

WASATCH CANYONS GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

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

PUBLIC KICKOFF MEETING SUMMARY

EVENT SUMMARY

As part of the community outreach process for the Wasatch Canyons General Plan update, a community kickoff open house was held at the Whitmore Library in Cottonwood Heights on September 27, 2017 from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Approximately 70 participants attended the open house including residents, employees, business owners, agency officials, community leaders, youth, and other stakeholders.

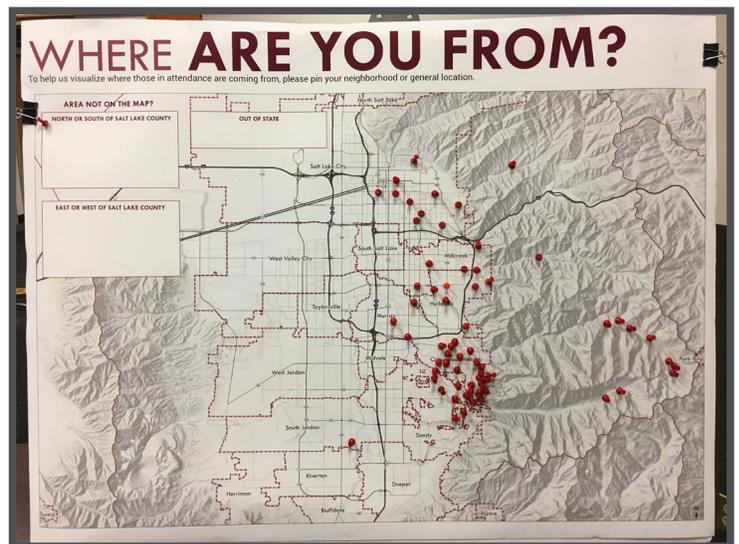
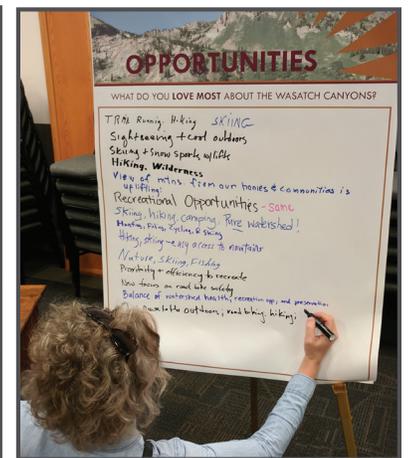
The open house was publically noticed on through the project website, the newspaper, social media pages, the Utah Public Meeting Notice website, the Wasatch Canyons General Plan email lists, and through word of mouth from active community groups.

OBJECTIVE

The purpose of the open house was to give interested members of the public an opportunity to learn about the project, initiate the public process, review information on how they can be involved in upcoming events, review information about the four canyons (Big and Little Cottonwood, Parleys, and Mill Creek), and allow participants to ask questions, give feedback, and leave comments.

FORMAT

A large meeting room inside the library was used for the open house where 10 poster boards were presented. Maps, bullet points with key facts and data, and room for public comments were included on the presentation boards. Attendees were invited to write down additional comments on provided comment cards. Attendees were also invited to place a thumb tacks on a map of Salt Lake County to show where they had come from to attend the meeting. Finally, food and drinks as well as kids activities were provided.



Special thank you to all those who took time to participate in this meeting.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Those in attendance provided feedback on their ideas, concerns, and questions on subjects such as transportation, the environment, recreation, and land use. After reviewing these comments, several themes began to emerge as main topics of for participants. The following summarizes comments received at the open house:

Transportation: Participants highlighted the concern of increasing vehicle congestion in the canyons and a desire for improved transit services, such as a train or dedicated bus lane/HOV lane. Year-round public transit was highly desired by participants. The need for more bike lanes was also frequently mentioned as many participants were concerned with cyclist safety. Parking management was mentioned by participants, but comments varied from leaving parking as is to naturally constrain visitation to expanding parking to accommodate existing and future use.

Environment: A top priority of participants was protection of natural resources, including air, water, and land resources. Comments specifically centered on the need to protect the watershed and concern regarding enforcement of dogs within the watershed.

