



Pony Express Park

Preserving Open Spaces and the History of Horses in Summit County



Mission Statement

Create a unique opportunity to preserve the legacy of horses in Summit County by creating a robust **multi-use** open space venue to nurture our heritage through hands-on learning, education, and experiences.



Goal of County Council Working Session

Determine county interest in Pony Express Park to:

- Preserve land
- Preserve our heritage and the character and identity of Silver Creek
- Promote education
- Create a unique venue with the backdrop of horses

Feasibility of the Pony Express Park on Parcel SS-32-C

- If YES, decide on best approach to move forward with the concept (Option 1, 2, or 3)?
 - i. County Park or State Park
 - ii. Concession Agreement or Long Term Lease
 - iii. Other Non-Profit Entity guided by county leadership
- If NO, determine other possible locations?

Why - Open Space and Conservation

Pony Express Park will:

1. Preserving open space
2. Provide a new model for land conservancy

As we look at Kimball Junction today, it is difficult to remember back to a time in the 1990's when there was just a fuel station, and even more difficult to remember when it was pure horse country not that long ago. We must save land for history, heritage, and open space...and to do so, we need county and public support. The vast majority of the park would remain as an open space.



Why - Educational



Summit County has always been an amazing area to participate in outdoor activities. We believe that greater community access to agricultural programs and horses will only enhance the lifestyle that so many enjoy. We have a sincere opportunity to create ***diverse youth and adult programs*** that build character, leadership, confidence, and community. Once more programs are offered so there is **greater access**, interest will only **grow**.

Why - Historic



Utah, and specifically Summit County, has a rich history with horses. It is our privilege and obligation to preserve this beautiful horse country for future generations of humans and equines. We have an opportunity to create an interactive marker for the Pony Express route and connect to Pony Express National Historic Trail.

This is the Place State Park and Camp Floyd State Park have Pony Express Markers, but few exist in the east side of the state through Summit County where a large portion of the trail is located. George Snyder and William Kimball were connected to the Pony Express providing horses and support to the enterprise at different times.

Why - Economic

Pony Express Park will bring a wide variety of programs to locals and tourists alike. It can drive more visitors to Summit County during any desired season through events. Each visitor and horse in Summit County has an economic benefit and bring jobs to the area.

- **Tourist Spending on Recreation is increasing**

Spending In 2019, visitors directly spent an estimated \$1.08 billion in Summit County, a 4.0% increase from 2018. The top three spending categories were lodging, food service, and recreation. Summit County visitor spending made up 12.6% of total statewide spending.

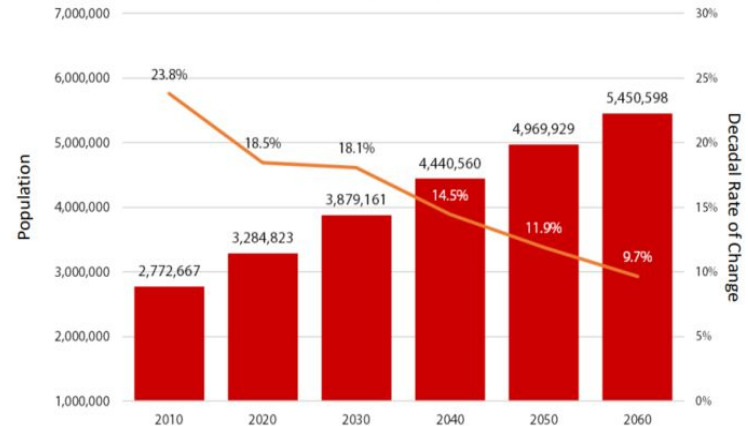
- **Jobs in Summit County to support tourism**

Visitor spending supported 12,327 direct Summit County travel and tourism jobs, a 3.2% increase from 2018. Accommodations, food service, and recreation were the top three job sectors. These 12,327 direct travel and tourism jobs supported an additional 2,676 indirect and induced jobs in the county for a total 15,003 jobs.

Demand for Equine Activities is High and Growing

- According to the survey provided by SE Consulting (hired by Basin Recreation), 2% of adults (no youth) surveyed in Summit County and surrounding areas showed high interest equestrian activities. Of the estimated 43,000 Summit County residents, we estimate approximately 1,000 adults and 2,000 youth are actively participating now.
- This number would grow significantly if there was **ACCESS to HORSES** and **AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS** such as 4H and FFA.
- Currently, the vast majority of barn and trainers are full and have waiting lists. Families and individuals wanting to get involved are not able to because there is NO ROOM.
- There are many thousands of horses in Summit County with tremendous limited options for training and riding for 6+ months out of the year.

Historical and Projected Population Change, 2010-2060



Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute

Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, 2020-2060 Projections
DAVID ECCLES SCHOOL OF BUSINESS | UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

Parcel SS-32-C

- This parcel was purchased by Summit County in Summer 2022 by Public Works for the connector road.
- Zoning is Currently Rural Residential which could allow for this use with a conditional use permit while water and sewer are nearby.
- 5 Acres are a wetland bank restoration while the balance of the land is flat and usable for the Pony Express Park proposed activities.
- Silver Creek is the last equestrian area in Synderville Basin. Preserving this piece of land for this community's unique identity would be welcomed by all to preserve equestrian activities in the county.

