



Murray City, Utah

There's More to Murray





America In Bloom Community Profile Book

Murray City, Utah

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Murray City ~



An Introduction to Our Town

Murray has a unique and autonomous status relative to the cities in the Salt Lake Valley. There is a strong sense of community. Even though all the surrounding towns have spread to the borders of Murray, and the boundaries are blurred to vehicular travelers, Murray still has a small-town feel. There are many factors that contribute to this community spirit. For example, Murray is the only city, save Salt Lake City proper, that has its own police force including animal control, and fire department including paramedics and ambulances. Murray also generates all the electrical needs for the city, has its own water, sewer, streets, parks and recreation departments, and has its own library. Murray is also ahead of the rest of the county with its fiber-optic network that is now available to 60% of the homes. Murray City has its own separate school district distinct from the rest of the valley. There is a strong sense of interconnectedness and co-operation among the city government, the school district, businesses, and residents as evidenced in the daily harmonious workings of the city as a whole.

How did Murray City become so independent? Well, that begins in 1860 with about 20 families settling along the Big and Little Cottonwood Creeks in an area also used as temporary camping grounds by Native Americans. As the population grew, a flour mill was constructed, soon followed by the establishment of a livery stable, a brickyard, woolen mills, and a cannery.

Murray was at first an agricultural town where crops and animals were raised. The discovery of gold, silver, copper, and lead in the nearby canyons contributed to the industrialization of Murray. With the nearby railroads and streams, Murray became the center of smelter operations.

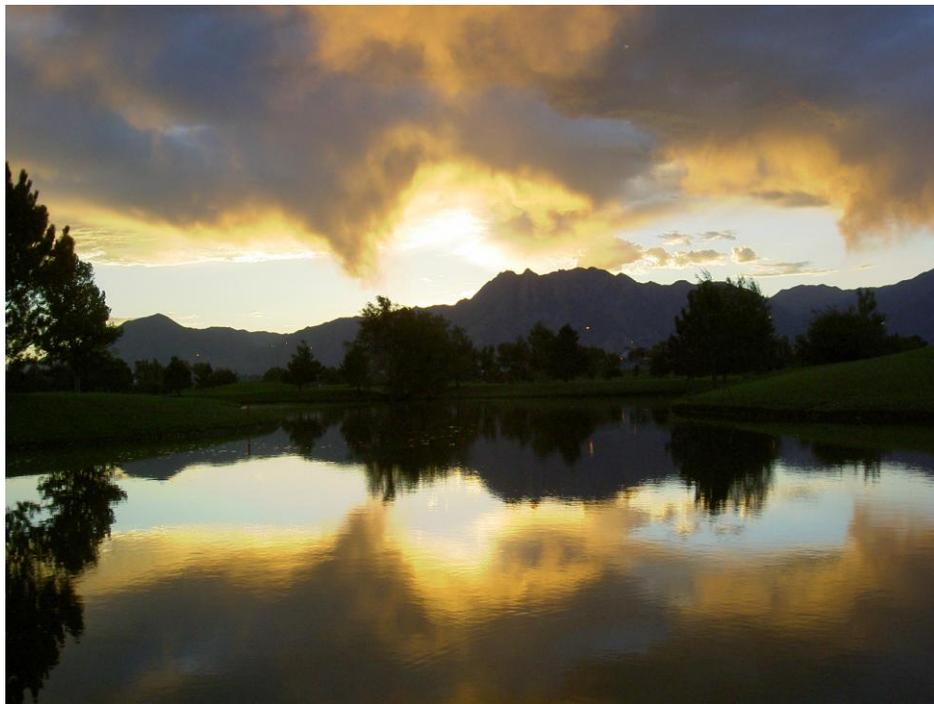


Farmers began to suspect that the pollution released by the smelters was destroying their crops and poisoning their land. Legal wars erupted between the smelter owners and the farmers with the courts siding with the farmers. Smelters were forced to reduce pollution or close. By 1949, the last smelter shut down operations.

