

Butler Fork Basks in Blue

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO - STAY ON TOP

The Cottonwoods have had a few “carry and bury” avalanches already this season, including one in Butler Fork (the victim was rescued quickly by well-prepared buddies). Please **KNOW BEFORE YOU GO**. Check out the Utah Avalanche Center’s daily avalanche risk updates. [Forecast - Utah Avalanche Center](#)



NEW INTERACTIVE PARKING MAP

The Town of Brighton manages the roadside parking in the upper canyon with help from Interstate Parking. There are 240 reservation spaces in the inventory, but weekend highs are usually 150-175 spaces reserved. Weekday reservations average 45-60 spaces. The inventory has never sold out to date. The cost to reserve a space is \$10 ([Parking – Town of Brighton](#)). The cost to reserve a space at Solitude Resort is \$35 ([Parking at Solitude](#)), and the cost at Brighton Resort is \$25 ([Parking at Brighton](#)). The intent of all three entities is to eliminate roadside parking in the future because it is so dangerous. [View the New Brighton Interactive Parking Map here](#).



COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS GRAVEL PIT PLANS

The City of Cottonwood Heights is planning what to do with the now-closed northern section of the gravel pit at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon, 6995 S. Wasatch Blvd. The southern section was purchased by UDOT to create a mobility hub that will include a 1500 car parking structure and a welcome center for the Cottonwood Canyons.

The northern portion is a 21.56 acre parcel that is being developed by Rockworth Companies, known as Wasatch Rock Planned Redevelopment Zone. Building plans in chronological order are:

- One 7-story Apartment Building of 300 units. Construction is planned to begin in 2025.
- Four Single-story Retail Buildings
- Two Mixed-Use Commercial Buildings of 3 stories each
- One 5-Story Hotel with 140 rooms
- One Condominium Building of 10-14 stories (TBD) with 75-110 units, plus 3 levels of parking

Currently there is no official coordination with the UDOT property to the south. UDOT has not released plans, pending the final decision on the Big Cottonwood Canyon Environmental Study in the Winter of 2025. [Big Cottonwood Canyon Environmental Study Website](#)

Redevelopment Plans for the southern section also include public trails, bicycle paths, and a public plaza of almost 40,000 sq. ft. About 10% of the apartments and condos will be affordable housing. Stay tuned for updates and public comment opportunities. Cottonwood Heights is willing to listen. Let's also hope for a well-designed Firewise landscape plan. [Wasatch Rock Redevelopment Proposal - 6695 S. Wasatch Blvd.](#)



CWC SHORT-TERM PROJECTS - CALL FOR IDEAS

The Central Wasatch Commission has launched its annual Call for Ideas Project. The Call will be open until February 9th, 2025, and funding for the selected projects will begin in May. The purpose of this Call for Ideas is to explore short-term project ideas in the Central Wasatch that are largely “shovel-ready”. The project should:

- Address one or more of the areas of focus for the Central Wasatch Commission: canyon transportation/transit, environmental protection, recreational stewardship, or economic sustainability.
- If the project is on Forest Service land, it should not require NEPA analysis or be a project for which NEPA is already completed.
- Be implemented within 12 months of contract.
- Not request more than \$20,000 total from the Central Wasatch Commission. Projects with dedicated funds from the applying entity, or community partners will be given increased weighting during the review process.
- Be proposed by a non-profit organization, a community group, or Utah residents.
- This Call for Ideas is not a commitment to contract.
- Selected applicants will be invited to submit a full project proposal including a project budget, timeline, and record of decision if NEPA was required for the project and has already been completed to the Central Wasatch Commission for consideration to fund.

For information about how to Submit Your Idea click [here](#).



