



Cottonwood Heights PARKS, TRAILS, & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN



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Acknowledgements

Elected Officials

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- Douglas Peterson, Council Member, District 1
- Scott Bracken, Council Member, District 2
- Tali Bruce, Council Member, District 3
- Christine Mikell, Council Member, District 4

Planning Commission

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Introduction

Foreword

The quality of life in Cottonwood Heights is intrinsically bound to its history, location, and beauty. The “City Between the Canyons” built on the bench at the base of the Twin Peaks of the Wasatch Range with its canyons access, striking views, parks, and open spaces are essential to the character of our city. That character is why people come to Cottonwood Heights, stay in Cottonwood Heights, and return to Cottonwood Heights. That is why it is so important for us to plan and invest smartly to make sure that character is never lost as Cottonwood Heights continues to thrive and grow. Great cities have progressive open space plans, and thanks to the generous support of the City Council and the City Staff, Cottonwood Heights now joins those ranks. It charts a course for ensuring that open space, parks, trails and our urban forest continues to enhance the environmental, social, and economic well-being of our city.

—Mike Peterson, Mayor



Vision Statement

The Cottonwood Heights Open Space Master Plan envisions the city as a healthy and active community that enjoys the natural and urban outdoor world, while improving environmental and physical health and at the same time being environmentally and fiscally responsible. Execution of the plan is a part of achieving the City’s sustainability goals, including:

- Improved air and water quality;
- Increased energy, fuel, and water conservation;
- Increased biodiversity and habitat;
- Reduced infrastructure impacts;
- Reduced heat from the urban heat island effect; and
- Reduced light and noise trespass.

Plan Goals

The projected outcomes of this plan are:

- Consolidate goals and policies for parks, open space, trails, and an urban forest into one cohesive plan.
- Create a document that aids in the acquisition of passive open space areas for conservation and preservation.
- Coordinate open space and natural trails with parks, recreational facilities, area neighborhoods and the built environment.
- Incorporate the collected information into goals and implementation strategies to guide the preservation of open space and improve the City’s natural trail system.



Legal Authority of the Plan

Municipalities are required to prepare a General Plan for the City that the Planning Commission recommends to the City Council for approval. The Planning Commission is to recommend land use elements in that plan that designate “the proposed extent, general distribution, and location of land for... recreation, open space, and other categories of public and private uses of land” as well as other land uses. Additionally, general plans are required to provide for a transportation element that includes “active transportation facilities and other modes of transportation as the planning commission considers appropriate.” (see UCA 10-9a-403)

“The City Council may adopt, reject, or make any revisions to the proposed general plan or

amendment that it considers appropriate.” (see UCA 10-9a-404)

This Parks, Open Space, Trails and Urban Forest Master Plan serves as a replacement to the Open Space and Parks element of the General Plan of Cottonwood Heights. This plan is an advisory guide for land use decisions (see UCA 10-9a-405).

“After the City Council has adopted a general plan, no street, park, or other public way, ground, place, or space, no publicly owned building or structure, and no public utility, whether publicly or privately owned, may be constructed or authorized until and unless it conforms to the current general plan.” (see UCA 10-9a-406)

Executive Summary

The Parks, Trails, and Open Space Master Plan is an addendum to the Cottonwood Heights General Plan. It is intended to be an advisory guide to provide recommendations for future land use decisions in Cottonwood Heights. This plan does not approve any specific projects for new parks, trails, or open space preservation. Individual projects will be considered as future opportunities arise. The recommendations in this plan were informed by existing long-range plans and public comments from recent City open houses and surveys.

Improving Existing Inventory

Cottonwood Heights residents love their parks, trails, and open space and want to see the existing inventory maintained and improved. Residents want new amenities to be considered as existing parks are upgraded or as new parks are built. Some of the amenities residents would like to see include: an off-leash dog park, a mountain bike pump track, a frisbee golf course, more pickleball courts, a stage for events and music, and an all-abilities park.

Future Parks, Trails, & Open Space

New parks, trails, and open space will be necessary to meet future demand as the city continues to grow at a rapid pace.

Future Open Space Summary:

- Future redevelopment of commercial areas in the city (e.g. along Fort Union Blvd., at the Old Mill, and at the Gravel Pit) should be designed in a way that incorporates pedestrian walkways, public plazas, and greenspace.
- New parks are planned at the Canyon Centre development and the Ferguson Canyon Overflow parking area.
- The foothills east of Wasatch Boulevard are considered the scenic backdrop of the

city and should be preserved to the extent possible for recreational use and for wildlife habitat.

Future Trails Summary:

Opportunities for future natural and urban trails have been proposed throughout the city. Natural trails are typically unpaved with minimal improvements, while urban trails generally include more formal walkways paved for use by walkers, families with strollers, cyclists, and people in wheelchairs. The new trail proposals include:

- Cottonwood Heights (I-215) Trail
- Cottonwood Heights Loop
- East Jordan Canal Trail
- Fort Union Cycle Track
- Wasatch Boulevard Trail
- Bonneville Shoreline Trail
- Enchanted Valley Trail

Planning Areas

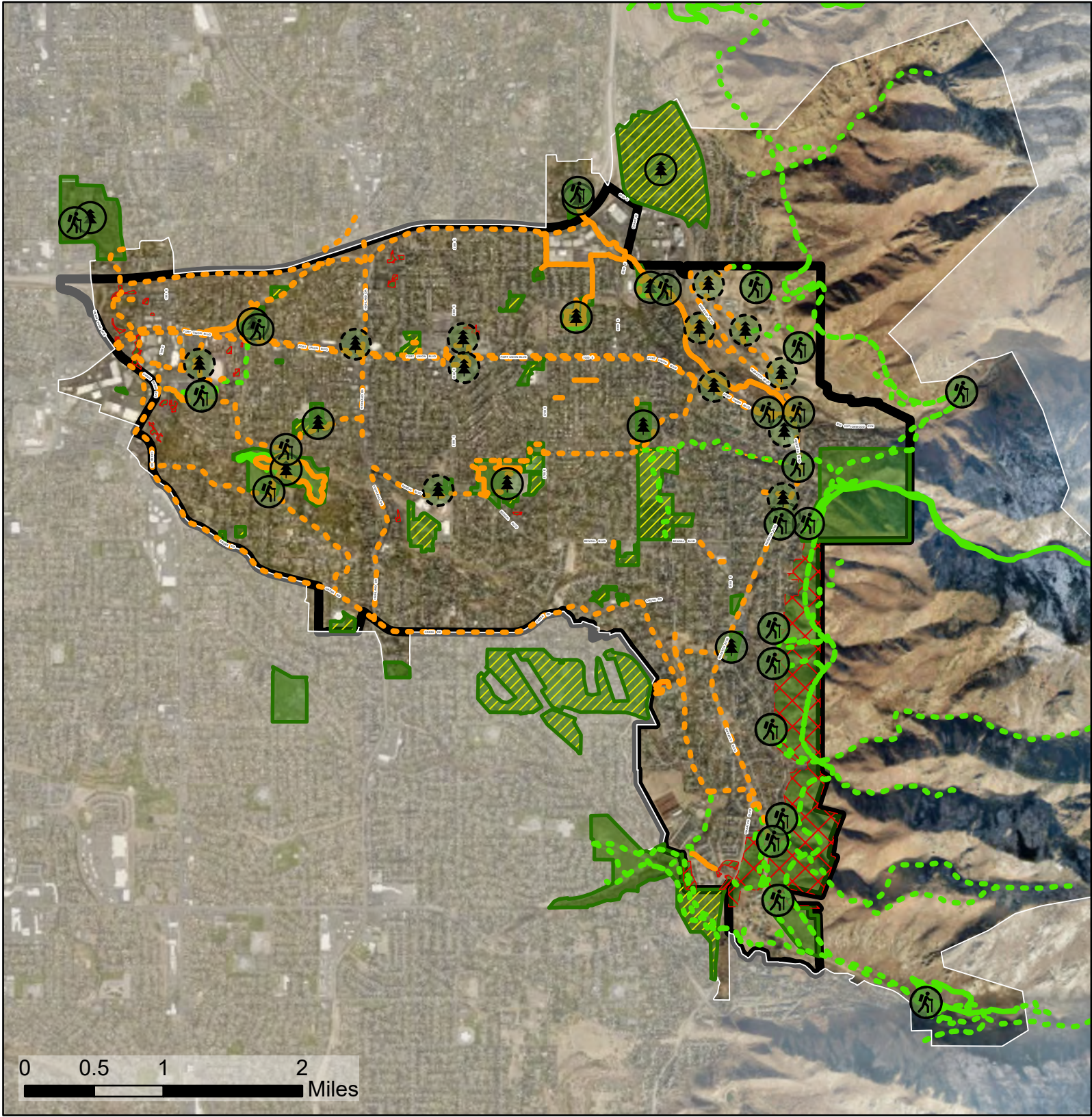
The plan includes new planning areas as a way to help analyze the needs of neighborhoods throughout the city. The areas were created in an effort to look at linking neighborhoods around activity areas.

Implementation

The Implementation section of the plan includes information on how the recommendations of this plan can be prioritized and funded in the future. The recommended implementation methods are:

- City General Fund
- Impact Fees
- Bonds
- Grants & Programs
- Private Donations
- Development & Redevelopment

COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS OPEN SPACE



0 0.5 1 2 Miles

- Map Legend -

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Existing Trailhead Points | Planned Open Space Points | Natural Trails | Private, Proposed |
| Existing Open Space Points | Urban Trails | Existing | Public, Existing |
| Planned Trailhead Points | Existing | Proposed | Semi-Public, Existing |
| | Potential | Existing Open Space | Planning areas |
| | Proposed | Type, Status | City Boundary |
| | | Private, Existing | |



Background

Open Space Timeline

Cottonwood Heights should be proud of the many Parks, Open Space, Trails and Forest achievements made in the area. Achievements include:

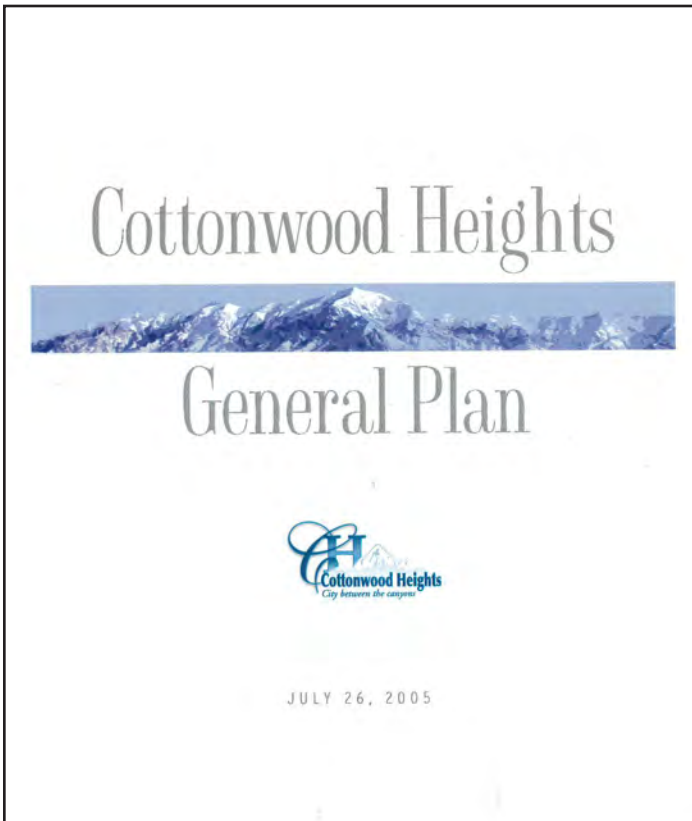
- 1906: Wasatch National Forest established
- 1960: Willow Creek Country Club established
- 1967: Cottonwood Heights Parks and Recreation Service Area established
- 1971: First phase of the Cottonwood Heights Recreation Center constructed
- 1978: Lone Peak Wilderness Area established
- 1984: Mount Olympus Wilderness Area established
- 1984: Twin Peaks Wilderness Area established
- 1997: Old Mill Golf Course built
- 2005: Sensitive Lands Ordinance adopted
- 2005: Established Safe Routes to School Plan
- 2005: Established Trip Hazard Plan
- 2006: City Entry monuments constructed
- 2008: Acquired open space funding to prevent Wasatch Office from developing the east side of Wasatch Boulevard and preserved it as open space
- 2009: Ferguson Canyon Trailhead built
- 2010: City acquires Golden Hills Park from Salt Lake County
- 2010: Old Mill Park Bridge constructed and other improvements made
- 2012: Mountview Park built
- 2012: Big Cottonwood Multi-Use Trail built
- 2014: Expanded Brighton/Butler Middle fields and tennis courts
- 2016: Bike and Trails Master Plan adopted
- 2017: Fort Union Corridor Plan adopted
- 2018: Required bike path construction in new developments
- 2018: Knudsen Park (Holladay City) built
- 2019: 30 Trees added to Mountview Park
- 2019: Wasatch Boulevard Master Plan adopted
- 2019: Dark Sky ordinance adopted
- 2020: East Jordan Canal Trail, Phase 1 built
- 2020: 15 Trees for 15 Years. Trees planted at the Cottonwood Heights Recreation Center and City Hall to commemorate the City's 15th anniversary
- 2020: Utah Open Lands' campaign to preserve 27 acres of open space at the mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon
- 2020: Trees and Park Strip ordinance adopted
- 2020: Bonneville Shoreline Trail Access Master Plan adopted



Existing Long-Range Plans

Existing city, county, and regional long-range plans provide a strong foundation of policies and recommendations related to the goals of this plan. One of the objectives of this plan is to consolidate existing and proposed open space goals and recommendations into one cohesive plan.

