

WASATCH CANYONS GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

PARLEY'S • MILL CREEK • BIG COTTONWOOD • LITTLE COTTONWOOD

VISIONING EVENTS OUTREACH SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

As part of the community outreach process for the Wasatch Canyons General Plan Update, Salt Lake County hosted several public events throughout October and November.

Between formal open houses and interactive booths at community events, approximately 300 people were able to participate, including residents, employees, business owners, community leaders, youth, and other stakeholders. The visioning events were noticed on the project web-page, social media pages, project email lists, and by community groups.

In addition to the in-person events, an opportunity to participate online was provided in the form of a survey. The online survey contained the same questions and information from the in-person events.

Note: This document only summarizes in-person outreach.

OBJECTIVE

The purpose of the visioning outreach was to give interested members of the public an opportunity to provide input on preliminary vision statements and corresponding opportunities for the Wasatch Canyons.

FORMAT

Large meeting rooms inside libraries, schools, and community centers were used for the open house's where ten poster boards with information about the five vision statements (land use, environment, recreation, economy, and transportation) were presented. Each board included a draft vision statement with space to rank the statement on a scale of one to five, with a one being "strongly disagree" and a five being "strongly agree."

Additional presentation boards included a "Where are you from?" map where participants were asked to place a pin where they lived, as well as "What we've been hearing" boards with a summary of public input gathered so far in the planning effort.



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Special thank you to all those who took time to participate in these meetings.



Booth
Salt Lake City
Downtown
Farmers Market
 August 26 and
 October 21, 2017

Booth
Mill Creek
Canyon
 September 9, 2017

Booth
Snowbird Ski Resort
Oktoberfest
 October 14, 2017

Booth
Tour of Utah
Brighton Resort
 August 2, 2017

Public Kickoff
Open House
Whittmore Library
 September 27th, 2017

VISIONING EVENTS



Open House
Cottonwood Heights
City Hall
October 18, 2017

Booth
Wheeler Farm
Halloween Event
October 24, 2017

Open House
Solitude Ski Resort
October 28th, 2017

Open House
Corner Canyon High School
(Draper)
November 1, 2017

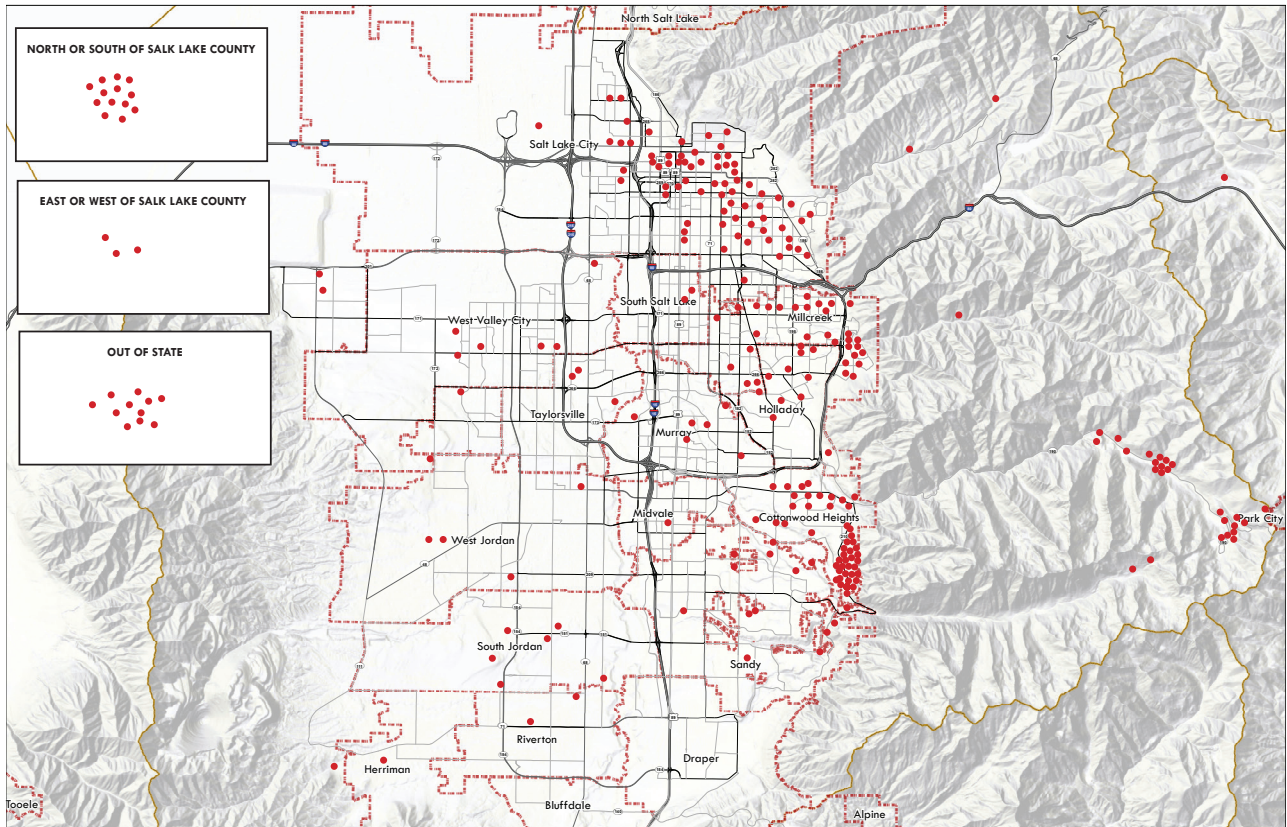
Open House
Millcreek
Community Center
November 9, 2017

