SITES CASE STUDY

GLENDALE REGIONAL PARK PHASE 1

Prepared by

DESIGNWORKSHOP

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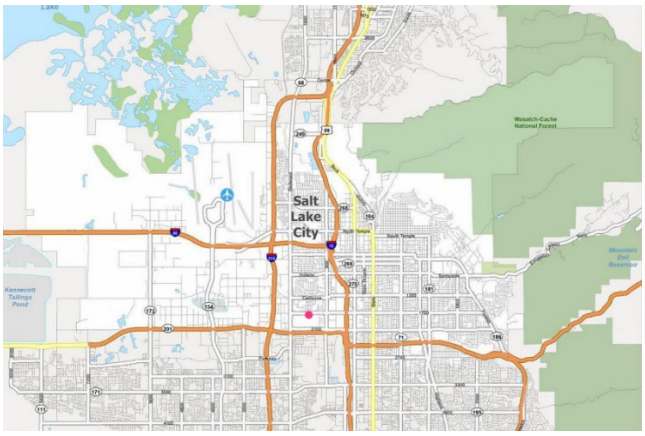
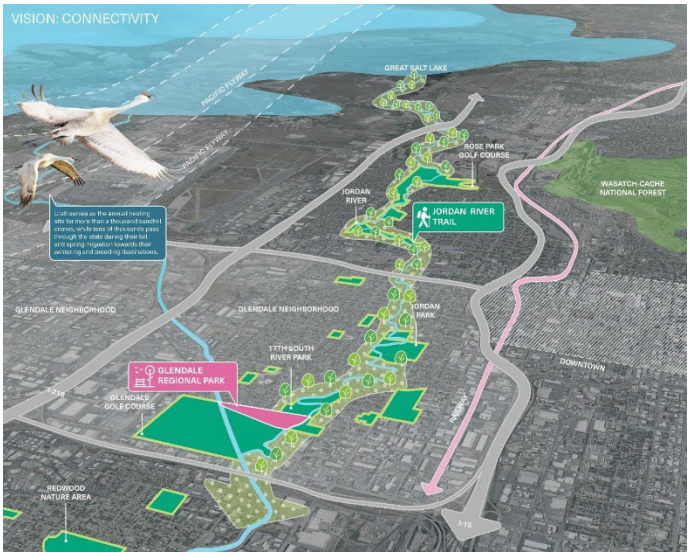
Glendale Regional Park Phase 1
Salt Lake City, Utah



Project Information and Context:

Location: 1200 W 1700 S, Salt Lake City, UT 84104
Size: 9 acres
Climate: Semi-arid, four-season
Project Type: Regional public park
Former Land Use: Waterpark that was famous for having the first wave pool in the state, water slides, and picnic areas. The waterpark closed in 2018 due to competition, broken equipment, and vandalism.
Terrestrial biome: Great Basin sagebrush biome



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Project summary

Glendale Regional Park Phase 1 is pursuing SITES certification to demonstrate Salt Lake City's commitment to project sustainability. Phase 1 implements early goals that were established during the Gold SITES-certified master planning phase for sustainable park development that provides social, economic, and environmental benefits. The park is in an underserved neighborhood in west Salt Lake City, on a former abandoned waterpark.

Building on these goals, the park is envisioned as a resilient, community-centered landscape along the Jordan River corridor. The design team worked with community stakeholders to translate the adopted 2023 Vision Plan into a site-specific framework that restores natural systems, supports public health, and provides inclusive outdoor experiences.
Phase 1 establishes foundational landscape systems to support long-term regeneration and future park phases. Key strategies include integrated on-site stormwater management, expanded tree canopy and climate-adapted planting to reduce irrigation demand and urban heat, and soil restoration to strengthen ecological performance. Layered habitat planting, pollinator-supportive species, and nature-based play reinforce connections to the nearby Jordan River.

Community amenities, including an all-abilities playground, multi-use courts, looped pathways, shade structures, and flexible gathering spaces, are strategically sited to balance recreation with environmental performance, enhance comfort, and encourage daily use with durable, low-maintenance design solutions.

As one of Salt Lake City's first parks developed under a performance-based sustainability framework, Glendale Regional Park Phase 1 demonstrates how public open space can function as both civic and ecological infrastructure, aligning community priorities with measurable community, economic, and environmental outcomes.

Project team

Design Workshop – Landscape Architect, Design Lead, and Primary Consultant
Perigee Consulting - Structural Engineering, Civil Engineering
Hydrosystems – Irrigation
Siglo – Ecology and Soil Design
CCS - Cost Estimating
Colvin Engineering Associates - Electrical Engineering
Stanley Studio - Placemaking
StudioVerde - SITES Certification
Terracon – Geotech
David Evans and Associates – Public Engagement

GLENDALE REGIONAL PARK PHASE 1

SITES Project Achievements and Benefits

- 100% of project electricity will be provided by the Salt Lake City Elektron Solar Project
- The project installs Level 2 EV charging stations with dual-vehicle support per pedestal, delivering at least 7.2 kW while meeting safety, durability, and code compliance standards. It features user-friendly technology, real-time monitoring, accessible parking, and is designed for reliable performance with streamlined installation and long-term maintenance support.
- 84% reduction in water use for irrigation – achieved by collaborating with Hydrosystems.
- 0.8 inches of water (95th percentile precipitation event) is managed on-site via green stormwater infrastructure that supports vegetation and replenishes soil moisture.
- 100% of existing soil was amended and reused on site – achieved by collaborating with Siglo.
- A total of 100 existing trees were preserved, accounting for 1,476 caliper inches, to maintain established canopy structure, provide immediate wildlife habitat, and mitigate urban heat island impacts through shading and evapotranspiration. To improve overall ecological function and species composition, 63 non-native and invasive trees totaling 105 caliper inches were removed. The project increased long-term canopy cover and urban forest resilience through the installation of 161 new trees, supporting enhanced ecosystem services and future site performance.

- 100% native plant and adaptive plant palette to reduce water, maintenance and restore biodiversity.
- Invasive plants were controlled on the entire site, with ongoing management during park operations.
- Structures and vegetation were designed to reduce the risk of wildfires.
- 100% of vegetation trimmings will be composted by Salt Lake City at a nearby facility.
- Multiple features were provided to support community physical activity, including an all-abilities playground, sport court facility, trails and bike racks.
- Over 21,000 tons of construction waste was diverted from disposal in a landfill.
- Test plots are being implemented to pilot different planting types and evaluate performance across varying sun exposures.

