temporary nature and anticipates future preservation treatment.

Reconstruct refers to the act or process of depicting, by means of new work, the form, features, and detailing of a non-surviving historic structure or any part thereof, for the purpose of replicating its appearance at a specific time in its original location.

Rehabilitate refers to the act or process of allowing a compatible use through repair, alteration, or additions as long as those features that convey the historical, cultural, or architectural values are preserved.

Repair refers to those measures that are necessary to correct deteriorated, damaged, or faulty materials of features. These measures are more extensive than regular maintenance and undertake work necessary to bring a contributing feature or area to good condition.

Restore refers to those measures necessary to accurately depict the form, features, and character of a property as it appeared during a particular period of time by means of the removal of features from other periods in history and reconstruction of missing features from the restoration period.

Retain are those actions that are necessary to allow a feature (contributing or noncontributing) to remain in place in its current configuration and condition.

Stabilize refers to those measures that require more work than standard maintenance practices, and that are necessary to prevent the further deterioration, failure, or loss of contributing features.

A.1 Adapted from The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties as amended and annotated, 1995 and <http://www.nps.gov/dscw/definitions.htm>.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
LIBERTY PARK

Salt Lake City Public Lands Department