The smelter industry employed thousands of people, many of whom arrived here from south and central Europe. Many of the farmers were pioneers from England and the Scandinavian countries. The cultural differences brought rich ethnic diversity to the community and were not always peaceful. Murray became home to 42 saloons near the turn of the century. The unruly behavior of the saloon patrons and the desire to have a more orderly society drove the citizens' desire to incorporate as a city. The first mayor promised to make a good police force, sidewalks, electric lights, and sewers for the people of Murray.

Following WWII, Murray population increased, creating a need for more schools, recreation, and shopping. The construction of I-15 and I-215 cemented Murray's position as the transportation hub of the valley. The TRAX line has three "stops" in Murray and the soon-to-be built FrontRunner commuter rail line will have a station centrally located in Murray.

Murray is regarded as one of the finest cities in which to raise a family. Its neighborhoods are safe and beautiful. The strong commercial base allows for lower taxes, making it cheaper to live in Murray and still have all the amenities.



Municipal Information

Population: 46,700

City Website: murray.utah.gov

City Contact Name: Kim Sorensen

AIB Committee Chair Contact: Becky Hansen

City Area in Square Miles: 12.3 square miles

Miles of Streets: 143.11 miles

Active Recreational Acreage: 402.6 acres

Passive Recreational Acreage: 204.25 acres

Percent of Area Zoned Business: 23%

Percent of Area Zoned Residential: 55%

Is there a Chamber of Commerce? YES

Is there a Convention & Visitors Bureau? NO

Number of Schools: 13 public schools, 2 private schools, 9 vocational/college/universities

Civic Organizations: Rotary Club, Exchange Club, Lions Club, Kiwanis Club, Daughters of the Utah Pioneers, Sons of the Utah Pioneers, Ladies Guild of Murray

Number of Municipal Employees: 412 permanent 450 seasonal

Services Provided by the Municipal Government: police, fire, paramedics, ambulance, power, water, sewer, streets, planning and zoning, building permits and inspections, business licensing, cemetery, animal control and licensing, garbage and recycling, engineering, municipal justice court, cultural arts and history, heritage center, library, parks and recreation, golf course

Number of Volunteers: 500+

Volunteer Coordinator: NO

Volunteer Opportunities for Civic Improvement: youth sports, church and civic projects, scouting service projects, hospitals, non profit organizations

Tidiness Effort ~

Maintenance & Upkeep of Community

- ❖ Murray's Shade Tree Commission sponsors a beautification contest each summer. Both residents and business owners can submit their landscaping for consideration. There is a residential winner in each of the five districts and one grand overall winner for the city. Businesses are divided into small and large landscapes. All winners receive plaques and recognition at a city council meeting.



- ❖ Last year, Murray adopted a no-smoking ordinance for all parks, ball fields, recreational areas, the cemetery, and the golf course.
- ❖ The Jordan River Parkway Trail is divided from the street by uniform split rail fences. The parkway is very popular with walkers, joggers, and bicyclists. The trail is designed so that emergency four-wheelers can access the paths when necessary. During peak usage in the summer, over 2,500 people use the trail daily.
- ❖ Welcome to Murray signs are posted on all roads leading into the city. At freeway off-ramps, visitors are welcomed with permanent signs incorporated into the landscape.
- ❖ Murray City budgets yearly one to two million dollars for road repair and reconstruction. The city uses a pavement rating system to recommend which roads throughout the city need improvement. Money is also set aside for sidewalk repair, including installing handicap ramps at intersections.



- ❖ The street department has three street sweepers. Every street in the city is swept at least four times per year, with major streets being swept monthly.
- ❖ Litter is collected from all parks and trails each day. The parks department has its own garbage truck, so garbage is collected every day including weekends and holidays during the summer, keeping trash from stacking up.



- ❖ In the summer of 2006, volunteers pulled 4,000 pounds of garbage from the Jordan River including three shopping carts. Rotary club volunteers did the same for the Little Cottonwood Creek in 2008.
- ❖ Throughout the city, many areas hold a day of service for community clean-up. As an example, one neighborhood arranges for the city green waste trailers in May. All residents are invited to clean up not only their own yards, but also help elderly residents within the area. Non- recyclable trash is hauled directly to the landfill. This special service day has been held for eight years.
- ❖ The city has an ordinance requiring property owners to keep homes, businesses, and vacant lots weed free. If owners take no action after notification, the city cleans up and bills them for the work.
- ❖ A city policy is in place to remove graffiti within 24 hours of notice. Residents can report graffiti on the city website or by calling the police or parks offices. The parks department receives funds to purchase environmentally friendly chemicals and power washing equipment. Last year, employees logged over 2,000 man-hours for graffiti removal.