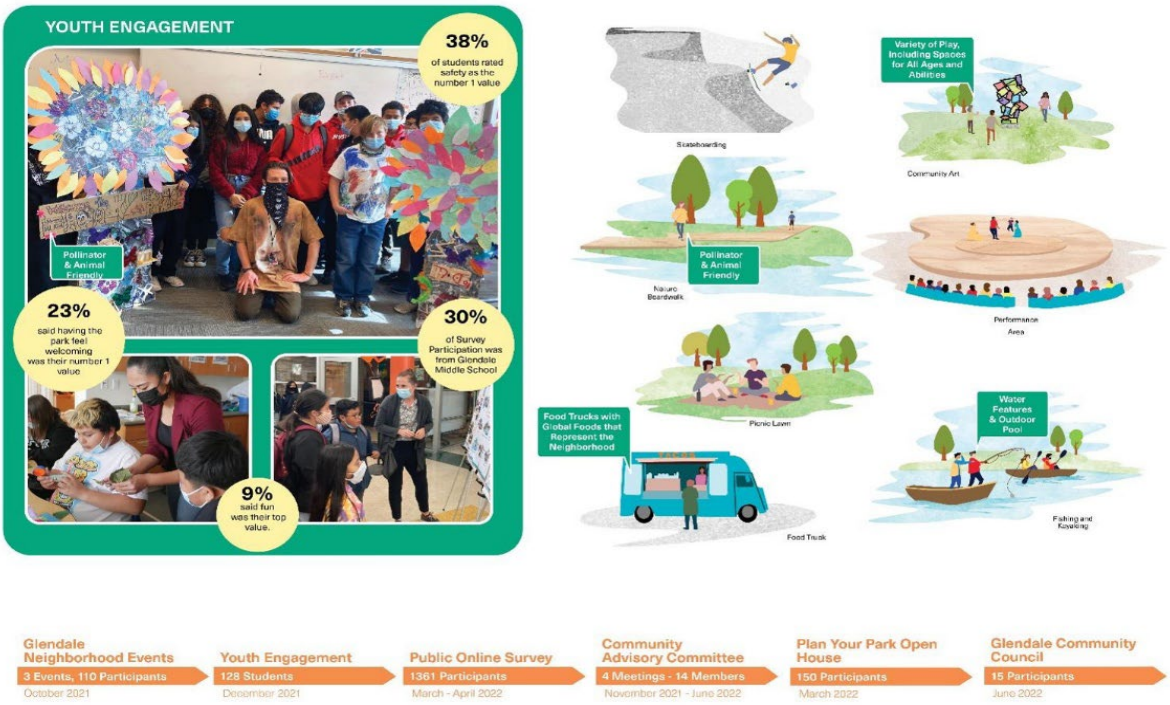
Challenges and solutions

Community Needs and Equity

- **Challenge:**
  The project site is in an underserved westside neighborhood with limited access to high-quality open space, where residents sought safe, accessible, and flexible environments to support community gathering, recreation, and daily use.

    - **Solution:**
      Phase 1 delivers community-informed, inclusive amenities—such as an all-abilities playground, plaza, pavilion, open lawns, and looped pathways—designed to be flexible, accessible, and welcoming for users of all ages and abilities, reinforcing equity and long-term neighborhood value. The new park is directly adjacent to an existing small Glendale Neighborhood Park, and the new improvements mesh seamlessly with the existing neighborhood park, to offer even more amenities for the residents of Salt Lake City.

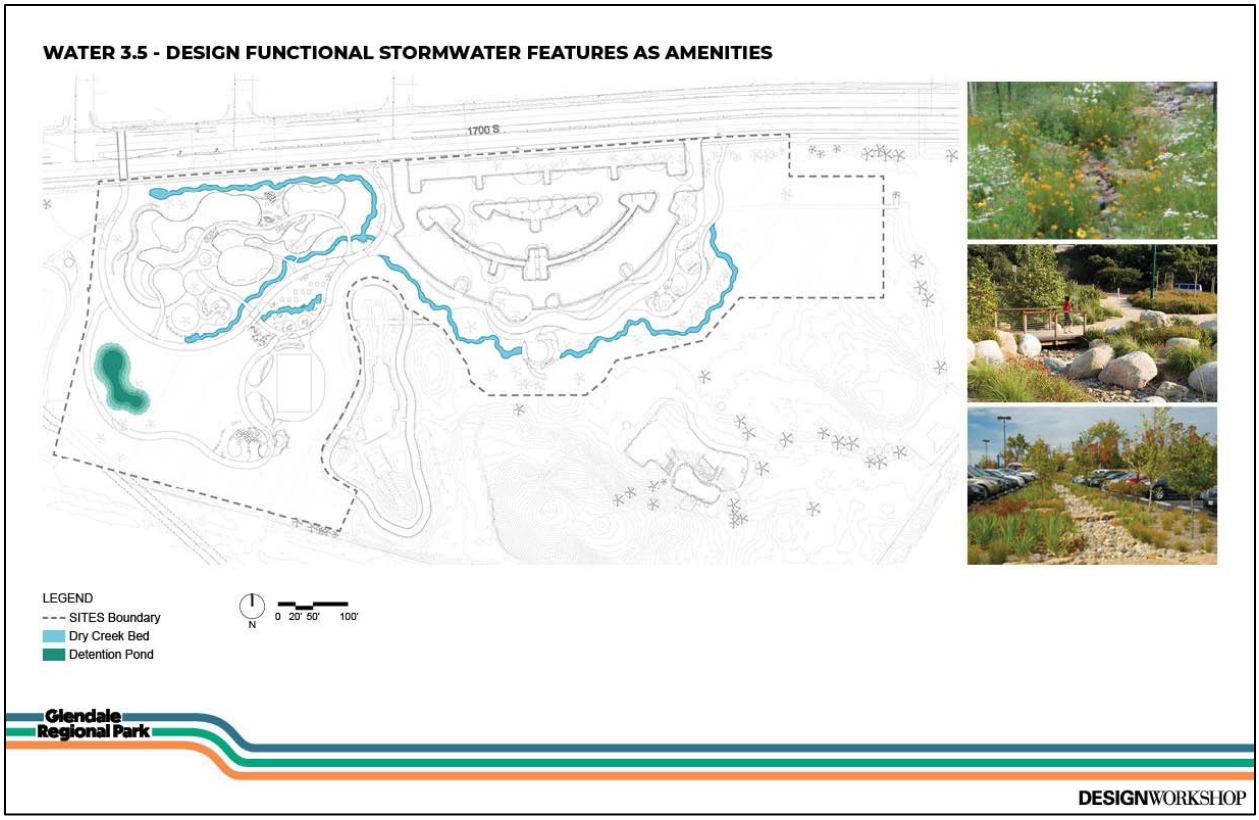
ENGAGING COMMUNITY



Environmental Conditions and Climate Resilience

- **Challenge:**
  The site faces increasing drought, water restrictions, and poor air quality within a semi-arid climate, making ecological restoration with minimal resources to demand a key challenge. In addition, the park's location along the Jordan River corridor—upstream of the Great Salt Lake—heightens the importance of managing stormwater quality and quantity to reduce pollutant loading and support healthier downstream hydrologic systems.

    - **Solution:**
      Climate-resilient strategies—including on-site stormwater management, drought-tolerant plant communities, expanded tree canopy, soil restoration, and invasive species management—reduce irrigation demand, improve air quality, and strengthen long-term ecological performance. Test plots are being implemented to pilot different planting types and evaluate performance across varying sun exposures.



Hydrology and Site Regeneration

- **Challenge:**
  Redevelopment of a degraded, largely impervious former water park required restoring natural hydrologic function while managing extreme storm events without reliance on municipal stormwater infrastructure. Given the site's location within the Jordan River corridor and upstream of the Great Salt Lake, managing both the quality and quantity of stormwater leaving the site was a critical consideration. The site is characterized by shallow groundwater, poorly graded sandy soils, and exposure to increasingly intense precipitation events, requiring a stormwater strategy that could effectively manage runoff on site while protecting downstream water quality and minimizing reliance on conventional infrastructure.

