WHAT IS THE GENERAL PLAN?

The General Plan establishes goals and policies as a basis for land use and development regulations, transportation planning, housing, recreation, and economic development. As a long-range vision, the Plan identifies how the Canyons should change or be preserved over the next 20 years.

THE GENERAL PLAN WILL:

- **ARTICULATE A LONG-RANGE VISION** for the Wasatch Canyons;
- **ESTABLISH A POLICY AND PRIORITIES FRAMEWORK** for future County initiatives and decision-making;
- **ESTABLISH A FRAMEWORK** for coordinating with the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest and other jurisdictional and service-providing entities; and
- **IDENTIFY IMPLEMENTATION STEPS** for the community to make this vision a reality.

WHY UPDATE THE PLAN?

- Because Utah State Code requires cities and counties to have General Plans and update them periodically. The Wasatch Canyons General Plan was first adopted in 1989 and much has changed since then;
- To include residents of the community in the planning process and ask for input; and
- To define realistic implementation strategies to achieve the community’s vision.

*The Plan Update will build upon and integrate previous planning efforts to create a roadmap for the future.*
WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!
The planning process puts strong emphasis on ensuring participation of residents in every stage of decision-making, and your involvement is paramount to the success of the General Plan Update!

Our process will include focus groups, public workshops, and events held in-person and online. These opportunities are designed to allow everyone to share their opinions for the Central Wasatch Canyons.

WHAT ARE THE THREE BEST WAYS TO REACH YOU DURING THE PLANNING PROCESS?

• Online Surveys
• Paper Surveys
• Community Events
• County Website
• Social Media
• Direct Emails
• Monthly E-Newsletter
• Other

SLCO.ORG/WASATCH-CANYONS
Visit the project website for project updates, upcoming meetings/events and opportunities to get involved.
WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

To help us visualize where those in attendance are coming from, please pin your neighborhood or general location.
WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT THE WASATCH CANYONS?
OPPORTUNITIES

WHAT WOULD YOU IMPROVE ABOUT THE WASATCH CANYONS?
What We’re Hearing

“I love the access of the Wasatch mountains. It is rare that you have as large a metropolis at the foot of such stunning mountains, and still have the ability to get lost and not see a soul if you really want to.”

“Accessibility of a world-class mountain range and all the activities that go with it to a major city and metro region. No other city in the country has this type of proximity and accessibility!”

“Ability to go hiking and skiing with entire family (kids/grandkids).”

“Hunting areas and public lands. Protect ethical hunting.”

“Beautiful hiking, peace and quiet, flowers, birds. I want the trails and quiet to remain free from development.”

“I love the scenic views and challenging recreational opportunities that are so close to my home. I appreciate the user groups that seem to get along.”

“If we have more developed picnic areas, for example, that might suffice to keep people close to the road and out of the Wilderness!”

“Restoration of old climbing bolts!”

Project Facts

- The number of recreation visitors to Millcreek Canyon, Little Cottonwood, and Big Cottonwood was estimated at 4.5 million in 2015. For comparison, this is similar to Yellowstone and Zion National Park.

  Source: Chace C. Lamborn, Steven W. Burr, Institute of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism, Utah State University, An Estimation of Visitor Use in Little Cottonwood, Big Cottonwood, and Millcreek Canyons (2015)

- Utah residents participate in outdoor recreation at a higher rate than the national average.

  Source: Utah Governor’s Council on Balanced Resources (2013)

- Outdoor recreation is a primary driver for Utah’s tourism industry. In 2015, spending by tourists reached $8.2 billion, generating $1.15 billion in direct tourism-related tax revenue. Additionally, tourism employs an estimated 142,000 people in our state.

  Source: Jennifer Leaver, M.A., Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute

- Millcreek Canyon is the only canyon in the study area that collects user fees. Dogs are permitted on even-numbered days and must be on a leash at all times. Odd-numbered days dogs are allowed off-leash on trails only.