Cottonwood Heights General Plan (2005)



Key Elements:

- Preserve and protect natural open spaces and view corridors
- Maintain high quality parks and recreation facilities and programs
- Provide equally distributed parks and open space amenities throughout the City
- Develop a network of urban trails that provides alternative transportation opportunities
- Develop safe pedestrian routes to schools and other facilities
- Collaborate with other agencies to develop solutions to trails on state highways
- Minimize risks to life and property associated with flooding, slope stability, seismic activity, unstable soil, and wildfire
- Protect environmental resources such as water quality, wildlife habitat, scenic quality, hillsides, ridgelines, vegetation, and wetlands

Cottonwood Heights incorporated as a city on January 14, 2005. The General Plan was written and adopted shortly thereafter, following collaboration from the Mayor, City Council, Planning Commission, staff, and planning consultants. Its purpose is to provide a comprehensive guide for development in Cottonwood Heights. The General Plan illustrates a common vision for residents, businesses, property owners, city staff, and officials in Cottonwood Heights. It provides guidance on decisions relating to transportation, land uses, socioeconomics, annexation, parks and open space, urban trails, and the natural environment.

Salt Lake County Natural Areas Plan (2007)

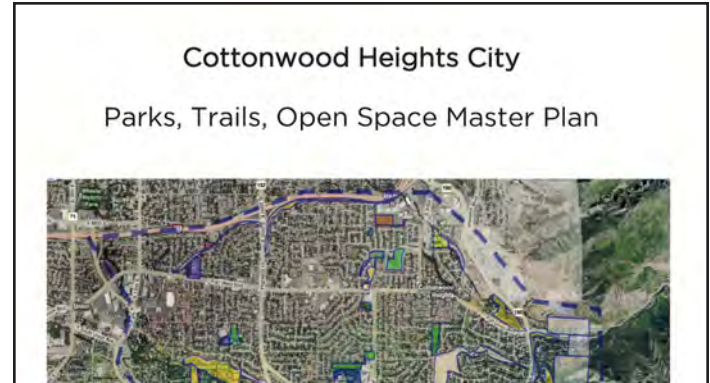


Salt Lake County aims to preserve, restore, and enhance natural areas within their jurisdiction. Natural areas offer multiple community benefits ranging from aesthetics to wildlife habitat to low-impact recreation opportunities. These benefits are increasingly important as communities become continually more concerned with the preservation of open-space and park lands, which are jeopardized by rapid development. The Salt Lake County Natural Areas Plan is meant to serve as a guide for the effective management of natural areas by establishing standards for the definition and classification of natural areas, the maintenance of natural areas, and the rehabilitation of degraded natural areas.

Key Elements:

- Cottonwood Heights contains Bigtooth Maple-Gambel Oak Woodlands, Alpine and Subalpine Areas, Pinyon-Juniper Woodlands, and Invasive Plant Communities
- The biota within these areas should be considered in planning for the preservation of natural areas
- Specific management guidelines, including those for weed management, erosion control, and revegetation are outlined

Cottonwood Heights Open Space Master Plan (2008)



The 2008 Cottonwood Heights Parks, Trails, Open Space Master Plan was prepared in collaboration with GSBS Architects. This document, called for by the 2005 General Plan, expresses the essential nature of open space and recreational facilities to the overall social and economic wellbeing of a community. It provides definitions, service standards, an existing conditions inventory, and recommended policies and actions relating to parks, trails, and open space within the city.

Key Elements:

- Circa 2008, Cottonwood Heights is deficient by 119.79 acres of neighborhood and community parks
- Circa 2008, Cottonwood Heights is deficient by 109.95 acres of regional parks land
- The close proximity to canyon areas and private recreation properties helps mitigate some of these deficiencies, but they should still be addressed
- Development of unimproved public lands should be the first priority in providing more amenities
- Procurement of privately owned property should also be considered in adding needed acreage

Salt Lake County Parks and Rec Facilities Master Plan (2015)



The SLCo Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan is a guiding document for developing parks, trails, open space, and recreation facilities within Salt Lake County. With unprecedented growth, the demand for quality recreation services is constantly increasing. The document is a culmination of input from special interest groups, residents, municipalities, NRPA, staff, and elected officials. Its goal is to leverage partnerships and collaboration to provide a greater diversity of services to a greater number of constituents, whether parks, trails, recreation facilities, or programs.

Key Elements:

- The amenities most important to SLCO households include trails for walking, running, and biking; natural open space areas; unprogrammed lawn areas; children's playgrounds; group pavilion areas; and indoor swimming pools
- Available funding should be allocated toward maintenance of existing amenities, as well as development of new amenities
- 75% of survey respondents feel that park and recreation facilities make a community a better place to live
- Development standards outline which services should be provided, and at what frequency. These standards should be used as guidelines and adjusted based on specific circumstances.

Salt Lake County East West Recreational Trails Master Plan (2015)



Salt Lake County recognizes the importance of planning and developing regional trails in order to provide critical connections and recreation opportunities. This plan outlines opportunities between both developed and undeveloped Salt Lake County areas in order to tie together a coordinated system of east west trails across various jurisdictions and physical conditions. In addition to identifying connections between trails, the plan promotes connections to parks and open spaces, key destinations, and transit amenities.

Key Elements:

- This plan outlines several trail corridors which involve Cottonwood Heights. These corridors include:
 - Corridor C – Big Cottonwood Canyon to Magna & West Bench
 - Corridor D – Little Cottonwood Canyon to Copperton
 - Corridor E – Little Cottonwood Canyon to Midas Creek & Rose Canyon
- As trail corridor development in Cottonwood Heights continues, these alignments, as well as the preferred standards for trail materials, trailheads, wayfinding, lighting, site furnishings, and maintenance should be considered.

Mountain Accord (2015)



More than 20 organizations representing the State of Utah, Cities, Counties, Nonprofits, Ski Resorts, and other groups signed an agreement on July 13, 2015 called The Mountain Accord Charter. Generally, the purpose of the charter is to provide solutions to the pressing issues facing the Central Wasatch mountain range.

The stated goals of the charter are to conserve, protect, and restore the natural ecosystem; encourage high levels of recreational use at nodes with convenient access; to provide a sustainable, safe, efficient, multi-modal transportation system; and to promote economic prosperity.

Key Elements:

- Cycling and pedestrian environments in Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons needs to be improved in order to encourage active transportation
 - A trail network must be developed that connects residents and communities with recreation nodes and future transit stations
 - There should be a balance in the type of trails provided, including those for hikers, bikers, skiers, and climbers
 - To avoid conflict between user groups, mitigation efforts like trail etiquette signage should be incorporated.

Wasatch Choice 2050 (2016)



On October 27, 2016, the Wasatch Front Regional Council adopted the Wasatch Choice 2050 goals. These goals are the result of input from cities, counties, transportation partners, businesses, and community organizations along the Wasatch Front.

Key Elements:

- There are several goals included in Wasatch Choice 2050 which relate to Parks, Trails, and Open Space, including:
 - Livable and healthy communities
 - Manageable and reliable traffic conditions
 - Quality transportation choices
 - Safe, user friendly streets
 - Clean air
 - Sustainable environment
 - Ample parks, open space, and recreational opportunities
- Strategies to achieve these, and the other Wasatch Choice 2050 goals, include:
 - Provide transportation choices, including transit access and bicycle facilities
 - Support housing options
 - Preserve open space, providing unparalleled access to the outdoors
 - Link economic development with transportation and housing decisions, thinking about the interplay between them and ultimately the outcomes we want to achieve

Cottonwood Heights Bicycle & Trails Master Plan (2016)



The Bicycle and Trails Master Plan proposes strategies to create a cohesive and functional network of trails and bicycle lanes throughout Cottonwood Heights. Despite a growing employment base, Cottonwood Heights is still largely a suburban commuter city which was built with a focus on convenient driving. The Bicycle and Trails Master Plan offers suggestions for retrofitting the auto centricity of the City to include active transportation infrastructure, as well as safe multi-modal transportation, human-scale activity, and recreation opportunities.

Key Elements:

- Promote healthy lifestyles through bicycle and pedestrian travel options
- Make bicycle and pedestrian travel a viable option with the City, and between Cottonwood Heights and its surrounding communities
- Promote Cottonwood Heights as an outdoor recreation destination
- Focus on bicycle lanes and trails as catalysts for economic development

Cottonwood Heights Fort Union Boulevard Master Plan (2017)

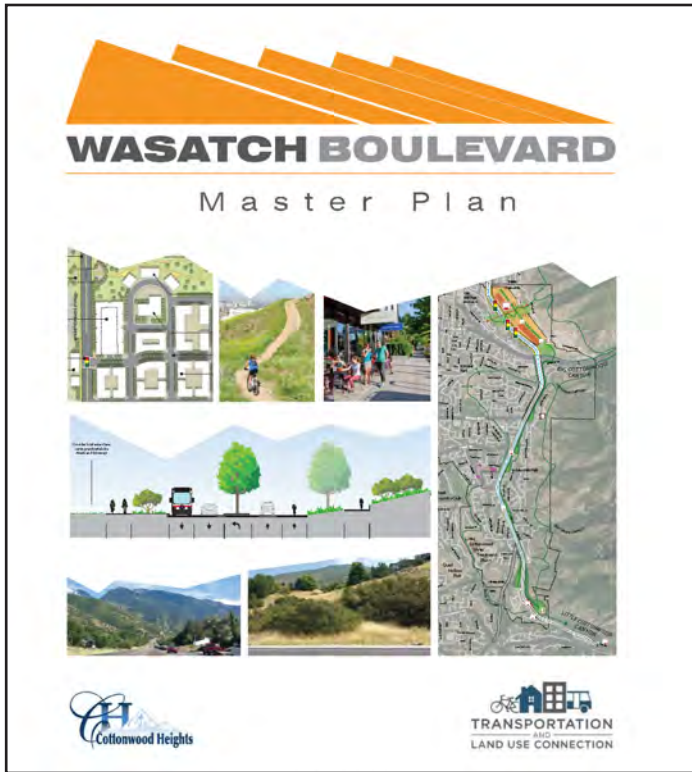


Fort Union Boulevard is a major corridor in Cottonwood Heights, serving as a gateway to the Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons, as well as providing connection to the rest of the Salt Lake Valley. The Fort Union Boulevard Master Plan provides a vision for the future development of this corridor, synchronized by residents, businesses, and officials, with the common goal of retrofitting this area as a “Main Street.” This ambitious goal is also identified in the 2005 General Plan and requires several stages for implementation, the culmination of which will result in a revitalized, place-based Main Street corridor.

Key Elements:

- Prioritize multi-modal transportation through safe conditions for pedestrians and cyclists, including dedicated bike lanes
- Create a walkable environment which encourages pedestrian presence
- Encourage a mix of neighborhood destinations that patrons can walk or cycle to
- Improve street connectivity, pedestrian crossings, and trail connections
- Intersperse landscaping, pocket parks, linear parks, plazas, and other urban green space to add character and function to the area

Cottonwood Heights Wasatch Boulevard Master Plan (2019)



The Wasatch Boulevard Master Plan provides guidelines for the future evolution of Wasatch Boulevard and the communities it serves, with a focus on Cottonwood Heights. The plan addresses transportation, land use, and economics of the Boulevard corridor from Interstate 215 to the mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon. A long-range vision for the corridor, as well as strategies to achieve this vision, were developed using values, priorities, current conditions, and anticipated future trends.

Key Elements:

- Preserve and enhance the scenic and natural qualities along the corridor
- Create a safe and comfortable environment for cyclists and pedestrians
- Enhance recreation opportunities along the corridor
- Incorporate native landscaping and urban greenspace within corridor development
- Connect existing and future amenities through walkable paths, trails, and crossings

South of Bengal Boulevard



SHARED USE PATH



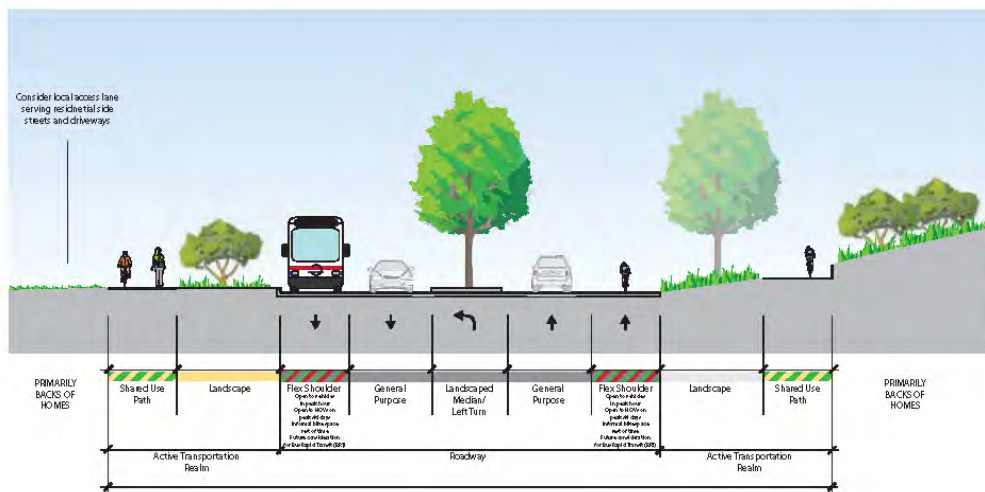
FLEX SHOULDER



MEDIAN



NATIVE LANDSCAPE



Community Snapshot

The community snapshot provides an overview of important community parameters, including:

- Population
- Age Distribution
- Minority Populations
- Household Income
- People with a Disability

It is important to understand the percentage of people who may have limited access to open space within the community. Studying the map of population distribution by race, ethnicity, and income can inform a culturally sensitive ideation of recommendations. The following pages provide a summary of demographic information relative to the preparation of the Open Space Plan. It is also important to understand the percentage of people who are isolated within the community. Seniors and children are often more isolated than the general population realizes.