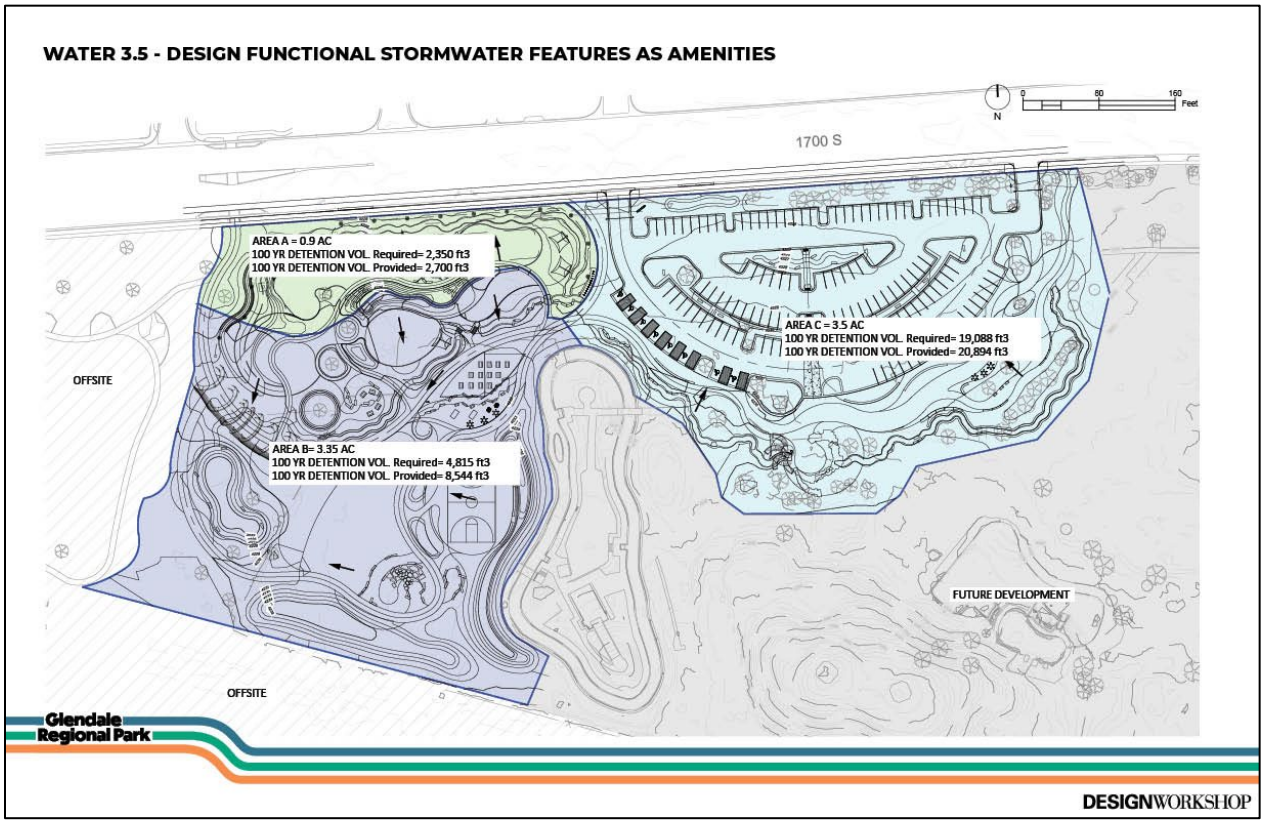
    - **Solution:**
      Phase 1 implements an **integrated, on-site stormwater management system** that includes bioswales, infiltration basins, retention areas, underground storage, and a newly created wetland feature. Together, these systems **slow, infiltrate, and treat stormwater runoff on site**, reducing discharge to downstream waterways and supporting improved water quality and more stable flow conditions to the **Jordan River and the greater Great Salt Lake watershed**.
    - Stormwater strategies were informed by **geotechnical investigations conducted during the rainy season**, confirming groundwater at an average depth of **7 feet** within poorly graded sand. Bioswales and basin systems

incorporate **subsurface gravel infiltration layers** extending to approximately **5–6 feet below grade**, where infiltration performance is optimized. Sediments infiltrate through the gravel layer, minimizing surface buildup and reducing maintenance needs. Overflow to the street system occurs only during **infrequent, high-intensity storm events**.

- In addition to managing extreme precipitation events, the on-site wetland and associated basin areas enhance ecological performance by **eliminating standing water**, supporting **wetland-adapted plant communities**, and providing habitat that contributes to long-term site regeneration. These hydrologic strategies establish a **resilient framework** that supports future park phases while reducing reliance on conventional stormwater infrastructure.

Performance Strategies

- Stormwater strategy: **On-site infiltration, retention, and treatment**
- System components: **Bioswales, infiltration basins, retention areas, underground storage, wetland**
- Average groundwater depth: **7 feet**
- Infiltration interface depth: **5–6 feet below grade**
- Overflow conditions: **Rare, high-storm events only**
- Maintenance approach: **City Public Works bioswale maintenance program**



- **Challenge:**
  Restoration of functional native ecosystems on a previously altered site while aligning with SITES criteria, managing complex soil and hydrologic conditions, minimizing waste and off-site transport, and ensuring successful implementation through construction. This required translating regional reference ecologies into an urban park setting, responding adaptively to unforeseen conditions such as a persistently wet stormwater basin, and delivering quantifiable outcomes—including 45,000 square feet of restored natural area, 95,000 square feet of predominantly native planting beds, and a 3,500 square foot native-planted stormwater basin—while expanding equitable access to high-quality green space for the surrounding community.

    - **Solution:**
      Implemented a science-based ecological restoration strategy that aligned design, soils, hydrology, and plant communities with SITES performance criteria. Conducted a comprehensive site assessment to inform context-sensitive design decisions and avoid adverse environmental impacts. Regional reference conditions—from the Jordan River corridor to the Salt Lake City foothills—guided the definition of plant community types and species selection, resulting in a planting strategy that maximized native and climate-adapted species.

    - A soil management strategy was developed to reduce waste and minimize off-site transport by stockpiling, amending, and reusing on-site soils in accordance with a detailed Soil Plan and Specifications. During construction, regular site visits, nursery inspections, soil testing, and Vegetation and Soil Protection Zone (VSPZ) monitoring ensured ecological requirements were implemented with fidelity.

    - When excavation of the stormwater basin revealed persistent groundwater conditions, the team adapted the planting design to incorporate native species suited to saturated soils, partnering with Salt Lake City's Natural Lands team to support installation and long-term stewardship.

    - These coordinated efforts restored 45,000 square feet of natural area, converted 95,000 square feet to predominantly native planting beds (75% native and adaptive species), and established a 3,500 square foot native-planted stormwater basin—reestablishing ecological function while expanding access to resilient, nature-based open space in an urban neighborhood.

