



Utah Correctional Facility

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At this point the State of Utah doesn't know exactly what a new prison will look like. In the upcoming phases of the prison relocation effort, the state will create a detailed design of a replacement correctional facility. However, today we can strongly state that the new prison will look nothing like the existing prison in Draper. In fact, it will bear little resemblance to most of the images that come to mind when we think of a prison.

Prison Relocation Commission

The Utah State Legislature established the Prison Relocation Commission (PRC) in early 2014 to lead the effort to develop a new correctional facility to replace the Utah State Prison located in Draper, Utah. The PRC's responsibilities include carefully and deliberately considering, studying, and evaluating how and where to move the Utah State Prison from its current location in Draper. To assist with the planning for the new correctional facility, the PRC assembled a team with representatives of the Utah Department of Corrections (UDC), the Utah Division of Facilities Construction and Management (DFCM), the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice, and a group of consultants led by MGT of America, Inc.

Committed to a State-of-the-Art Design

As the Prison Relocation Commission moves forward with the technical evaluation of sites upon which new correctional facilities might be constructed, the commission has begun exploring how a new facility might look and function. It is very clear that the design of correctional facilities has changed dramatically since the prison at Draper was first built in the 1950s. Changes in technology and building materials have facilitated much of this change; however, a change in correctional philosophy and mission have brought the most substantial improvements over the last several decades. A century ago, prisons existed for the singular purpose of separating offenders from society. Today, prisons must also serve to help change inmate behavior.



But just building a facility to warehouse more inmates is not the best long-term solution; the challenge is to build a facility with adequate programming space to enable inmates to receive the training and treatment that will help them avoid returning after their release from prison. If a modern prison to replace the Draper prison is constructed with programming and criminal justice reform in mind, it can help reduce recidivism, transform offenders into productive citizens, increase community safety, and save taxpayer dollars.

New correctional facilities will be designed with these goals in mind. They will look, feel, and function very differently from prisons of the past. As the PRC conducts preliminary architectural programming work, it is committed to ensuring that new correctional facilities will help achieve these goals to improve the corrections system in the state.



Modern Correctional Facilities

The Utah State Prison in Draper is aging, inefficient, and in need of hundreds of millions of dollars in improvements just to keep operating at its current level. The facility, which opened in 1951, has been added on multiple times over a period of five decades resulting in a haphazard and inefficient layout and operation. Additionally, it was built during a time when inmate programs were minimal and thus lacks the adequate programming space necessary to provide proper treatment to offenders. The Draper prison must be replaced. At the same time, the state needs to implement changes in the criminal justice system to reduce recidivism and future growth in the inmate population. The parallel tracks of the Justice Reinvestment Initiative proposed by the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ) and the PRC's search for a new prison site provide an unprecedented opportunity for improving the State's correctional system. CCJJ is recommending programs that reduce recidivism, control prison costs, and hold offenders accountable. A new prison facility will allow the UDC to implement these programs.

To successfully facilitate implementation of justice reinvestment principles the new prison needs to be radically different from the current state prison. Regardless of where new correctional facilities are located, they will be very different from anything the state has ever constructed. Advances in technology, design, and corrections philosophy have all contributed to changes in how correctional facilities are constructed today. Prison security systems used to be designed from the outside in, relying on walls and watch towers. Today, modern facilities' security systems are built from the inside out, using technology. Modern prisons have state-of-the-art security and monitoring

systems that largely eliminate the need for watch towers. The facilities also are designed to blend into their host community and often look more like a school or medical campus than the hulking stone buildings of past prisons.

1800s - Mid-1900s

In the 19th and early 20th centuries, prisons were constructed for a single purpose: to separate those who had broken the law from the rest of society. The design of correctional facilities built during this period, including the state penitentiary at Sugar House, reflected this philosophy in their fortress-like design. One prominent feature of these correctional facilities was a solid, tall, impenetrable stone wall that surrounded the perimeter. At the forefront of these facilities often stood a hulking, castle-like administrative structure. Turrets serving as watch towers often adorned the corner of each part of the penitentiary.



Sugar House Prison, Salt Lake City, UT



Sugar House Prison, Salt Lake City, UT



Eastern States Penitentiary, Philadelphia, PA



The interior of penitentiaries constructed during this period were similarly oppressive. Offenders were housed in single-occupancy cells organized in rows of long, narrow halls. While the incarceration philosophy remained largely the same throughout this time period, improved construction methods began to allow correctional facilities to be



constructed in cell blocks, with rows of cells stacked on top of one another to fit more inmates in a smaller area. This 1800s design philosophy still exists in the state prison in Draper. The Wasatch unit, a part of the oldest portion of the Draper state prison, was constructed in this manner.

1970s - 2000

In the 1970s, inmate populations began to increase dramatically, straining prison facilities and leading to a boom in the construction of new prisons across the country. During this period, chain link fences and razor





wire replaced solid perimeter walls and became common staples of a correctional facility. In an attempt to illuminate every portion of a prison's campus, high-mast lighting became popular. While effective at illuminating the prison facility, high-mast lighting causes light pollution and often spills over onto adjacent properties.

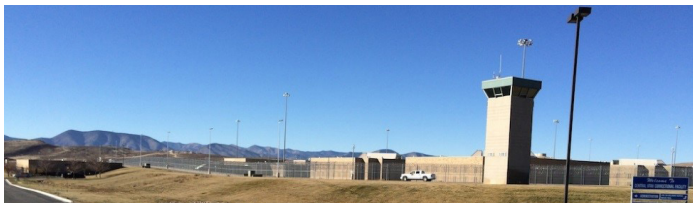
The interior design of prisons also changed during this time. Long, narrow cell blocks were replaced with "pods" that contained multiple cells surrounding open dayroom space. This design treated offenders more humanely by allowing more human interaction. It also increased security by allowing a correctional officer to observe the activity in each pod more easily than the cell-block style allowed.