Environmental Effort ~

Sustainable Development & Awareness

For nearly a century, two chimneys towered over the landscape, a vivid reminder of Murray's past as an important smelting center. Teamsters hauled gold, silver, copper, and lead ore mined in nearby canyons to more than nine different smelters positioned along the railroad lines and the streams. In 1899, the American Smelting and Refining Company (ASARCO) purchased the Germania Smelter and was recognized as one of the largest lead smelters in the world. Eventually, demand slowed and ASARCO closed in 1949. After nearly



one hundred years, a serious environmental challenge became obvious as the former smelter site contained large amounts of toxic materials. With cooperation from various local, state, and federal agencies, the site was remediated and transformed into a premier tertiary medical campus.



The hospital provides care in the following areas: cardiovascular, cancer, outpatient, women and newborn, pulmonary, and Level 1 trauma and emergency.

The parks department with the help of the city arborists has been removing Russian olive and tamarisk trees from the Jordan River Parkway for the last ten years. Moving from south to north, the project is

expected to be finished within two years. Restoration plantings of native shrubbery, willows, and cottonwood trees have been partially funded with Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) grants.

From October to December, bagged leaves can be brought to the park for recycling at the landfill. In January, Christmas trees can be dropped off in the park where the arborists run them through the chipper to make wood chips.





The usable yard waste, tree limbs, and shrubs collected from the green waste trailer rental program are ground into wood chips. The wood chips are available to residents at no cost.

Residents can rent dumpsters for disposal of non-recyclable home and yard waste.

Murray City has a curbside recycling program. Every other week, the green recyclable cans are collected on the same day as the black garbage containers. Clean paper, plastics, and cardboard are all acceptable for recycling.

Murray City hosts an ABOP drop-off site for the Salt Lake Valley Health Department. ABOP stands for antifreeze, batteries, oil, and paint. Residents from all over the county come to the Murray Public Services building to drop off household hazardous waste for proper disposal.

Scattered throughout Murray are numerous retention ponds and wetlands that hold excess water from rain storms and snow melt. The retention ponds allow settling of sediments and trapping of floatables before the water enters the river system.

All storm drains in the city have “NO DUMPING – DRAINS TO STREAM” markers on the curb beside the drain to remind residents to be careful not to wash pollutants into the gutters and streets.

Murray City water comes from springs, wells, and the Big Cottonwood Creek. The city routinely monitors for contaminants.



Murray City has partnered with the Trans-Jordan Cities and Granger Energy for green energy produced from methane gas at the landfill.

Murray School District has a Nature Center on the Jordan River Parkway. Students come for lessons on the environment while being in the environment.



Murray City ordinance requires dogs to be fenced or on a leash at all times. Pet owners are also required to pick up after their dogs in all public places.

Murray is participating with a county-wide program to catch, neuter, and release stray cats.

Boy Scouts have built and placed bat houses along the Jordan River to help control mosquitoes.

Community Involvement ~

Citizens' Volunteer Involvement

- ❖ Murray City has fifteen boards or commissions involving 73 volunteers in a variety of services to the community.
- ❖ Murray High School holds a day of service every spring. All 1,550 students are dismissed from classes for one hour to perform community service. This year, Mayor Snarr was joined by 50 of those students to clean up the hillside of 5300 S.



- ❖ Over the years, many service hours have been donated to the community by the Boy Scouts of America and other youth groups. A list of painting projects is as follows: curbs in the Murray Park, picnic tables at Valley Park, tables and benches along the parkway, fire hydrants, and soccer and

volley ball poles. Volunteers also weeded around trees and shrubs in the arboretum. Other projects included wetland clean-up, spreading wood chips at the nature center, mulching trees in the park system, and staining signs, rail fences, and boardwalks. The volunteer groups also gave assistance during special events hosted by the recreation department. Boy Scouts planted over 300 trees on the Jordan River Parkway last year. To commemorate the 100th year of the scout organization, 100 more trees have been planted this spring.