        - **Planning/Design:** Siglo Group helped define plant community types for the park based on regional reference conditions. Low-lying, wetter areas were identified as similar to riparian habitats along the nearby Jordan River, while fill areas and slopes were aligned more closely with plant communities typical of the Salt Lake City foothills. Siglo Group collaborated with Design Workshop and Salt Lake City's natural lands team to select plant species appropriate to site conditions, climate, and design intent, with an emphasis on maximizing the use of native species.

To support soil and planting design, Siglo Group collected soil samples from reference sites across the Salt Lake Valley, including locations along the Jordan River and within the foothills. Siglo Group led development of the soil strategy for natural areas, recommending on-site stockpiling, amending stockpiled soils, and then installing the amended soil in appropriate locations. This approach supported SITES criteria by reducing waste and minimizing off-site transport.

- **Construction:** During construction, site visits were conducted every few weeks to verify that SITES ecology-related requirements were being implemented. This included confirming compliance with Vegetation and Soil Protection Zone (VSPZ) fencing. Siglo Group also completed nursery visits to review potted plant material for appropriate species selection and overall quality. During multiple site visits in summer and fall 2025, Siglo monitored plant conditions and installation practices.
  Additionally, it was focused on confirming that the soils that were amended to reflect reference soil composition were installed in accordance with the Soil Plan and Soil Specifications. This work included monitoring on-site soil stockpiling, amendments, soil testing, decompaction, and placement of 12 inches of topsoil during multiple site visits in summer and fall 2025.

  During construction, an unforeseen site condition was encountered when excavation of the stormwater basin reached the water table, indicating the basin will likely remain wet for much of the year. Siglo and the design team responded by revising the planting design to incorporate native species adapted to persistently saturated conditions. The Salt Lake City Natural Lands team was also engaged to provide appropriate native plant material and installation labor. Their participation supports long-term stewardship and ensures continued familiarity with the management and care of this restored natural area. These enhancements reestablish ecological function while expanding access to high-quality green space in a highly urbanized area. With limited natural areas nearby, the restored park now provides the community with an inviting place to connect with nature.


SOIL PLAN - P1.1, P 4.1, C4.4, P7.3, C7.4
EXISTING SOILS
F1 - Phase 1 play area plantings
F2 - Phase 1 play area plantings
F3 - Lazy river pervious area
R3 - Flat/ compacted
F4 - Fill parking lot
VSPZ areas documentation can be found in P2.3
Existing Soils: Because of different urban uses over time, soils on the site have been severely degraded. The existing soils map shows the current state of the soils for Phase 1 based on site observations and desktop analyses. The list to the right described each soil type and its implication to the design.
Soil samples: Soil samples have been conducted in order to understand the level of degradation and needs for rehabilitation within each existing soil type. Tests help to understand organic matter content, mineral content, and soil structure. Additional information that could be valuable includes a microbial analysis and fungal-to-bacterial ratio. Once soils have been stockpiled and imported, the contractor will need to test again and amend according to the Soil Mix types on the following page.
Existing Park & Turf area (F1): These soils have supported existing parkland and trees for years.
Phase 1 Design implications: The soils in this area have relatively high organic matter and adequate pH, salinity, cation exchange capacity (CEC), calcium, potassium, magnesium and sodium. Phosphorous levels in this area are low so an organic amendment such as bone meal or rock phosphate can be used to amend the soils.
Scrape down soils (F3 & R3): While the water park was present, this area was utilized as a wave pool. Currently, the concrete has been removed and the soil beneath is dominated by a gravelly fill material. As plants have not been present in the areas that were impervious for decades, these areas are also likely lacking in organic matter compared to what was present before development/degradation.
Phase 1 Design implications: Soil sample results will inform appropriate soil amendments in this area with the goal of increasing diversity of native plants.
West Parking soils (F2 & F4): This soil has been pushed from other areas on site and there currently appears to be at least 5 feet of fill on the western edge.
Phase 1 Design implications: The topsoil and associated organic matter are significantly degraded from being overturned when pushed here. Phosphorous is also low here while all the other tested chemistry is normal compared to the reference sites. Integrating compost and bone meal or rock phosphate can be used to improve the organic matter and phosphorous levels. These amendments should also be applied to areas within Phase 1 where this soil has been distributed to create berms.
Asphalt: These soils are still covered by asphalt and are likely very compacted.
Phase 1 Design implications: These soils are likely similar to the "Scrape down soils" and will need improvements with regard to soil compaction and organic matter in areas that will become planted once the asphalt is removed.
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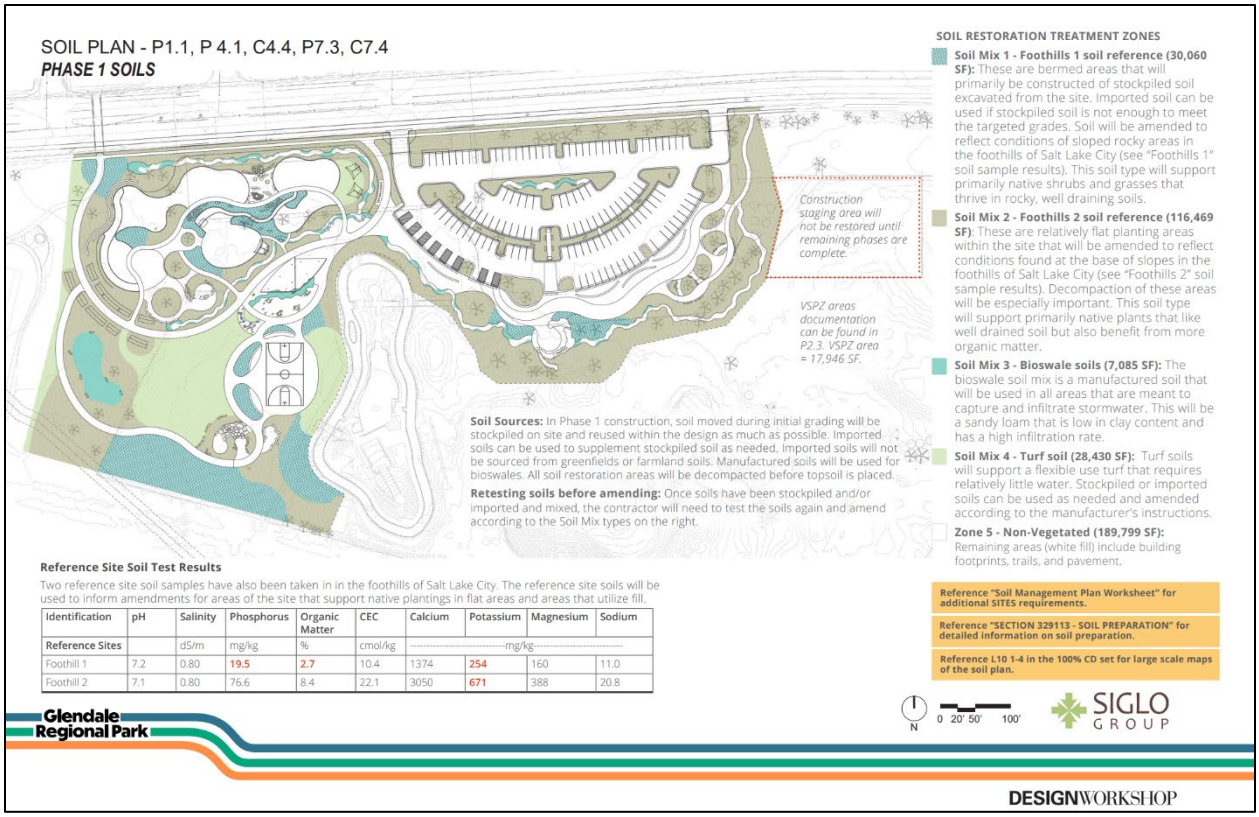
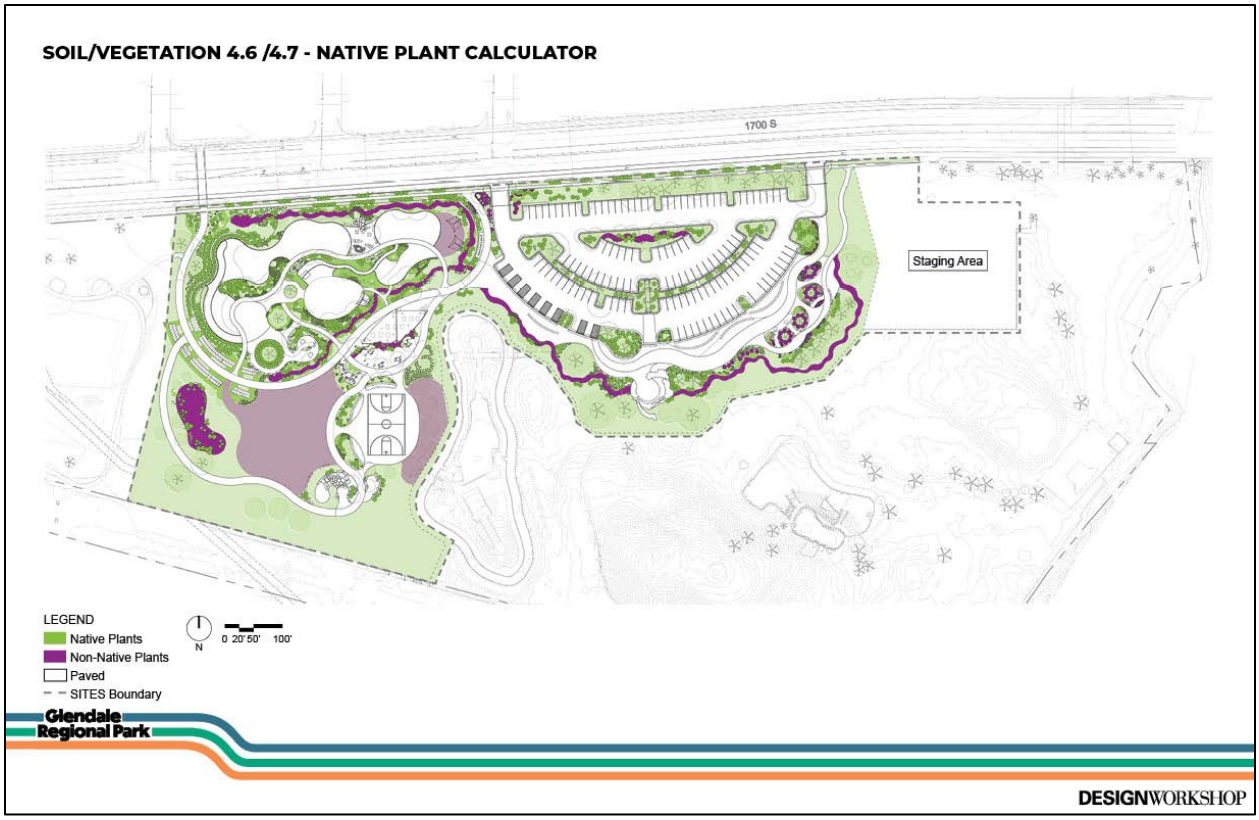
Glendale Regional Park
SIGLO GROUP



