



(//Www.Standard.Net)

Officials work to keep Steed Pond, other waters, healthy

TUESDAY , JULY 28, 2015 - 4:54 PM



Image by: BENJAMIN ZACK/STANDARD-EXAMINER

Chris Penne, left, and Madison Cushing lay out a carpet of native grasses along the shore of Steed Pond in Clearfield on Tuesday, July 28, 2015. The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources installed 144 square feet of the wetland sod along the banks of the poplar fishing pond.



</profile?userid=851&lname=Larsen&fname=Leia&displaycontent=1>

Leia Larsen

Reporter

</profile?userid=851&lname=Larsen&fname=Leia&displaycontent=1>



Local officials are working to make sure Clearfield's Steed Pond provides a slice of nature even as water levels drop.

Utah's drought [has taken a toll on community ponds \(http://www.standard.net/Local/2015/03/19/Steed-Pond-low-but-not-forgotten.html\)](http://www.standard.net/Local/2015/03/19/Steed-Pond-low-but-not-forgotten.html), leaving mucky beaches and murky waters. While the fishing might lure visitors to the city-owned pond, the conditions don't encourage them to linger.

The Utah Division of Wildlife has a simple solution. This week, they started installing sod mats to Steed Pond that are woven with wetland plants. The vegetated mats thrive on muddy banks, improve habitat for fish and create a more enjoyable experience for anglers.

"It enhances the aesthetics of the pond and makes them a little healthier," said Chris Penne, aquatics biologist from the Ogden DWR office. "It separates areas and gives anglers a little more space instead of fishing shoulder to shoulder. It's a more natural way to lay things out."

PHOTO GALLERIES

[Steed Pond Restoration \(/gallery/Steed-Pond-Restoration\)](/gallery/Steed-Pond-Restoration)




[\(/gallery/Steed-Pond-Restoration\)](#)

Cities typically own the urban ponds and parks surrounding them, but DWR stocks them with fish. It's a mutually beneficial partnership.

"Basically, our relationship with the cities is they provide a great park amenity for the citizens, and we, the Division of Wildlife, manage it from the water down," Penne said. "That gives us a vehicle to sell licenses and get people into fishing close to home."

Penne and his staff are trying to tackle one community fishing pond a year with similar vegetation projects. Last year they worked on the Clinton Pond. In the years to come, Penne would like to bring similar projects to urban fisheries in Farmington Syracuse as resources allow.



 Native grass grow along the banks of the Clinton Pond, where the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources installed wetland sod patches in 2014 that are similar to the ones used in Clearfield.

“If people can’t get out into nature, we want to bring it to them and make that experience the best it can be,” Penne said.

Utah DWR covers all the costs for the vegetation projects. At the Steed Pond, Penne said the wetland sod mats plus delivery cost right around \$800 and took about half a day’s work to install. They contract with North Fork Natives in Rexburg, Idaho to custom grow the mats. They pack up and roll out just like turf sod used on lawns.


“So, just like turf sod, all we need to do with this stuff is get it in the right spot, roll it out and stake it down,” Penne said. “Then it will take care of the rest on its own.”

The vegetation mats also work better than the traditional method — planting seedlings directly in the ground — because hungry wild birds can’t pick at them. Once they get established, the plants will grow taller and spread just enough to create a sense of seclusion without blocking water access.

“We’ve built and constructed ponds with cities where people can fish shoulder-to-shoulder,” Penne said. “But I’d rather people, even though they’re fishing in the city, have an experience where they’re getting some solitude and are out in a natural area.”

The water-loving plants in the mats include natives like wooly sedge, beaked sedge and arctic rush. They don’t grow too high, but they do like “keeping their feet wet,” Penne said. By growing into the water, the plants help filter out nutrients and clear the water. They also hold the shoreline together and protect it from erosion.