Recreation: Recreation comments centered on the need for more trails and trail connections, as well as improved supporting infrastructure such as parking facilities, public restrooms, and signage. Participants noted concern that the current trail system is

becoming too crowded and that new trails are needed to decrease congestion.

Land Use: Participant comments reflected a desire to protect open spaces. Generally, private property uses should be respected, but should be well managed to not impact the natural character of the canyons. Miscellaneous comments included opinions about expanding Wilderness areas and family access and entertainment opportunities.

Project Process:

When asked what the best way to reach open house participants in the future/how they would like to be involved in the planing process, most participants selected online surveys (16), direct emails (16), and monthly E-Newsletter (15).

What are the three best ways to reach you during the planning process?

Online surveys: (16)

Direct Emails: (16)

Monthly E-Newsletter: (15)

Social Media: (7)

Paper surveys: (2)

Other: (1)

County Website: (0)



VERBATIM COMMENTS RECEIVED

Opportunities: What do you love most about the Wasatch Canyons?

The following list contains written comments answering the question above and how many times each subject was written:

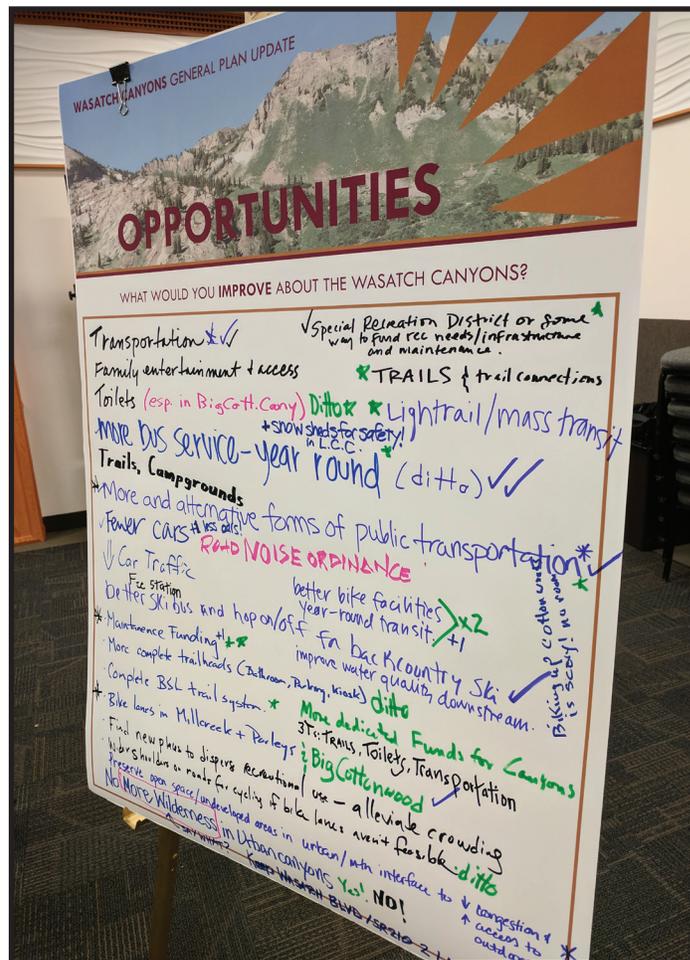
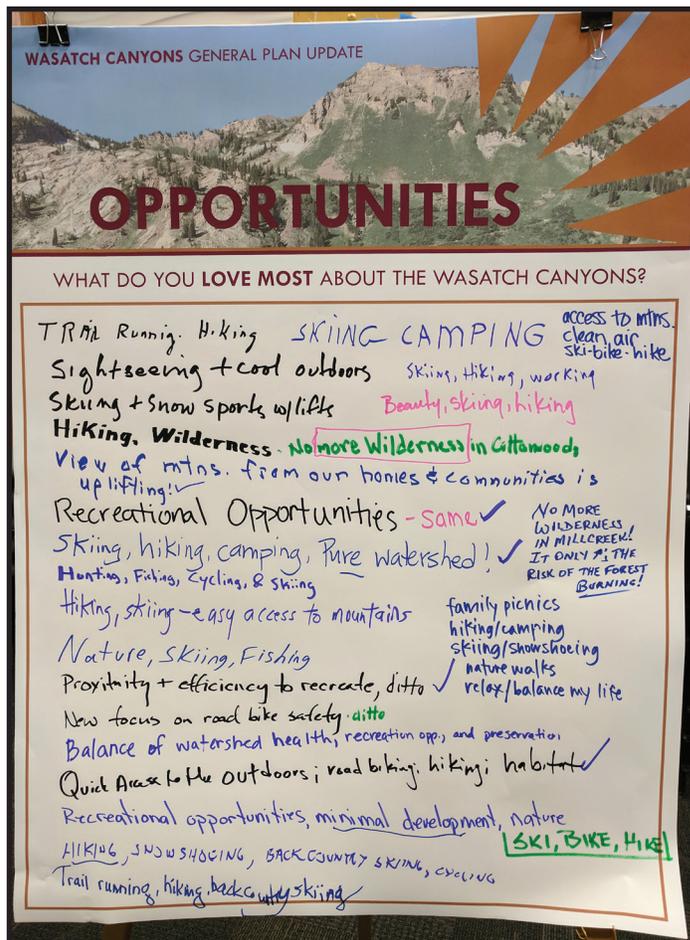
- Hiking (13)
- Skiing (11)
- Recreational opportunities (5)
- Cycling (5)
- Access to mountains (3)
- Proximity and efficiency to recreation (3)
- Trail running (2)
- Fishing (2)
- Nature (2)
- New focus on road bike safety (2)
- Snow shoeing (2)
- Sightseeing and cool outdoors
- Back country skiing
- Snow sports with lifts
- Wilderness
- View of mountains from homes and communities is uplifting
- Hunting
- Balance of watershed health and preservation
- Habitat
- Minimal development
- Working
- Beauty
- No more wilderness in Cottonwoods
- No more wilderness in Mill Creek Canyon
- Family picnics
- Camping
- Nature walks
- Relax balance life