Ecological Connectivity

- **Challenge:**
  Historic disconnection from surrounding natural systems limited habitat continuity and community access to the Jordan River corridor.

    - **Solution:**
      Layered habitat planting, pollinator-supportive species, nature-based play, and trail connections strengthen ecological and recreational linkages, establishing Phase 1 as the first enhanced connection to the Jordan River Parkway.
        - The Glendale Regional Park is in a central part of Salt Lake City but is also centrally located along the riparian corridor of the Jordan River, which provides a key connection of riparian habitats for resident and migratory birds. The design increased areas of higher quality riparian habitat along the Jordan River with the creation of an enhanced multi-canopy layer structure. Robust riparian habitats consist of canopies that could have several layers of complexity including large trees, small trees and shrubs, grasses, and forbs [flowers]. This multi-layer structure is beneficial for creating a diverse ecosystem that will be more resilient to future changes in climate, ecosystem processes, and offer great enhancement for riparian functioning and flood capacity.



* Non-native plants shown in the diagram above are referred to as adaptive plants.

Economic and Implementation Constraints

- **Challenge:**
  Rising construction costs, limited funding, compressed schedules, and extended City review processes constrained project delivery.

    - **Solution:**
      Durable, low life-cycle-cost materials, scalable design strategies, and close coordination with City departments enabled timely approvals, efficient phasing, and long-term value within budget constraints.

Long-Term Stewardship and Risk Management

- **Challenge:**
  Ensuring long-term maintainability, minimizing operational risk, and reducing exposure to hazards such as wildfire were critical for a publicly owned park.
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    - **Solution:**
      Native hillside plantings, defensible space strategies, improved hydrology, and durable amenities establish a resilient landscape that reduces maintenance demands, enhances safety, and supports sustainable long-term stewardship.

- **Integrated Standards Manual**
  - Overall Maintenance Philosophy: The maintenance regime is structured around continuous monitoring, measurable condition standards, preventative upkeep, and prioritized corrective action. Rather than reacting only to complaints, it provides a systematic framework to maintain safety, appearance, operational efficiency, and long-term stewardship of the park system.
  - Ensuring long-term maintainability, minimizing operational risk, and reducing exposure to hazards were central priorities for a publicly owned park guided by the Salt Lake City Parks & Public Lands Division Appearance Standards Manual. The standards emphasize proactive monitoring, clear performance metrics, and regular condition surveys to support consistent upkeep, resource allocation, and public accountability. To advance resilient, low-risk park management, native hillside plantings and defensible space strategies reduce wildfire vulnerability and long-term irrigation demands. Improved site hydrology limits standing water, erosion, and turf damage, directly aligning with standards that call for proper drainage and safe, accessible hardscape and lawn areas. Durable, well-anchored amenities and infrastructure further reduce maintenance frequency, safety hazards, and lifecycle costs. Together, these strategies establish a resilient landscape framework that minimizes operational exposure, enhances user safety, reduces maintenance burdens, and supports sustainable long-term stewardship of public park assets.

