Utah State Parks and Recreation

FY18 Capital Development Request

Willard Bay Day Use Pond Project Development

Project Estimate: $5,000,000

Project Description:

Last year the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and the Weber Basin Water District excavated over 100,000 cubic yards of material just north of the Willard Bay State Park Maintenance yard to raise the Watkins Glen (Willard Bay) Dam by 2-feet. This excavation resulted in a large hole that has now filled with ground water. We would like to turn this excavation site into a recreation day use area.

We have named this the Willard Bay Day Use Pond. This Pond would be a non-motorized, multi-use lake/pond with a surface area of 12 acres, with an additional 12 acres of landscaping with trees and shrubs. This lake/pond is protected by a physical land barrier from the Willard Bay Reservoir. The pond would provide a place for Paddle Boards, Canoes, Kayaks, an Inflatable Water Park and fishing.

We are concerned that if nothing is done with this new pond native willows and cat tails will begin to grow, and it will then be designated as “Wetlands” by the Army Corps of Engineers. It will also become a breeding ground for mosquitoes. A “Wetlands” designation will greatly impact our ability to do any construction on this new pond. Just to do “Wetlands” mitigation (which is a ratio of 4/1) for these 24 acres will result in the mitigation of 96 acres at a cost of $65,000 per acre for a total mitigation cost of $6,240,000. (Any construction costs would be in addition to the mitigation expense)

Proposed Construction Items:

- Install 30 covered day use pavilions with picnic tables and BBQ grills
- Install 3 restrooms
- Install 2 group use pavilions
- Install a concessionaire building
- Install 12-inches of sand in the pond to provide a sandy beach area
- Install approximately 12 acres of grass area to be landscaped with trees and shrubs
- Install a water fall feature and spray system to oxygenate water in the pond
- Install fishing piers for Anglers access to the north side of the pond (DWR would stock the pond with fish)
- Install access roads and parking lots for approximately 200 vehicles
- Install infrastructure of water/power/sewer

Proposed Use:

Utah State Parks has seen a 15-20% increase in visitation at our Parks over the past few years. We are constantly looking for additional recreational opportunities at our Parks. We have seen a huge increase in the use and demand for Paddle Boards, Canoe, Kayaks, and Inflatable Water Parks. At Jordanelle State Park we have a protected cove that is designated as a non-motorized area and would be similar to what we are proposing for Willard Bay. Jordanelle has 150-200 Paddle Boarders, and 250-300 people per day recreating at the Inflatable Water Park on a busy weekend. We believe that the Willard Bay Day Use Pond will give Anglers, Paddle Boarders, Canoes, Kayaks, and those interested in an Inflatable Water Park a safe recreational opportunity along the north end of the Wasatch front.