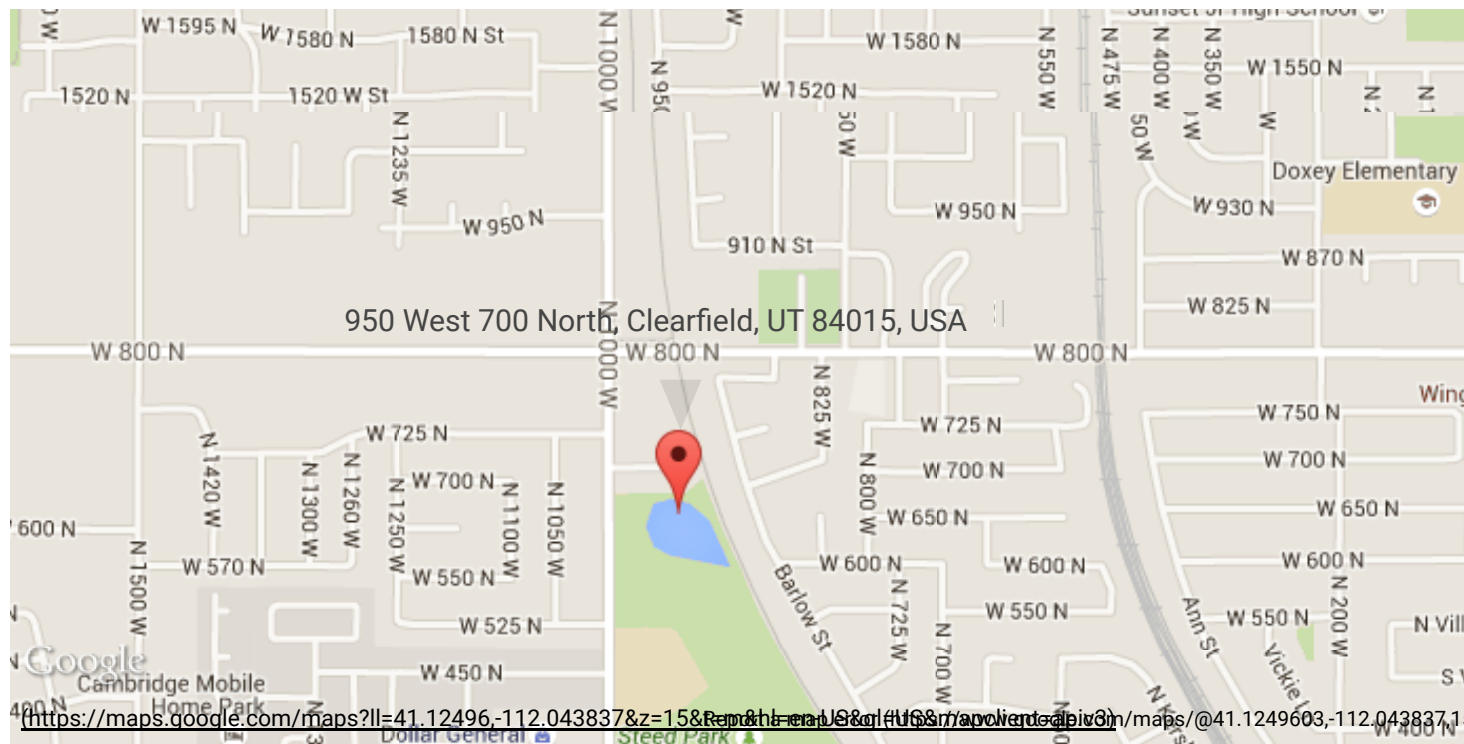


 *The wetland sod is made of a mixture of wooly sedge, beak sedge and arctic rush. The grasses are planted in short, rectangular patches along the shore but will grow to be around three feet tall and extend up the bank and into the water.*

Steed Pond is fed by local canals, which means it’s subject to evaporation between October and mid-April when water districts shut off the water. This year’s drought brought the beloved pond to some of its lowest levels.

Fish populations are doing well in the pond, despite dry conditions, but the new wetland vegetation will help draw even more wildlife to the area for the Clearfield community to enjoy.

“We’ll see ducks congregating around here and you’ll probably see frogs — kids commonly roam around here and catch those,” Penne said. “It just brings a little bit of the wild home.”



Contact Reporter *Leia Larsen* at 801-625-4289 or llarsen@standard.net. Follow her on [Facebook.com/leiaoutside](https://www.facebook.com/leiaoutside) (<http://www.facebook.com/leiaoutside>) or on Twitter [@LeiaLarsen](https://twitter.com/leialarsen) (<http://www.twitter.com/leialarsen>).

 [Sign up \(https://2.dat-e-baseonline.com/front/deb.asp?Action=reg&zx=361\)](https://2.dat-e-baseonline.com/front/deb.asp?Action=reg&zx=361) for e-mail news updates.



Start the discussion...

Be the first to comment.

ALSO ON STANDARD EXAMINER

WHAT'S THIS?

Surrendering a birthright

6 comments • a day ago

Ava **Yellowhed** — I agree with the position that birthright citizenship worked in an earlier age but travel is so easy now ...

