



A Community Jewel Opens

Path unites Sugar House Park & Hidden Hollow Nature Preserve

For Immediate Release

June 6, 2014—Salt Lake City:

Today Salt Lake City adds another pearl to its string of open spaces. “The Draw” officially opens. The pedestrian and cycling tunnel runs under 13th East and connects Sugar House Park with Hidden Hollow Nature Preserve.

Twenty five years ago, Hidden Hollow, nestled in the heart of the Sugar House Commons Mall, was slated to become a parking lot. But a coalition of school children (Kids Organized to Protect the Environment) cleaned up the three acre garbage dump and lobbied city leaders to turn the neglected, weed-choked mess into an urban garden. Now people gather in the Hollow for concerts, nature walks and bird watching. In 2001, Salt Lake City granted a conservation easement on Hidden Hollow to Utah Open Lands. The easement is a layer of legal protection which forever prohibits Hidden Hollow’s development.

“This natural urban open space is a jewel of Sugar House with Emigration Creek and threatened cutthroat trout,” says Wendy Fisher, Executive Director of Utah Open Lands. “We owe a debt of gratitude to the KOPE Kids for their perseverance, as well as the dedication of Utah Open Lands and city leaders. Today we celebrate Hidden Hollow’s past success and bright future.”

Elementary school teacher Sheri Sohm was a driving force behind transforming Hidden Hollow. Sohm says the original KOPE Kids, “could see how beautiful the stream could be and how it would be a wonderful place to study local history and science right in the middle of the city. With support from local schools, Utah Open Lands and government officials, Hidden Hollow was saved and continues to create opportunities for school lessons as well as a quiet place to walk, relax and enjoy nature.”

The Draw ribbon cutting begins at 10:30 a.m. Live music and barbecue, courtesy of Whole Foods, will follow at 11:00 a.m.

Interview possibilities live or before event:

Wendy Fisher, Executive Director Utah Open Lands 801 463-6156.

Visuals:

Photos from 25 years ago which show kids cleaning up Hidden Hollow.
Current Nature Preserve with its trails, outdoor concert area, riparian habitat and natural plantings.

For More Information contact Wendy Fisher at Utah Open Lands 801 463-6156