❖ Volunteers run the following sports programs:

- Liberty League Baseball – 400+ boys – 150 adult volunteers
- Murray Babe Ruth Baseball – 200+ boys – 50 adult volunteers
- Murray Girls Softball League – 200+ girls – 55 adult volunteers



- Murray Ute Football – 300 youths – 100 adult volunteers
 - Murray Max Soccer – 300 youths – 50 adult volunteers
- ❖ Last year, Murray City hosted the 2009 Babe Ruth World Series for 13-year-olds. This was the first time any city in Utah has hosted the baseball tournament. One hundred and fifty players were housed in local family homes for ten days. Over 150 volunteers put in 5,000 hours in preparation and hosting.
- ❖ The recreation department sponsors various Easter egg hunts each spring. The Friday night before the holiday, teenagers are allowed to hunt eggs with flashlights. Saturday morning, children up to age twelve scramble for eggs in a mad dash that lasts about 30 seconds. The park indoor swimming pool is the location for an underwater egg hunt. About 350 teenagers show up at the night hunt; over 1,000 kids scurry around at the morning egg hunt; and 300 kids dive for eggs.
- ❖ The parks and recreation department runs a haunted trail before Halloween. The kids take their parents on a spooky walk through the woods, and then enjoy hot cocoa and a donut at the concession stand. The trail is operated for two nights and, depending on weather, between 1,700 and 2,300 people brave the dark and scary woods.
- ❖ Students at Murray High School must make up poor citizenship grades by doing community service. The recreation department partners with the school district to give the students opportunities for service. Two of these choices are helping with the Easter egg hunts and helping with the haunted trail.

- ❖ Murray’s summer highlight is the 4th of July celebration. The day starts with cannon fire at sunrise before the flag ceremony and service honoring local veterans. Before the parade begins down State Street, the 5K race is run with 900 entrants. Over 100 volunteers from a local church help with the race from sign-ins to water stations to timing. As the race finishes, the parade of 110 entries with 1,600 people begins. It takes 50 volunteers to help the parade from start to finish. Around 35,000 spectators line the street to watch, clap, and catch candy. Entertainment, games, food, and music can be enjoyed all day and into the evening until fireworks start. The park and surrounding grass areas of local businesses and schools are filled with 35,000 people to watch the fireworks.



- ❖ The recreation department hosts an appreciation dinner each year for the community volunteers who help with all the various programs. Invitations are mailed to 350 community volunteers. They are given thanks and recognition for all the hours of time working with the youth of the city.



- ❖ From August to November, a farmer’s market can be found in the heart of the Murray Park. This successful market has been held every summer for 30 years with 40-45 vendors selling locally grown produce. On Saturday mornings, more than 2,500 people browse, sample, and buy fresh fruits and vegetables.

- ❖ Murray City’s Heritage Center volunteers answer phones, teach classes, schedule programs, and fix meals. A total of 85 seniors run the Center with the aid of two paid staff.





- ❖ Murray Greenhouse Foundation began as a place for disabled young adults to gather with their friends and improve their independent living skills. Support comes from the city, the county, the Rotary Club, and several businesses and individuals. The greenhouse provides an opportunity for disabled young adults to learn employment skills as they help seed, transplant, and sell the products of their labors.
- ❖ Murray has some very active service clubs which donate time and money to a variety of projects throughout the city. For example, in the summer of 2008, the Rotary Club and the Exchange Club joined forces for a massive clean-up along the Little Cottonwood Creek. Old tires, blankets, dead branches, and plastic bottles were just some of the debris removed. The Rotary Club also helps with the Bikes for Kids program. The Exchange Club members volunteer along the 4th of July parade route, handing out USA flags to spectators who line the street.



- ❖ Within Murray City is an urban fishing pond. It is located in Willow Pond Park. Fishing classes are taught twice-a-week during April and May. The program is run by 30 volunteers who want children and their parents to learn to fish. Because travel often makes fishing a prohibitive hobby, the urban fishing program allows participation without leaving the city.

