



TOWN OF BRIGHTON NEWS APRIL 2023



*Not all superheroes have capes, some drive our snowplows.
Brighton sends deep appreciation to UDOT and all the plow drivers of Big Cottonwood.*

CWC RELEASES BCC-MAP DRAFT Public Comment Open Now through April 1

Thanks to the leadership and hard work of Mayor Dan Knopp, funding was provided for a study of transportation in Big Cottonwood. Funding partners include Brighton Resort, Solitude Resort, Cottonwood Heights, CWC, and the Town of Brighton. If you would like to comment on the draft, go to [CWC website](#) and complete the comment form. The comment period is open now through April 17, 2023



The BCC MAP sets the stage to fund transit improvements and develop a parking management program for Big Cottonwood Canyon. Over 960 people responded with ideas and projects that would increase safety, reduce visitor vehicles, and support state climate goals and watershed protection. A notable majority of people asked for improved winter bus service, year-round transit to trailheads, improved restrooms, and informative signage. Take a look at the draft plan to see what you would like to add: [Read the Draft BCC MAP Here](#)

WATER MANAGERS ANTICIPATE HIGH SPRING RUNOFF

Kade Moncur, Director of Salt Lake County Flood Control, is asking residents to please be careful around creeks and rivers. Children and dogs should be kept away from creeks during the high run-off season, even if the water looks calm. Here's a website that gives stream flows: [REAL-TIME STREAM FLOWS](#)

As the threat of spring flooding looms, take some time to look over your property to determine if you need sandbags. If you've had problems in the past, sandbags are a good idea. Please remember, do not place sandbags on top of snowbanks or along roadways. Residents should place bags only on private property and are responsible for cleaning up and disposing of bags.

Do you need free sandbags? County residents can fill up to 25 sandbags themselves. Sand and bags are provided, but people need to bring shovels and gloves. Here are the locations:

- Salt Lake County Public Works at 604 W. 6960 South in Midvale
- Salt Pile at 3800 S Wasatch Blvd.

SANDBAG TECHNIQUES

Filling

1. *Fill sandbags half full. Sand is preferable if readily available however local soil may be used.*
2. *Gather top of sandbag and tie securely with heavy string.*



Placing

Care should be taken to stack sandbags in accordance with the illustrations. Tamp each sandbag into place, completing each layer prior to starting the next layer. Limit placement to three layers unless a building is used as a backing or sandbags are pyramided as shown.



Limitations

- Sandbags will not seal out water.
- Sandbags deteriorate when exposed for several months to continued wetting and drying

BRIGHTON BEAVER STUDY

Beavers are well-known ecosystem engineers. They dig channels radiating into the surrounding landscape which saturate with water to benefit other wildlife and humans. They reduce flooding by slowing down the water flow. They provide temperature moderation, cleaner water, flood protection, carbon sequestration, and insulation from devastating wildfires.



Evidence indicates as many as 500 beaver dams may have existed in the canyon at one time. However, fur traders and trappers took out most of the population shortly before the Pioneers arrived. Currently there are about 4 working beaver dams in Brighton. A new dam has begun near the Twin Lakes reservoir, and a rogue beaver was spotted in lower Silver Fork earlier this winter chewing on aspen trees. Beaver do not hibernate, so they are active in winter. A Brighton resident spotted a very large beaver waddling along a snowy road with an aspen branch late at night. They love aspen trees because of the tasty cambium layer in the trunk.

People worry about flooding or losing favorite trees. Nicole Smeeding, author of the Brighton Beaver study ([BRIGHTON BEAVER STUDY](#)), offered some tips to help humans and beavers coexist.

- First of all, Brighton needs a Beaver Action Plan to provide reliable help and information.
- Professional help from a dedicated and paid Division of Wildlife Resources employee would be needed to provide routine checks on beaver activity and help homeowners in case of trouble.

- Community education including Interpretive signage and regular public outreach is vital. Nicole noted an outstanding website that shows how to paint trees with sand-paint to protect them from hungry beavers and how to prevent flooding from beaver dams. [Tree Protection | Beaver Institute, Inc.](#)

Residents are already offering their enthusiasm and experience. Last spring, Lise Brunhart got a CWC grant and led a team that installed several BDAs (Beaver Dam Analogs) to encourage beavers to return to Willow Heights after being absent for 16 years. It's just a start. Brighton could become a leading ally of these little local ecosystem engineers!



