



## TOWN OF BRIGHTON NEWS MAY 2022



*Mother Earth and the Snow Bunnies  
Snow Sculptures from Brighton's Winter Fest - April 2022*

### **CWC ENVIRONMENTAL DASHBOARD DEBUTS TO GREAT REVIEWS**

The Wasatch Environmental Dashboard is a vision born from the 2016 Mountain Accord process. Since then, the Central Wasatch Commission and the University of Utah have collaborated to make the dream come true. The Dashboard website is now in Beta Version and is an over-the-top accomplishment that no one ever expected. Best of all, it's about our neighborhood! Treat yourself to a look at something that is unique in the nation. Check out the wildflowers, animals, water, or the avalanches. If you don't find what you want, let them know so it can be added (you'll see how to do that on the website.) There will be an additional *Human Impacts* chapter added this fall.

Watch the Intro Video at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pTCtRaVLRP8>

Access the Beta Version of the Environmental Dashboard at this link: <https://cwcedb.utah.edu/>

### **FIREWISE TOWN HALL RECAP**

Here is some great news about Federal, State, and Local efforts to prevent wildfire damage in Brighton.

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER.** RMP will conduct three projects in the canyon this year:

1. Electric Distribution Lines will be put underground from the mouth of the canyon to Donut Falls. Work will begin in May on the downhill side of the road. (Expect frequent delays in traffic.) Conduit, switch vaults, and paving will be finished in August. Electric fiber will then be pulled upcanyon and connected by October. Cost for this project is about \$18.5 million, which is a huge investment in wildfire reduction and risk.
2. Selected lines from the Brighton substation to the northern side of the Brighton Loop will be buried.



3. The electric distribution line from Guardsmans Pass Road to Park City will be replaced pole for pole with weather resistant poles that are 15 ft. tall. Completion will be October 2022 to allow Brighton and Solitude to have power for spinning the lifts.

There will be electric line improvements in the populated area from Donut Falls to Brighton during the summer of 2023, though plans are still in the design stage. It would be too costly to put all residential lines underground, so all current poles will be replaced with a single steel pole and a single fiberglass cross bar with covered conductors.

**US FOREST SERVICE.** Plans are underway for a large-scale fuel reduction project on public lands beginning in 2024. Two projects were done last year in the Spruces/Cardiff area to show how cutting and burning the deadfall can be effective.

**STATE OF UTAH.** The Town of Brighton provided \$20,000 to match State funding that will be used to cover 5 weeks of work on Fuel Reduction and Defensible Space projects for homeowners. UFA Wildfire Crews will begin to contact homeowners in June. Chipper Days will begin July 25. [Sign up for Chipper Days](#)

For Big Cottonwood, it's all about Shared Stewardship, a collaborative process among Federal, State, Local, and Private landowners. Check out this video for more information about how Shared Stewardship will be helping this canyon over the next couple of years: [Watershed Restoration Shared Stewardship Project](#)

## **BRIGHTON EMERGENCY OPS**

There will be an unannounced communications practice drill in May or June. Brighton's emergency teams will be contacting homeowners by text or email to see if the outreach system is working. Thanks

for helping with the safety of our community. If you want to be sure your contact information is complete and correct go to: [Town of Brighton Emergency Management System](#)

## **CALLING VOLUNTEERS! WILLOW HEIGHTS BEAVER DAM PROJECT**



Do you have a passion for helping to save beautiful Willow Heights Pond from becoming a mud flat? If the answer is YES, please join us for three wonderful days of building Beaver Dam Analogs ( BDAs ), "fake" Beaver dams that trap water and silt, to help a pond or stream retain more of its water in place, with the added side benefit of possibly attracting beavers back to the area.

**The Willow Heights Beaver Dam Analog Project is on May 19, 20, and 21.**

We will meet at the Willow Heights trailhead on the North side of SR190 at 9 a.m. on each of these days. There is a short hike up to the site. Robby Edgel, a wildlife habitat restoration biologist, will guide our work. Please bring a sack lunch, weather-appropriate clothing, hat, work gloves, boots, and water. If you own waders, it is advised to bring them also.

Sincerest thanks for your interest!

Please text Lise at 801-573-2166 if you wish to sign up or have questions.