The process provided an opportunity for the community and visitors to voice their values, describe pressing needs, and prioritize opportunities. A range of events were held to engage all types of respondents: kids, teenagers, families, locals, and visitors were given an opportunity to participate.

WHO DID WE HEAR FROM?

At each event we asked participants to place a pin on where they live to get a sense of where our participants were coming from. Each red dot represents 1 - 5 people.

WHERE ARE YOU FROM?



WHERE DID WE GO? THE MAP ABOVE WAS DISPLAYED AT THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:

September 27th, 2017
Whittmore Library
Wasatch Canyons Plan Kickoff Event

October 28th, 2017
Solitude Ski Resort
Wasatch Canyons Visioning Open House

October 14th, 2017
Oktoberfest at Snowbird Ski Resort
Wasatch Canyons Visioning Booth

November 1st, 2017
Wasatch Canyons Visioning Open House
Corner Canyon High School (Draper)

October 18th, 2017
Cottonwood Heights City Hall
Wasatch Canyons Visioning Open House

November 9th, 2017
Millcreek Community Center
Wasatch Canyons Visioning Open House

October 21th, 2017
Salt Lake City Downtown Farmers Market
Wasatch Canyons Visioning Booth

WHAT WE HEARD

The enthusiasm towards community engagement and passion of local residents was evident in the responses received during the community vision process. The following is a summary of residents and visitors shared values. It does not include every value mentioned, but attempts to summarize shared values that were mentioned most frequently.

Vast Supply of Wild Lands



The number one response to the question, “What do you love most about the Wasatch Canyons?” was the vast supply of wild, natural lands available for people to explore, experience, and adventure in. Participants have a great pride for the Wasatch Canyons and even revere them as “their backyard.” This kind of affection for the natural landscape of the is ingrained in the culture of Salt Lake County and celebrated as one of the greatest natural assets in the State of Utah.

Quick and Easy Access to the Canyons



Access to natural-based amenities and an abundance of recreational opportunities was ranked next on the list of what was loved most about the Wasatch Canyons. Participants love the fact that they can leave their homes and 10 - 30 minutes later be at a trailhead for a hike before dinner. In no other major metropolitan area in the United States do residents have that kind of access to natural assets as vast as the Wasatch Canyons. In most urban areas, people have to drive for hours just to reach natural areas equivalent in size to the Wasatch, taking up whole days or weekends of their time.

Importance of Canyons and Foothills Preservation



Next on the list of values is the importance that participants place on preservation of the natural environment. Many who participated in the visioning process desire the Wasatch Canyons to be protected from large-scale future development and preserved to the extent feasible for future generations to love and enjoy. At the same time, many who participated emphasized the benefit of private property uses on the culture and function of the Canyons and support their continuation.

Diverse Range of Recreational Activities



The recreational opportunities in the Wasatch are a world-wide draw to the Salt Lake Area. Both active and passive recreation activities are available for visitors to experience, ranging from hiking to skiing, rock climbing to photography, and picnicking to bird watching. The Wasatch Canyons have something for almost everyone and residents know just how lucky they are to have such variety of things to do in the Canyons.

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VISION SURVEY SUMMARY

The Visioning Survey asked questions about the five vision statements of recreation, environment, economy, transportation, and land-use as well as if participants would support ideas generated through public input so far in the process. Questions about age, gender, and place of residence were also asked at the end of the survey.

WHO PARTICIPATED?

The participants of the survey included a diverse range of ages. The pie-chart below is a breakdown of these age demographics. Additionally, 70% of participants were male while only 30% were female. The pie-chart to the below also shows where survey participants were from. Per the pie chart, most people were from the Salt Lake Valley with being from the cities of Salt Lake, Millcreek, Draper, Holladay, and South Salt Lake. Another large portion came from within the project area, other locations within Utah, and out of state participants (11%).

