

NOTES

Saratoga Springs Focus Interviews

October 9, 2018, City Hall

Interview 1 – Rick Kennington
1PM

PARKS SUPERINTENDENT

- Responsible for all aspects of all park maintenance, but involved with planning and design as well, inspections on new parks, etc. In charge of operating budget, etc. They do everything in-house (will hire out small projects, supplemental mowing, etc.).
- Dependent on college students for temp employment (mowing), so rely on contract help in shoulder season.
- Nine full-time staff, 12 seasonal. Two full-time supervisors take charge of the others.
- City has been good about trying to get them what they need.
- System Highlights (excluding Patriot Park):
 - 264 acres of land they maintain (121 acres of turf)
 - 173 park acres/29 parks
 - 106 acres Open and Native areas
 - 62,000 LF (+/- 12 miles)
 - 90 different sites that are maintained (parks, office buildings, medians etc.)
 - 7 restrooms (all male/female mostly)
 - 18 pavilions
 - 17 playgrounds
 - 72 trash cans
 - 76 irrigation controllers, changing to WeatherTRAK central control system that can be controlled with app on phones
- Only replacement program is for trucks, equipment
- Front desk/receptionist schedules pavillons.
- Special events permits required to reserve a park, etc. Neptune and Shay most popular.

ISSUES

- Main complaint with restrooms is the occasional vandalism, but not many complaints about them.
- Growing so fast that planners and other staff can't communicate changes. Lots of times City standards are not followed. Becomes an issue on sites the City ends up managing. NEED IMPROVED COMMUNICATION.
- Would love to have a review system where parks department can review projects. On projects the City will be taking over, this needs to be done well in advance so staffing and maintenance needs can be budgeted and planned for.
- Use of Utah Lake water has clogged irrigation system.

- Irrigation system is shut down from Oct. 15th to Apr. 15th – may be contributing to issues with tree survival. Hard to hand water thousands of trees if we have a warm fall and winter.
- Hard to keep trees healthy – soils, watering, drought, wind, etc. Trees planted in turf also has impact. Elms, cottonwood, poplars, Austrian Pines, London Planes are the best performers.
- Stay away from Netafim, use bubblers instead.
- Native open spaces – the public romanticizes what they should look like. Reality of making the look match the vision requires a lot of weed control and maintenance. Lots of hand maintenance, perhaps more than turf.
- Streets department maintains on-street bike facilities since they are in the road right-of-way.
- Playground equipment is replaced on a case-by-case basis.
- Recreation department paints the fields for their games – parks department maintains and prepares the field.
- Pavilion rentals are handled at the front desk.
- Special event permits are required for unique events that require additional attention of staff. Events usually happen at Neptune Park, Shay Park, and Harvest Hills Park.

KEEPING UP/WISH LIST

- Urban Forester
- Irrigation Specialist
- No splash pad or skate park. Skate park provides good bang for the buck; likely to have one soon.
- Small parks are okay, but require more time, unloading, etc. Less efficient to maintain the same acreage in small parks as one or two larger parks.
- New maintenance yard (at Public Works).
- Public Complaints: Weeds (particularly along trails; watering (too much/too little); and unique situations like wasps, pests, or vandalism.
- Contractor to empty trash, maintenance of parks, etc. is an idea.
- Look at standards and staffing levels.

Interview 2 – Heston Williams

1:45 PM

- In charge of all youth sports, dance classes, camps, etc.
- 1 full-time coordinator, 60 ish part-time employees, site supervisors, train referees in house, usually teens.
- All coaches are volunteer
- Soccer is largest programs (especially spring soccer) – 1,700 kids, fall soccer – 1,130, Jr. Jazz - 1,480, flag football - 413, added fall basketball, don't affiliate with any soccer org.
- Are club teams, aren't begging for fields, can practice but don't rent out fields.
- Recreation, not competitive (council says no renting). Maybe challenge as get bigger.
- Youth baseball – 697 kids, t-ball machine pitch, will be offering
- Fastpitch softball, urban fishing, tennis, volleyball (indoor/outdoor) golf, camps.
- Will send list (30 programs).
- Issues keep coming up at employees only.
- Space: grass space okay, indoor court space big need. Have to go to school district – not sustainable, less time available at schools, but more kids signing up. 1,447 – Jr Jazz. Need full court for over 5th grade, only three courts. Getting new Jr. high next year, hopefully 2 courts. Tile courts at Lakeview, can't rent full season so can't use them.
- Will be hiring part time coordinator for Patriot Park.
- City needs recreation center with pools indoor/out and fieldhouse at north end of City.
- Everyone knows a rec center is needed/wanted, but money is a big deal, not enough sales tax yet.
- City works with other communities to have teams to play against in their rec leagues.
- In Utah County each city has their own taxes like Orem's CARE Tax.
- Priorities: 1- Lake Mountain, good for biking clubs; 2- Lake, early June before algae, use lake more, will have 2nd marina; 3-Trails, so many young people, new activities.
- Lacrosse rough on fields, make it turf field.
- Lacrosse is an expensive sport to get into - don't have a program here yet.
- Hybrid flag football with some gear - super expensive too.
- Baseball: 3 backstops, 3 parks with grass no field, will be adding 6 fields at Patriot. Four full softball sized, 2 kids pickle ball and 8 at Patriot Park.
- City has VASA Fitness and 24 Hour Fitness - few private facilities overall
- Open to running tournaments at Patriot Park, will allow private games tournaments at Patriot Park
- Patriot has four 300' fields and two 260' fields.
- Large full sized indoor basketball courts needed
- Look at other cities staff levels and levels-of-service for programs
- An indoor fieldhouse at Wildflower would be great.

