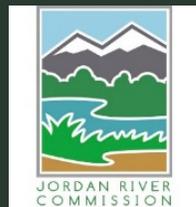


Wasatch Front Urban Ranger Program

Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism

College of Health, University of Utah

Nate Furman, Nick Rushford, Jeff Rose, Brandon Stocksdale



Program Description

The Wasatch Front Urban Ranger Program is a volunteer trail ambassador program coordinated by the University of Utah that operates on the Bonneville Shoreline Trail and Jordan River Parkway.



Program Personnel

In 2017-18, thirteen Urban Rangers serve the program.

For each patrol, the Urban Rangers recruit an additional peer to patrol with them.

Dr. Nate Furman and Dr. Jeff Rose co-direct the Urban Ranger Program in the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Department.

Nick Rushford, our graduate student coordinator, provides week-to-week supervision and program development.



WFURP Operations

The Wasatch Front Urban Ranger Program focuses on three key components:

Light Maintenance:

Picking up trash and dog waste, removing invasive weeds and species.

Data Collection:

Marking significant maintenance needs, recording graffiti, recording trash associated with homeless encampments, recording meaningful public interactions.

Outreach and Engagement:

Student volunteers, participating with partner sponsored school events.



Benefits

There are five primary beneficiaries of the program.

1. The Urban Rangers: who develop a strong depth of knowledge about the Salt Lake Valley and the issues within the community.
2. Patrol volunteers: who develop an understanding and appreciation of the same content over the duration of a patrol.
3. The public: who engage with Urban Rangers during patrols.
4. The natural features of the JRT and BST: that become less blemished by waste and human impact
5. Special event participants: who get to engage with trained, enthusiastic, and engaged ambassadors.