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SKI RESORTS! SOLITUDE VILLAGE STORE IS OPEN**

Both Big Cottonwood resorts worked extra hard to provide an outstanding experience for guests. Despite the thin January/February snowpack, there was plenty of hospitality to carry guests through to the chilly March and April snow days. Resorts will be closed until June 16. However, the Solitude Village Store located at the Inn is open Daily from 10 AM – 6 PM during the off season. The store carries basic sundries, eggs, milk, butter, etc. as well as beer, wine & liquor.

With the Brighton General Store closing for a month, Solitude thought it might be helpful to keep something open for staff, guests, and community residents.



## ENGELMANN MOUNTAIN SCHOOL NEWS

Engelmann Mountain School is very excited to announce the new **2022 Summer Programs!**

The weekly summer program for kids ages 4-7 is now open for enrollment!

[Summer Day Program \(engelmanmountainschool.org\)](https://engelmanmountainschool.org)

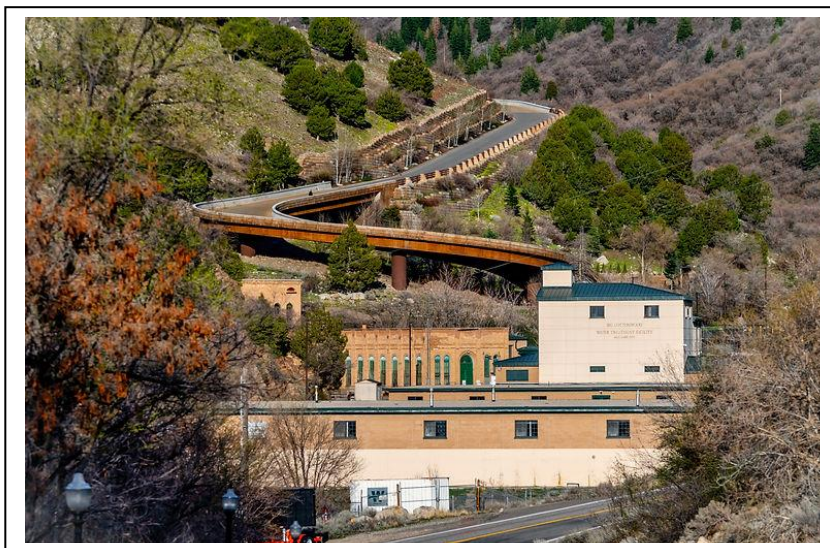
There are also events and workshops for all ages and for the whole family coming up May-July! Check out the website for more exciting developments! On May 22, there will be a concert with Maya Elise and the Good Dream at the Wasatch Mountain Lodge. Reservations can be made online:

<https://engelmanmountainschool.org/maya-elise-and-the-good-dream/>



Engelmann Mountain School and Learning Center is located at Wasatch Mountain Lodge in Brighton, UT. It's a nonprofit Place-Based Educational center interested in creating lifelong learners and promoting community engagement and connection right here in Big Cottonwood Canyon!

Hope you can Join!

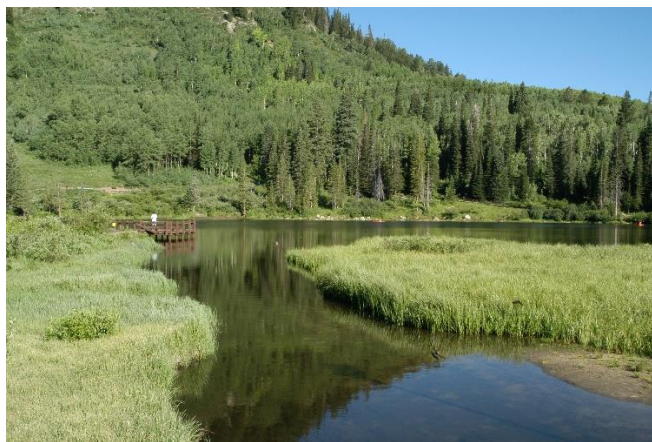


## **BIG COTTONWOOD WATER TREATMENT PLANT TO BE REPLACED**

The Big Cottonwood Water Treatment Plant (BCWTP) located at the mouth of Big Cottonwood was brought online in 1959 and processes about 38-million gallons per day (mgd). It is a critical component of the SLCDPU's drinking water system and supplies 40% of the regional drinking water.

