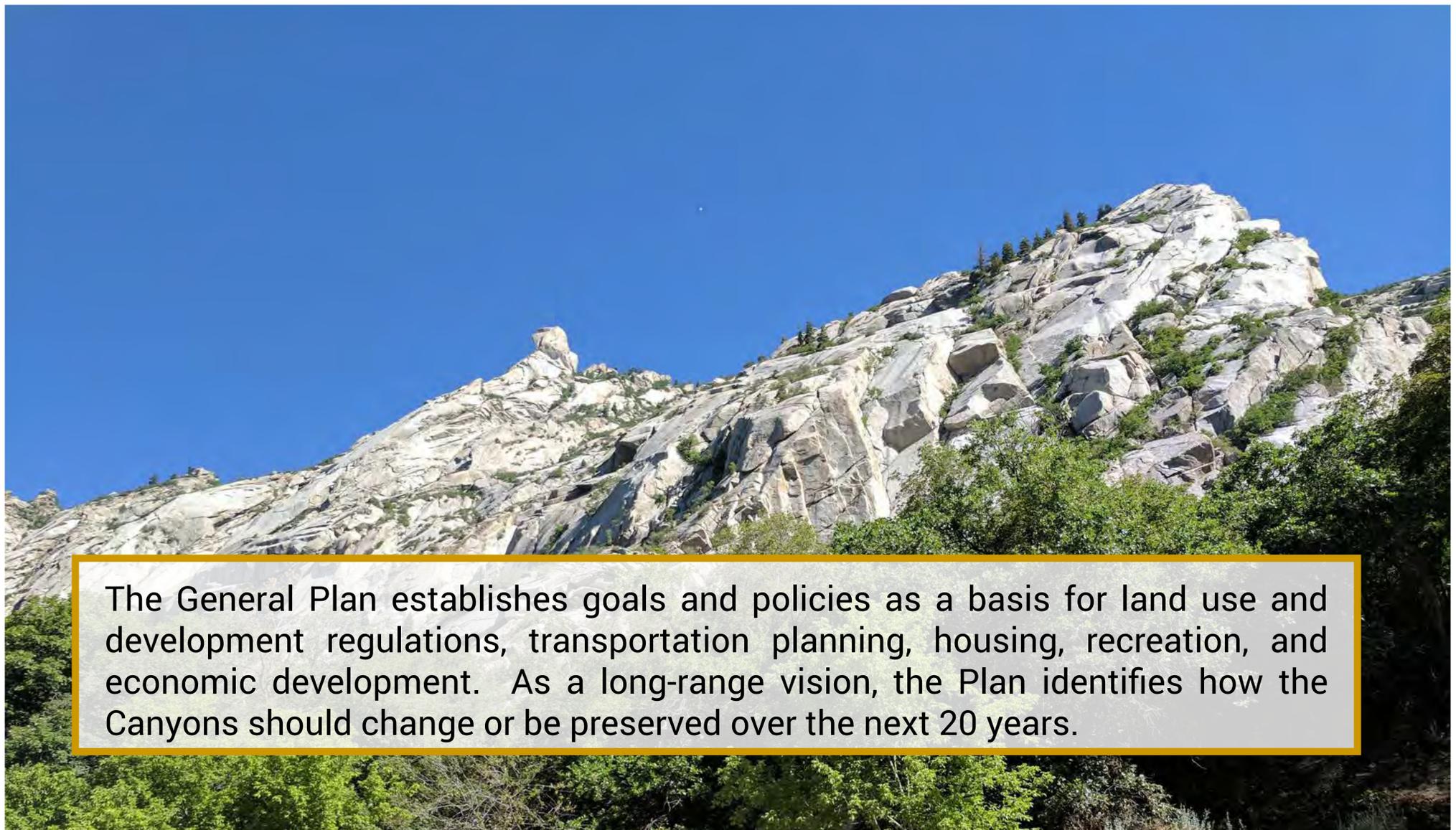


PROJECT OVERVIEW

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.

PROJECT PROCESS

SCHEDULE



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.

SLCO.ORG/WASATCH-CANYONS

Visit the project website for project updates, upcoming meetings/events and opportunities to get involved.