Having a greater understanding of the larger community helps ensure that the open space recommendations respond directly to the needs of the community.

Population

Current Population

The US Census bureaus has estimated the 2018 population of Cottonwood Heights and Salt Lake County as follows:

- Cottonwood Heights: 34,170
- Salt Lake County: 1,152,633

Population Projections

Wasatch Front Regional Council has used their traffic analysis zone method to produce a population projection for Cottonwood Heights City that takes into account an estimated number of developable acres for each zone. Although the projections start with a lower estimated population than the census data, it helps to demonstrate population growth trends to be considered for long-range planning. For instance, this model projects approximately 10,000 new residents by 2050, mostly in redeveloped gravel pit areas:

- Projected Population, 2020: 32,707
- Projected Population, 2030: 32,488
- Projected Population, 2040: 34,397
- Projected Population, 2050: 41,839



Age Distribution

Different age groups have different needs and use patterns for open space that should be considered when planning for the future. For example, school age children are typically in school during the day while retirees might make use of parks during that time.

Cottonwood Heights City is on par with Salt Lake County in terms of 20 - 65-year-old adults. However, data shows a higher population of seniors and lower population of children in Cottonwood Heights when compared to the County. While children remain a significant portion of the community that are generally unable to drive to facilities, there should be a moderately increased emphasis on planning for elderly needs. Planning to increase access for both children and senior citizens will be an important component of this plan.

| Age Group | Cottonwood Heights | Salt Lake County |
|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Children (0-19) | 23% | 30% |
| Adults | 61% | 59% |
| Elderly | 16% | 11% |

US Census Bureau. 2018: ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles



Minority Populations

9.6% of Cottonwood Heights residents identify wholly or partially non-white. Another 5.9% identify as Hispanic. Considering this data together, nearly 15% of the community identifies with a minority background. Efforts should be made to ensure that future open space amenities are accessible to residents of all racial and ethnic backgrounds.

Household Income

Areas of the city with lower household incomes could benefit from increased access to open space amenities. Populations with lower income levels may have less access to private open space. Areas with relatively lower incomes are sometimes higher density neighborhoods with less yard space. Improvements should be made to increase access and connectivity to parks, trails, and open space for less advantaged communities.

| | Median Family Income |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Extremely Low Income (30% of Median) | 10% |
| Very Low Income (50% of Median) | 8% |
| Low Income (80% of Median) | 18% |
| Median Income and Above | 64% |

US Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2020

People with a Disability

An important equity consideration in planning for park and open space facilities is providing access and accommodations for persons of all abilities. Census data shows that some areas of the city are estimated to have up to 9% of the population under 18 with a disability and some areas may have up to 54% of the population over 65 with a disability. The needs of this community should be considered when making improvements to the City's parks.

Public Engagement

The Open Space Master Plan was developed with the input and direction of Cottonwood Heights community members, committees, and commissions. Community involvement helped to establish the priorities used to create the goals and strategies recommended in this plan. Most residents felt that open space and the recreation opportunities it offers is a key priority to focus on in Cottonwood Heights and those who participated appreciated the opportunity to give feedback in the formation of this Plan. The forms of public outreach used in this plan were:

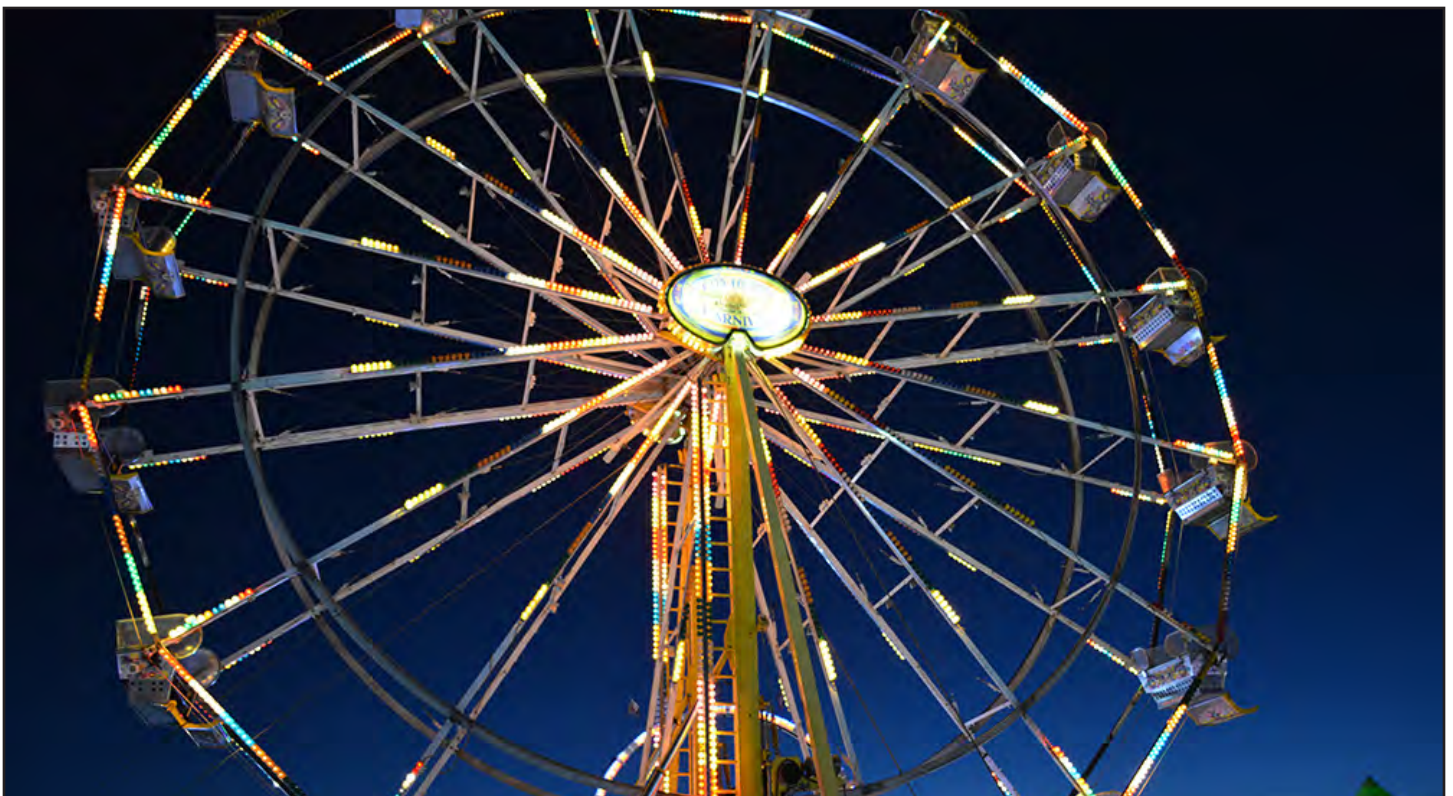
- Community surveys
- Open houses and public events
- Coordination with Parks, Trails, and Open Space Committee
- Public hearings with the Planning Commission and City Council

Open Houses & Public Events

Butlerville Days 2017

City staff set up a booth to take comments from the public at the 2017 Butlerville Days celebration. The following comments were made by residents on a map of the city:

- *All abilities park for kids*
- *Provide off leash dog areas*
- *Preserve green space and open trail heads and/or trail access*
- *Sidewalks on Wasatch*
- *Develop Bonneville Shoreline Trail*
- *Awesome park (Crestwood Park)*
- *Safety lights for students! Some kid is gonna die! (Bella Vista Elementary)*
- *Restore and preserve this land when the lease is up (Gravel Pit)*
- *Preserve this (Old Mill)*
- *Historic location (Old Mill)*
- *Please preserve! Make a trailhead! (Top of the World Dr.)*



September 2017 Open House

Community members were invited to a public open house at City Hall on September 28, 2017 to give input and share ideas to help shape the future of the Cottonwood Heights Open Space Plan. The following comments were received at the open house:

- *A multi-use trail should be a priority. (East Jordan Canal Trail)*
- *Take out a house, make a trailhead, pocket park. (Union View Trail)*
- *Open road for pedestrian access to Home Depot. (Union View Trail)*
- *Keep Crestwood Park and Little Cottonwood Park natural environment, do not develop or allow dogs off leash.*
- *Dog park area off leash. (Crestwood Park)*
- *Would love to see a section of this reserved as a dog park; NO DOG PARK PLEASE; No dog park please this is from a dog owner and lover. On leash is fine. (Crestwood Park)*
- *How about a new trail to parallel our BCC trail, it would be our LCC trail. (starting at Crestwood Park)*
- *Acquire LDS property, keep wilderness and natural.*
- *Should buy these acres for open space and trails. (LDS Property)*
- *Put a preserve. Have access for hiking and BST. This area is a must to protect. (9151 S. Wasatch Blvd.)*
- *This is a historical location. -Early temple quarry. -Recreation hub. -Bonneville Shoreline Trailhead. (LCC Baseland)*
- *No foothill or hillside development.*
- *Legal trail access that would connect all the way to the bottom of LCC. (End of Top of the World)*
- *Keep the open spaces there are a number of trails in this area. (End of Top of the World)*
- *Deaf Smith Canyon access.*
- *Trail access! (Deaf Smith)*
- *Access for Deaf Smith Canyon.*
- *Deaf Smith access: -trail access established -no parking -parking can be directed to Golden Hills Park*
- *Entrance point to the wilderness. (Deaf Smith)*
- *Leave as open space with trails like Dimple Dale. Paths to walk with dogs! (Above Top of the World)*
- *I would like to see walking or biking trails on this face. Connections to BST. (Above Top of the World)*
- *This is no mans land Needs to be purchased not built upon. (Above Top of the World)*
- *Buffer zone for home owners Privacy, peace, enjoyment. (Above Top of the World)*
- *Preserve the existing undeveloped space for the beauty of the city, as well as the current wildlife. Also for the safety of the existing homes to prevent erosion, mudslides, flooding, etc.*



- *Leash free dog park along with park and ride. (Ferguson Overflow)*
- *Start to Focus on the connection between BCC and LCC via the BST.*
- *Buffer zone for homeowners, maybe parking for access to BST to be limited to the parking lots at the base of BCC and LCC. Maybe offer for the homeowners to purchase property directly behind their homes.*
- *Focus on the BST from BCC to LCC to start a proper bike program.*
- *Extend Bywater south (purchase land to the south) add off leash dog park in the city somewhere.*
- *Leash free dog park. (Cemetery)*
- *Bike park, running trail. (Cemetery)*
- *Continue trail thru the gravel pit development, connect the Bonneville Shoreline Trail.*
- *Large park and ride for both canyons. (Gravel Pit)*
- *Approach SL County to turn unbuilt part of Tavaci into trails/open space.*
- *Open space with connector to expand BST. No housing development in area above Wasatch. Redevelopment of gravel pit with mixed-use and mass transit access. TRAX connection, alleviation of ski traffic on Wasatch.*
- *Acquire and preserve Old Mill, don't let it crumble.*
- *Old Mill would be a good dog park.*

October 2017 Open Space Survey

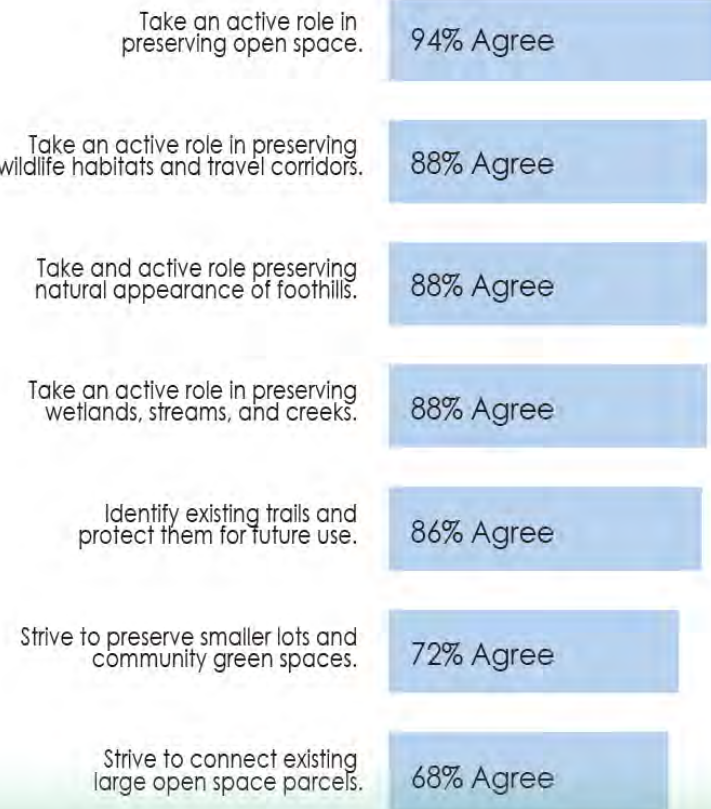
A survey was handed out to residents at the open house and given out to residents in the community throughout the month of October 2017. This survey received 138 responses.

2017 Open Space Survey Results



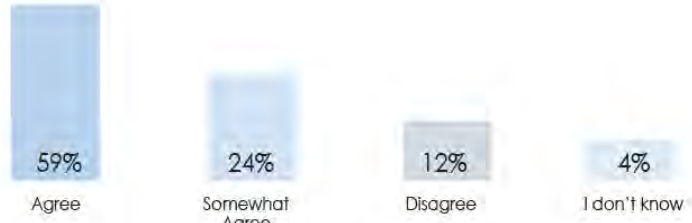
The City of Cottonwood Heights held an Open Space Open House in October 2017 to help get community feedback about what should be done with open space in the city. A survey was handed out at the Open House as well as given out to residents in the community and received **138** responses.