SLCDPU has determined that the BCWTP needs to be rebuilt to address seismic concerns and update equipment to maintain continued service to the communities it serves. Right now, construction of a water bypass pipeline is underway that will divert Big Cottonwood water to another treatment plant. Then the current building will be demolished. Construction on the new structure will begin in 2026 and be complete by 2029. Check the website for more information:

<https://www.keepitpurebigcottonwood.com/>



## **SILVER LAKE BOARDWALK TO BE REPLACED**

The Silver Lake Boardwalk is the most visited site on the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest. Summer weekend visitation regularly exceeds 10,000. This new boardwalk project will begin with removal of the existing boardwalk and foundation. Then new pier foundations, boardwalk, railings

and benches will be installed. Interpretive signs and kiosks will be updated and restored. And there will be a new aggregate path through the picnic area. Construction is planned for the summer of 2022 and then reopened to the public in 2023.

## More than just Internet: robust digital infrastructure includes. . .



Broadband Infrastructure / Internet



Device Access



Digital Literacy and Skills



Accessible Digital Content



Technical Support

In 2021, the MSD received a \$50,000 to complete a digital infrastructure study. The Scope of Work for the project can be [found here](#). All Salt Lake County residents are encouraged to participate in a [10-minute survey](#) designed to help the project team understand resident digital connectivity needs. Questions in the survey ask about broadband infrastructure, device access, digital literacy, and technical support. For questions contact Kayla Mauldin ([KMauldin@msd.utah.gov](mailto:KMauldin@msd.utah.gov)).



### BRIGHTON RECYCLING SPOTLIGHT

The largest contaminant in the District is plastic packaging. Items such as bubble wrap, Styrofoam, padded envelopes and plastic wrap are not recyclable in our curbside bins. Remember, if it is plastic and you can ball it up in your fist, it is trash! Please help us by keeping plastic wrapping and styrofoam out of the recycle dumpsters.

## 2022 DRIVER OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Chuck Orencole on winning the National Waste & Recycling Association's 2022 Driver of the Year award for the Public Sector. The award is presented to the driver that exemplifies safe and responsible operations, has outstanding performance records and whose contributions have enhanced the overall safety and image of the solid waste industry.

Chuck has been an operator with Wasatch Front Waste & Recycling District since July 2011. The District has been competing in this national competition since 2011, and since that time, we have had six driver of the year award winners and four runner up winners, with Chuck being the sixth. We are so proud of Chuck!



### **MIGHTY ASPEN TREES** **The Aspen Forests of Big Cottonwood Canyon**

The Aspen Forests of Big Cottonwood have become famous for bright colors of autumn, beautiful white bark of winter, and refreshing shade of summer. But there is more to the story of our mighty aspens.

Aspen forests do not burn easily. Aspen trees have moist green leaves and thick twigs that do not burn readily, unlike conifers with dry needles and twigs. Crown fires running through coniferous forest drop to the ground when they come to an aspen stand and may even extinguish after burning into the aspen only a few yards. Although aspen forests do not burn readily, aspen trees are very sensitive to fire. A fire intense enough to kill the aspen overstory will stimulate growth. As many as 50,000 to 100,000 suckers can sprout and grow on a single acre after a fire.

Aspens grow all the time...even in winter. Beneath the white outer bark layer is a thin green photosynthetic layer that allows the tree to create sugars and grow when other deciduous trees would be dormant. Aspens need lots of sunshine, and can live for 150-200 years. Aspen leaves shed annually and decompose rapidly to be easily recycled in the ecosystem. They allow more ground water recharge than do conifer forests and play a significant role in protecting against erosion

Aspens are used for making pallets and shipping crates (because of their light weight), and playgrounds (because it doesn't splinter easily).

Aspens are dioecious, meaning that there are both male and female trees. The flowers grow as catkins in March and April with only female or male flowers on each tree. The male flowers are brown catkins that turn yellow with pollen. The female catkins are green and produce the white fluffy seeds that carpet the forest floor in May. Few aspen seedlings actually survive in nature. Root sprouts are the most effective way for them to reproduce.