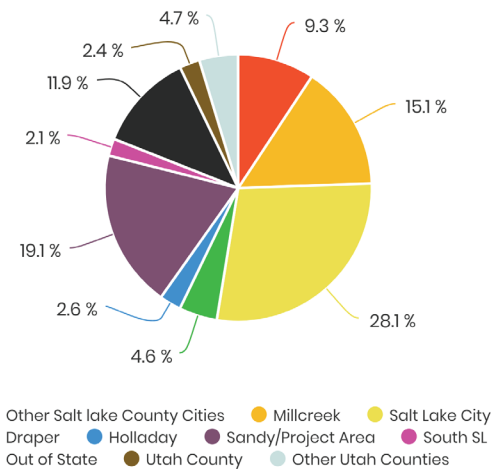
2,952
SURVEY PARTICIPANTS TOTAL

1,297
COMPLETE ONLINE RESPONSES

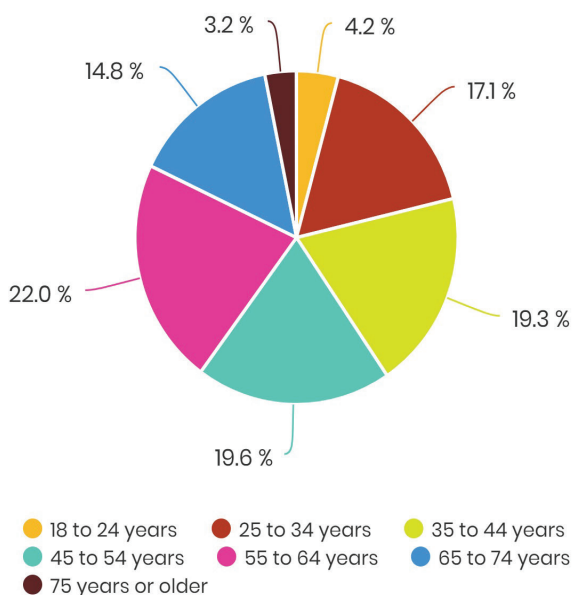
1,607
PARTIAL ONLINE RESPONSES

48
PAPER SURVEYS

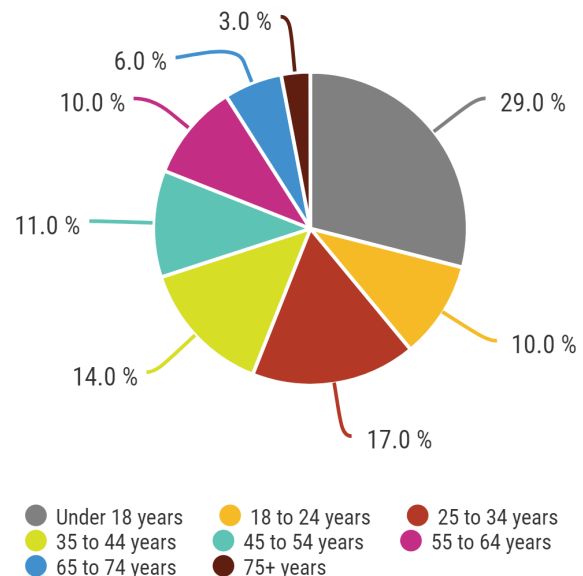
Location



Age (Survey Participants)



Age (Salt Lake County)



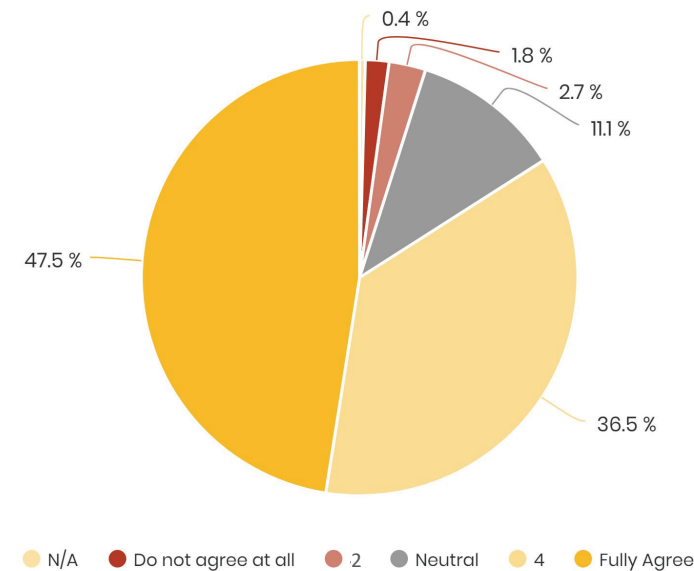
SUMMARY REPORT

The following pages include a brief summary of the survey results. For a full report of the public comments on the vision statements, see the attached report following this summary.