Our View: Keep Planned Parenthood funding

8 comments • a day ago

Ava **Xtension** — The practice of killing people is murder, plain and simple. There is no twisting this or spinning it to some ...

Utah public school teachers less diverse than student body

37 comments • 2 days ago

Ava **FieldingBandolier** — What a strange, incoherent response.

Happy 50th Anniversary!: Larry and Sharma Millward

1 comment • a day ago

Ava **Mark Tezak** — Congratulations Larry and Sharma! It was great seeing you both at my Mom's funeral. It really meant a ...

MORE. NOW.
ACTIVATE YOUR
MEMBERSHIP

<http://www.standard.net/activate>

POPULAR STORIES



[\(/Local/2015/08/23/UPDATE-Man-4-year-old-killed-in.html\)](/Local/2015/08/23/UPDATE-Man-4-year-old-killed-in.html)

[UPDATE: Man, 5-year-old & dog... \(/Local/2015/08/23/UPDATE-Man-4-year-old-killed-in.html\)](/Local/2015/08/23/UPDATE-Man-4-year-old-killed-in.html)



[\(/Sports/2015/08/23/Powers-stops-Davis-early-in-first-round.html\)](/Sports/2015/08/23/Powers-stops-Davis-early-in-first-round.html)



[VIDEO: Powers Stops Davis Early... \(/Sports/2015/08/23/Powers-stops-Davis-early-in-first-round.html\)](/Sports/2015/08/23/Powers-stops-Davis-early-in-first-round.html)



[\(/Business/2015/08/22/Predatory-DirectV-sues-Eden-bar-owner-for-more-than-4-000.html\)](/Business/2015/08/22/Predatory-DirectV-sues-Eden-bar-owner-for-more-than-4-000.html)

['Predatory' DirectV sues... \(/Business/2015/08/22/Predatory-DirectV-sues-Eden-bar-owner-for-more-than-4-000.html\)](/Business/2015/08/22/Predatory-DirectV-sues-Eden-bar-owner-for-more-than-4-000.html)



[\(/Police-Fire/2015/08/23/BREAKING-I-15-closed-near-Riverdale.html\)](/Police-Fire/2015/08/23/BREAKING-I-15-closed-near-Riverdale.html)

[BREAKING: Deadly crash causes I-15... \(/Police-Fire/2015/08/23/BREAKING-I-15-closed-near-Riverdale.html\)](/Police-Fire/2015/08/23/BREAKING-I-15-closed-near-Riverdale.html)



[\(/Sports/2015/08/23/Raptors-hot-streak-continues-in-Orem.html\)](/Sports/2015/08/23/Raptors-hot-streak-continues-in-Orem.html)

[Raptors' hot streak continues... \(/Sports/2015/08/23/Raptors-hot-streak-continues-in-Orem.html\)](/Sports/2015/08/23/Raptors-hot-streak-continues-in-Orem.html)



POPULAR GALLERIES



[\(/gallery/Cat-Shelter\)](/gallery/Cat-Shelter)

[Cat Shelter \(/gallery/Cat-Shelter\)](/gallery/Cat-Shelter)



[\(/gallery/Standard-Examiner-cartoons-from-Val-Chadwick-Bagley\)](/gallery/Standard-Examiner-cartoons-from-Val-Chadwick-Bagley)

[Standard-Examiner cartoons from Val Chadwick Bagley \(/gallery/Standard-Examiner-cartoons-from-Val-Chadwick-Bagley\)](/gallery/Standard-Examiner-cartoons-from-Val-Chadwick-Bagley)



[\(/gallery/Pats-Food-Shack\)](/gallery/Pats-Food-Shack)

[Pats Food Shack \(/gallery/Pats-Food-Shack\)](/gallery/Pats-Food-Shack)



[\(/gallery/Stand-Up-Paddleboarding-on-Causey\)](#)

[Stand Up Paddleboarding on Causey \(/gallery/Stand-Up-Paddleboarding-on-Causey\)](#)



[\(/gallery/Shrek-at-the-Heritage-Theater-in-Perry\)](#)

['Shrek' at the Heritage Theater in Perry \(/gallery/Shrek-at-the-Heritage-Theater-in-Perry\)](#)



[\(/gallery/EAA-B-17-flies-over-Weber-and-Davis-Counties\)](#)

[EAA B-17 flies over Weber and Davis Counties \(/gallery/EAA-B-17-flies-over-Weber-and-Davis-Counties\)](#)



[\(/gallery/Bonneville-Clearfield-Soccer\)](#)