The City Should...



There is enough conserved open space in Cottonwood Heights

70% Disagree



I support a bond or tax increase to pay for open space acquisition

Public Comments

Preserve what you have left.

Please do not build a park and ride in open space on wasatch and bengal.

No more housing developments in Cottonwood Heights. Keep our City green and not homes or businesses everywhere.

I sure wish we could get a bond together or some other mechanism to purchase the bank-owned land east of Top of The World and build a trail system for hikers and runners.

We love east of wasatch and are concerned about the increases in traffic and possibility of losing our foothills to development and sold to people who do not live here year round.

Please stop ignoring current codes so that you can squeeze in more development. You are too much in favor of more tax money to spend - for example, the Giverny project

Please protect current open spaces from development and stop re-zoning to increase development.

In addition to access to green space and protection of wildlife, we need walkable areas, not more strip malls.

Appreciate the trail/historical signs along BC creek. More of the same. Any green space among the urban concrete and business areas helps improve quality of life.

We would love to see a community dog park.

Cottonwood Heights has a strong outdoor community that can't actually access the mountains on their backdoor step because it's blocked by private land. It's like living next to the beach and not being able to actually go to the beach!

My biggest concern is access for dogs. There is nowhere for dogs to go off leash that is fenced in, without getting fined. I would like to see smaller dog parks in CH. We could take already available space the county owns like Bywater park or even buy land for smaller parks.

Bring back the dog park that was behind the cemetery on Bengal, or build another one. It's only fair to accommodate dogs.

A more legitimate bike path along Wasatch would be an improvement. For bikers and commuters. Preserving access to recreation and valuing the natural resource of our mountains is why I choose Cottonwood Heights over Sugar House or Draper. We are here for work life balance. And the mountains are the biggest part of that.

Some of the trails can help beautify roads as well.

I'm asking the City to please do as much as you can to preserve the natural beauty and accessibility that drew me to Utah.

There needs to be a safe way to get from Bengal Blvd to the bottom of Big Cottonwood Canyon. The "expanded" shoulder on Wasatch is too small.

'Pocket parks' on old or irregular lots, or run down properties would improve our outdoor community significantly.

It is a shame that more areas are being developed as new multi-use areas when there are several commercial buildings (class B or C) available for lease currently. I would like to see the current building owners be able to upgrade their current spaces before we build more buildings for retail. I understand more retail brings more taxes, but I feel there should be a better way.

Safe biking and walking corridors within the city connecting open spaces make for a healthier, more attractive place to live. Also, access to public lands should not be limited by a few land holders. The foothills are increasingly being cordoned off by development. Deaf smith canyon should have a permanent easement for hiking based on existence of the trail prior to development of the area.



April 2018 Open House

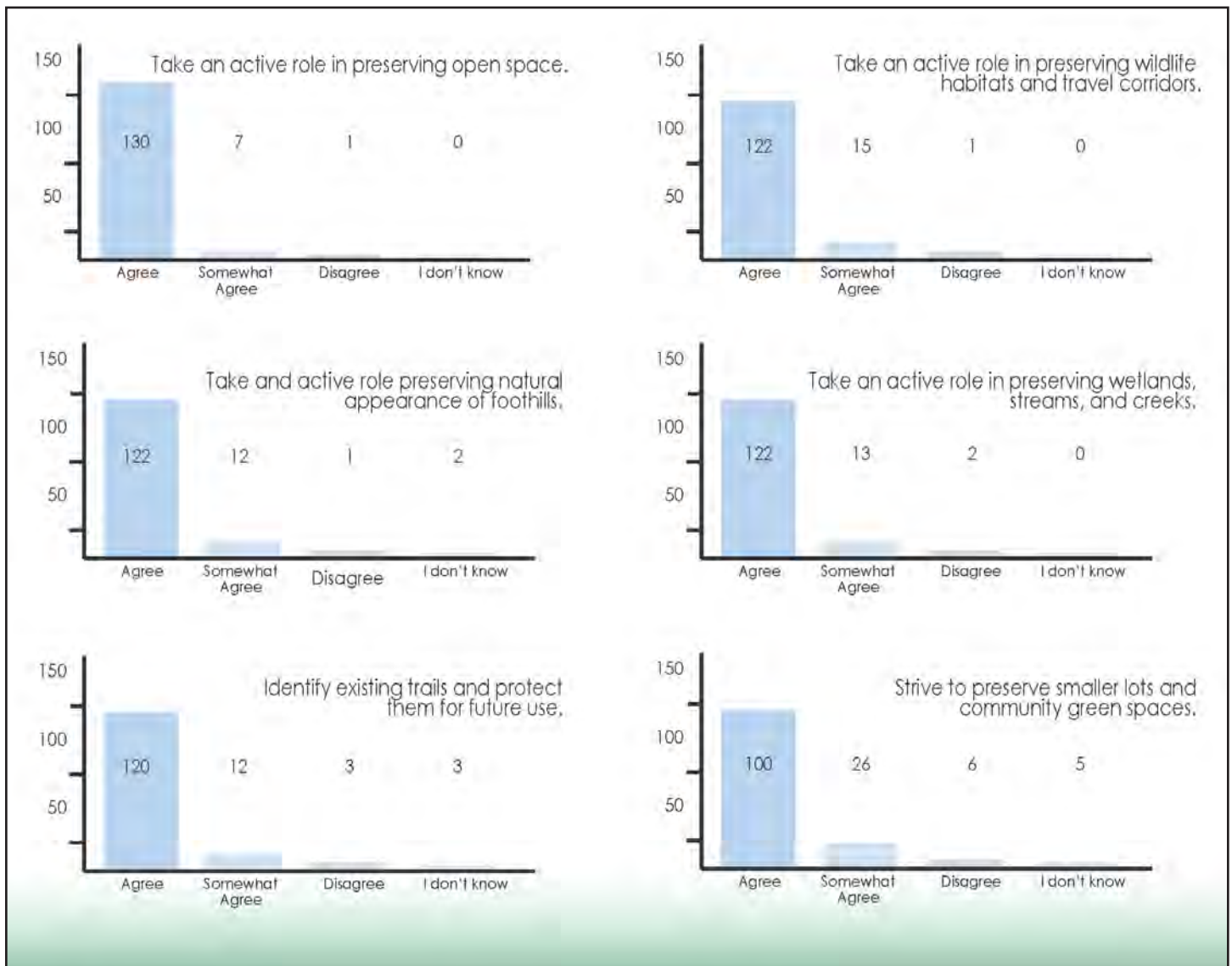
Community members were invited to a follow-up open house at City Hall on April 29, 2018 to give additional input. Residents were asked the following questions:

- How should the City fund open space preservation?
 - *I support a bond or tax increase to establish access to the Bonneville Shoreline Trail.*
- What new trails should the City pursue? Where?
 - *We should have MTB and/or bike specific trails in the foothills. The BST connection from BCC to LCC is just a start and even this has been a challenge.*
- How should we improve the quality of current parks?
 - *Need more family friendly bike and walking paths. Love Big Cottonwood trail! Would love to see a safe bike path along Wasatch...separate from the road so kids can use.*
 - *We need legal access of the foothills behind Kings Hill Drive. Maybe an easement to access the trail system in that area would be possible.*
 - *Open to trail off of Golden Hills Dr.*
- How should we improve the quality of current parks?
 - *My biggest priorities are upgrading existing Cottonwood Heights parks to make them more dog friendly. One of the*

easiest and cheapest ways to do this is by installing dog friendly water fountains. Commercial prices for these fountains are between \$3,000-7,000.

- I would like to see shade sails for the playgrounds, especially at Golden Hills, Mill Hollow, and Mountview Park (too hot to use in summer) I would like to see outdoor exercise equipment at Parks, like Murray Park. Parents can exercise while kids play. Each park should have an off leash area.*

- What should be the City's priorities for new parks?
 - Mountain Bike Park similar to Corner Canyon- this could be on the cemetery land or gravel pit.*
 - I would also love to see an off-leash dog park, but I understand that's a big ask.*
 - Off-leash area for dogs would be a great improvement for the community.*
- If it was acquired, how should the City use natural open space?
 - Access to the foothills that does not encroach on private property rights.*



Cottonwood Heights Community Surveys

The City of Cottonwood Heights hired a market research and data analytics group, Y2 Analytics, to conduct official citizen surveys. Surveys were conducted in 2016, 2017, and 2019. The surveys included several questions related to parks and open space, as well as numerous opportunities for residents to give general feedback.

2016 Relevant Survey Findings & Citizen Comments

- *We need to have off leash areas for dog owners period. We do not have one off leash area.*
- *Need dog parks*
- *DOG Park!!!*
- *A dedicated unleash dog park is needed to promote exercise and community engagement.*
- *Lack of a dog park. Bywater Park used to be off leash but no longer is.. The holding pond down the hill behind The DOT yard used to let the dogs swim there. It was a whole community of dog people for the 2 months there is water. Not anymore.*
- *Lack of dog parks*

2017 Relevant Survey Findings & Citizen Comments

- A majority of residents reported participating in outdoor recreation at City parks at least once a month.
- A majority of residents would be willing to pay anywhere from \$25-100 per year for parks & open spaces or increased street maintenance, although there is some evidence of price sensitivity.
- When asked to prioritize parks and open space investments for the future, residents ranked a dog park as a top priority, just below preserving open space and building new parks.

2019 Relevant Survey Findings & Citizen Comments

- Residents would allocate nearly 6% of the City budget towards trail development if they could program the budget.
- 61% of respondents indicated that “improving and maintaining current City parks, trails, and open spaces” was more important than “purchasing land and developing new parks, trails, and open spaces.”
- 7% of respondents indicated that Ferguson Canyon Trailhead was the most used by their household or visited most often.
- 11% indicated that they wanted to see Ferguson Canyon Trailhead to “see improved upon the most.”



Recommendations

Vision

Preserve and Protect

Parks and Open Space

- Existing parks and recreation facilities are maintained, upgraded, and highly utilized.
- Natural lands, open spaces, features, vistas, and landmarks are protected throughout the City and in adjacent Federal, State, and County open space lands.
- Wildlife habitat is preserved and managed to appropriately support habitat connectivity and ecology and serves as a refuge for species impacted by urbanization while not jeopardizing people or property near it.
- The fire wildland-urban interface properly maintains the health and safety of people and property while protecting critical habitat and ecosystems.

Trails and Active Transportation

- Existing trails, trailheads, and the active transportation network are maintained, upgraded, and highly utilized.

Urban Forest

- The urban forest is maintained, upgraded, and valued as a public resource that contributes to the enjoyment of the urban and natural world.

Enhance and Connect

Parks and Open Space

- A high-quality open space network has been created. Equitable distribution and access to high quality parks and recreational facilities are found throughout the city. Parks and open space pedestrian service area gaps are filled with facilities matched to the area's needs. Regional open space and parks are considered as meeting part of the city-wide needs.
- Open space has been acquired for formal preservation and enjoyment by future generations.

- City-owned property and right-of-way enhances the natural beauty of the City.
- Unique neighborhood activity centers incorporate open space, public plazas, and other amenities act as strong pedestrian destinations and activity nodes that create additional interest and reasons for people to walk and utilize the active transportation and trail network throughout the City.
- Historic buildings and sites are incorporated into the open space network.
- Clean, clear, and dark skies are enjoyed and recognized as vital component to the City's open space network.
- Plan open space and the built environment together to allow both uses to enhance the other.

Trails and Active Transportation

- An established interconnected greenway network connects neighborhoods to city and regional parks, open spaces and activity areas through a seamless integration of sidewalks, active-transportation, off-road and natural trail facilities.
- The trail network accesses public lands for city resident and non-city users without interfering with the quality of life of nearby residents or infringing on private property rights.
- Wayfinding is found throughout the city that helps people navigate and enjoy the complete open space network by active means.
- A robust city- and canyon-wide public transit system relieves traffic generation and parking demand as well as expand the range and reach of trail and active transportation facility users to park and open space destinations. Parking management strategies compliment the support of transit and active transportation goals.
- An active transportation network that



connects sidewalks, neighborhood pedestrian connections, urban and natural trails, and bike lanes.

Urban Forest

- Parks and streets populated with healthy trees that create a hospitable environment and maximize canopy without being detrimental to private property or public infrastructure.
- New development prioritizes and amply incorporates preserved and new trees.

Equitable and Accessible

Parks and Open Space

- Parks and open spaces are designed to accommodate diverse activities, ages, abilities, and user groups and can respond to changing recreational trends.

Trails and Active Transportation

- Trail and active transportation facilities accommodate diverse active transportation modes that meet the needs of diverse ages, abilities, and user group's

Urban Forest

- The benefits of the urban forest are received in all neighborhoods within the city,

regardless of the area's past development history.

Healthy and Safe

- High utilization of parks, open space, trails, and recreation, coupled with the benefits of the urban forest, mean residents enjoy a higher level of physical, mental, and economic health over their predecessors.
- Parks, open spaces, trails, crossings, and recreational facilities are safe and inviting.

Collaborate and Educate

- A productive relationship with neighboring cities, Salt Lake County, Federal agencies, regional partners, and non-profits preserve, maintain, enhance, and create a parks, open space and trails system that meets plan and mutual goals.
- Residents are partners with the city in maintaining and achieving plan goals.
- Resident's education about the value and opportunities of the City's parks, open space, trails, and forestry lead them to take pride-in, proactively utilize and contribute to maintaining and building it.

Benefits

Economic Benefits

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) analyzed studies on the economic impacts of parks and found that “a premium of 8 percent to 10 percent on property values abutting or fronting a passive park in urban environments” was a conservative estimate of the economic benefits of parks. This impact was generally higher for properties closer to the parks and also higher for passive parks rather than active parks. Good park design and adequate buffers to adjacent neighbors were recommended as ways to prevent perceived negative impacts.