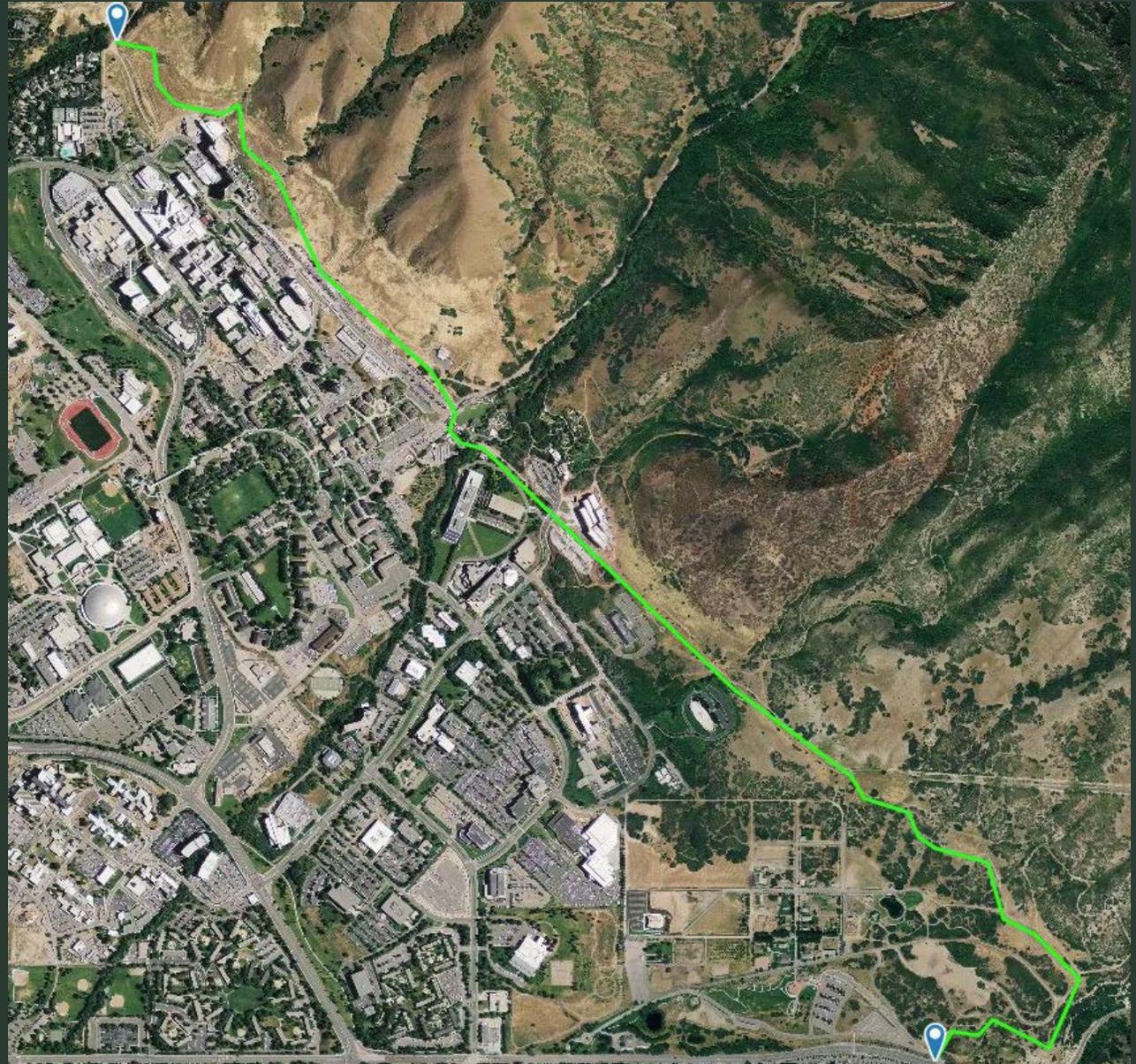


Bonneville Shoreline Trail

The boundaries of our patrols on the BST range from Dry Creek at the north end to Hogle Zoo on Sunnyside Drive. The trail skirts around four major attractions: University of Utah,

This Is The Place Heritage Park, the Natural History Museum of Utah (NHMU), and Red Butte Garden & Arboretum.

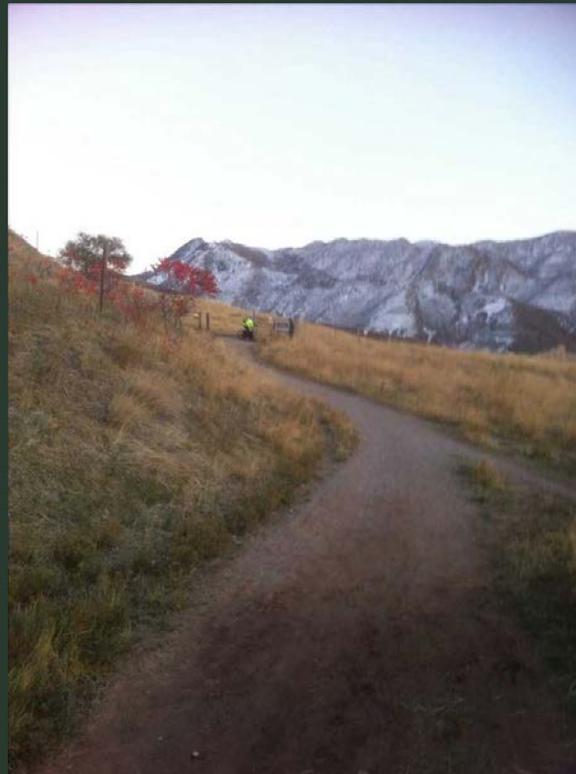
This trail is co-managed by the USFS, the University of Utah, Salt Lake Parks and Public Lands, and Salt Lake City Watershed.



Bonneville Shoreline Trail

This 3 mile trail segment offers fantastic vistas over the valley, including the University of Utah campus, the Great Salt Lake, and surrounding mountain ranges.

This section of trail is heavily used by locals and tourists, receiving hundreds of hikers, trail runners, mountain bikers, and dog walkers each day