- ❖ The Murray Arts Council schedules free lunch-time concerts in the park during the summer months. Many people from assisted living centers, day-care centers, and boys and girls clubs attend. The concerts provide access to the performing arts which many people would not otherwise have the opportunity to enjoy.
- ❖ The Arts in Education program provides after-school opportunities for elementary and secondary school children to participate in musicals, Shakespeare plays, dance festivals, and film productions.
- ❖ Murray community is fortunate to have a symphony and concert band. The musicians in both groups are all volunteers.
- ❖ Minimum security prisoners and youth from the Salt Lake County Corrections Department are often requested to perform maintenance service for the community.
- ❖ Four times each year, the Murray City Fire Marshall teaches the Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) program for citizens that live or work in Murray. Over 1,500 people have certified as members of the CERT team. The course is offered without cost – the mayor and city council members are financially committed in having a prepared citizenry.



Heritage ~

Preserving the past for future generations

- ❖ In 1976, the city published The History of Murray City, Utah. An addition to the history was printed in 1992 called Between the Cottonwoods. Other publications are Faces of Murray, Murray City Centennial Album, Between the Cottonwoods Student Workbook, Murray History Inventory of Buildings Built before 1920, and The History Spotter's Guide.



- ❖ Two historic videos are also available at the Parks and Recreation office. In 1924, the Murray City Fire Department made a black and white silent film called Murray City Fire Department Old Time 1924 Video. Honky-tonk piano music has been added to recreate how the original film was viewed in the theater. Giants on the Skyline is the history of the Murray Smelter done in 2000 with an epilogue in 2008.



- ❖ The Murray City Museum is located in city hall. Each year, docents give over 800 school children historical tours where they view a variety of artifacts.

- ❖ The Murray History Board has an on-line collection of photos available through the city library. In addition, in the city's archives are over 3,000 photos, 1,000 documents, 5,000 artifacts, and 350 family biographical sketches of early residents of the city.



- ❖ On the local historic register are over 400 buildings, either business or residential. The city has two National Historic Register Districts: the downtown business

section and a downtown neighborhood that extends from 4800 S. to Vine Street and Center St. to Glen St. There are also seven buildings on the National Historic Register.

- ❖ Along the Jordan River Parkway, interpretative signs detail the many historical sites. More signage is found in the main park, along the Little Cottonwood Creek trail, and the Intermountain Hospital chimney gardens.
- ❖ A historic park is located on the corner of Vine St. and 5600 S. where Native Americans camped. On this site the Relief Society of the LDS church established a granary. It was also the half-way point or overnight stop for the pioneers who quarried stone in the mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon for the Salt Lake Temple.
- ❖ Within the city boundaries is the well-known Wheeler Farm which is on the National Historic Register. It is a living farm with a variety of farm animals, a working blacksmith shop, the original farmhouse, and ponds.



Only a small fee is charged for home tours. The remainder of the farm is open year round for families to enjoy.

❖ Each spring, volunteers present tours of the city cemetery for the grade school children. Twenty-five volunteers present historic sketches for over 800 children.

❖ Tours of the Jordan River are given to school children. The volunteers teach about the Jordan River and the riparian habitat, the Native Americans who used the area as a summer campground, and the agriculture of the pioneers.

- ❖ The Murray History Board holds an annual Vintage Days. The free public tours emphasize the distinct architectural features of the homes in the downtown residential area.



Urban Forestry ~



- ❖ Murray has been a Tree City USA city for 33 continuous years. This is the longest of any city in Utah; the longest in the US is 34 years. To be a Tree City USA, the city must have a tree board or department, a tree-care ordinance, a community forestry program with an annual budget of at least two dollars per capita, and an Arbor Day observance. Last year, the forestry department planted 250 trees in the city.
- ❖ A poster contest is held each year in all elementary schools. The theme revolves around the importance of trees in our community. One winner from each grade is honored by a tree planted in his or her name.
- ❖ Arbor/Earth Day is celebrated in Murray Park with a program in the amphitheater honoring the poster contest winners and an outstanding citizen of the community. In addition, fourth graders are bused in for educational workshops. Ten to twelve stations are scattered along the park walkway. Groups rotate from one stop to the next, learning about trees, storm water, wildlife, and the environment. The Shade Tree Commission partners with the City Forestry Department and the Parks Department to host the event.