Precision Lighting for Safety, Comfort, and Dark Sky Stewardship

- **Challenge:**
  Providing safe, comfortable nighttime use within a large public park while minimizing light pollution, energy use, and impacts on surrounding residential neighborhoods and adjacent streets. Conventional Park lighting strategies often rely on high output fixtures and tall poles that introduce excessive brightness, glare, and unintended spill light beyond site boundaries.

  - **Solution:**
    The lighting design for Pioneer Park adopted a performance-based strategy focused on precision, restraint, and optical control rather than blanket illumination.
    Pedestrian scale luminaires with low mounting heights were selected to keep light sources close to the ground, reducing required lumen output while improving visual comfort at walking level. All fixtures were specified with a warm color temperature to support a welcoming nighttime environment and limit harsh contrast.
    Full cut off luminaires were used throughout the park to eliminate upward light. Illumination was intentionally focused only on areas that require lighting - such as primary walkways, gathering spaces, sport courts, and the pavilion. Comprehensive lighting calculations were performed during design to ensure that illumination does not spill beyond the park into adjacent neighborhoods or streets.

Together, these strategies reduce energy use, minimize light trespass, support dark sky objectives, and demonstrate how carefully controlled pedestrian scale lighting can achieve safety, comfort, and visual quality while meeting SITES performance goals.

Sustainable features

- **Integrated Landscape Systems**
  - Sustainable strategies are designed as interconnected landscape systems rather than isolated elements, allowing Phase 1 to function as a high-performing foundation for future park development.

- **Water Efficiency and Stormwater Management**
  - Integrated on-site stormwater management using bioswales, infiltration basins, retention areas, and underground storage to manage runoff and restore natural hydrologic function.
  - Systems are designed to accommodate high-intensity storm events while replenishing soil moisture and supporting long-term vegetation health.
  - Use of drought-tolerant native and climate-adapted plant communities combined with efficient irrigation practices to significantly reduce potable water demand.
  - Created a 3,500 square foot stormwater basin planted with native species adapted to wet conditions.

- **Soil Restoration and Vegetation Health**
  - Comprehensive soil amendment and reuse strategies to restore structure, infiltration capacity, and biological activity.
  - Removal of invasive species and re-establishment of predominantly native and adaptive plant communities selected for ecological function, habitat value, and low water demand.
  - Expanded tree canopy and layered planting systems that enhance biodiversity, support pollinators, mitigate urban heat, and contribute to long-term carbon sequestration.
  - Siglo Group helped define plant community types for the park based on regional reference conditions. Low-lying, wetter areas were identified as similar to riparian habitats along the nearby Jordan River, while fill areas and slopes were aligned more closely with plant communities typical of the Salt Lake City foothills. Siglo Group collaborated with Design Workshop and Salt Lake City's natural lands team to select plant species appropriate to site conditions, climate, and design intent, with an emphasis on maximizing the use of native species.
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- **Heat Mitigation, Microclimate, and Risk Reduction**

- Strategic tree placement, planting density, and shade structures are informed by shade studies to improve thermal comfort in high-use areas.
- Fire-resilient planting strategies and defensible space principles applied around structures to reduce wildfire risk.
- Landscape design choices that support safer, more comfortable outdoor environments throughout the year.

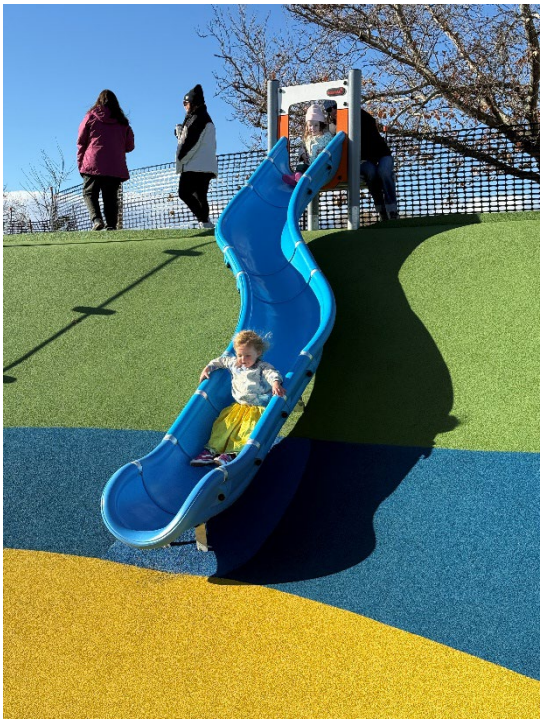
- **Human Health, Accessibility, and Social Sustainability**
  - Human health, accessibility, and social sustainability are advanced through universal design, distributed recreation programming, and project-specific placemaking strategies. Universal accessibility is integrated throughout the park via accessible trails, compliant site furnishings, and an all-abilities playground designed to support inclusive use across a wide range of ages and physical and cognitive abilities.
  - Core program elements—including trails, sport courts, open lawns, shaded gathering spaces, and a prominent placemaking feature—are intentionally distributed across the site to promote daily physical activity, social interaction, and equitable access. The spatial organization encourages movement between amenities while supporting both structured recreation and informal gathering.

Playground

Flight of the Crane, Play Feature
Photo Credit: Haley Wagoner

Flight of the Crane is a nature-based playground and interpretive water experience developed on the former Raging Waters/Seven Peaks Water Park site in Salt Lake City. The project reclaims a previously single-use recreational property and transforms it into an inclusive, ecologically grounded public space that supports physical activity, environmental literacy, and intergenerational gathering.

The design is structured around the regional watershed narrative—from the Wasatch Mountains to the Jordan River and ultimately the Great Salt Lake, a critical ecological resource within the Pacific Flyway. This framework establishes a direct connection between recreation, local ecology, and community identity, reinforcing sense of place while promoting awareness of regional environmental systems.

Promoting Physical Activity and Development
Photo Credit: Haley Wagoner

- The playground is organized as a sequential movement experience that encourages exploration, climbing, balancing, and imaginative play. A network of accessible paths connects diverse play elements including swings, zip lines, rope structures, slides, scramble slopes, and bouldering features integrated into sculpted berms.

Play Features Integrated into Sculpted Berms
Photo Credit: Haley Wagoner

- Topographic variation—including a seven-foot berm inspired by the Wasatch Mountains—supports cardiovascular activity, balance development, and risk-based play opportunities. Climbing elements, rope structures, and naturalistic boulder groupings promote upper-body strength, coordination, and proprioceptive development.

- The site design supports varying levels of challenge to accommodate a wide range of ages and abilities, encouraging sustained engagement and repeat visitation.

Universal Accessibility and Inclusive Design
Photo Credit: Haley Wagoner

- Accessibility was integrated into the primary circulation strategy rather than treated as an add-on. The Wasatch Peak berm includes a gently sloped, accessible ramp that provides equitable access to elevated views and play opportunities. Primary routes throughout the site are designed to meet accessibility standards, ensuring inclusive participation in both active and passive areas.

- Play features are distributed to provide a diversity of sensory experiences—including tactile, visual, and spatial engagement—supporting children with varied physical and cognitive abilities. Seating areas and gathering spaces are integrated throughout the playground to support caregivers, multigenerational use, and social interaction.

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Sensory Play Features
Photo Credit: Haley Wagoner

- By providing inclusive access to topographic features, play structures, and interpretive elements, the design promotes dignity, independence, and social cohesion.