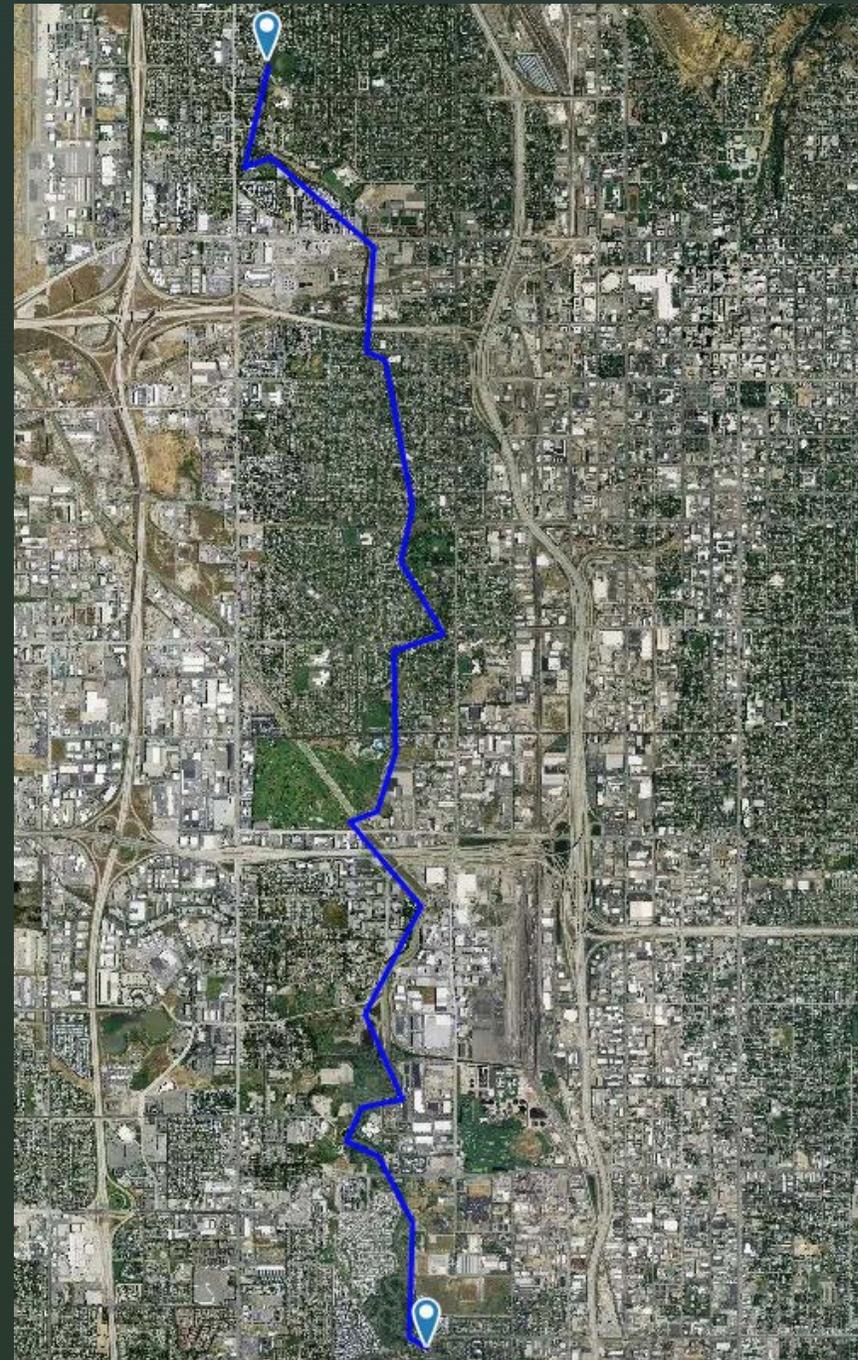
[BST Video](#)

Jordan River Parkway

The patrol area of the Jordan River Parkway Trail (JRP) is from Riverside Park to the north (700 North) and General Holm Park to the south (3900 South).

The 3,830-square-mile Jordan River Basin receives its waters from Utah Lake and the many canyon creeks of the Wasatch Front. The Jordan River drains into the Great Salt Lake, one of the world's most important bird migratory areas.

This 7-mile section traverses three municipalities: Salt Lake City, West Valley City, and South Salt Lake. This parkway trail is managed by each city municipality through the Jordan River Commission.



Jordan River Parkway

The JRP is frequented by walkers, recreational and utility cyclists, and wildlife viewers (mainly birders). Paddlers are also increasingly using the River Trail.

Given its proximity to the major urban centers of Salt Lake Valley, the JRP experiences large volumes of people, both users of the trail and adjacent parks and also people facing homelessness. For these reasons our Rangers experience a higher volume of trash on the JRP



[JRP Video](#)

WFURP Partners

Key partnerships have allowed the WFURP to operate for the past four years.

Federal:

National Park Service, RTCA

Bureau of Land Management

United States Forest Service

State:

Jordan River Commission

Salt Lake City Parks and Public Lands

Salt Lake City Watershed

Utah Department of Natural Resources



Outreach and Engagement

In addition to patrols, the Urban Rangers participate in special events with public land management agencies and local elementary schools. Examples of special events have included:

- Trail maintenance clinics and workshops
- Environmental interpretation for school children
- National Trails Day projects
- Weed eradication events
- Boy scout/Girl scout programming
- Fire Safety and Awareness workshops



WFURP Sponsors

Sponsors provide the WFURP with operational equipment and resources to allow Rangers to patrol effectively.



Fall 2017 Measured Impacts

Total Patrols: 45

Urban Ranger hours: 146

Additional volunteer hours: 217

Total Miles Patrolled: 131

Bags of Dog Waste Collected: 84

Pounds of Trash Removed: 949
(550 pounds in one patrol!)

Trail Maintenance Issues Flagged: 71

Graffiti Reported: 46

Meaningful Public Interactions: 51

Public Outreach Events: 4



Program Challenges

Planning and scheduling with college student schedules.

- Fall training
- Ranger meetings
- Weekly patrols
- Special events

Integrating the Urban Ranger program into academics.

- Receiving credit
- Class meeting time
- Online learning

Long range planning for program operations

- Securing long term funding
- Opportunity and concerns about expansion
- Personnel turn over and faculty sustainability



Looking to the future...

Academic integration?

Positioning the work Urban Ranger do into new curriculum

Program expansion?

Expanding the Urban Ranger trail stewardship model to other locations.



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