Opportunities: What would you improve about the Wasatch Canyons?

The following list contains written comments answering the question above and how many times each subject was written. Comments were grouped into subject category.

Transportation: (35/65)

- Improved Bike Infrastructure: (10)
 - Better bike facilities (4)
 - Bike lanes in Mill Creek and Parleys Canyons (3)
 - Biking up cottonwood is scary! No room.
 - Shoulders on roads for cycling if bike lanes aren't feasible (2)



- Improved Public Transit Services: (9)
 - More bus service year round (4)
 - Light rail/mass transit (2)
 - No train but add bus/HOV lane (1)
 - Better ski bus and hop on hop off for back country skiing (2)
- Decrease Congestion: (7)
 - Less cars (4)
 - Decrease congestion and increase access to outdoors. (2)
 - Fee station
 - Year round transit
- Miscellaneous: (11)
 - Transportation (in general) (10)
 - Road noise ordinance

Maintenance: (8/65)

- Maintenance funding (5)
- Special recreation district or some way to fund rec needs infrastructure and maintenance (3)

Recreation: (8/65)

- Trails:
 - Trails and trail connections (3)
 - Complete BSL trail system (2)
- Campgrounds
- Find new places to disperse recreational use- reduce crowding
- Family entertainment and access

Toilets: (7/65)

- Toilets (4)
- More complete trailheads (bathroom, parking, kiosk) (2)
- More dedicated funds for canyons: "3 T's"- Trails, Toilets, and Transportation

Environment: (7/65)

- No more wilderness in urban canyons. Yes (3) No (3)
- Preserve open space/ undeveloped areas in urban mountain interface to improve water quality downstream.

Presentation Boards

The following comments were left on the presentation boards. They are organized by topic.