Environmental Literacy and Social Connection
Photo Credit: Haley Wagoner

- The project embeds ecological storytelling into the physical environment to foster environmental awareness from an early age. Interpretive elements reference migratory bird species, watershed systems, and native wetland ecologies, connecting recreation to regional environmental processes.

Dry Creek Feature
Photo Credit: Haley Wagoner

- A dry creek feature representing the Jordan River corridor introduces children to watershed dynamics in a safe, interactive format. Native and adapted plantings representative of Utah wetland systems provide habitat value while serving as living educational tools.

Place of Gathering
Photo Credit: Haley Wagoner

- The reuse of a historically significant recreational site strengthens community continuity. By transforming a former water park into an open, publicly accessible landscape, the project expands access to outdoor recreation while honoring the site's legacy as a place of gathering and joy.

Social Sustainability Performance:

- Converts a previously private, fee-based recreational facility into an accessible public open space.
- Supports physical health through diverse movement-based play opportunities.
- Integrates universal design principles to promote equitable access.
- Reinforces regional identity through place-based ecological interpretation.
- Encourages intergenerational use and community gathering

Trails

An interconnected trail system forms the primary circulation network and supports walking, informal exercise, and universal access to all major program areas. Trails are designed to meet accessibility standards and connect the playground, sport courts, open lawns, shaded gathering spaces, and restrooms. By distributing circulation throughout the park, the trail network promotes consistent daily use, increases visibility across the site, and supports both physical activity and perceived safety.

Sport Courts

Sport courts provide opportunities for structured, moderate-to-vigorous physical activity for a range of age groups. Their placement along accessible routes ensures equitable participation while supporting multigenerational use. Adjacent seating and shaded areas allow for supervision, rest, and social engagement, reinforcing the courts as both active recreation and community gathering spaces.

Open Lawns

Open lawns are designed to accommodate flexible programming, including informal play, community events, and passive recreation. Their open configuration supports adaptable use over time, contributing to long-term social sustainability. Lawn areas are positioned

to maintain clear sightlines and adjacency to circulation routes, enhancing safety and accessibility.

Shaded Gathering Spaces

Shaded gathering spaces are integrated throughout the park to support thermal comfort, social interaction, and extended duration of stay. Seating areas are located along accessible paths and adjacent to active recreation zones to accommodate caregivers, older adults, and individuals with varying mobility needs. These spaces promote intergenerational interaction and foster a sense of community ownership.

Placemaking Feature

A key placemaking feature reuses salvaged water slide components from the former water park to create a sculptural landmark along a primary circulation route. This adaptive reuse strategy reduces material waste while preserving a tangible connection to the site's recreational history. Positioned as both a visual anchor and an informal play element, the installation reinforces community identity and strengthens continuity between the site's past and its current function as an accessible public park.

Signage

The EGD team at Design Workshop implemented identity, wayfinding, and rules/regulation signage using the Salt Lake City Sign Standards for Parks and Open Spaces. Using the city's standards created a fast and efficient process, minimizing design time while creating a cohesive sign program that matches the city's other parks and reinforces the park and recreation identity city-wide. Durable materials and simple fabrication methods lower project costs but not quality. Most signs consist of durable metal posts and ImageLOC® exterior grade printed panels. ImageLOC® fused graphics signs are produced by digitally printing full-color graphics to the surface of a 1/8" thick aluminum substrate. The graphics are then fused to the aluminum, and a UV protective coating is also applied. ImageLOC® fused graphics signs typically carry a ten-year warranty in exterior conditions.

- **Material Strategy and Long-Term Maintainability**
  - Selection of durable, adaptable materials and assemblies to support extended service life and reduced maintenance demands.
  - Performance-based design decisions that prioritize long-term operational efficiency and adaptability as future park phases are implemented.

Environmental, social, and economic performance benefits

- **Environmental Performance**
  By restoring a formerly denigrated site through integrated stormwater management, soil rehabilitation, native and climate-adapted planting, and fire-resilient strategies, Glendale Regional Park Phase 1 functions as high-performing green stormwater infrastructure that reduces resource demand, mitigates urban heat, enhances habitat, and supports long-term ecological resilience along the Jordan River corridor.

- **Social Performance**
  Community-informed, inclusive amenities and improved pedestrian and trail connectivity provide equitable access to high-quality open space, supporting physical activity, mental well-being, social connection, and daily park use within an underserved westside neighborhood.

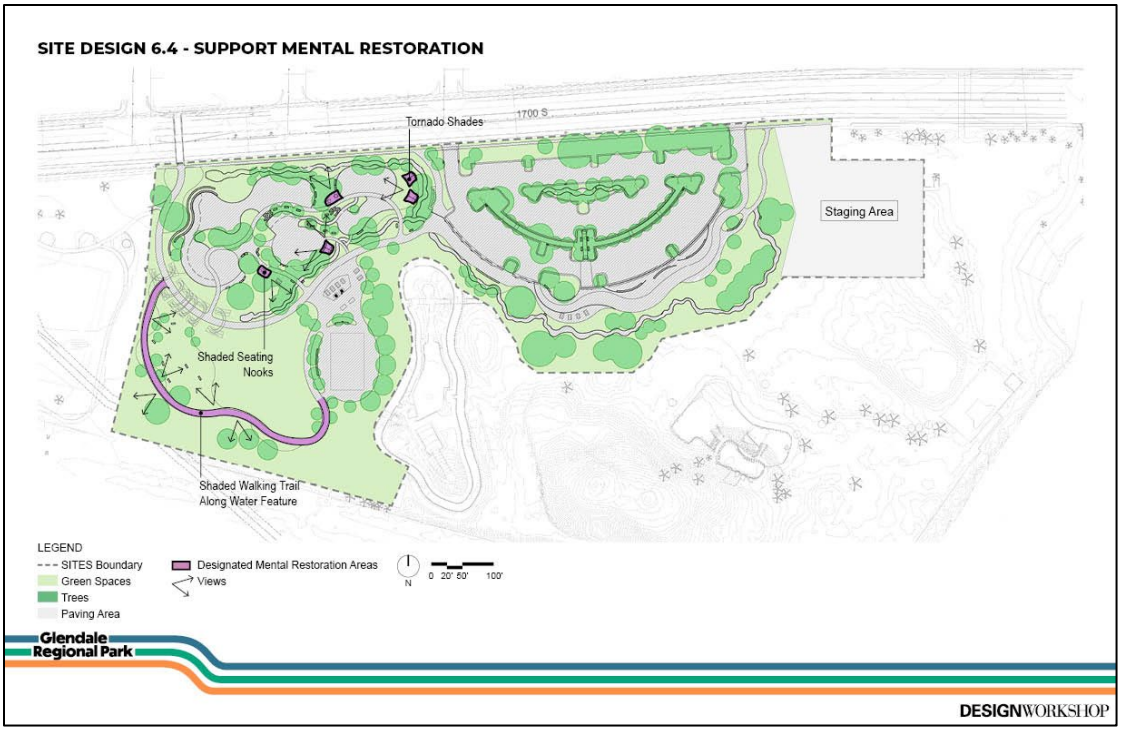
  Salt Lake City celebrated the grand opening of Phase 1 of Glendale Regional Park on December 6, 2025, marking the city's first new regional park in more than 60 years and

a significant milestone in community-driven design. Located at 1700 S. 1375 W. on the former 20-acre Raging Waters/Seven Peaks Water Park site, this initial 7-acre phase transforms a previously underutilized area into a modern, accessible public space. The project demonstrates how long-term disinvested sites can be reimagined into vibrant community assets through inclusive planning and sustained public investment.