1. LAND USE

Original Vision Statement: Strive for excellent partnerships among jurisdictions and stakeholders through collaboration and coordination to provide for access management, water resource protection, recreation opportunities, wildlife and environment, private property uses, and quality open spaces.

Do you agree with this vision statement?

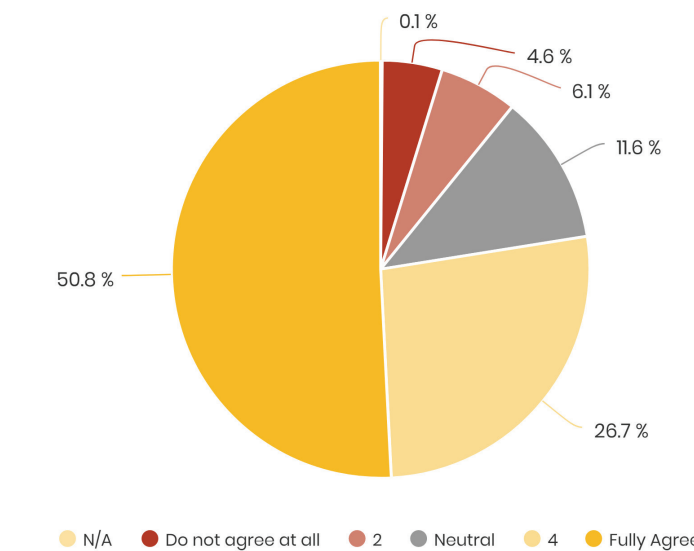


Option	Count	%
N/A	7	0.4%
1 (Do not agree at all)	29	1.8%
2	45	2.7%
3 (Neutral)	183	11.1%
4	603	36.5%
5 (Fully agree)	785	47.5%

2. RECREATION

Original Vision Statement: Offer a wide range of diverse, high-quality, and year-round recreational experiences that are accessible to all kinds of participants.

Do you agree with this vision statement?

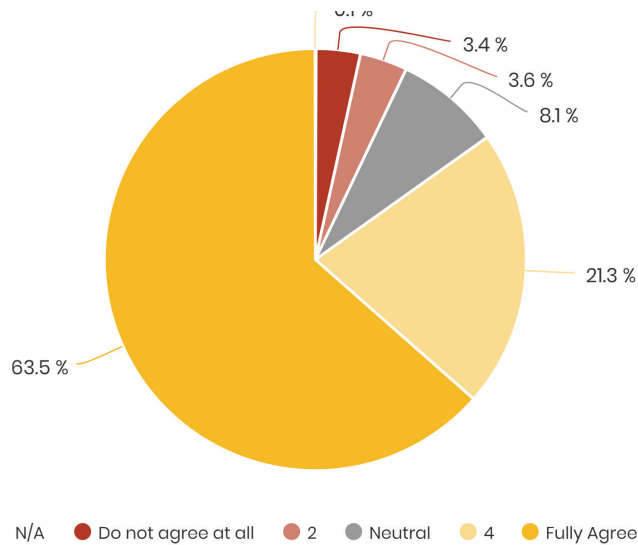


Option	Count	%
N/A	2	0.1%
1 (Do not agree at all)	75	4.6%
2	98	6.0%
3 (Neutral)	188	11.1%
4	431	26.7%
5 (Fully agree)	820	50.8%

3. TRANSPORTATION

Original Vision Statement: Implement transportation projects and opportunities for bicycles, transit and vehicles to reduce congestion, improve air quality, facilitate access, increase occupancy per vehicle and enhance public safety.

Do you agree with this vision statement?

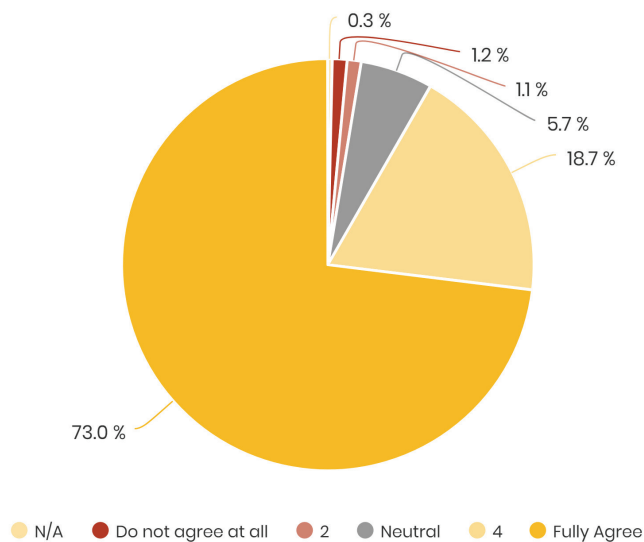


Option	Count	%
N/A	1	0.1%
1 (Do not agree at all)	55	3.4%
2	59	3.6%
3 (Neutral)	131	8.1%
4	346	21.3%
5 (Fully agree)	1,030	63.5%

4. ENVIRONMENT

Original Vision Statement: Support healthy forests, connected ecosystem habitats and waterways for current and future generations. Promote programs that improve watersheds, air quality, vegetation and wildlife ecosystems, and scenic quality.