- By 2050, Utah is expected to nearly double its population — adding 2.5 million people to its current 3 million. As the population of the Salt Lake Valley and Utah continues to grow, the demand for recreational uses will also grow which puts great stress on this ecologically sensitive and limited geographical area.

  Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute

- In 2011, an average of 18 cyclists per hour entered Millcreek Canyon during Pioneer weekend (July 23 - July 25th). On that same weekend, dogs were observed in 15% of vehicles on odd days.

By The Numbers

255 Total Miles of Trails within the Wasatch Canyons

25 Picnic Areas within the Wasatch Canyons

5 Developed Campgrounds within the Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons
**DARK SKIES ARE CRITICALLY IMPORTANT TO HABITAT. THIS IS A ISSUE OF IMPORTANCE, AND AREAS RECEIVING THE MOST IMPACT INCLUDE RESORT AREAS (WHICH ARE THE MOST DEVELOPED).**

The National Park Service modeled expected natural sounds and the impact of non-natural sounds across the nation. The result shown above is the net impact of non-natural sounds on the natural environment.

**WHATE ARE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES FOR THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE WASATCH CANYONS?**

- Foremost, any action which affects the quality of water should not be allowed. What makes the Salt Lake valley uniquely attractive is the ability to drive a few minutes and be in the heart of wilderness. We become just like any other location if the city continues to move into the canyons."

- "Air quality is my top concern. I’m sure this is not a simple issue to tackle, but there must be improvements that can be made."

- "We need more toilets to protect watershed and have them open in winter too."

- "Allow dogs into Big and Little Cottonwood, increase penalty for littering in canyons (dog poo bags included, biodegradable or not)."

- "We need patrols to ticket illegal behavior, littering, dogs off leash or in restricted watershed, and cross cutting of trails."

- "Quality of sound is important to address, especially highway noise caused by loud vehicles."

**By The Numbers**

- Over half a million people depend on the Central Wasatch Canyons Watersheds for their drinking water supply.

- The Fire Risk Map shows the historical average periods between fires. This is helpful in assessing fire risk areas.

- The National Park Service modeled expected national sounds and the impact of non-national sounds across the nation. The result shows how close is the net impact of non-national sounds on the natural environment.

- Dark skies are critically important to humans. This is a issue of importance, and areas receiving the most impact include resort areas (which are the most developed).
What We’re Hearing

The quotes below are from Online Survey #1: Stakeholder Survey participants.

“It is so hard to travel through the canyons most weekends now because of an insane amount of traffic and overcrowding. Canyon access should switch to being done by passenger vehicles and have more public transit available to certain areas to help cut down on vehicle traffic.”

“Keep limited parking, which limits number of users.”

“We need a very solid mass transportation plan with decades of foresight. Particularly consider rail transit up the canyons.”

“The one thing I’d like to see out of this plan is more parking or improved shuttle options from park and ride lots.”

“Consider avalanche sheds in key areas to assist with better traffic flow in/out of LCC. Alleviating congestion of traffic on snow days will place less pressure on adjoining communities who get grid locked under these circumstances.”

“We don’t want to make it easier for cars - we want to reduce the number of cars by providing other options.”

“Utilize parking and transit solutions as tool to restrict overuse, traffic congestion and further degradation. Have those solutions support higher density use areas.”

Project Facts

- Peak days can generate over 11,000 vehicles in each Big and Little Cottonwood Canyon.
  
- UDOT projections for annual average daily traffic (AADT) show significant increase in the number of vehicles in all canyons. The mouth of Parleys Canyon saw 24,630 AADT in 1995, 59,100 in 2015, and a projected 75,525 AADT in 2030.
  
- A ski bus is available for access to the resorts in the winter. In the 2015 - 16 season, the ski bus system accounted for about 4-5% of trips to the resorts. While there a UTA bus that runs from Salt Lake City to Park City year-round, there is virtually no bus service in the summer/fall to Little or Big Cottonwood Canyons.

By The Numbers

- 78% of visitors to ski areas arrived by private or rental vehicles.
  
- 1.7 Average Vehicle Occupancy in Little Cottonwood Canyon in 2015.