Transportation

- "Need bike lanes in BCC for entire canton. Get hunters, anglers, and OHV groups involved."
- "Snow sheds needed in LCC to unload traffic safely. Reduce the speed limit on SR-210 and Wasatch

- to 35 mph-this is a residential area. Create mass transit stations at both BCC and LCC and demand stops en route for back country skiers."
- "Resorts should include bus pass with purchase of a day pass (valid only day of use of a day pass)
- "Snow sheds needed in LCC to unload traffic safely. Reduce the speed limit on SR-210 and Wasatch to 35 mph-this is a residential area. Create mass transit stations at both BCC and LCC and demand stops en route for back country skiers."
- "Alta needs to be on any transit map."
- "Resorts should include bus pass with purchase of a day pass (valid only day of use of a day pass)
- "Emigration Canyon needs to be included in transportation and recreation study considerations."
- "We need more dedicated bike lanes in areas around and in our canyons."
- "Dedicated public transportation lane and frequent (every 3-5 mins) service in winter."
- "More family friendly multi-use paths linking communities."
- "No more wilderness areas in the canyon for lease."
- "Create a viable transit alternative with a contra flow lane for buses and high occupancy vehicles to compete with SUV cars."

Environment

- "No dogs ever!" (2)
- "More toilets in the canyons."
- "Wilderness isn't available to general public."
- "Since this is a watershed, prohibit domestic dogs."

Recreation

- "Collect user fees in Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons. Fees could help maintain trails, discourage driving, and incentivize people to use public transit assuming it's available and convenient."
- Managed ski parking at LCC and BCC locations and at resorts."
- "Collect user fees in Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons. Fees could help maintain trails, discourage driving, and incentivize people to use public transit assuming it's available and convenient."
- "Snow sheds in LCC. Managed ski parking at LCC and BCC locations and at resorts."
- "Eventually there is a limit to traffic in the canyons. First limit the cars then even limit the foot traffic."
- "We need shuttle buses year-round and voluntary parking fees. (Tickets on cars that park without paying.)"
- "Salt Lake Climber's alliance is a strong successful

group. Keep them involved and utilize their skills to help improve the area.”

- “Could there be a local discount and fees for those that live within 10 miles of the canyons and endure all the traffic?”
- “Improve trail system per the MT Accord trails subcommittee recommendations.”
- “More trails to better disperse people.”

Land Use

- “Please do not overwhelm the canyons with dogs like Park City has. Leash laws should be looked at and enforced seriously.”
- “Forestry and tree cutting are vital for fire preventions. No more ski area expansion.”

Comment Cards

The following comments were left on written comment cards.

- “Where is Cottonwood Heights involvement? The mouth of BCC should be developed for long term. “City between the canyons”
- “Snow sheds in LCC needed!”
- “Trail maintenance in wilderness areas costs 5 times more than on ordinary USFS lands. Please no more wilderness areas in Wasatch.”
- “Deaf Smith access, funding, historical preservations, designated trail heads, resolution with property owners and trail users needed.”
- “Better trails (maintenance) would be great. We badly need more highway uphill slow lanes. No more ski areas should be expanded.”
- “Please look at access to older canyons i.e. Deaf Smiths. Parking? Trailheads?”
- “Access to Deaf Smith Canyon. Access to wilderness from top of the world drive just north of the LDS church.”
- “What plans are there for increased access to the more remote areas of the canyons for the general public- above and beyond hiking access only? I think the quality of the land can be maintained and more access made available with right planning.”
- “Top of guardsman pass despite recent improvement is still a precarious road, even in the best of conditions, especially when busy as on the weekends.”
- “Cottonwood Heights east of Wasatch Blvd needs to develop a trail system that runs north and south and east going up the mountains.”
- “Mass transit system to move people w/o use of individual vehicles.”
- “Frequency service w/o excessive delay/wait time.”

- “Extended times for service (early and late).”
- “Multi-season service”
- “Parking facilities (covered/underground) at multiple convenient locations.”
- “More public restrooms on trails and at trail heads”
- “Better trail maintenance and improvements (drainage/log clearing/rock removal/ steps) signs.”
- “Bike shoulders/ lanes up and down canyon (wider roads/seasonal guard rails).”
- “Better fishing/stream access.”