

Dear Mr. Burdick,

I live in Sandy UT, [REDACTED], and just South of Dimple Dell Regional Park. While running my dog at Dimple Dell Park just this morning, I became aware of Salt Lake County's possible plan to pave a part of Dimple Dell Park. As a member of your district, I want to inform you of my strong opposition to paving any pathways in Dimple Dell Park for the following reasons.

First, natural beautiful spaces should be preserved for current and future generations. Paving a pathway will cause immediate and likely irreparable harm to the surrounding vegetation and overall park. Although it may increase access, the increase may not be of the type the County expects or anticipates. Indeed, those who already frequent the park do so because they respect the open space and enjoy the soft natural pathways and surrounding flora and fauna. In fact, the one area where, I assume it was the County, built an amphitheater, has fallen into disrepair and is an unfortunate detraction in an otherwise beautiful park. I would suggest that a better use of any money earmarked for Dimple Dell Park would be the careful removal of the amphitheater.

Second, the cost of clearing and laying asphalt does not justify the anticipated return. With asphalt trails comes significant liability for the county. As a plaintiff's injury lawyer, I protect people rights who have been injured by the fault of another. Once Salt Lake County establishes an asphalt trail, with it comes the cost of maintaining said trail, not only as it breaks down from the seasons, but the substantial risk of ice formation and then cost of ice removal for those, who like me, walk and run the trails in the winter as well. This will have a deleterious impact on the environment and, in addition, further impact the County's budget. This is likely an unanticipated outcome with unanticipated legal exposure to the County. As it stands, it is a low risk for the county with its natural trails. This changes once the County pours asphalt.

Third, there are many other parks with paved pathways in Salt Lake County that provide a suitable substitute for those who wish and or need ADA accommodations. For instance, Hidden Valley Park on Wasatch Blvd is just this type of park. Dimple Dell Park is far from broken or in need of repair and there are numerous substitutes in Salt Lake County for this type of development. Hence, I argue, keep Dimple simple. The County should use the approved bond in a way that preserves Salt Lake County's parks. Had I known that the proposed recreation bond would have been used to pave a pathway in Dimple Dell, I would have voted against it, as would have many constituents, if it equated into preserving Dimple Dell's beauty.

Thank you for your kind consideration on this matter.

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