Do you agree with this vision statement?

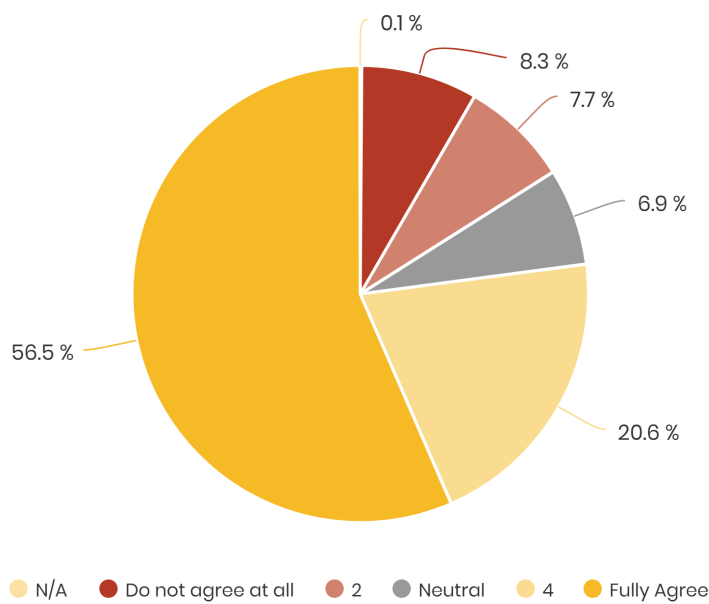


Option	Count	%
N/A	5	0.3%
1 (Do not agree at all)	17	1.2%
2	16	1.1%
3 (Neutral)	83	5.7%
4	272	18.7%
5 (Fully agree)	1,065	73.0%

5. ECONOMY

Original Vision Statement: Responsibly promote the Wasatch Canyons as a unique world class recreation destination to provide an immense economic impact to the region. Within the Canyons enable businesses to continue providing services and goods without compromising the environment.

Do you agree with this vision statement?



N/A	2	0.1%
1 (Do not agree at all)	161	8.3%
2	149	7.7%
3 (Neutral)	134	6.9%
4	400	20.6%
5 (Fully agree)	1,100	56.5%

6. PLANNING IDEAS:

Participants also provided feedback on potential planning ideas and whether they could contribute to achieving their vision for the future.

N/A 1 2 3 4 5

Rate each idea (5 it accomplishes my vision, 1 it doesn't at all)

LAND USE IDEAS

Develop funding mechanisms to increase the purchase of undeveloped land parcels as open space	13	134	53	131	230	889
Expand designated wilderness areas	7	136	60	168	218	910
Promote consolidation of land ownership to create continuous open spaces and support compact development	30	143	99	267	357	587
Creation of roadside viewing areas	30	378	251	402	231	195
Explore a mechanism to exchange undevelopable lands in the canyons for developable parcels in and outside of the canyons	71	308	149	338	307	316

ENVIRONMENT IDEAS

Construct bio-swales at parking lots to clean storm water runoff	4	2	3	7	7	18
Increased public educational program to decrease littering	9	74	72	193	251	732
Promote canyon dark skies through lighting ordinances and retrofits	22	93	62	178	258	737
Identify and protect key wildlife corridors and habitats	4	37	48	118	256	889
Broaden protection of water quality and quantity	4	78	44	176	240	803
Continue restoration and reclamation programs in the canyons	10	33	29	133	270	787

ECONOMY IDEAS

Explore a County-wide recreation sales tax to support maintenance and improvement needs in the Canyons	7	196	81	247	316	486
Limit ski area development to current footprints	11	256	108	138	163	680
Expand ski resort bases or villages (hotels and commercial services) to accommodate growing tourism	30	542	183	240	179	171
Offer or permit canyon shuttle services (with proper permits)	13	89	64	268	379	519
Promote increased development in cities near canyons to offer base type services and villages	33	201	112	289	307	401

RECREATION IDEAS

Rate each idea (5 it accomplishes my vision, 1 it doesn't at all)