Interview 3 – Sarah Carroll

2:30 PM

PLANNING

- Seems there are plenty of parks (existing and those coming on-line like Patriot Park, Fox Hollow, and the second Marina Park)
- Very young, active community – trails are a big deal, and more trails will always get used
- A lot of residents are runners.
- Moms are usually hitting the parks and trails after they drop kids off at schools, and the families are out recreating on the weekend.
- The city follows the existing Parks, Rec and Trails Master Plan closely. Developers are required to provide the amenities listed in the plan, although individual proposals have different requirements, based on credits system.

TRENDS/ISSUES

- Thinks a survey is a great idea; also need to engage with the public. This is the time to do it. Children have aged since the last plan – would be interesting to see how priorities and preferences have changed.
- Saratoga Springs Link – 4,000 (35,000 total population) members on Facebook – want a recreation center and restaurants. Support trails.
- Wonders if the support for paying for new facilities would be similar to last survey.
- Comparisons with other municipalities, particularly in relation to long-term maintenance.
- City doesn't have a cemetery.
- Rec center, splash pad, tot lots and skate parks may come up as desired facilities.

NOTES

Saratoga Springs Focus Interviews

November 1, 2018, City Hall

Interview 1 – David Johnson

EVENTS & PUBLIC RELATIONS

- Arts Council – youth theater program
 - Currently use a school but talking about an outdoor amphitheater
 - Want to add adult & youth theater
- 10-30 Community, less than 10 neighborhood, 30+ regional?
- Have an orchestra
- Youth council – active
- Senior council – less active
 - Seniors are very active
 - No senior center or rec center
- Zero indoor recreational facilities
 - Use schools or city buildings
- Future Patriot Park – 30 acre city campus
 - Police, library, city hall or rec center
 - Residents want rec center before new city hall
- Want to eventually cover costs on events
- Facilities – offers some events and programs
- PR / Social Media / Website
 - Library manages their own pages
- Farmers market was unsuccessful
 - Maybe successful at regional park

Big events

- Easter egg hunt – 4,000-5,000 people at Neptune Park
- Miss Saratoga Springs Pageant – 400-500 people at Neptune Park
- City Celebration / Saratoga Splash Days – 10,000-15,000 people at Neptune Park
 - First week of June
 - Parade
 - Kicks off Monday night concert series – 100's of people
 - Food trucks, local music, magicians
 - Ends 2nd Monday of August
 - Movie nights 3 Thursdays in Summer
- Get into the River at Inlet Park – 50-100 people at
 - September
 - “Walk the River”

- Tracy Aviary & Invasive education
- Fall Fest – 6,000? people at Shay Park
 - 3 hours
 - Carnival, boutique, BBQ contest, car show
 - Petting zoo, inflatables, booth games, trick or treating, Santa, Easter buddy, STEM activities, free concert, train at Shay, food trucks (1,000 meal contract with Food Truck League), fireworks
 - Seasonal staff is a challenge
 - Water fight at sunrise & other water activities
- Christmas Tree Lighting
 - Managed by Arts Council
 - Last weekend in November
 - Santa, food trucks, etc.
 - Work with Eagle Mountain on co-event for Handel’s Messiah
 - Holiday Orchestra concert
 - Holiday home decorating contest
 - Tree donated to a school – kids decorate with their art
- Spring 2019 – big grand opening VIP, onetime event
- Veterans Day Flag Ceremony
 - Will be moved from Neptune Park to Patriot Park with a monument

Committees

- Pageant Committee
- Veterans Committee
- Youth Council
- Senior Council
- Splash Days Council
- City Celebrations
- BBQ contest
- Arts Council

WISH LIST

- More staff / capacity
- Spider Box at every park
 - \$10k
 - Could use Shay more
- Inlet Park, Patriot Park & Marina tied together
 - Would like to move Splash Days there
- Need dedicated land for events
 - Maybe at Inlet/Patriot/Marina
 - Large events should be hosted at regional park
- Volunteer coordination program
 - Look at Friends Program in NYC

- Been using Just Serve website
- Occasionally coordinate with churches
- Signage & wayfinding
 - What trails can be used for what
 - Branding – look at branding guide and determine how signage can fit in
 - Saratoga life, Saratoga Springs – life is better here
- Facilities for Youth and Seniors

Interview 2 – Dan McRae

ENGINEERING

- Work with Rick in parks
- Review all proposed trails
 - Rarely make comments on trails
- Avg. slope 10% max
- Saratoga is lacking different types / classifications of trails
 - Look at comparable systems – Draper, SLC County
- Usually Public Works does most of the review – but does look at traffic and deal more with developers
 - Looks mainly at irrigation and ADA routes
- Planning usually reviews developers plans
- Jeremy used to be city engineer and still is and engineer
- Detention basins and drainage channels
- Gordon reviews hillside / lake side issues
- 3:1 is their goal on slope
- Max depth
- Commercial areas typically bury detention functions