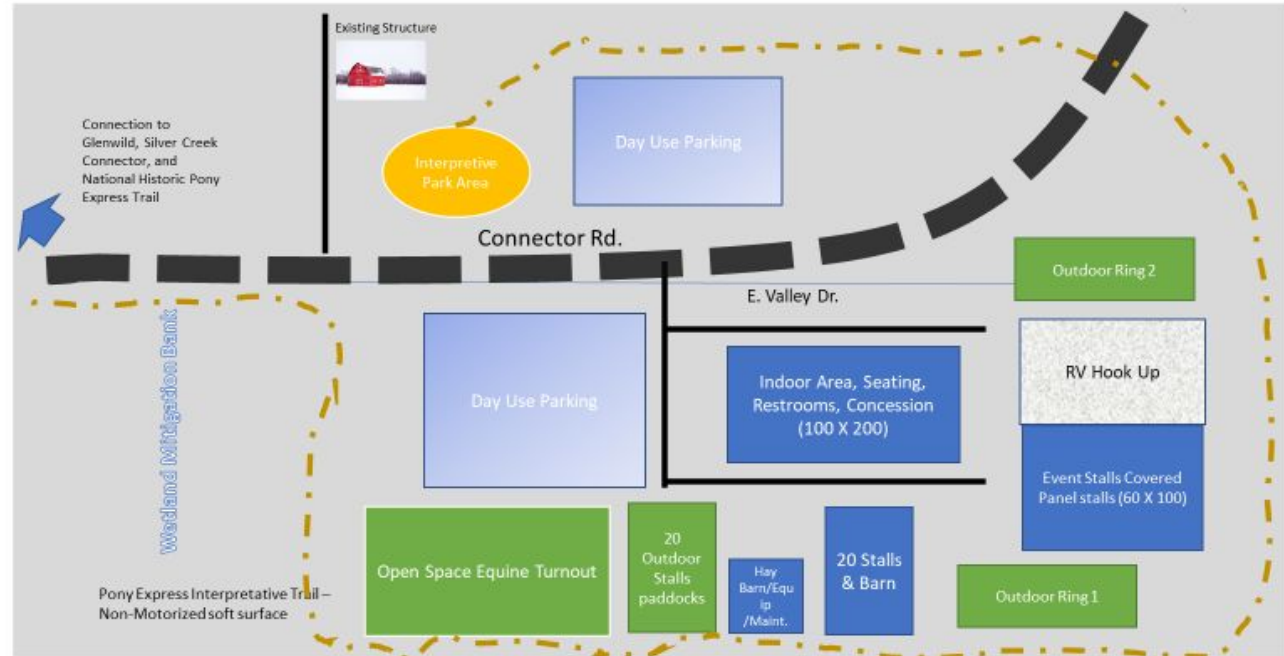


Pony Express Park Uses - A Multi-Use Public Facility

- Pony Express Interpretive Site
- Trail System for horse riding, hiking, nordic skiing, snowshoeing, dogs, etc.
- Trail Connection to Silvercreek Connector (Rail Trail and Glenwild Trails)
- Accessible Learn-to-Ride and Equine Experience Programs
- Summer Horsemanship Camps
- Pioneer and Pony Express Living History Experiences
- Horse Boarding, Lessons, and Training (Western and English disciplines)
- 4H and Future Farmers of America (FFA) Programming
- Community Gathering Space
- Community Rental Space for Fundraisers and Small Events
- Indoor Space Rentals, BMX Biking, Soccer, etc..
- Horse Events and Clinics
- Veterinary Services, Farrier Clinics, and Blacksmiths Competitions

Proposed Facility Amenities

- Pony Express Exhibit
- Trails and Connection to Silver Creek Connector and Glenwild
- Indoor Arena with Seating and Meeting Space
- Outdoor Arena (2)
- Parking
- Restrooms
- Barn 40 Permanent Stalls, Tack Room, Hay and Equipment Barn, Outdoor Paddocks and Turnout
- 100 Temporary Stalls for Events
- 20 RV Hookups



Pony Express Park - Self-Sustaining

The Park would be self sustaining once initial investment to build facility is made:

- Facilities leased for events
- Tourism
- Horse boarding
- Educational program fees
- Local non-profits could support with volunteer hours and fundraising



Local and National Non-Profit Organizations To Use and Support the Facility

- Utah State Extension Equine Studies
- 4-H
- United States Pony Club
- Reins, Saddle of Love, and other therapeutic programs
- FFA - Future Farmers of America
- Utah Dressage Society
- Utah Hunter Jumper
- Wasatch Range Eventing
- Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association(PRCA) and Rodeo Clubs
- Horse Breed Associations (100's)
- Utah High School Rodeo
- US Equestrian Association
- Utah Reined Cow Association
- Back Country Horseman
- National Reining Horse Association