	N/A	1	2	3	4	5
Install, improve, and maintain public restrooms at well-used trailheads and other recreation destinations	1	47	51	184	415	728
Develop an Operations and Maintenance program to ensure facilities are in proper condition	7	32	58	193	454	679
Implement design standards that promote a sense of place and stewardship (i.e. signage, architecture, entry features, benches, etc.)	9	152	136	306	363	462
Carry out public education campaigns for trail courtesy and usage	2	0	60	75	223	717
Provide additional financial support for trail maintenance programs	4	35	47	169	406	761
Expand the foothill trail system	15	78	100	262	339	629
Build additional designated system trails	17	163	121	337	310	477
Increase climbing areas	82	242	199	421	216	236
Increase the number of hunting and fishing access points	78	239	220	427	241	216
Increase the number of designated campgrounds and picnic facilities	36	330	284	390	227	154
New or improved recycling/trash collection at trailheads and parking areas	6	56	67	224	363	679
Develop a mtn. bike/ hike trail connecting Parley's to Summit County	48	150	97	267	313	545
Provide easy to use smart phone app for trails, bathrooms, trailheads, parking, etc.	40	259	156	307	249	409

TRANSPORTATION IDEAS

Rate each idea (5 it accomplishes my vision, 1 it doesn't at all)

	N/A	1	2	3	4	5
Build facilities that allow for safe passage of wildlife across roads	18	159	113	231	320	459
Implement a digital (non-stopping) canyon toll system to pay for maintenance and improvements of bathrooms, parking lots, required transit improvements, trails etc.	19	284	130	230	307	385
Implement user fees (trailhead parking)	23	416	164	235	241	280
Formalize parking spaces though paving or striping in appropriate areas	23	246	179	337	278	285
Restrict roadside parking	34	326	215	298	208	264
Expand roadside parking	51	344	177	335	237	192
Development of bike lanes in Millcreek, Big Cottonwood, and Little Cottonwood Canyons	19	151	95	199	302	613
Development of a bike pathway connecting Salt Lake County and Summit County	46	144	107	258	261	553
Development of parking outside of the Canyons that connects to public transit	9	42	34	150	282	841
Evaluate adding an additional lane to operate an improved bus system in the Cottonwoods	15	173	89	216	295	576
Implement a real-time parking solution with signs, smart phone applications, etc. to direct visitors to available parking	28	179	145	299	306	294
Offer permitted shuttle service in Millcreek Canyon	82	172	119	323	300	357
Increase frequency of winter bus service in Cottonwood Canyons	28	56	64	247	314	643
Creation of summer of bus service in Cottonwood Canyons	35	107	120	296	280	254
Explore programs to incentivize carpooling	20	110	96	185	314	637
Promote ridesharing (such as Uber or Lyft) by providing loading and unloading areas at key destinations	22	144	126	265	301	500
Implement pedestrian road crossing signs, pavement marking and lights at key recreation destinations	31	228	152	371	272	301



VISION FOR THE WASATCH CANYONS

DRAFT January 08, 2018

JOHNNYADOLPHSON_SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

WASATCH CANYONS GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

PARLEY'S • MILL CREEK • BIG COTTONWOOD • LITTLE COTTONWOOD



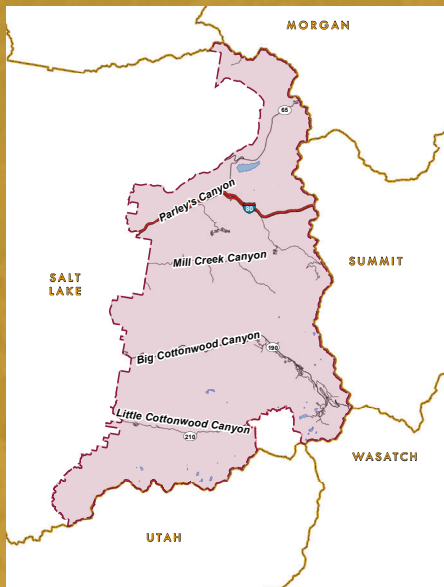
BACKGROUND

WHAT IS THE GENERAL PLAN?

The General Plan will be a long-term strategic plan with a guiding vision, policies, strategies, and ordinances for management and collaboration; and will shape decisions related to new development, redevelopment, County programs, projects, budgets, and services. It identifies a vision for the future of the Canyons and provides goals and prioritized actions that ensure critical decisions are aligned with what's important to the community.

PROJECT SCOPE

Most of the planning area is within the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest and is managed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service (Forest Service). The County has direct planning and zoning jurisdiction over the private lands in the planning area. The scope of the General Plan broadly considers all lands, agency land management plans, and resources within the planning area, and the County's partners in recreation, transportation and environmental quality across jurisdictional boundaries.