- ❖ The City Forestry Department performs regular utility clearance, street-tree pruning, and removal of dead trees. Prunings are chipped and used along the Jordan River Parkway trails.
- ❖ The Joan Hardle Arboretum within the main park has many of the trees and shrubs labeled. Also, available in the Parks and Recreation office is a map of the arboretum and a brochure with a history of the arboretum and detailed descriptions of the tree selections.

Landscaped Areas ~

Tree, Shrub, and Perennial Plantings



- ❖ The two freeway off-ramps leading into Murray are at 45th South and 53rd South. Signs welcome visitors to Murray City. The interchanges are landscaped with shrubs and perennials that require little water and are low maintenance. More trees, shrubs, and perennials border the streets going east; some of these plantings are on commercial properties, and some are part of the city-maintained street right-of-ways.

- ❖ Throughout the parks and along the parkway, historic plaques and memorial markers are incorporated into the landscape.
- ❖ The Nature Center on the Jordan River is surrounded with native plantings. The trees, shrubs, and perennials at the Center reflect the plants found in Utah's natural riparian, canyon, and desert habitats.
- ❖ When Murray City moved its public services to a new location, a property-line berm was built up for dual purposes: The first was to visually block the composting facilities from street traffic. The second was to reduce pollution from blowing soil and mulch. Trees and shrubs were then planted on the compost-covered berms.
- ❖ The riparian habitat that borders the Jordan River is a part of a major continental flyway for migrating birds. Some years ago, when a new sewer line was installed along the Jordan River Parkway, much of the vegetation was removed. It was important to restore this landscape on the parkway for the avian wildlife. The sewer project included money which was used to replant trees, shrubs, forbs and native grasses.





- ❖ Murray City's landscape code requires trees to be planted in the park strip (area between street and sidewalk) 30 feet apart.
- ❖ Murray City requires developers of subdivisions to install irrigation systems for the park strip landscaping which must be approved by the planning commission.

- ❖ Murray City requires developers of business property to submit a landscape plan to be reviewed and approved by the city forester.
- ❖ Unless approved by the city forester, it is unlawful to remove required turf, trees, or other forms of landscaping from a park strip.



Floral Displays ~

- ❖ The parks department has an employee on staff with a degree in ornamental horticulture, and who is an active Master Gardener in the Salt Lake County Association. This staff member is responsible for all the floral displays in the main park, at the trail heads along the parkway, on the island planters at State Street, under the mural on the corner of 5300 South and State Street, within the flower beds on the east and west side of city hall, and on the grass hill outside the Ken Price Ball Field. The color schemes of the gardens are different each year.



- ❖ Winter color is provided by pansies planted in several of the gardens in the fall. In the spring, the pansies are joined by a variety of early blooming bulbs.
- ❖ The large island planter in the middle of State Street has been converted from annuals to low water-use perennials. These perennials offer a succession of color throughout the season.





- ❖ Five years ago, the Murray City rose garden was renovated. The original garden was installed in 1950 as a peace garden by the Ladies Society of Murray. After fifty years, many of the roses were diseased or dead. All the roses and beds were removed. A gazebo surrounded by permanent planters was installed for

the new roses. The garden was designed with eight sections, each section having unique features. Master Gardener and Utah Rose Club volunteers helped plant the new rose bushes. The Master Gardeners come each spring to help with clean-up and pruning, continuing their support throughout the summer season by dead-heading.

- ❖ Master Gardeners also volunteer with spring clean-up in the city's and parks perennial beds, and also the park arboretum. They help plant all the annual beds. After planting is finished in May, many volunteers continue their help by keeping the beds weed-free until frost. Depending on the year, volunteers average two hundred hours annually. Murray Park has been selected by the Salt Lake Master Gardener Association (SLMGA) as an on-going project where the new yearly class of volunteers can come for experience and additional learning outside the classroom.

- ❖ The cacti bed in the arboretum incorporates native succulents with hardy perennials. This combination of plants relies on rainfall and only receives irrigation in the driest of summers.