The largest and oldest known aspen group is the "Pando" clone on the Fishlake National Forest in Utah. Also known as the "Trembling Giant", it is a colony of clones of an individual male quaking aspen determined to be a single living organism by identical genetic markers and believed to have one massive underground root system. It is 106 acres in size and weighs more than 14 million pounds. That's more than 40 times the weight of the largest animal, a blue whale. Its age is estimated to be 80,000 years old.

The Greek word for aspen is "aspis" which means shield. It was believed aspens have magical protective features and inspire bravery. (The white powder on the outer bark makes a protective emergency sunscreen.) Indeed, the aspen forests provide protection for our community in many ways.

It's no wonder that the State Tree of Utah is the Aspen!



Springtime Aspen catkins in Big Cottonwood Canyon



# UPCOMING DATES AND UPDATES

## MEETINGS

### Brighton Town Council.

May 10 ▪ 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the Month 6:30 pm [Meetings | Brighton Utah](#)  
OR [www.utah.gov/pmn](http://www.utah.gov/pmn) (You can subscribe to this website to receive automatic notifications.)

### Brighton General Plan Steering Committee.

May 18 ▪ 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the Month - 6:00 pm [Meetings | Brighton Utah](#)

### Brighton Planning Commission.

May 18 ▪ 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the Month -7:00 pm [Meetings | Brighton Utah](#)

### Brighton Institute

May 9 ▪ 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the Month - 6 pm-Zoom-<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86508034065>  
Meeting ID: 865 0803 4065 Phone: +1 669 900 9128

### BCCA Community Council

May 9 ▪ 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the Month - 7:00 pm <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86508034065>  
Meeting ID: 865 0803 4065 Phone: +1 669 900 9128

## EVENTS

May 11 ▪ Locals Night – Silver Fork Lodge - 6pm-Appetizers- 7pm-Dinner - \$20 for dinner.

May 13 ▪ Wasatch Mountain Club Centennial Birthday Bash. 6:30 pm. Natural History Museum of Utah.  
Everyone is welcome, no Club membership required. Vintage exhibits, food, music. Cost \$20.  
Reserve at <https://www.wasatchmountainclub.org/centennial-birthday-bash>

May 14 ▪ Vigor Big Cottonwood Canyon Half Marathon. 7 am. Begins at Solitude. Rolling lane closures.

May 19-20-21 ▪ Beaver Dam Analog Project ▪ 9am ▪ Meet at Willow Heights Trailhead on Hwy 190  
More info: Text Lise Brunhart ▪ 801-573-2166 if you wish to sign up or have questions.

May 22 ▪ Concert with Maya Elise and the Good Dream. Wasatch Mountain Lodge. 6 pm. Suggested donation \$20. Reserve tickets here:  
<https://engelmannmountainschool.org/maya-elise-and-the-good-dream/>

## SUMMER CAMPS

**Engelmann Mountain School Summer Day Program.** Eight Separate weeks for kids aged 4-7 years.

June 6-10 Water Week

June 13-17 Everything Small

June 20-24 Bird Week!

June 27-July1 Spanish Language in Nature

July 5-8 (Short week for Independence Day) Forest Fun

July 11-15 Nature's Artists

July 18-22 Native Americans

July 25-29 Tree Week featuring an afternoon with TreeUtah

\$275/week. Mon-Thurs 8:30-3 and Friday 8:30-12:30

Website: <https://engelmannmountainschool.org/>

**Brighton Mountain Adventure Camp.** Six separate weeks for kids aged 6-15 years, 9am – 4pm. Focus on fun and educational experiences like hiking, fishing, crafts, yoga, geology, wildflowers, trees, birds, mountain animals. \$350/week. Website: <http://brightonresort.com/summer-camps>

**Camp Tuttle.** Overnight Camping in historic lodges. Ropes course, hiking, crafts, rock climbing, fishing, yoga, frisbee golf, mountain biking, sing-alongs around the campfire.

June 24-26 & Aug 5-7- Family Camps

June 27-29 Camp for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Graders

July 10-15 Camp for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Graders

July 17-22 Camp for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders

July 28-31 Camp for High School Students

Website: <http://episcopalyouth.org>