Research by the University of Washington found that “homes that are adjacent to naturalistic parks and open spaces are valued at 8-20% higher than comparable properties, with the positive price effect declining to near zero about ½ mile away.”

The NRPA also analyzed studies related to the economic impact of trails, finding that “a small positive premium of between 3 percent and 5 percent was the most widespread outcome for a single-family home located next to a trail.” As with parks, it’s important for future trails to be well-designed with adequate buffers to preserve the privacy of the adjacent neighborhoods.

Health Benefits

Parks, trails, and open space contribute to the happy, healthy lifestyles of residents. Another analysis by the NRPA of scientific studies related to the health benefits of parks found that:

- Living close to parks and other recreation facilities is consistently related to higher physical activity levels for both adults and youth.
- Adolescents with easy access to multiple recreation facilities were more physically active and less likely to be overweight or obese than adolescents without access to such facilities.
- Increasing access to recreation facilities is an essential strategy for preventing childhood obesity.
- Organized park programs and supervision may increase the use of parks and playgrounds and may also increase physical activity, particularly among youths.
- Park renovations can increase vigorous physical activity among children and can also increase the use of certain types of facilities, including playgrounds and skate parks.



Strategies

Based on feedback from residents and the recommendations of existing long-range plans, this plan proposes the following new strategies to achieve the City's open space goals. These strategies are "big ideas" that comprise a guiding vision of future possibilities. The strategies are intended to serve as policy guidelines and not specific plans for projects.

Existing Open Space

Cottonwood Heights residents enjoy a variety of existing parks, trails, and open space amenities. Assessing the existing facilities available to the public is an essential step in planning for the future. The existing open space inventory includes parks, schools, private open space and other special facilities like cemeteries and golf courses.

Specific recommendations for each park have not been included in this master plan. Improvements to parks should be planned in cooperation with the Cottonwood Heights Parks and Recreation Service Area and Salt Lake County Parks, as applicable. The recommendations included in this plan should be considered as each park upgrade is planned.

Recommendations have been made by the public about amenities that are missing in Cottonwood Heights. When residents were asked which existing amenities they would like to see improved on or which new amenities they would like added to their local parks, the top responses were:

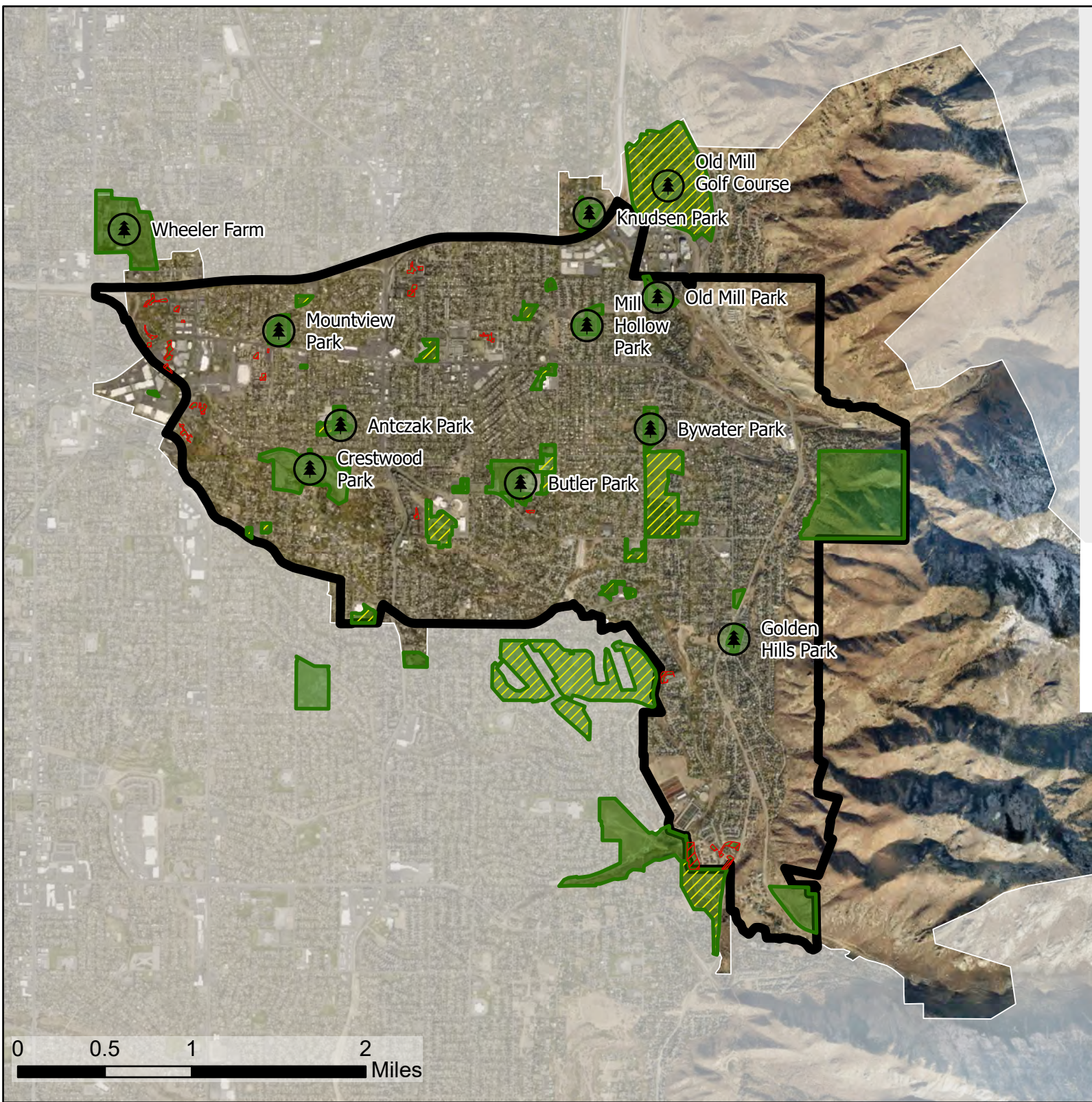


- Off-leash dog area
- Restrooms
- Walking trails/tracks
- Playground equipment
- Maintenance/cleanliness
- Trees
- Walking/jogging tracks
- Picnic areas
- Splash pads
- Water fountains
- Pickleball courts
- Covered pavilions
- Exercise stations
- Mountain bike pump track
- Stage/bandshell for live music
- Frisbee golf course
- Pollinator garden
- Community garden
- Community event space








One additional amenity that was not listed as a choice in the community survey is an all-abilities park. Residents suggested that all-abilities playground amenities be added to City parks at subsequent open houses. Demographic data suggests that there is a need for all-abilities facilities in Cottonwood Heights.

Potential improvements should be evaluated when new park upgrades are proposed to see if appropriate for a given location. Improvements will be made as budget, bonds, grants, donations and other methods outlined in the implementation chapter allow.

COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS EXISTING OPEN SPACE



- Map Legend -

| | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|---|---------------|
|  | Existing Open Space Points |  | City Boundary |
|  | Existing Open Space Type, Status |  | Planning Area |
|  | Private, Existing | | |
|  | Public, Existing | | |
|  | Semi-Public, Existing | | |



National Standards

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) provides general benchmarks for park metrics and standards that communities can use as a tool for evaluating performance. There is no single set of park standards that can be universally applied to every community because each community has unique characteristics, but there is value in comparing current conditions to national best practices.

2021 NRPA Park Metrics for jurisdictions with populations from 20,000 - 49,999:

- Residents per Park: **1,900**
- Acres of Parkland per 1,000 Residents: **9.8** (Parkland refers to both maintained parks and open space areas, such as green spaces and courtyards.)

Cottonwood Heights Inventory (based on a population of approximately 35,000):

- Number of Formal Parks: **11**
- Residents per Park: **3,182**
- Acres of Parkland: **Approx. 250** (includes formal parks, school fields, and city-owned natural open space)
- Acres of Parkland per 1,000 Residents: **Approx. 7.1**

Recommendations to Meet National Standards:

- Additional Parks: **7**
- Additional Acres of Parkland: **Approx. 100**

The recommendations of this plan seek to close the gap between Cottonwood Heights and the national benchmarks provided by the NRPA. It is recommended that the City continue to prioritize the addition of new parkland as opportunities arise, and as the community experiences growth in the future.



Future Open Space

Based on feedback from residents and existing long-range plans, the Open Space Master Plan makes recommendations for potential new open space that could be developed, acquired, or otherwise preserved in the future. These are recommendations for future projects to be considered, not approvals of specific plans. The properties featured in the future open space map could become new parks, could incorporate new facilities or amenities in future developments, or could be passive open space preservation areas depending on what's most appropriate for the given area.

Fort Union Open Space

As the commercial areas along Fort Union Blvd. redevelop in the future, it is important to design the new developments in a way that incorporates pedestrian walkways, public plazas, and greenspace. There are opportunities for open space amenities at Park Centre, Highland Place, Hillside Plaza, and in the Whitmore Area. These future open space points on the map aren't intended to indicate that the commercial properties will be converted into parks and open space, but rather that new developments will provide open space amenities for the public.

Gravel Pit & Old Mill Open Space

Future development of the Wasatch Gravel Pit and Old Mill properties should include trailheads, plazas, parks, and other open space amenities as appropriate. Multiple open space points have been included in the plan for future amenities to be added throughout the Gravel Pit development.

Canyon Centre Park

A park at the new Canyon Centre development at the base of Big Cottonwood Canyon was approved as part of the original Canyon Centre master plan.

Porcupine Trail Open Space

The area west of the recently completed segment of the Big Cottonwood Canyon Trail that connects to the Fort Union Park and Ride (the "Porcupine Trail") has potential for future improvements to continue along Fort Union Boulevard as a greenbelt trail/walkway open space amenity.

City Hall Open Space

Options for additional open space amenities at City Hall could include benches, a pavilion, or an event space.

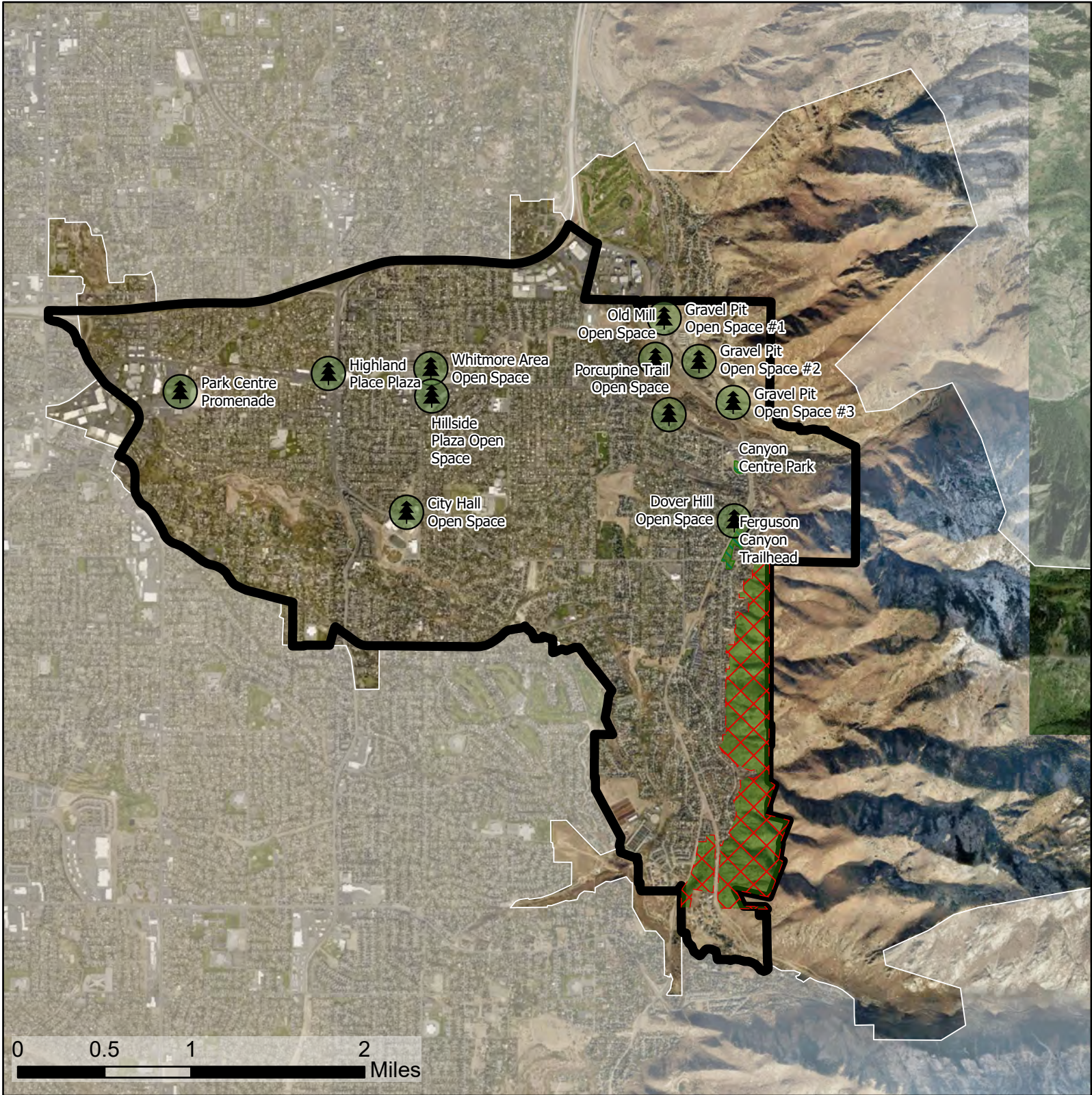
Ferguson Overflow Trailhead & Park

The existing Ferguson Canyon Trailhead attracts users from along the Wasatch Front, causing parking to frequently overflow into adjacent residential areas. The development of a new park and trailhead along Wasatch Boulevard has the potential to improve the walkability of the neighborhood, provide overflow parking for trail users, and preserve the existing open space along the corridor. City staff has identified this location as one of the top preferred sites for a future off-leash dog park.

