

What's Happening on the Swaner Preserve? Conservation Update from July-September 2026 | Swaner EcoCenter

10/09/2026

Conservation Projects

- Through the summer, Swaner's conservation team **removed 3,300 lbs of invasive weeds** from the Preserve. The majority of this weight consisted of dyer's woad and musk thistle.
- So far, over **850 live willow stakes have been planted** on Kimball Creek and East Canyon Creek--with more projects coming this fall. Live stakes are harvested on the Preserve and then planted where woody vegetation is lacking. New plants can grow from a single stick.
- **The last mile of old exclusionary fencing was removed** from East Canyon Creek by a crew from the Utah Conservation Corps. This fencing was installed in the early 2000s to protect large areas of tree planting but fell into disrepair and was creating a barrier to wildlife and restoration projects, as well as being an eyesore. Thanks to the Central Wasatch Commission for funding this project through their [Short-term Projects Grant Program](#).
- **900 pollinator plants were planted** along the Preserve's northwest border on East Canyon Creek, awarded by the [Utah Department of Agriculture and Food's Utah Pollinator Habitat Program](#).



Volunteering & Outreach

- **245 volunteers gave 876.5 total hours** between July and September. They helped with trash

cleanup, summer camp, invasive weed removal, demonstration garden cleanup, Sunday craft, seed collection, and activities for family days, among other projects.

- **11 volunteers helped at our first-ever volunteer seed collection** in September--collecting seeds from Great Basin Wild Rye.

Wildlife Happenings

- Raptors are filling the skies over the Preserve. Among the list of frequent fliers are Red-tailed Hawks, Cooper's Hawks, Northern Harriers, American Kestrels, and American Goshawks.
- We have seen some infrequent beaver activity along East Canyon Creek this summer. You may notice higher water levels near the Dog Beach.
- Groups of elk have been spotted around the Preserve as the rut continues through October.
- Sandhill Cranes are preparing for their migration south after raising their colts on the Preserve this summer.



Cheers to a Great Season

As our busiest season comes to an end, we're getting ready to slow down a bit for winter. Before we're completely done, we'll have a couple of tree planting days with TreeUtah on October 14 and 24, 2026. And don't worry, we'll still be collecting and spreading seeds throughout the end of the year!

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Location, Hours & Contact

Physical & Mailing Address

[1258 Center Drive](#)
[Park City, Utah 84098](#)

EcoCenter Hours

Wednesday – Sunday, 10 am – 4 pm

The EcoCenter will be closed on Thursday, November 26.

Email

swanerecocenter@usu.edu

Phone

[435-649-1767](tel:435-649-1767)

[Directions, Parking, & Transit](#) [View Staff Directory](#)

- [Swaner EcoCenter Facebook page](#)
- [Swaner EcoCenter Instagram page](#)

Events

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