

May 2016 – Mayor’s Message

There is a Chinese proverb that goes like this: “Spring is sooner recognized by plants than by men.” Even when we had snow on the ground in April, the tulips and spring flowers were poking through showing us that it was time for a change, they were ready for spring. I am ready for spring too. I enjoy driving around the city and seeing neighbors talking over fences while they clean up their yards. I can hear kids playing and see the gloom from winter being erased by beautiful green lawns and brightly-colored flowers.

In the spring, Murray City becomes a blur of furious activity with our employees starting projects that have been in the planning stages during the winter. I’m sure you have noticed the street department crews starting their construction projects, our arborists cleaning up trees and our parks department employees cleaning up playgrounds and pavilions to get facilities ready for family parties and picnics.

We have one of the finest parks in the state of Utah. Murray Park was established in 1918, but nothing was initiated until early 1924. The park has seen many developments and improvements through the years. Last month at a conference in St. George, the Murray Parks and Recreation Department were honored by the Utah Recreation and Parks Association as the Outstanding Department Class II for this year. We are so happy for our employees to be recognized by their peers for their hard work and dedication. (See photo)



From left to right: Kristin Riker, Utah Recreation and Parks Association (URPA) President; Kim Olson, URPA Executive Director; Dan Harrison, URPA Past President; Kim Sorensen, MC Parks Superintendent; Doug Hill, MC Public Services Director; Ron Larsen, MC Parks Field Supervisor; Trishe Cooke, MC Recreation Coordinator; Bruce Holyoak, MC Parks Field Supervisor; Wayne Oberg, MC Recreation Coordinator; Larry Killips, MC Recreation Coordinator.

Here are some of the projects we are working on in the park:

- On Myrtle Avenue, west of the Murray Boys & Girls Club building, the city was able to purchase a small parcel of property adjacent to Murray Park. In May, the bid will go out for the construction of six pickleball courts as well as an entrance to the park and bridge over the river from this area. We are planning for this to be completed by early fall.
- Murray City was just awarded a little over \$1.2 million from the Salt Lake County Tourism, Recreation, Cultural and Convention Facilities (TRCC) funds to make improvements to the Murray Amphitheater and surrounding area. Murray City will provide matching funds. The amphitheater was built in 1985 and has had many excellent performances; we look forward to improved facilities for those attending the events there.

- In addition to the upgrades at the amphitheater, new LED lights were installed in the parking lot. This is such a nice addition for those using this parking area. The decision has been made to extend this special lighting throughout the entire park.
- New restrooms are already under construction.
- The park will soon be Wi-Fi accessible (including inside the Park Center).
- The vita-course trail that weaves through the park will be resurfaced, allowing improved ease of access for strollers, wheelchairs, walkers and joggers.

I hope you will be patient with us while we are upgrading, changing and building, we think you will enjoy all the new improvements when they are completed. In addition to all of this, just a reminder that spring brings children playing and running outdoors, please be mindful of this and of those out and about riding bicycles. I wish you a safe, fun, spring and summer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ted Eyre". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ted Eyre, Mayor