KEEP RECYCLING CLEAN How WFWRD Measures Contamination

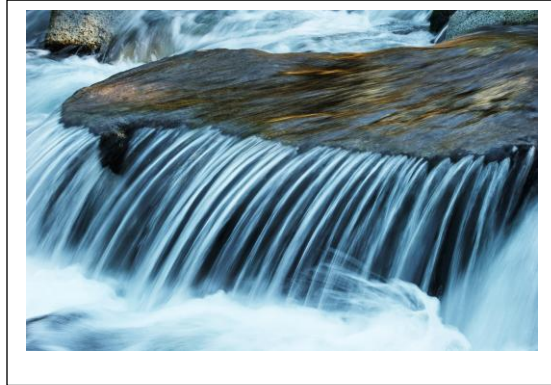
Each month “Sample Sorts” are taken to assess recycling rates in Brighton. The samples are divided into two categories:

- *Non-Accepted Items*: these include clamshell packaging and anything that isn’t a can, bottle, jug, or tub. Remember to keep plastic bags out of recycling. They can be taken to Smith’s, Harmon’s, or Walmart for free recycling.
- *Accepted Recyclables*: cardboard, paper, metal cans, plastic bottles, jugs, and tubs

Then they weigh each category and calculate the contamination rate. Recyclables are sold to be processed into new products and while contaminants are sent to the landfill.

Reducing contamination lowers disposal fees and minimizes environmental impact by reducing transportation trips. Review the list of accepted items to avoid contamination and ensure more materials are recycled. Let’s work together to keep contamination low!

Check the WFWRD website and follow them on social media to find out how you can help divert waste and recycle clean: [Recycling 101 | Wasatch Front Waste & Recycling District](#)



SALT LAKE CITY WATERSHED RANGER

Salt Lake City Public Utilities is hiring a Watershed Ranger. The job description is at the link below. This is primarily a field-based position with a wide range of duties in the Central Wasatch Canyons. Please share with your networks: [Link to job listing here.](#)

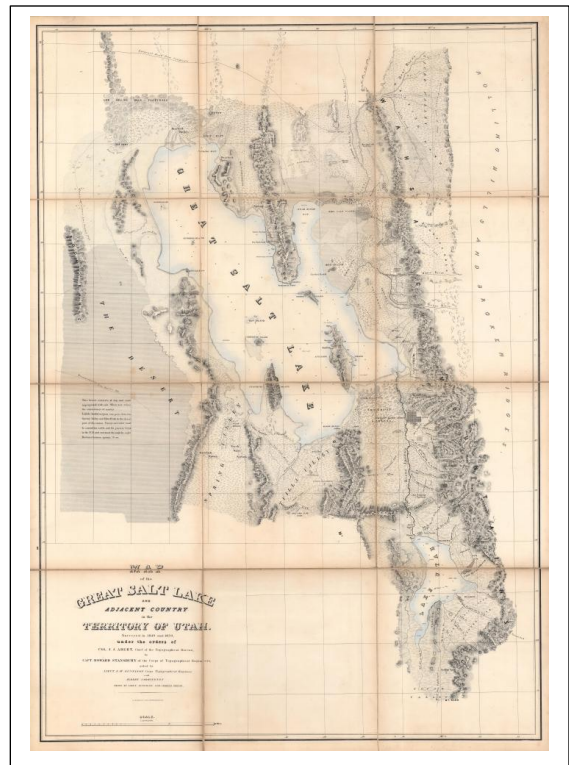
DID YOU KNOW?

The Shoshone names for the creeks that flow into the Great Salt Lake are:

We-en-de-quint	Big Cottonwood Creek
Wa-ko-ne-kin	Little Cottonwood Creek
Ombit-a-pah	Mill Creek
Na-po-pa	City Creek

These names on the Stansbury Map of 1852 show the tributaries of the Great Salt Lake. Howard Stansbury (1806-1863) was a major in the US Army Corp of Engineers. One of his most famous achievements was leading a two-year expedition (1849–1851) to survey the [Great Salt Lake](#) and its surroundings.

Here's a link that can be enlarged: [Map of the Great Salt Lake and Adjacent Country in the Territory of Utah.: Geographicus Rare Antique Maps](#)





UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 31 Brighton's 88th Anniversary Celebration ▪ 4-9 pm ▪ Laser Light Show ▪ 6:30 Live Music and free S'mores
- February 6 Cottonwood Canyons Tour with a Ranger ▪ 1-1:45 pm ▪ Learn about ecology and geology around Solitude ▪ Meet at top of Moonbeam Lift ▪ Free, but lift ticket required ▪ Future Tours scheduled for Feb 13, Feb 20, Feb 27, Mar 6, Mar 13, Mar 20
- February 6 25 Years of Watershed Protection ▪ Cottonwood Canyons Foundation Director Joanna Wheelton will present the history of environmental pioneers, indigenous people, and immigrants to Salt Lake ▪ 6 pm ▪ Last Chance Lodge at Solitude ▪ Free, but sign-up required: [CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP](#)
- February 6 February Sweets & Treats with Liz Struthwolf ▪ This popular culinary lecture is an annual favorite of the University of Utah Continuing Education Department. The class includes a lecture about local hand-crafted healthy foods and a tasting experience. At press time, this event has sold out. Watch for a similar event later in the year.
- Feb 7 & 8 Solitude Geology Tour ▪ Noon-1:30 pm ▪ Learn about rock formations around Solitude ▪ Meet at base of Apex Lift ▪ Free, but lift ticket required ▪ Future Tours scheduled for Feb 14, Feb 15, Feb 21, Feb 22, Feb 28, Mar 1
- February 8 Solitude Nordic Nights ▪ Meet at Nordic Center on the Brighton Loop ▪ Cost \$13 – Rental equipment available for \$17 ▪ Smores & Hot Chocolate ▪ Registration: [Solitude NORDIC ACTIVITIES](#) Future Nordic Nights are scheduled for February 22, March 8, March 22.
- February 8 Solitude Chocolate Lovers Festival ▪ Chocolate Stations all around Solitude Resort ▪ 8 am-2 pm ▪ Free, but lift ticket required.
- February 15 Solitude's Torchlight Parade & Fireworks Show ▪ Alphorn Concert (3 pm Village Square) ▪ Magic Show & Lasagna Dinner (4:15 pm Last Chance Lodge) ▪ Avalanche Dog Demo (4:40 pm outside Last Chance) ▪ Torchlight Parade & Fireworks start at 6:45

- February 19 Brighton Ski with an Arborist ▪ Join a Tree Tour to explore native species, habitats, and conservation efforts ▪ 11 am- 12:30 pm ▪ Meet at bottom of Snake Creek Lift ▪ Free, but lift ticket required.
- February 21 Ski Waxing Clinic ▪ Join Nordic ski enthusiasts for a demonstration of the latest waxing techniques ▪ 3:30 pm ▪ Solitude Nordic Center at the Brighton Loop ▪ Free ▪ No sign-ups needed ▪ Participants do not bring equipment-only passion, pencil and paper.
- March 2 Stargazing Party at Brighton ▪ Join NASA Solar System Ambassador, Jason Trump for a brief lecture about the night sky, then take a free trip on the Milly lift to the top for a closer look at the constellations. ▪ Meet at Milly Chalet for hot chocolate and cookies ▪ 6:30-8:30 pm ▪ Registration required: [Register HERE!](#)
- March 25 Cottonwood Canyons Camp ▪ Utah Amphibian & Reptile Review with wildlife biologist Chris Frauenhofer ▪ 6-8 pm ▪ Millcreek Library (2266 E. Evergreen Avenue).



MEETINGS AROUND TOWN

Brighton Town Council

Second Tuesday of each 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

Second Monday of each 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

Second Monday of each month – 7 pm. Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86508034065>

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

Big Cottonwood Historical Society Meeting

Third Wednesday of each month 10:00 am – Fire Station #108

Brighton Planning Commission Meeting

Third Wednesday of each month – 6:00 pm [Meetings | Brighton Utah](#)

RESOURCES

Big Cottonwood Historical Society

Check out stories about Big Cottonwood: [Historical Society-Brighton Institute](#) If you have pictures, stories, or documents, let us know! Join in the adventure to discover and share canyon history!

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting

Monday of each week ▪ 5:30-6:30 pm ▪ Honeycomb Room, lowest level of the Inn at Solitude. ▪ Free parking at the Solitude Village upper entry ▪ In-person only ▪ This Open Meeting is available to anyone interested in the Alcoholics Anonymous program of recovery from alcoholism ▪ Non-alcoholics may attend Open Meetings as observers.

Environmental Dashboard

The Central Wasatch Commission's Environmental Dashboard has some great information about our canyon. Access the Environmental Dashboard at this link: [CWC Environmental Dashboard \(utah.gov\)](#)