Foothills Open Space Preservation

The foothills east of Wasatch Blvd. are considered the scenic backdrop of the city and should be preserved to the extent possible for wildlife habitat and recreation. Most residents ranked open space preservation as a high priority in the City surveys and open houses. Further discussion of open space acquisition criteria and funding strategies is included in the "Implementation" chapter of this plan.

COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS FUTURE OPEN SPACE



- Map Legend -

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Potential Open Space Status | Proposed Open Space Type, Status | City Boundary |
| Potential | Private, Proposed | City Boundary |
| | Public, Proposed | Planning Area |



Existing Trails

There are several existing formal trails in Cottonwood Heights. The existing trails map includes existing trailheads, urban trails, and natural trails.

The existing trail network includes:

- Big Cottonwood Canyon Trail
- Cottonwood Corporate Center Trail
- East Jordan Canal Trail
- Ferguson Canyon (Timberline) Trail

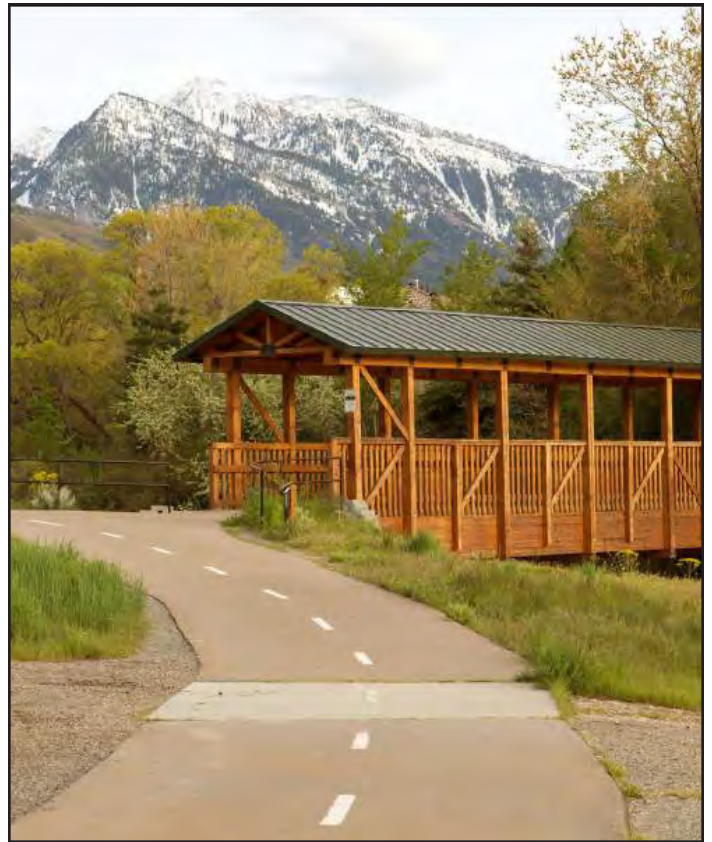
Natural Trails

Natural trails can be defined generally as an improved or unimproved path through a natural area designed for the enjoyment of scenic views, natural areas, and outdoor recreation.

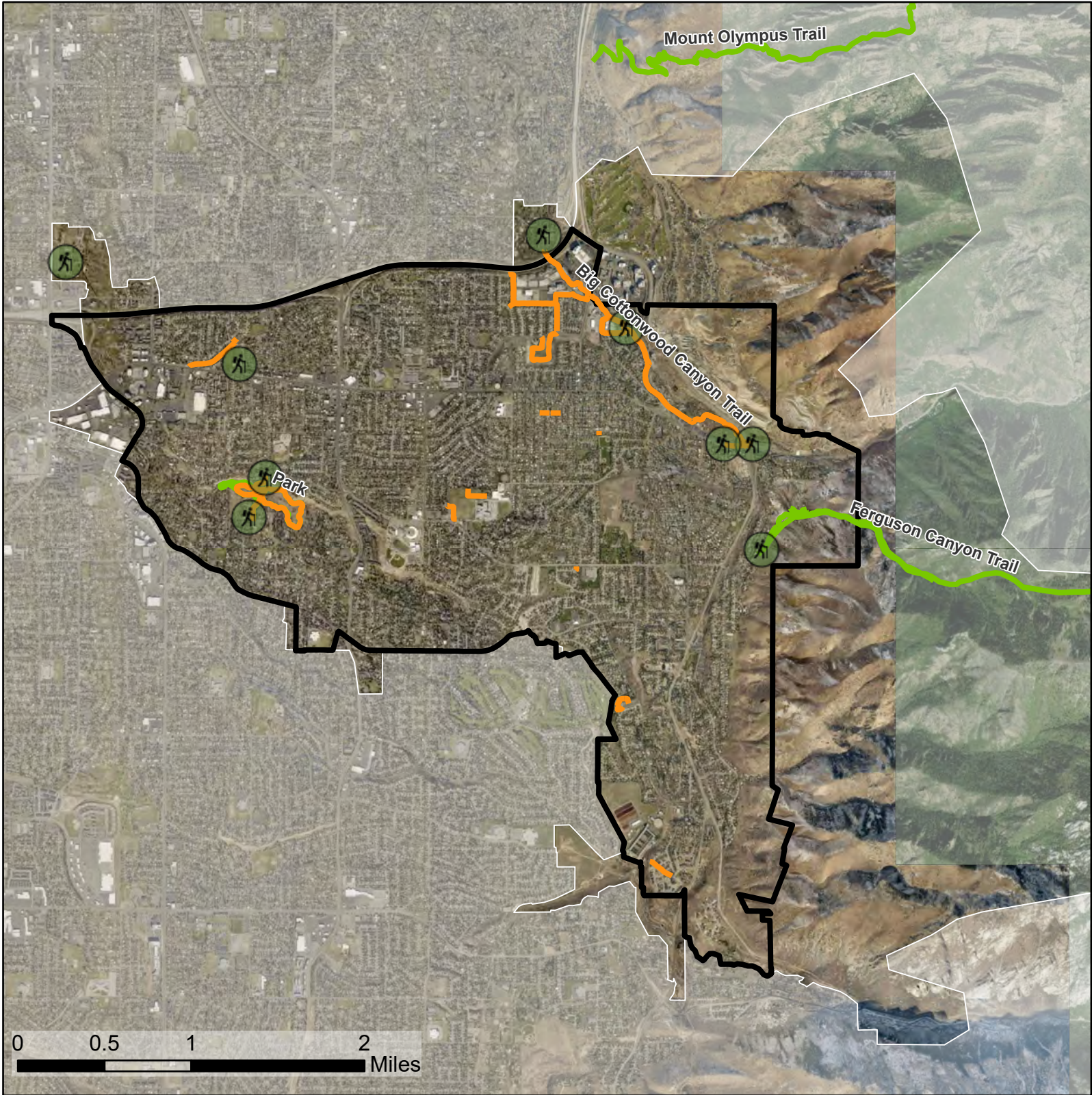


Urban Trails

Urban trails include more formal walkways paved for use by walkers, families with strollers, cyclists, and people in wheelchairs. This category includes cycle tracks (At-grade protected bike lanes with barriers or raised, curb-separated bike lanes) and shared use pathways that are physically separate from roadways. This map also includes small neighborhood pedestrian connections to schools and parks as urban trails.



COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS EXISTING TRAILS



- Map Legend -

| | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Trailheads | Urban Trails | Natural Trails | City Boundary |
| Existing | Existing | Existing | Planning Area |
| Proposed | Proposed | Proposed | |
| | Potential | Potential | |



Future Trails

Cottonwood Heights Loop

This trail concept creates a long loop connecting several existing and proposed trails throughout the City with connections to several parks along the route. The proposed route would connect the following trails and parks:

- Big Cottonwood Canyon Trail
- Old Mill Park
- Cottonwood Heights Trail (I-215 Trail)
- East Jordan Canal Trail
- Mountview Park
- Union View Trail
- Crestwood Park
- Bengal Blvd. Bike Lanes
- City Hall
- Butler Park/Rec Center
- Bywater Park
- Fort Union Multi-Use Path

Fort Union Cycle Track

This plan seeks to reinforce the vision of the Fort Union Master Plan by recommending a multi-use path on each side of Fort Union along the entirety of the corridor, similar to what was proposed in the “Community District” section of the original plan. Due to the high speeds along Fort Union and the presence of large power lines, a separated cycle track is recommended to provide connectivity in a safe way that is accessible to users of all comfort levels.

Cottonwood Heights Trail (I-215 Trail)

A recently completed segment of Parley’s Trail in along I-80 demonstrates that trails along freeway right-of-way can be an effective way to serve the needs of nearby residents. This plan envisions a trail similar to the Parley’s Trail along I-215 connecting the Big Cottonwood Canyon Trail to the Union Park Interchange.

Enchanted Valley Trail

There is potential for a future trailhead and social trail near the Racquet Club Condos through the Brighton Point, Apple Valley, and Enchanted Hills subdivisions connecting to Bywater Park and possibly through the Memorial Estates cemetery to Bengal Boulevard. As with the other proposed trails in this master plan, this proposal is mostly along privately owned property and will require additional planning efforts and public outreach in the future.

Wasatch Boulevard Trail

The Wasatch Boulevard Area Master Plan, adopted by the City in 2019, envisioned a shared use pathway along the full length of the corridor. The plan made the following recommendations:

- Link disconnected neighborhoods together through shared use pathways and trails along Wasatch Boulevard.
- Reduce the barrier of Wasatch Boulevard with improved pedestrian and bicycle crossings.
- Enhance visibility of pedestrians and cyclists at crosswalks at major intersections.
- Create a network of paths and crossings along the corridor will make short trips easier to take on foot and bike and improve transit access.



- Create a network of paths that is a venue for recreation for all types of interests and abilities – paved and dirt trails, routes to parks and loops.
- Connect the corridor’s activity centers and communities to the Cottonwood Canyons.
- Implement the City’s Bicycle and Trails Master Plan by enhancing the on-street bike lane and lowering of vehicle speeds to improve conditions for road cyclists.
- The Wasatch Boulevard Trail also includes connections to the Old Mill and Gravel Pit properties north of Fort Union Boulevard.

Union View Trail

The Union View Trail would connect the Union View Subdivision in the Crestwood Planning Area down to the Park Centre commercial development (Target and Home Depot) in the Union Planning Area. A concept plan was prepared for the City showing a possible trail alignment connecting to the commercial area below with other possible connections to the neighborhood and along the hillside to the Santa Fe Apartments.

Bonneville Shoreline Trail

The Bonneville Shoreline Trail is a recreational trail envisioned to one day span north to south from the Utah-Idaho border to Nephi, Utah, along the historic Lake Bonneville Shoreline. The City of Cottonwood Heights supports efforts to complete the section of the trail proposed within city boundaries. Possible future trailheads and connections to the Bonneville Shoreline Trail are proposed at the Gravel Pit, Prospector Hills, Golden Hills, Deaf Smith Canyon, Jefferson Hollow, and at the base of Little Cottonwood Canyon.

East Jordan Canal Trail

The East Jordan Canal Trail currently extends from Fort Union Blvd. at Park Centre Dr. along the canal to the back of Mountview Park. The trail could be continued along the canal further northeast up to the freeway. The canal currently crosses the freeway in a pipe above the lanes of traffic. With coordination between the City, UDOT, and Murray City, there might be a way to modify this structure to double as a bridge, providing pedestrian connectivity between Cottonwood Heights and Murray.



Private Property Rights Acknowledgement

Cottonwood Heights respects private property rights. In the State of Utah, a government may not use eminent domain for park, trail, and open space development, and that is not identified as an implementation strategy in the plan. As such, any plan elements represented on private land would only be realized through voluntary agreements between landowners and local government, or through requirements made during substantial future development projects.

The plan envisions trail development that is of mutual benefit to trail users, adjacent landowners, easement holders and residents. Trail access will only be acquired in a manner that respects the rights of property owners and individual perspectives on the best use of land.

