



TOWN OF BRIGHTON NEWS MARCH 2023



Presidents' Day Torchlight Parade at Solitude

Springtime seems to bring renewed warmth to words we speak,
songs we sing, and the beauty we behold. ~ *Jeanne Bennion*

TRAILS IN THE NEWS

The Central Wasatch Commission released its Visitor Use Study in February, featuring trails and trends for Big Cottonwood Canyon. The study was conducted by Dr. Jordan Smith from Utah State University Institute of Outdoor Recreation.



GOALS

- Quantify the number of hikers including place and time-of-day.
- Show where infrastructure may be needed.

DATA CAPTURE

This study provides time-specific visitor use for 37 trails in Little Cottonwood, Big Cottonwood, and Mill Creek Canyons from January 2019 to April 2022. The visitor count was obtained by using cell phone geo-tracking, plus 31 infrared trail counters to be sure kids and older model phone users were factored in.

TRENDS

- There are places with exceptionally high use, but people acclimate to increased numbers. Places of solitude are still available.
- Trails that terminate at high-altitude lakes are the most popular.
- Seasonal Peak. Trail use is 2 times higher in summer on popular trails than any other season
- Weekend Peak. Trail use is 2 times higher on weekends than on week days.
- Daily Peak. 10 am to 3 pm is the busiest time.
- Average Hiking Trip: 49 minutes.

HIGH-USE TRAILS

Brighton Lakes, White Pine, Secret Lake, Catherine Pass, Lake Blanche, Ferguson Canyon, Neff's Canyon, Donut Falls, Red Pine, Albion Meadows.

MEDIUM-USE TRAILS

Days Fork, Mineral Fork, Mill Creek Canyon, Bells Canyon, Porter Fork, Mill Creek Winter Gate, Dog Lake, Gobblers Knob.

STRATEGIES AND TRENDS

- Concentrate trail use to areas where it is already high, so a smaller area of the forest is impacted.
- Infrastructure (restrooms, signage, clear boundaries, and hardening of trails where appropriate) is needed.
- Concentrate trail use near ski resorts at the tops of the canyons where amenities and parking already exist. Public transportation would focus on transit to resorts.
- Concentrate trail use at the base of the canyons where amenities and parking already exist.
- Mass-transit to Mid-Canyon trails may bring more use than we want in those areas.
- Begin to focus on ways to accommodate those 49-minute hikers.

FOLLOW-UP

Dr. Smith will also present a follow-up study about the economic benefits of recreation in the Wasatch, and a canyon-by-canyon count of the tri-canyon trails.

For more information go to: <https://extension.usu.edu/iort/research/central-wasatch-visitor-use-study>

USFS TRI-CANYONS TRAILS MASTER PLAN

The USFS and SLCo Parks and Recreation has completed the first round of public listening sessions facilitated by consultant Landmark Designs. The interactive website map allows users to provide specific trail improvement ideas. The USFS is in communication with Dr. Smith and they are in general agreement on trail use monitoring and management concepts. A draft USFS trails plan is expected by Fall 2023 for public comment, and the final plan should be complete in early 2024. Find out more at this link: tricyontrails.org

SILVER LAKE TRAIL

Trails Utah is working with the USFS and Salt Lake County to revamp the Silver Lake Loop Trail. Work will be completed in summer 2023. [Find out more about this project.](#)

FERGUSON CANYON BONNEVILLE SHORELINE TRAIL CONNECTOR

The Nature Trails Company has completed a trail that connects Ferguson Canyon trailhead with Dogwood Picnic area trailhead. Funding came from the Central Wasatch Commission. [Find out more about this project.](#)

PRE-K LOCATION NEEDED



Parents of Pre-K children in Brighton are seeking a new location for the 2023-24 school year. Currently there are 6 children ages 3-4 years who are planning to attend. In the past, the group has met at the Cookler's home in Silver Fork and the Wasatch Mountain Lodge. The Wasatch Mountain Lodge is planning to undergo major remodeling and the Cookler's son is graduating into elementary school. We all have hope that a Pre-K location is something that a Town can offer its citizens. If you know of a place or have suggestions, please contact Kara John (801-870-4497) or Barbara Cameron (801-694-9045).

ROAD CONSTRUCTION IN THE NEWS

UDOT road teams expect to complete the reconstruction project on I-80 and I-215 by the end of 2023, including the replacement of the 1300 East Bridge over I-80. The 3-million-pound bridge will be slid into place using hydraulic engine lifts and wheels lubricated with a whole lot of Dawn detergent. Utah is one of the first states in the nation to use this technology That moves a bridge in one day. Questions? Visit the [project website](#) to learn more and to sign up for construction alerts.

SHORT TERM RENTAL NEWS

In February, the Town Council imposed a 15% cap on the number of Short-Term Rentals (STRs) that can be permitted in Silver Fork and Pinetree. The policy will be reviewed in 2 years. To apply for STR status, there are two processes to complete:

- 1. Homeowners must apply for a land-use permit through City Works Public Portal: bit.ly/cw-portal
- 2. Homeowners must then apply for a business license: [Business License Application](#)



The Town of Brighton website has additional information.

- [Click here to determine ability to meet all STR business license requirements.](#)
- [Click here for more details.](#)

COTTONWOOD CANYONS FOUNDATION

Cottonwood Canyons Foundation is now hiring crew and lead positions for the 2023 season to begin in May. Applications are due March 15th, but the earlier the better as interviews will likely be rolling. Position descriptions can be found at <https://cottonwoodcanyons.org/about-us/careers/>.