- Source: UDOT

- 9,600~ there are around 9,600 formal and informal parking spaces in BCC and LCC.

- Source: WSP/PB Short Term Transportation Memo

- 3x Millcreek Canyon vehicle traffic was at least 3x higher in summer than in winter.
What We’re Hearing

The quotes below are from Online Survey #1: Stakeholder Survey participants.

“Develop other canyons with trails so that the cottonwood canyons don’t have to serve the entire expanding valley. Concentrating here only amplifies the problem. People are looking for places to go and we are surrounded by mountains.”

“Maintain the existing balance between development and backcountry use.”

“Limit development of ski areas, housing, and commercial areas.”

“Make more dog friendly access. I know that the cottonwood canyons are watershed areas, but it would help to spread it out.”

“We need employee housing to limit traffic.”

“Keep limited parking, which limits number of users.”

“No more new building!!! This includes ski lifts and buildings, as well as, tree cutting.”

Project Facts

- The Central Wasatch Canyons only make up 1.2% of the residential units in Salt Lake County.


- Very few people live in the Wasatch Canyons year-round. Census population estimates show that there was very slow growth in the canyons between 2000 and 2010 from 8,537 residents to 8,816 residents. However, the 2015 American Community Survey estimates show that growth is increasing sharply between 2010 and 2015.


- While the population only grew by 279 people between 2000 and 2010, there were 815 new homes within the project area. Of that 1/3, almost 90% are seasonal or recreational homes. The 2015 census estimate is showing that 1/3 of the homes are still vacant, but that 1/3 seasonal use may be dropping.


- The Salt Lake County Foothills and Canyon Overlay Zone Ordinance (FCOZ) was officially adopted in 1997 and most recently updated this year. It came about partially as a result of the 1989 Canyons Master Plan and replaced the County’s Hillside Protection Zone. The Ordinance applies to all land in unincorporated areas of Salt Lake County with slopes over 30%.

Source: Salt Lake County

- Land-use approvals on properties within the FCOZ involve a multi-agency review process during which the County Planning office works with the Salt Lake Valley Health Department, the Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities, the U.S. Forest Service and other agencies to ensure that all developments within the foothills and canyons meet certain standards.

Source: Salt Lake County

- In Little Cottonwood Canyon there are no “stand-alone” commercial areas outside the resort areas besides the LDS Church storage vault and a record storage facility run by a private company. Big Cottonwood Canyon, although limited in size, has several areas of commercial development. Millcreek Canyon has two restaurants.

By The Numbers

- 199,506 project area acres

- 21% of Big Cottonwood Canyon land is privately owned

- 36,408 acres of designated wilderness within the project area

- 36% of Parley’s Canyon land owned by Salt Lake City for watershed protection

EXISTING AND PROJECTED (2030) HOUSING UNITS

COMPARISON OF ACREAGE ZONED RESIDENTIAL, DEVELOPED AND UNDEVELOPED

75% of jobs within the project area are in the accommodation and food services, or arts, entertainment and recreation sectors.

2% of land in the project area is zoned for commercial uses.

PROJECT AREA OWNERSHIP

PROJECT AREA POPULATION GROWTH AND HOUSING GROWTH
UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE!

JOIN US AT THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!
VISIT SLCO.ORG/WASATCH-CANYONS FOR MORE INFORMATION.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14
PROJECT INTRODUCTION BOOTH AT OKTOBERFEST, SNOWBIRD RESORT, 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18
VISIONING OPEN HOUSE, COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS CITY HALL, 7:00 – 9:00 PM

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21
VISIONING BOOTH AT DOWNTOWN FARMERS’ MARKET, 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

MONDAY, OCTOBER 23
VISIONING BOOTH AT WHEELER FARM’S DOG DAYZE TREAT ALLEY, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28
VISIONING OPEN HOUSE, LOCATION TBA, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1
VISIONING OPEN HOUSE, 5:00 – 7:00 PM, CORNER CANYON HIGH SCHOOL TECH ATRIUM