[Bonneville Clearfield Soccer \(/gallery/Bonneville-Clearfield-Soccer\)](#)



[\(/gallery/PGA-Championship-Day-1\)](#)

[PGA Championship Day 1 \(/gallery/PGA-Championship-Day-1\)](#)



<https://2.dat-e-baseonline.com/front/deb.asp?>

[Action=reg&zx=361&utm_campaign=Email%20Sign-Up&utm_source=Standard.net%20Rail&utm_medium=Website\)](https://2.dat-e-baseonline.com/front/deb.asp?Action=reg&zx=361&utm_campaign=Email%20Sign-Up&utm_source=Standard.net%20Rail&utm_medium=Website)

POPULAR IN ENVIRONMENT



[\(/Environment/2015/08/24/Lucky-Utah-sees-few-wildfires-in-2015.html\)](#)

[Lucky Utah sees few wildfires in 2015 \(/Environment/2015/08/24/Lucky-Utah-sees-few-wildfires-in-2015.html\)](#)

As fires rage to the west, ripping through hillside and home alike, Utah has benefited from a mercifully quiet summer. Officials say...



[\(/Environment/2015/08/23/July-was-the-hottest-month-in-Earth-s-hottest-year-on-record-so-far.html\)](/Environment/2015/08/23/July-was-the-hottest-month-in-Earth-s-hottest-year-on-record-so-far.html)

[July was hottest month in Earth's hottest year on record so far \(/Environment/2015/08/23/July-was-the-hottest-month-in-Earth-s-hottest-year-on-record-so-far.html\)](/Environment/2015/08/23/July-was-the-hottest-month-in-Earth-s-hottest-year-on-record-so-far.html)

For planet Earth, no other month was as hot as this past July in records that date back to the late 1800s, NOAA said. And, the globe...



Super 8

SUMMER SALE: SAVE 25%
WHEN YOU STAY 2 OR MORE NIGHTS

BOOK NOW

AdChoices



<http://www.standard.net>

332 STANDARD WAY, OGDEN UT 84412
801-625-4200 • 1-800-651-2105

[NEWS \(/NEWS\)](#)

[Local \(/local\)](#)

[State \(/state\)](#)

[Teen Suicide \(/preventing-teen-suicide\)](#)

[Government \(/government\)](#)

[Education \(/education\)](#)

[Environment \(/environment\)](#)

[Business \(/business\)](#)

[Courts \(/courts\)](#)

[National \(/national\)](#)

[World \(/world\)](#)

POLICE & FIRE (/POLICE-FIRE)

[Police \(/police\)](#)

[Fire \(/fire\)](#)

[Jail Mugs \(/jail-mugs\)](#)

SPORTS (/SPORTS)

[High School \(/high-school\)](#)

[College \(/college\)](#)

[Pro \(/pro\)](#)

[Football \(/football\)](#)

[Basketball \(/basketball\)](#)

[Baseball \(/baseball\)](#)

[Olympics \(/olympics\)](#)

ENTERTAINMENT (/ENTERTAINMENT)

[Movies & TV \(/movies-tv\)](#)

[Music \(/music\)](#)

[Stage \(/stage\)](#)

[Arts & Culture \(/arts-culture\)](#)

[Calendar \(/calendar\)](#)

[Dining Out \(/dining-out\)](#)

[Books \(/books\)](#)

[Best of Web \(/best-of-web\)](#)

LIFESTYLE (/LIFESTYLE)

[Science \(/science\)](#)

[Technology \(/technology\)](#)

[Health \(/health\)](#)

[Food \(/food\)](#)

[Style \(/style\)](#)

[Profiles \(/profiles\)](#)

[Faith \(/faith\)](#)

[Recreation \(/recreation\)](#)

[TX \(/tx\)](#)

[OPINION \(/OPINION\)](#)

[Our View \(/our-view\)](#)

[Staff Columns \(/staff-columns\)](#)

[Letters \(/letters\)](#)

[Cartoons \(/cartoons\)](#)

[You Caption Cal \(http://on.fb.me/1mNXPLv\)](http://on.fb.me/1mNXPLv)

[Guest Commentary \(/guest-commentary\)](#)

[Nat'l Commentary \(/national-commentary\)](#)

[Terms of Service \(terms-of-service\)](#) | [Privacy Policy \(privacy-policy\)](#)

Ogden Publishing Corporation

All rights reserved. Reproduction, reuse or transmittal of all herein is prohibited without prior written permission.