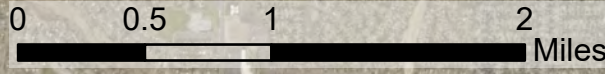
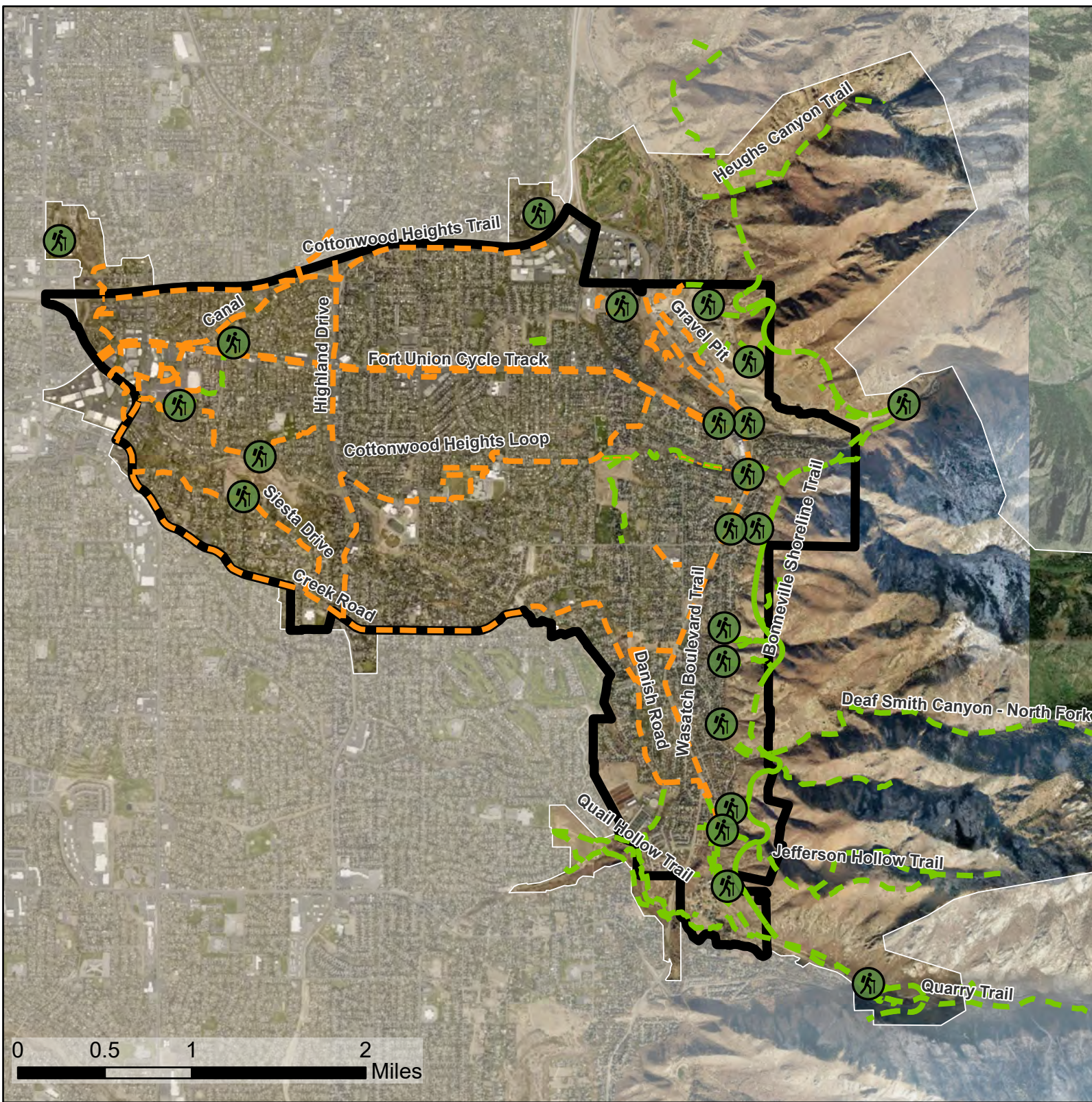
This plan is not a detailed plan of trail alignments, nor is it an acquisition or construction plan. More detailed site-specific planning, analysis, design and public input must occur after a general plan amendment has been approved, as appropriate.

Trails Through Adjacent Jurisdictions

This plan envisions an established interconnected greenway network that connects neighborhoods to city and regional parks, open spaces and activity areas. Several of the urban and natural trails proposed in this plan show connections into and through adjacent jurisdictions, including Holladay, Murray, Midvale, Sandy, and unincorporated Salt Lake County areas. These connections are included for illustrative purposes only. Any future trail connection that affects an adjacent jurisdiction will require additional planning and coordination with the affected entity.



COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS FUTURE TRAILS



- Map Legend -

| | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Existing Trailhead Points | Urban Trails | Natural Trails | City Boundary |
| | Existing | Existing | Planning Area |
| | Proposed | Proposed | |
| | Potential | Potential | |



Planning Areas

Planning areas have been included in this master plan to help analyze the open space needs of each neighborhood and connections between neighborhoods in the city. Planning areas boundaries were determined on physical criteria.

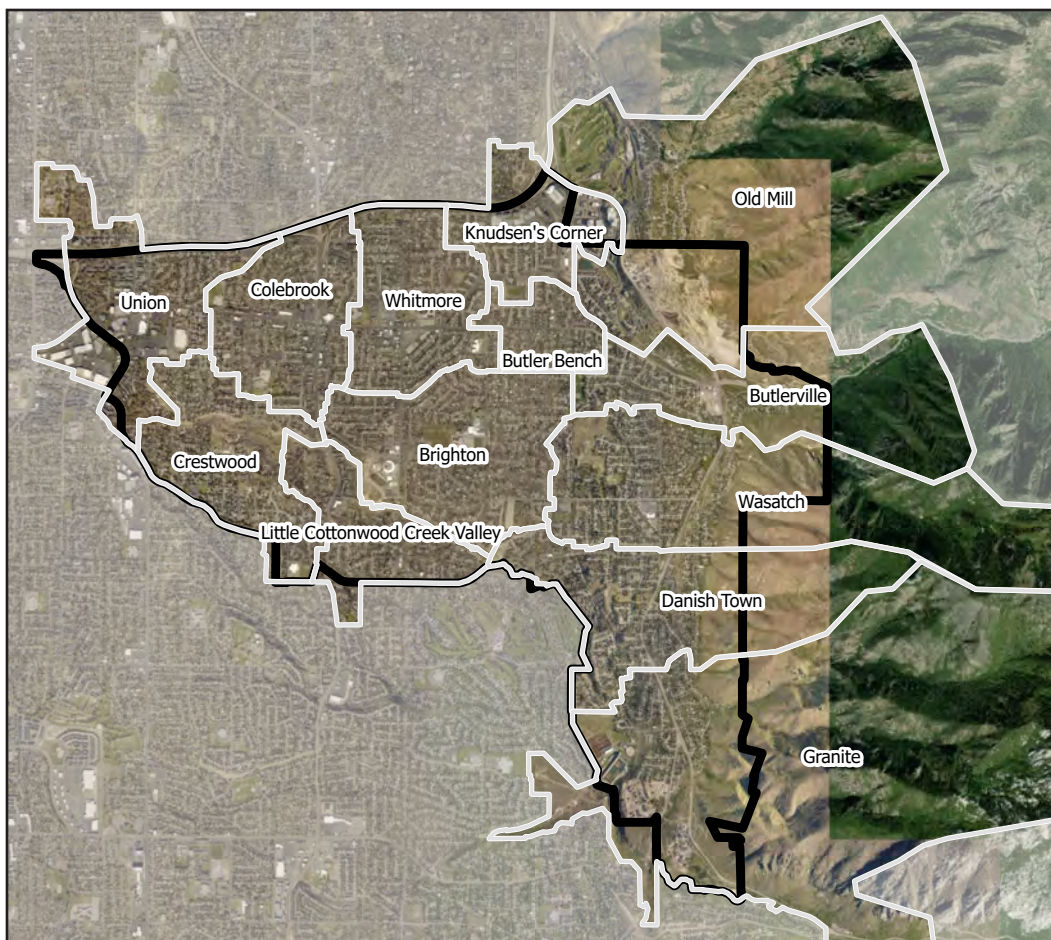
- Activity Centers were identified. These represent areas and locations that people will frequent on a regular basis. Activity areas are divided into three classifications on a subjective level of use.
- Open space and recreation centers were identified.
- The pedestrian and cycling network was thoroughly mapped.

These three main components help identify where people are likely to go to enjoy open space, whether in the classical sense of parks

and recreation, or possibly as part of daily life activity, such as attending school, a job, or shopping.

The goal is to link these activity areas together to form the basis and backbone for a robust open space network of places, activities and paths. Examining these elements at a regional, city-wide, and neighborhood planning area scale allow the identification of gaps and needs in the system.

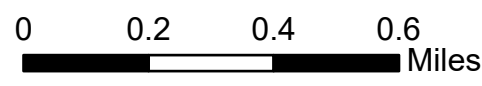
Planning areas also look beyond the borders beyond other planning areas, but also the city. This plan is not intended to impose goals or a vision on adjacent jurisdictions, but rather to explore options that may be mutually beneficial and help enhance the quality of life of our neighbors, as well as take advantage of nearby resources outside the city. Therefore, planning area boundaries do not always coincide with city boundaries.





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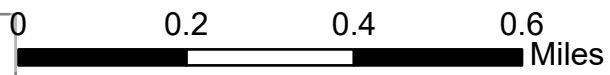
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|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|--|-----------|--|-----------------------|
| | Existing Trailhead Points | Urban Trails | | Existing | | Private, Existing |
| | Existing Open Space Points | Natural Trails | | Proposed | | Private, Proposed |
| | Planned Trailhead Points | Existing Open Space | | Potential | | Public, Existing |
| | Planned Open Space Points | | | | | Semi-Public, Existing |
| | | | | | | Planning areas |
| | | | | | | City Boundary |





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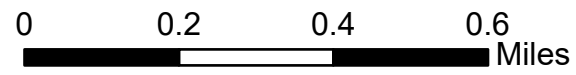
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|--|----------------------------|--|-----------|--|----------|--|-----------------------|
| | Existing Trailhead Points | | Existing | | Existing | | Private, Existing |
| | Existing Open Space Points | | Proposed | | Proposed | | Private, Proposed |
| | Planned Trailhead Points | | Potential | | | | Public, Existing |
| | Planned Open Space Points | | | | | | Semi-Public, Existing |
| | | | | | | | Planning areas |
| | | | | | | | City Boundary |





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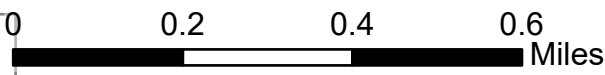
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|--|----------------------------|--|-----------|--|----------|--|-----------------------|
| | Existing Trailhead Points | | Existing | | Existing | | Private, Existing |
| | Existing Open Space Points | | Proposed | | Proposed | | Private, Proposed |
| | Planned Trailhead Points | | Potential | | | | Public, Existing |
| | Planned Open Space Points | | | | | | Semi-Public, Existing |
| | | | | | | | Planning areas |
| | | | | | | | City Boundary |





- Map Legend -

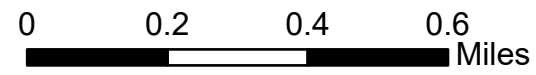
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| Existing Open Space Points | Proposed | Proposed | Private, Proposed |
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| Planned Open Space Points | | | Semi-Public, Existing |
| | | | Planning areas |
| | | | City Boundary |





- Map Legend -

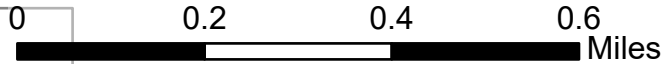
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|----------------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Existing Trailhead Points | Existing | Existing | Private, Existing |
| Existing Open Space Points | Proposed | Proposed | Private, Proposed |
| Planned Trailhead Points | Potential | Public, Existing | Semi-Public, Existing |
| Planned Open Space Points | | Planning areas | City Boundary |





- Map Legend -

- | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|--|-----------|--|----------|--|-----------------------|
| | Existing Trailhead Points | | Existing | | Existing | | Private, Existing |
| | Existing Open Space Points | | Proposed | | Proposed | | Private, Proposed |
| | Planned Trailhead Points | | Potential | | | | Public, Existing |
| | Planned Open Space Points | | | | | | Semi-Public, Existing |
| | | | | | | | Planning areas |
| | | | | | | | City Boundary |

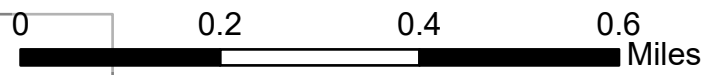




- Map Legend -

- Existing Trailhead Points
- Existing Open Space Points
- Planned Trailhead Points
- Planned Open Space Points

- | | | |
|-----------|----------|-----------------------|
| Existing | Existing | Private, Existing |
| Proposed | Proposed | Private, Proposed |
| Potential | | Public, Existing |
| | | Semi-Public, Existing |
| | | Planning areas |
| | | City Boundary |





- Map Legend -

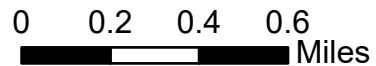
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|--|--|--|--|