Toward the latter end of this era, prison designs became less harsh looking in design. The Central Utah Correctional Facility, opened in 1990 in Gunnison, provides a good example. Gray cement and cinderblock were replaced by more aesthetically pleasing designs and colors.

Modern Prison Design

Correctional facilities constructed in the last decade are markedly different from their predecessors. Modern facilities are designed to blend into the communities in which they are constructed rather than standing out. They often look more like a community college or medical campus than a correctional facility.

Technological innovation and advancement resulted in security systems that allow for more efficient management of the offender population. The configuration, design, and layout of modern correctional facilities allows corrections officers to manage inmates more securely, treat them more humanely, and prepare them more effectively for transition back into society.



The perimeter of a modern prison is one of its most noticeable features. Instead of fencing fortified with multiple strands of coiled razor ribbon, today's correctional facilities have climb-resistant fences. These fences secure the perimeter by configuration rather than razor ribbon. Guard towers were common in old-style prisons, but they are expensive to staff and have become obsolete. The Draper prison currently has seven staffed towers. A total of 35 officers are dedicated to staffing these towers.

New prison design has replaced towers with technology that can better monitor the perimeter thereby freeing up correctional officers for other activities. These advancements are not only more aesthetically pleasing, but are also more effective and save money.

Within the perimeter, high-mast lighting fixtures have been replaced by low mast, low glare lighting fixtures. These fixtures prevent light pollution and keep light from spilling over into adjacent properties. Modern lighting systems provide shielding features that reduce a prison's lighting footprint.





The interior design of prisons has also changed. Prisons of the past were dark with steel barred doors that were very loud. Modern facilities are designed to allow more natural light into the facility. Tall and narrow slit-windows have been replaced by more open, traditional-looking windows. Steel bars and noisy security doors have been replaced by security glass and quieter operating pneumatic sliding doors. The result is a more organized, orderly environment for both the inmates and staff. These improvements create an environment that is conducive to successful inmate rehabilitation and management.

The design of a modern facility also dramatically changes how a corrections officer interacts with and supervises inmates. Pods are arranged in circular fashion with security glass on the front wall to allow an officer to directly supervise inmates at all times. A direct line of sight not only allows an officer to intervene more quickly if there is an incident, but also to reward good behavior more readily. By continuously interacting with inmates, officers can address issues long before they escalate. Studies have shown that these simple improvements reduce violent incidents, enhance programming, and decrease sexual assaults. A new facility will change the way the UDC operates the state prison and will allow it to implement real, substantive corrections reform from within the facility by helping prepare offenders for successful transition back to society.

It is clear that today's generation of correctional facilities is much different than yesterday's prisons. Modern correctional facilities are open, creative, and attractive. They are designed with the idea that offender behavior can be changed and that offenders should return to society as better, more productive human beings. Today's prisons can be responsible, good neighbors.

The prison that will eventually replace the current Draper prison is yet to be designed. However, a new correctional facility will include state-of-the-art design concepts such as the examples cited above. An artist's conception of this approach is shown on the right. It is by no means the final design, but is rather an idea of what the new Utah State Correctional Facility might look like when constructed using modern prison design principles.

Form to Function

Today's modern facilities combine design concepts, improved inmate classification systems, and inmate management strategies in what is known as the "direct supervision" model. This model has been shown to improve supervision, reduce problem behavior, and create a safer environment for inmates, employees, and visitors. It is a distinctly different approach from the "linear remote surveillance" design used throughout the current Utah State Prison.

In the new model, officers are stationed inside most housing pods and proactively interact with inmates on a daily, personal basis, with an emphasis on rewarding positive behavior. They are also able to engage in close monitoring, which allows officers to spot signs of and avert potential trouble quickly. Increased, positive interaction is the expectation – even in maximum-security units where officer posts remain outside the housing unit.

Studies have shown that facilities using direct supervision have lower rates of conflict, assaults, vandalism, and other negative incidents. There is also a greater focus on rehabilitation from inmates and staff.

The direct supervision model requires an appropriate design, competent staff, and a rigorous classification system that identifies inmates most likely to succeed in such housing – all part of what's planned for the new correctional facility.





Schedule

The PRC is advancing with the siting process according to the following schedule:

March 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue with in-depth evaluations of three sites selected by PRC in December 2014.• Initiate evaluations of two new/one expanded sites selected by PRC in February 2015.• Continue public information activities involving potential host communities, interest groups, others.• Document results of Round 2 site identification and screening with a report to PRC.• Utah Legislative session ends.• Complete Architectural/Operational Program of proposed new prison.
April 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue evaluations of five prospective sites and report to the PRC.• Continue public information activities involving potential host communities, interest groups, others.
May 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue evaluations of five prospective sites and report to the PRC.• Continue public information activities involving potential host communities, interest groups, others.• PRC holds meeting (date to be determined).

Interested in Learning More?

For information about the PRC visit: www.le.utah.gov/prc.

To provide feedback, contact: prisonrelocation@le.utah.gov or:

Bryant R. Howe, Deputy Director

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel

Tel: 801-538-1032

Email: bhowe@le.utah.gov

Robert J. Nardi, Senior Vice President

Louis Berger

Tel: 973-407-1681

Mobile: 973-809-7495

Email: rnardi@louisberger.com