- ❖ Heritage Center member's plant and care for a variety of flowers around their outside patio. From spring bulbs, to summer annuals, to fall pansies, the Heritage Center has color year round.



❖ Turf and Ground Cover ~

Parks, Landscapes, Recreational Areas

- ❖ The irrigation systems of all the park and recreational areas in Murray City are run through a computerized irrigation program. The program can be accessed from any computer or through a cell phone. The park employee on staff over the irrigation, a certified landscape irrigation auditor, can even control the system from his home on weekends and holidays to adjust for changing weather conditions.

- ❖ Within the park system, there are 250 acres of turf. The grass areas are fertilized and aerated both in the spring and in the fall. Each year, the grass areas are also sprayed to kill the dandelions. Rarely are other chemicals used as the parks department practices the integrated pest management (IPM) program. All park employees are licensed pesticides applicators who attend workshops on turf management every year.



- ❖ Mowing and string trimming are an everyday occurrence during the summer months. High school part-timers help with the push mowers, edging, and trimming.

- ❖ A variety of athletic fields are included within the park system. The parks department maintains two baseball fields that are used by

the high school baseball team. There are four little league baseball fields and four girls softball fields used by the community. The girls high school softball team plays on the field in the main park. The high school soccer team's home field is in the main park. In

addition, soccer fields for recreational programs and the community competition leagues are scattered throughout the city at various schools and neighborhood parks. The high school club sports of rugby and lacrosse also use the park turf areas. In addition, the high school cross-country club holds meets in the park.



- ❖ The city owns and operates the Murray Jordan Parkway Golf Course. The golf course has more rounds of golf played per year than any other course in Salt Lake County. Continual maintenance is needed to keep the fairways and putting greens in excellent shape. Crews fertilize, aerate, and top dress several times per year. Mowing is a constant activity during the growing season. Reservations are needed at peak times in the summer. Even on warm days during the winter, golfers can be seen using the course.



- ❖ Murray City’s cemetery headstones are interspersed with turf and trees. The cemetery department keeps the area looking like park land – very neat and inviting for visitation. During the Memorial Day weekend, the entire grounds are covered with stunning floral offerings.



Best Idea ~

Eyesore to Eye-catching

Baseball has long been a favorite pastime in Murray, with many passionate players and ardent supporters. During the 1950's, the original baseball diamonds on the east end of Murray Park had become obsolete and inadequate for the program needs. In 1958, after much discussion, recommendations were given to the mayor and commissioners for a new baseball field. With no funds available, it was difficult to realize this dream; however, through the co-operation of Murray City, the American Legion, the National Guard, Salt Lake County, Murray School Districts, and "a very generous gentleman by the name of Ken Price" the ball field became a reality. The Ken Price Ball Field developed into a first-class facility in the heart of Murray. Over the years, the field has become a favorite play-off destination for high school tournaments and little league championships.

While the red-clay infield and the green-grass outfield were continually maintained and occasionally rejuvenated, the entrance into the ball field was neglected. The road from Vine St. wound down the east side of the outfield fences to the parking lot. Along this old road, over-grown juniper bushes collected trash and housed stray cats. Siberian elm trees had sprouted up in the shrubbery, creating a visibility problem on the narrow road. In general, the whole hill was an eyesore and diminished the beauty of the ball park. In the summer of 2008, the city took action and not a season too soon. Murray had just been named as the host city for the 2009 Babe Ruth 13-Year-Old World Series. Teams from all over the world would soon descend on Ken Price ball field.

The project began by tearing out old shrubs and elm trees. The asphalt pavement was removed, and the whole hillside was graded. Where the grade was excessively steep, rock walls were put into place. For drainage, a storm water line was installed from Vine Street into a nearby park pond. Sod was laid on the entire hill by the Murray





High School Football team. All the project work was done in-house except the final shaping of the grade. The city spent \$50,000 on this undertaking which otherwise would have cost \$200,000 if done by private contractors.

By the next spring, the hillside looked beautiful. Austrian pine and Bradford pear trees were planted on the new grass slope. Along the tops of the rock outcroppings, a variety of colorful petunias completed the make-over.

Ken Price Ball Field was ready to welcome the world!