NOW HIRING FOR THE 2023 SEASON!



Full-time, seasonal positions include:

- Trail Crew I
- Trail Crew II
- Invasive Weeds Crew Lead
- Invasive Weeds Crew Member

Pay ranges from \$17 - \$24/hour DOE
plus signing bonus and PTO.

To learn more and apply online,
visit cottonwoodcanyons.org/careers



For questions about the Invasive Weeds Crew,
contact Taylor Litwin at
tlitwin@cottonwoodcanyons.org

For questions about the Trail Crew,
contact Tim Cromwell at
tcromwell@cottonwoodcanyons.org

Join Us in the World's Largest Earthquake Drill.
April 20, 2023 Register Now at ShakeOut.org/utah



On April 20, 2023, thousands of Utahns will participate in the largest earthquake drill ever in Utah! Why? Earthquakes can and will happen anywhere you work, live, or travel in Utah. But when only seconds count, you want to take quake-safe actions. Be in the know, register at www.ShakeOut.org/Utah to practice what to do and be ready.

PLAN YOUR DRILL

1. Practice now so you will immediately protect yourself during earthquakes! (See [this page](#) for what to do if you are in bed, outside, driving, in a tall building, or other situations.) For people with disabilities or access and functional needs, download our [preparedness guide](#) (661 KB) PDF.
2. While still under the table, or wherever you are, look around and imagine what would happen in a major earthquake. What would fall on you or others? What would be damaged? What would life be like after? *What will you do before the actual earthquake happens to reduce losses and quickly recover?*
3. Practice what you will do [after](#) the shaking stops.
4. After your drill is complete, have discussions about what was learned and incorporate these lessons into your disaster plan.

PREPARE AHEAD

What we do now, before the earthquake, will determine what our lives will be like after. The following are key actions from the [Seven Steps to Earthquake Safety](#) which has additional things you can do to prepare.

- Do a "hazard hunt" for items that might fall in your home during earthquakes and [secure them](#).
- Create a personal or family [disaster-preparedness plan](#).
 - Plan for your family's specific needs ([seniors](#), [disabled](#), [children](#), [pets](#)).
 - Teach all household members how to use a fire extinguisher.
 - Create [wallet cards](#) for each family member with essential contact information.
- Organize or refresh your [emergency supply kits](#).
 - Store at least one gallon of water per person, per day, for 3 days and ideally for 2 weeks.
 - What else would you need to be on your own for up to 2 weeks?
 - What would you need if you are in your car or office when the earthquake strikes?
- Identify your [building's weaknesses](#). Ask a local earthquake retrofitting contractor for a free structural inspection of your home or building. Also, review your insurance coverage, whether home-owner or renter. Consider whether [earthquake insurance](#) is right for you.
- Create a game where everyone responds to a signal by practicing [Drop Cover and Hold On](#). Talk to your children about what to expect during and after an earthquake.



BRIGHTON INSTITUTE EVENTS

MARCH 21 | Open Mic Night ▪ Thirsty Squirrel at Solitude Mountain Resort ▪ 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm ▪ Sign-Up 5:00 pm to 5:30 pm

MARCH 23 | Beavers in Brighton ▪ Nicole Smeeding & Lise Brunhart ▪ Brighton Fire Station ▪ 6:00 pm

APRIL 6 | Intro to Fungi ▪ Katie Lawson ▪ Last Chance Lodge at Solitude Mountain Resort ▪ 6:30 pm ▪ Fungi are all around us playing important ecological roles to ensure the health of our forest ecosystems. We'll take a look at fungal biology, the jobs that fungi perform in our forests, and some common mushrooms that you might see in the Wasatch. Learning about fungi is a great way to broaden your understanding of nature and increase your appreciation for the mountains. www.fungalfocusutah.com

MAY 5 | Self Defense Class ▪ 6:30 pm ▪ Big Cottonwood Fire Station

JUNE 17 (Saturday) | Mushroom Cultivation ▪ Katie Lawson ▪ 1 pm ▪ Big Cottonwood Fire Station ▪ There are many ways to work with fungi, and they all begin with knowing how to grow and care for mushrooms. We'll learn how to inoculate and grow oyster mushrooms. We'll talk about tricks for being successful in our climate, and what you can do with this skillset once you have it. Each registered attendee will leave with an oyster mushroom grow kit to take home. Class Size: 5-15 students. Cost/student \$40.

MEETINGS AROUND TOWN

Brighton Town Council

2nd Tuesday of the Month – 6:30 pm [Meetings | Brighton Utah](#)

OR www.utah.gov/pmn (You can subscribe to this website to receive automatic notifications.)

Brighton Institute Meeting

2nd Monday of the Month – 6 pm. Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86508034065>

Meeting ID: 865 0803 4065 Phone Connection: +1-253-215-8782

BCCA Community Council

2nd Monday of the Month – 7 pm. Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86508034065>

Meeting ID: 865 0803 4065 Phone Connection: +1-253-215-8782

Brighton Planning Commission Meeting

3rd Wednesday of the Month – 6:00 pm – Fire Station #108 or virtually at

<https://slco.webex.com/meet/wgurr> [Meetings | Brighton Utah](#)

RESOURCES

Environmental Dashboard

The Central Wasatch Commission's Environmental Dashboard has some great information about our canyon. Access the Environmental Dashboard at this link: <https://cwcedb.utah.edu/>