INTRODUCTION

The Wasatch Canyons Vision document defines how the Wasatch Canyons (Parley's Canyon, Mill Creek Canyon, Big Cottonwood Canyon, Little Cottonwood Canyon, and the foothills) should look into the future. It considers how the greater community will access them, how millions of people will play in them, how to balance the need for private property uses and environmental preservation, and how management of the landscape will evolve to preserve the Canyons for future generations. Protecting the qualities that collectively encompass the Canyons and celebrating the area's natural significance have been essential to the visioning effort.

Visioning is a critical step in every planning process, creating a foundation for more effective community engagement and planning. Visioning ensures that County residents and leaders values and goals are accurately reflected in the plan's elements, policies, and frameworks. Visioning also provides the framework foundations for the next phases of the planning process. The vision creates the structure and initial agreements necessary to discuss the tough issues that will be further addressed in the General Plan Update process. The Vision document will be updated and expanded over the course of the planning process to eventually serve as a chapter of the General Plan.

The vision is organized into five planning themes: Land Use, Environment, Recreation, Transportation, and Economy.

A VISION FOR THE WASATCH CANYONS

The vision developed through a series of community conversations and ideas from prior planning projects and represents the aspirational outlook for the future the Wasatch Canyons. Building on public feedback, discussions with stakeholders, and County staff, this vision document will help guide the creation of the Wasatch Canyons General Plan. For a summary of all visioning activities and events, visit slco.org/wasatch-canyons.

PROCESS TO CREATE THE VISION



*REVISED BASED ON PRELIMINARY PUBLIC INPUT AND STEERING COMMITTEE REVIEW

**MOUNTAINOUS PLANNING DISTRICT

WE ARE HERE!

Vision: The five vision statements describe the desired future of the Wasatch Canyons based on shared values. The vision themes also guide the direction of the General Plan.

Principles: The principles under each of the vision elaborate on the future setting, character, opportunities, and agency actions for the Wasatch Canyons in the next 15-20 years.

LAND USE

Vision: Strive for mutually beneficial partnerships among jurisdictions, government agencies, and stakeholders through collaboration and coordination to provide for water resource protection, recreation opportunities, wildlife, approved private property uses, and quality open spaces.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

1. [Partnerships] Maintain consistent and effective collaboration and coordination among jurisdictions, government agencies, and stakeholders, while acknowledging that stakeholders include canyon residents, businesses, and visitors.
2. [Community] Support quality planning and zoning that encourages social and community relationships, healthy lifestyles, and public safety.
3. [Private Property] Provide for continuation and improvement of approved uses.
4. [Regulatory Tools] Maintain zoning that allows development in appropriate areas and preserves lands for watershed, recreation, scenic value, and wildlife.
5. [Environment] Collaborate with public and private
6. entities to support clean watersheds, biodiversity, healthy forests, and resilient landscapes.
7. [Aesthetics] Encourage the aesthetic beauty of the man-made environment and the protection of the scenic natural environment.



ENVIRONMENT

Vision: Serve as stewards to support healthy forests, connected ecosystems, habitats, and waterways for current and future generations. Promote programs that improve watersheds, air quality, vegetation, wildlife ecosystems, and scenic quality.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

1. [System] Protect and steward open lands and natural resources (air, water, wildlife, fisheries, climate, trail systems, wetlands, dark skies, soundscape, soils, open space, native vegetation).
2. [Open Space] Promote the acquisition of natural and undeveloped lands for conservation.
3. [Water] Protect, maintain, and improve watershed health, water supply, and water quality.
4. [Air] Protect and improve air quality for protection of public health, environmental health, and scenic visibility.
5. [Native Species] Maintain healthy populations of native species and support early detection and rapid response to eliminate invasive species and noxious weeds.
6. [Wildlife] Preserve sensitive habitats and migration areas for wildlife.
7. [Property] Respect approved private property uses and promote their stewardship of the environment.
8. [Wildfire] Support wildfire safety and defensible space.



RECREATION

Vision: Continue to support high-quality recreation opportunities for a diverse public and sustainable facility maintenance.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

1. [System] Maintain consistent coordination with neighboring jurisdictions and agencies to support a connected recreation system.
2. [Responsible] Support programs that promote responsible recreation and personal responsibility for public safety and protection of the Canyon's natural resources.
3. [Accessible] Enhance and preserve access to public lands.
4. [Diversity] Maintain a spectrum of diverse recreation opportunities for participants at all levels, abilities, and interests.
5. [Sustainable] Recognize the need to accommodate different user groups in ways that minimizes user conflict and landscape damage.
6. [Facility] Provide support through grants and or other funding revenues for recreation facility maintenance, trailheads, and restrooms.
7. [Year-Round] Consider year-round needs in recreation planning and facility maintenance.