Key Phase 1 amenities include an all-abilities playground with unique slides, a zip line, and shaded canopies; 12 highly utilized pickleball courts; a basketball court; open lawn areas; walking paths; native wetland landscapes; and a food truck promenade. Additional features such as shaded gathering spaces and accessible circulation routes further support diverse user groups. As one of the first SITES Gold-certified projects in Utah, the park integrates sustainable strategies including native planting and stormwater management systems. Supporting its environmental goals, the site also incorporates Level 2 electric vehicle charging stations with dual-port capability, user-friendly access technology, centralized monitoring, and accessible parking accommodations. Together, these elements enhance both environmental performance and community accessibility, reinforcing the park's role as a resilient and inclusive public space.

As reported by KSL.com, the opening was marked by a celebratory ribbon-cutting attended by city officials, community advocates, and dozens of residents, alongside broader community celebrations documented across public media. Visitors immediately engaged with the park's accessible equipment and open spaces, highlighting its success as a welcoming and inclusive environment. The addition of 12 pickleball courts—driven directly by resident advocacy—has already become a unifying force within the Glendale community, drawing people of all ages, races, and income levels together in shared activity. Previously, most courts were located on the east side of Salt Lake City, limiting access for westside residents. The new facilities now allow many neighbors to walk or bike to play, reducing barriers to participation and strengthening neighborhood cohesion. Residents described the project as an exciting milestone and a visible step in the broader transformation of the site.

Future phases will further expand the park's social and environmental performance through additional amenities, including expanded trails, boardwalks along the Jordan River, event and gathering spaces, and further recreational facilities—all shaped by ongoing community feedback. Together, these planned elements position Glendale Regional Park as both a daily-use recreational hub and a long-term social anchor, fostering belonging, health, and shared identity in west Salt Lake City.



- **Economic Performance**

  Using strategic choices in the design and build process, economic value has been improved by utilizing performance-based design strategies such as reduced water demand, durable and long lasting materials, and utilizing scalable information to deliver long-term operational efficiency and lifecycle cost savings while transforming an underutilized site into a valuable public asset.

  This value is further reinforced by a diverse range of amenities designed to support both everyday use and revenue-generating community activities. Features such as a pavilion, all-abilities playground, potable water access with drinking fountains, and flexible open spaces—including a large lawn—accommodate birthday parties, casual gatherings, and informal recreation. At the same time, the integration of food truck areas and infrastructure to support multi-sport events and festivals enables the park to host larger programmed activities, increasing its utility, attractiveness, and long-term economic and social return.

Cost comparison of sustainable vs. conventional strategies

- Sustainable strategies were evaluated based on lifecycle performance rather than short-term construction cost, prioritizing long-term operational efficiency over conventional upfront cost comparisons.
- Integrated on-site stormwater management and soil restoration reduce reliance on traditional piped drainage systems, imported materials, and repeated soil replacement typical of conventional park development.

- Native and climate-adapted planting strategies significantly lower irrigation demand and reduce the need for chemical inputs and intensive maintenance associated with conventional landscapes.
- Durable materials, adaptable design solutions, and phased implementation support efficient long-term performance while accommodating future funding and operational needs.
- Over the lifecycle of the park, these strategies maintain environmental performance and operational efficiency without increasing long-term financial burden on the City.

Lessons learned

Early and continuous community engagement is essential to aligning sustainability goals with local priorities and equitable access, ensuring high-performing landscapes that are widely used. A systems-based design approach—integrating stormwater management, soil restoration, and climate-adapted planting as foundational elements—strengthens long-term resilience and supports future park phases. Designing for site-specific climate conditions, particularly water efficiency and canopy expansion in a semi-arid environment, is critical to balancing ecological performance with recreation. Close coordination with municipal agencies reduces schedule and approval risks, while durable, scalable design strategies aligned with maintenance practices support long-term stewardship and adaptability.

Maintenance and monitoring

Glendale Regional Park Phase 1 supports long-term sustainability through durable, adaptable landscape systems and operations aligned with standard municipal maintenance practices. Native and climate-adapted planting, restored soils, and integrated stormwater systems reduce irrigation demand, chemical inputs, and intensive maintenance while supporting plant health, wildfire risk reduction, and soil regeneration. Operations and maintenance protocols—including the use of electric-powered equipment and durable site elements with clear infrastructure access—promote efficient stewardship, reduced emissions, and long-term functionality. Ongoing monitoring of landscape health, stormwater performance, and user activity enables visual inspection and adaptive management, ensuring sustained ecological performance and scalability as future park phases are implemented.

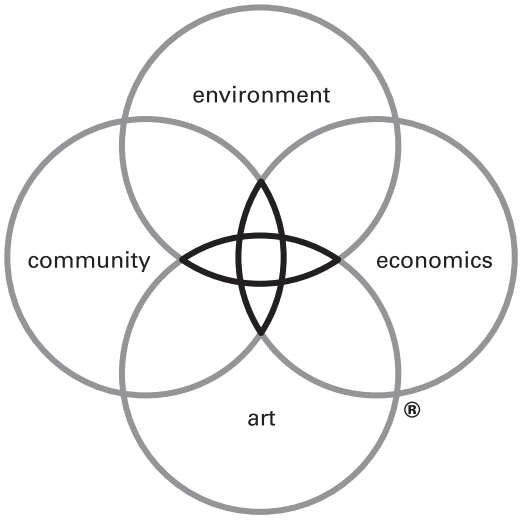
During construction, Siglo Group conducted site visits every few weeks to verify that SITES ecology-related requirements were being implemented. This included confirming compliance with Vegetation and Soil Protection Zone (VSPZ) fencing. Siglo Group also completed nursery visits to review potted plant material for appropriate species selection and overall quality. During multiple site visits in summer and fall 2025, Siglo Group monitored plant condition and installation practices.

Siglo Group additionally focused on confirming that the soils that were amended to reflect reference soil composition were installed in accordance with the Soil Plan and Soil Specifications. This work included monitoring on-site soil stockpiling, amendments,

soil testing, decompacting, and placement of 12 inches of topsoil during multiple site visits in summer and fall 2025.

During construction, an unforeseen site condition was encountered when excavation of the stormwater basin reached the water table, indicating the basin will likely remain wet for much of the year. Siglo and the design team responded by revising the planting design to incorporate native species adapted to persistently saturated conditions. The Salt Lake City Natural Lands team was also engaged to provide appropriate native plant material and installation labor. Their participation supports long-term stewardship and ensures continued familiarity with the management and care of this restored natural area.

These enhancements reestablish ecological function while expanding access to high-quality green space in a highly urbanized area. With limited natural areas nearby, the restored park now provides the community with an inviting place to connect with nature.



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