0 0.2 0.4 0.6 Miles



- Map Legend -

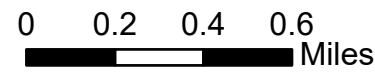
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| | Existing Open Space Points | | Proposed | | Proposed | | Private, Proposed |
| | Planned Trailhead Points | | Potential | | | | Public, Existing |
| | Planned Open Space Points | | | | | | Semi-Public, Existing |
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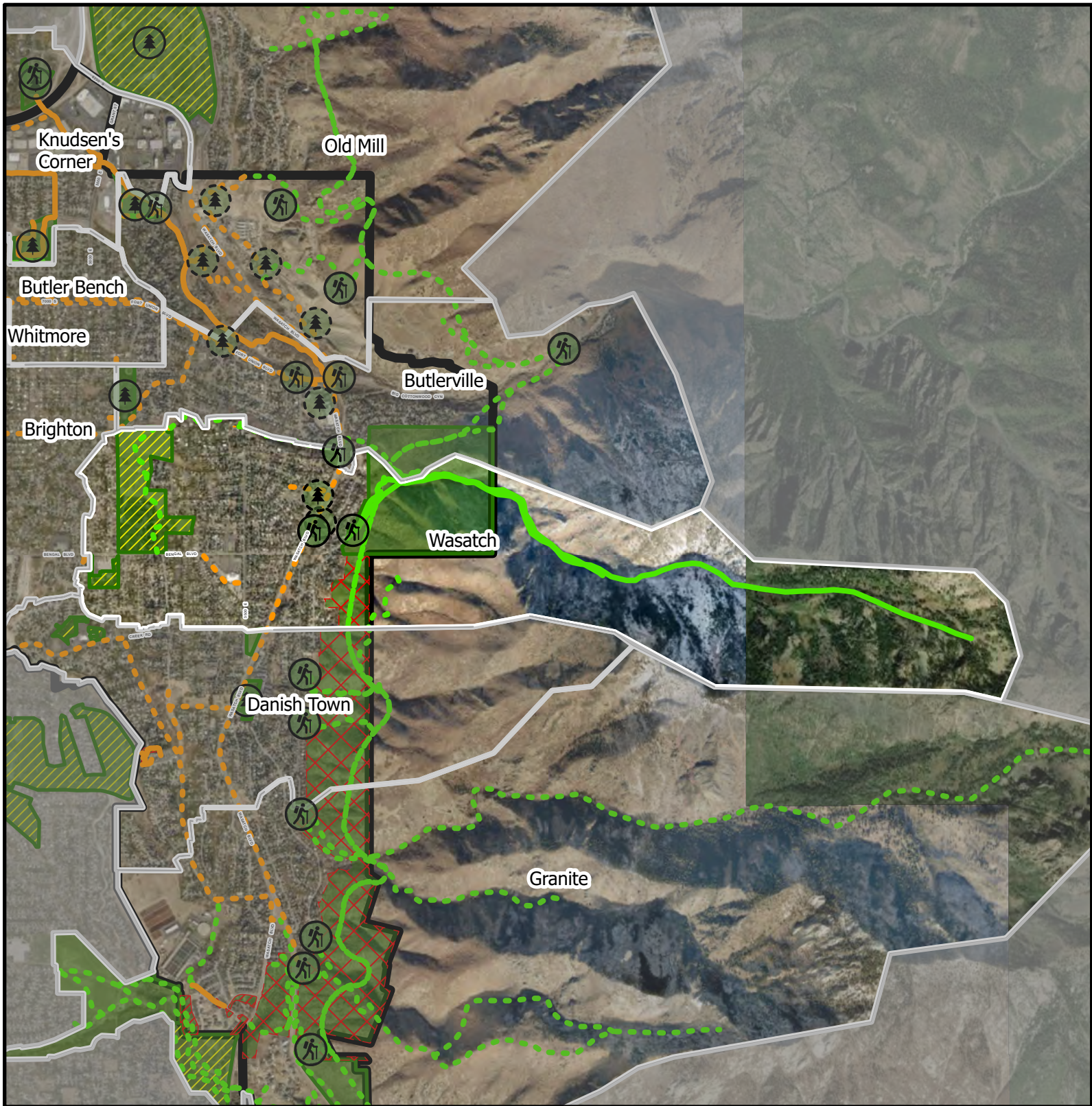




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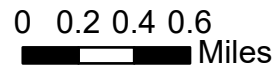
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| | Existing Open Space Points | | Proposed | | Proposed | | Private, Proposed |
| | Planned Trailhead Points | | Potential | | | | Public, Existing |
| | Planned Open Space Points | | | | | | Semi-Public, Existing |
| | | | | | | | Planning areas |
| | | | | | | | City Boundary |





- Map Legend -

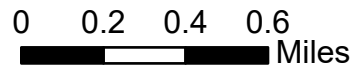
- | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|----------|-----------------------|
| Existing Trailhead Points | Existing | Existing | Private, Existing |
| Existing Open Space Points | Proposed | Proposed | Private, Proposed |
| Planned Trailhead Points | Potential | | Public, Existing |
| Planned Open Space Points | | | Semi-Public, Existing |
| | | | Planning areas |
| | | | City Boundary |

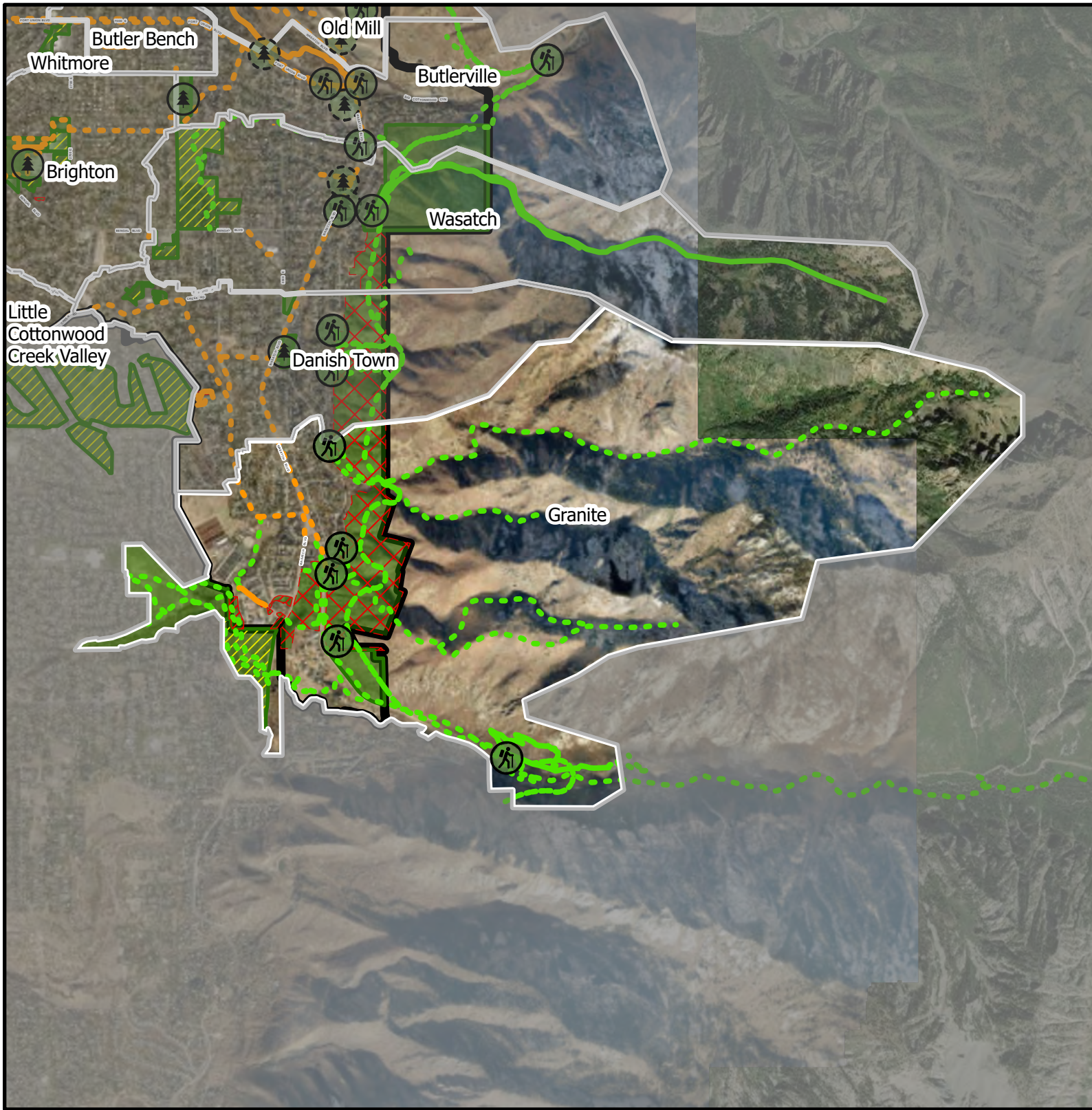




- Map Legend -

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|--|----------------------------|--|-----------|--|----------|--|-----------------------|
| | Existing Trailhead Points | | Existing | | Existing | | Private, Existing |
| | Existing Open Space Points | | Proposed | | Proposed | | Private, Proposed |
| | Planned Trailhead Points | | Potential | | | | Public, Existing |
| | Planned Open Space Points | | | | | | Semi-Public, Existing |
| | | | | | | | Planning areas |
| | | | | | | | City Boundary |





- Map Legend -

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|--|----------------------------|--|-----------|--|----------|--|-----------------------|
| | Existing Trailhead Points | | Existing | | Existing | | Private, Existing |
| | Existing Open Space Points | | Proposed | | Proposed | | Private, Proposed |
| | Planned Trailhead Points | | Potential | | | | Public, Existing |
| | Planned Open Space Points | | | | | | Semi-Public, Existing |
| | | | | | | | Planning areas |
| | | | | | | | City Boundary |

0 0.20.40.6 Miles



Implementation

Open Space Acquisition

Open Space Acquisition Criteria

The acquisition process for open space is one of the most important aspects of the planning process. Choosing the criteria and method the city uses to purchase open space lands and guide developers in setting aside critical open space helps to ensure that the city spends money wisely and in a manner that citizens would prefer. The criteria set forth in this chapter are intended to solidify the direction citizens have given through this planning process.

Identifying and prioritizing open space criteria is a key step in the open space planning process. Citizens, the City Council, the Planning Commission and City staff will work together to prioritize which open space parcels are appropriate for purchase or preservation.

The maps included in this plan identify desirable opportunities for future open spaces and trails. The information included in these maps is intended to help direct the City Council, Planning Commission and staff to areas that may contain attributes worth preserving; these maps are not designed to show specific properties for preservation or final alignments for future trails. Each potential open space site or trail will need to be evaluated and studied on a site specific level.

Each new potential open space or trail should be individually evaluated to assess the project's overall value to the open space system. Staff should consider the following key factors when prioritizing specific projects:

- 1) Site Context
 - a. To what extent is the property located near other protected lands or identified open space areas?
 - b. Does this property contribute to a greenway or larger open space area?
 - c. Is protecting this property a strategic move to protect a larger area?
 - d. Should preservation of this property be a priority due an imminent purchase or development?
 - e. How compatible is the proposed open space and/or recreational uses of this parcel with the adjacent land uses?
 - f. Is the project included in any County or regional master plans?
- 2) Scenic/Aesthetic/Sense of Place
 - a. Does the property provide vistas or scenic views of Wasatch Mountains, the Salt Lake Valley, surrounding bluffs, or other features that contribute to the sense of place that is Cottonwood Heights?
 - b. Will the acquisition preserve important views from roads, natural trails, or other prominent public locations?
 - c. To what extent will the property enhance the quality of life for City residents and visitors?
 - d. Does the property serve as a community buffer or separator?
 - e. Does the property help maintain a sense of agricultural tradition and rural character?
- 3) Outdoor Recreation/Public Use
 - a. What is the potential for public use and outdoor recreation on this property?
 - b. To what extent does this property provide opportunity to integrate public use into a larger recreation network?

- c. What opportunities for outdoor recreation does this property provide?
- d. Are the activities considered appropriate with the ecological, physical and social environment?
- 4) Public Support Factors
 - a. Is this a high profile acquisition from the public perspective?
 - b. Will acquisition of this property serve as a catalyst for other acquisitions?
 - c. Will acquisition of this property in the manner proposed serve as a positive example for other landowners?
 - d. Is there a willing seller?
- 5) Price
 - a. Is the price reasonable given current supply and demand and net present value?
 - b. Is the landowner willing to reduce the cost to the City for charitable or tax purposes?
 - c. Are there opportunities for cost sharing?
 - d. Can the goals of the City's Open Space Program be achieved with less than fee simple acquisition?
 - e. Will the property become more expensive or developed if not acquired now?
 - f. Are the projected annual management and maintenance costs acceptable and reasonable?
- 6) Environment/Ecology
 - a. Does the property have special value for wildlife preservation or does it act as a wildlife corridor?
 - b. Does the acquisition preserve lands critical to an animal protection?
 - c. Will the acquisition preserve unusual terrain or unique environmental, geological, or ecological features?
- d. To what extent does the property provide a buffer to minimize the disruption of ecological processes on already protected land?
- e. Will acquisition of this property protect wetlands or other biologically sensitive riparian areas?
- f. Are water rights available?
- g. What is the potential for habitat restoration?
- h. Are there any environmental liabilities or hazards associated with the property?
- 7) Historical/Archaeological
 - a. Does the property contain significant archaeological, historical, or cultural resources?
- 8) Education
 - a. Are there educational opportunities associated with this property?
- 9) Does the project contribute to a balanced open space system based on:
 - a. Geographic distribution?
 - b. Project type?
 - c. Urgent/immediate demands and long term goals?
 - d. Population distribution?

Funding Strategies

The following options are available to Cottonwood Heights for the implementation of the plan recommendations:

City General Fund

The city's general fund is the primary financial source for general government operations. The major sources for this fund are property taxes, sales taxes, energy taxes, and other fees. Each city department makes expenditures based on the city budget approved each year by the City Council. The City Council may propose funding in future budgets for parks, trails, and open space projects that achieve the goals of this plan.

Impact Fees

The city should explore the possibility of adopting a parks impact fee for new development and redevelopment. Impact fees can help offset the impacts of new development as the city grows.

Bonds

Bonds can be used by the city to finance public open space projects. General obligation bonds are secured by and repaid from property taxes and must be approved by a majority of voters in a bond election. A bond election allows Cottonwood Heights voters to approve a loan on property tax increases, which can be a good revenue source for projects with a broad appeal to the public, but may not be appropriate if a project is viewed by constituents as non-essential.

Grants & Programs

Various Federal, State, County, and other grants are available for the development and maintenance of open space, parks, trails, tree placement and urban fisheries, including:

- County ZAP Tax
- Transportation & Land Use Connection (TLC)
- Central Wasatch Commission (CWC)
- Healthy Salt Lake
- Community Development Block Grants
- Utah Office of Outdoor Recreation Grants
- County Tourism, Recreation, Culture & Convention (TRCC) Grants
- Federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP)
- National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program
- Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)
- UDOT Surface Transportation Program (STP)

Private Donations

Private donations through fundraising, adopt-a-park or adopt-a-trail programs, corporate partnerships, and local volunteer efforts could be used to support open space projects. The city could consider a program to allow individuals to make "micro donations" to cover the cost of specific park amenities like benches.

Development & Redevelopment

The dedication of land for parks, trails, and active transportation improvements can be required by the city during the development process, as required by the city code. Easements for future trails can be required on private property in developed areas as redevelopment occurs on individual parcels.