TRANSPORTATION

Vision: Support and prioritize projects for transit, bicycles, pedestrians, and vehicles to reduce congestion, improve air quality, enhance safety, and facilitate connectivity to the regional transportation system.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

1. [Collaboration] Collaborate in long-term transportation planning with UDOT, UTA, USFS, Salt Lake City Public Utilities, private property owners, local jurisdictions (Salt Lake and Summit counties) and other involved agencies.
2. [Choice] Create convenient, safe, timely, sustainable, and efficient options for transportation by a variety of modes that satisfy multiple needs.
3. [Character] Promote context appropriate transportation modes and projects that are appropriate for the each canyon's unique context.
4. [Accessibility] Provide well-maintained and accessible transportation infrastructure including roads, parking facilities, pathways, and walkways.
5. [Transit Stops] Create canyon ADA-compliant transit stops with restroom facilities, and bus pullouts for user comfort and aesthetics.

ECONOMY

Vision: Sustain the Wasatch Canyons as a world-class recreation destination that provides significant economic benefit to the region. Enable businesses to continue providing goods and services without compromising the environment.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

1. [Context Appropriate] Attract and retain canyon businesses that are economically and environmentally sustainable.
2. [Tourism] Recognize that tourism is a fundamental component of the Utah economy and is dependent on healthy and vast natural and scenic resources.
3. [Stewardship] Encourage businesses to be environmental stewards through practices and education outreach to customers and visitors.
4. [Branding] Promote signage and branding that highlights the history and heritage of the Canyons, and promotes appreciation and stewardship.



MOVING FORWARD

The Vision embodies the expectations and the potential of the Wasatch, and directs how the future built and natural environment is planned and designed. The next step is to establish the plan's policies and projects based on the foundation provided in this document. Each canyon and the foothills will have their own chapter within the General Plan where details on the policies and projects will be fleshed out. A thoughtful, deliberate combination of large and small projects, fresh programs, and new partnerships will lead to an implementable planning strategy.

Now is the Time!

Now is the time to put your mark on the Wasatch Canyons General Plan! As the process moves forward, it is important that the community continues to be involved. Make sure that your thoughts and ideas are heard. Jump into online discussions, slco.org/wasatch-canyons, join your friends and neighbors at public meetings, and share opinions in surveys and at open houses. Look out for "Opportunities and Choices" public events this spring!

**We value your opinions and look to
include your ideas in the future of
the Wasatch Canyons.**

GLOSSARY

ADA-Compliance: allows for persons in wheel chairs to access certain areas via ramps, elevators, hand rails, etc.

Biodiversity: Variety of wildlife within a particular habitat or ecosystem.

Branding: Creating an identity for a place in regards to its logo, slogan, design, etc.

Conservation: The act of protecting the natural environment from degradation.

Entities: A department within the government.

Government Agencies: An appointed organization that is allowed oversight and administration over specific functions of society.

Healthy Forests: A forest that is able to sustain its species and landscape even in the event of an outside disturbance such as a wildfire.

Invasive Species: Species of plant and animal life that are not native to an ecosystem causing harm to the native species of those ecosystems.

Jurisdictions: An official government power to make legal decisions and judgments over a defined area.

Man-made Environment: (or built environment) Man-made settlements that provide for human activity such as living, working, and playing.

Native Species: Species of plant and animal life that originate and naturally evolve within a region without human assistance.

Open Lands: Lands that are void of man-made structures with significant vegetation cover.

Public Lands: Non-privatized land that is owned by the public and accessible to all.

Recreation: Leisure relating to activities done for enjoyment.

Recreation Facility: Places such as trailheads that offer amenities like bathrooms, waste bins, and way-finding signs.

Resilient Landscapes: Landscapes with the ability to quickly recover from an outside disruption such as a wildfire.

Scenic Value: The, often intangible, worth of aesthetic views of nature and the environment.

Signage: Signs used to help navigate users to important destinations.

SLCPU: Salt Lake City Public Utilities: Responsible for protecting and managing the Wasatch watershed area.

Stakeholder: A person with a stake or interest, such as a land managing agency or property owner, within the Canyons.

Stewardship: Taking care of a place, something, or someone.

Transportation Modes: A way of traveling through different transportation options such as walking, biking, driving, or taking transit.

UDOT: Utah Department of Transportation: Responsible for building and maintaining state roads and bridges.

USFS: United States Forest Service. Responsible for protecting and managing US forest areas.

UTA: Utah Transit Authority: Responsible for serving the Salt Lake Metropolitan area with transit including bus, rail, and shuttle services.

Watershed: An area of drainage ranging from mountain snow pack to rivers, lakes, and oceans.

Wildlife: The collective populations of animal and plant life within a designated area.

Zoning: Laws and regulations defined by the government to determine how land can be used in certain areas.



ENTER ROAD TO
NEW MEXICO
AT TRAIL OF CANYON
NORTHERN TO WAY TO
SOUTHERN