INTERNET PLANNING GRANT FOR BRIGHTON

Congratulations to Erin O'Kelly our dedicated and diligent MSD planner! The Utah Broadband Center has awarded \$25,000 for a Brighton Digital Connectivity Plan. Most of the money will go for mapping and data collection. The MSD will work with Horrocks Construction to gather the information. Erin O'Kelly is the lead planner on this grant, and has encouraged Brighton to reach out for better internet

connection throughout the canyon. Planning efforts will include partners such as Rocky Mountain Power, CenturyLink, SenaWave, Utah Broadband, and the US Forest Service. There will be several public comment meetings this summer.

POSTPONED: 1300 EAST BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

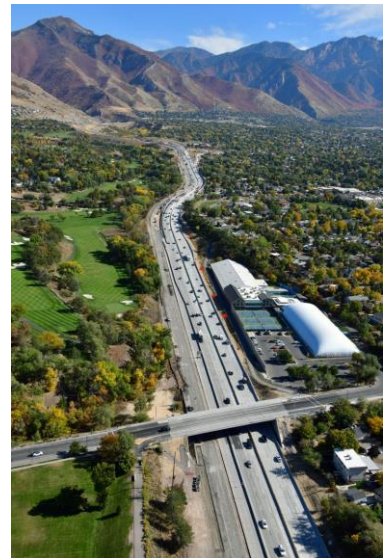
Due to weather, the @UtahDOT I-80 & I-215 Renewed project team has postponed the 1300 East bridge replacement for two weeks. Crews will demolish the existing 1300 East bridge over I-80 and slide the new bridge into place over the weekend of **April 14-16**.

This work will require closures of:

- 1300 East over I-80
- I-80 between 700 East and Foothill Drive
- I-80 on- and off-ramps at 1300 East

Stay in the loop and visit udot.utah.gov/saltlakeeast to sign up for updates! Questions? Reach out to the project team at saltlakeeast@utah.gov or 844-909-3278.

Did you know – the new 1300 East bridge will be slid approximately 110 feet, making it one of the longest bridge slides performed in Utah?



RECYCLING AND EARTH DAY

Earth Day is coming up on April 22nd! Help celebrate by reducing the use of disposable plastics and recycling clean. For more information on Earth Day events and sustainable practices visit: www.earthday.org. To help residents of the district practice clean recycling habits, WFWRD has recycling guides that can be found on our website. For recycling tips and to find the answers to your recycling questions, use the QR code to follow WFWRD on Instagram (@wasatchfrontwaste).



TRAILER RENTAL PROGRAM

Spring is here, which means we think about Spring Cleaning. We have both bulk trailers and green waste trailers that you can rent to help with your household clean-up tasks. These trailers are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. Rental fees, and other details, are available on our website at <https://wasatchfrontwaste.org>. You can also reserve your trailer online or call our offices to make your reservation. Sign up early to ensure you get the trailer on the date you need.



Join Us in the World's Largest Earthquake Drill.

April 20, 2023 Register Now at ShakeOut.org/utah

The Great
Utah
**Shake
Out**

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.



BRIGHTON INSTITUTE EVENTS

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 11 | Self Defense Class ▪ 6:30 pm ▪ Big Cottonwood Fire Station
Deborah Beall and her husband, a flight attendant and pilot respectively, trained in self-Defense following 9/11. Deborah worked in the training department and attended specialized training in Atlantic City provided by the Federal Air Marshall Program. She taught self-defense to flight attendants and pilots for two different airlines. Her courses were eight hours long and provided the basics of stances, strikes, kicks, and blocks. While these skills in no way made flight attendants the “Chuck Norrises of the Airlines”, the skills did provide them with basic knowledge that had the potential to saves lives.

Deborah will be teaching about the weapons we possess on our bodies, and the targets of the body, along with some basic maneuvers to provide a skill set for the protection of ourself and loved ones. Join us for an evening of community safety and learning.

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. REGISTRATION REQUIRED: [REGISTER HERE](#)

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](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/>