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

• **Online Surveys**

• **Paper Surveys**

• **Community Events**

• **County Website**

• **Social Media**

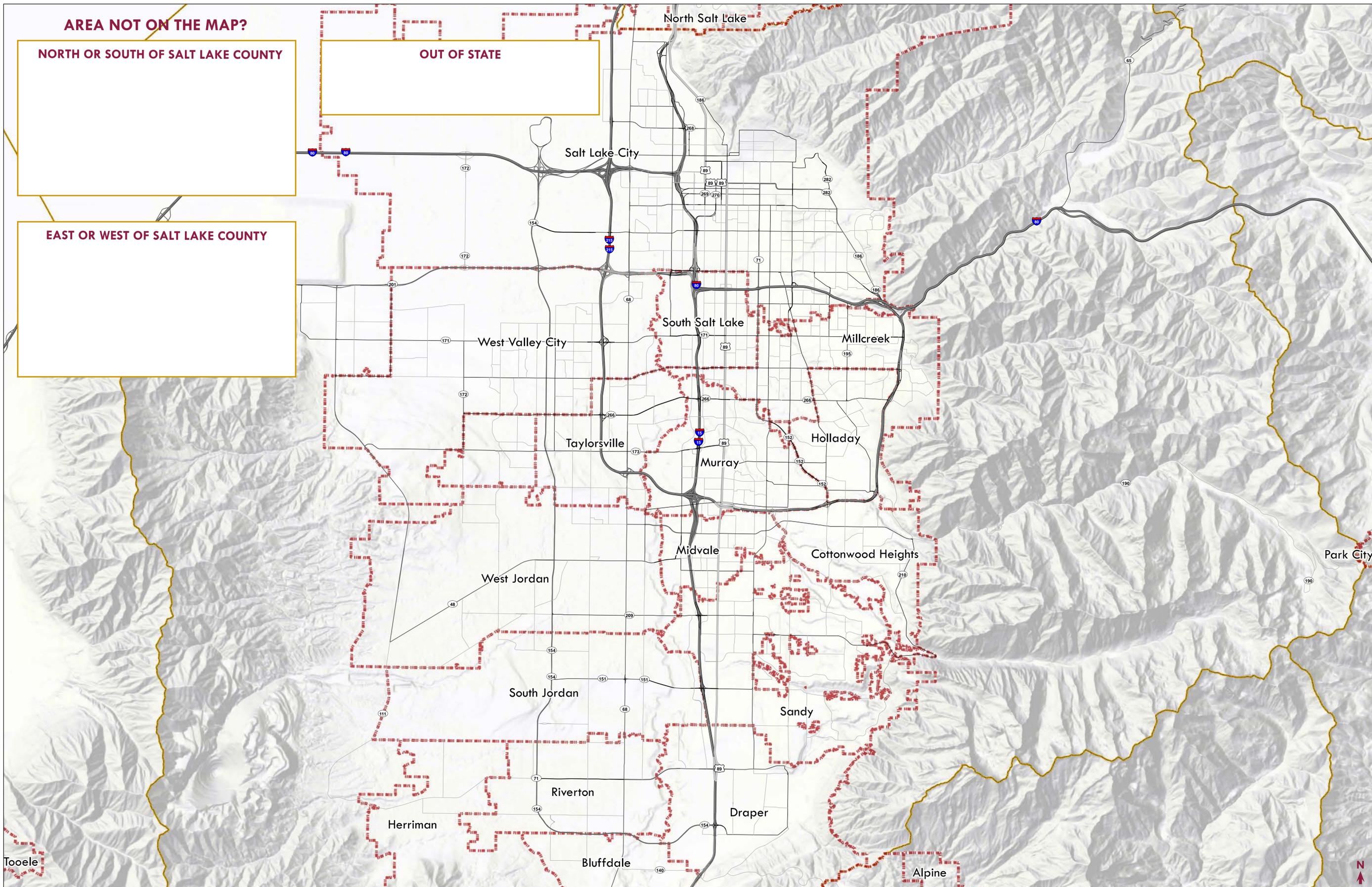
• **Direct Emails**

• **Monthly E-Newsletter**

• **Other**

WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

To help us visualize where those in attendance are coming from, please pin your neighborhood or general location.



OPPORTUNITIES

WHAT DO YOU **LOVE MOST** ABOUT THE WASATCH CANYONS?





OPPORTUNITIES

WHAT WOULD YOU **IMPROVE** ABOUT THE WASATCH CANYONS?



QUICK FACTS RECREATION

What We're Hearing

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

"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

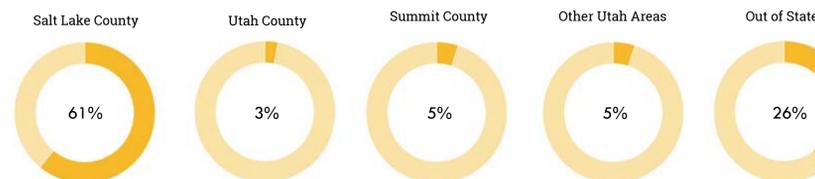
25

Picnic Areas within the Wasatch Canyons

5

Developed Campgrounds within the Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons

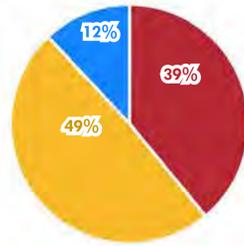
WHO ARE THE VISITORS?



Most users of Wasatch Canyons are coming from Salt Lake County.



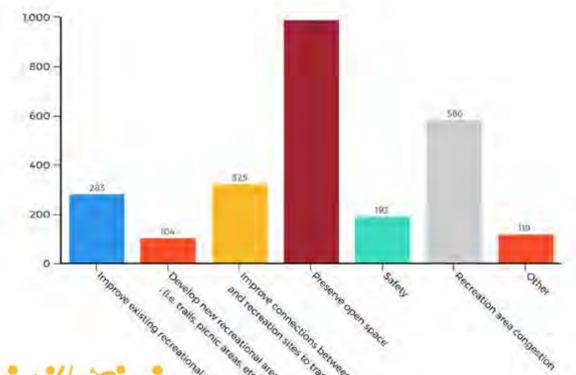
2015 PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL RECREATION USE BY CANYON*



* This study did not include Parley's Canyon. 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).

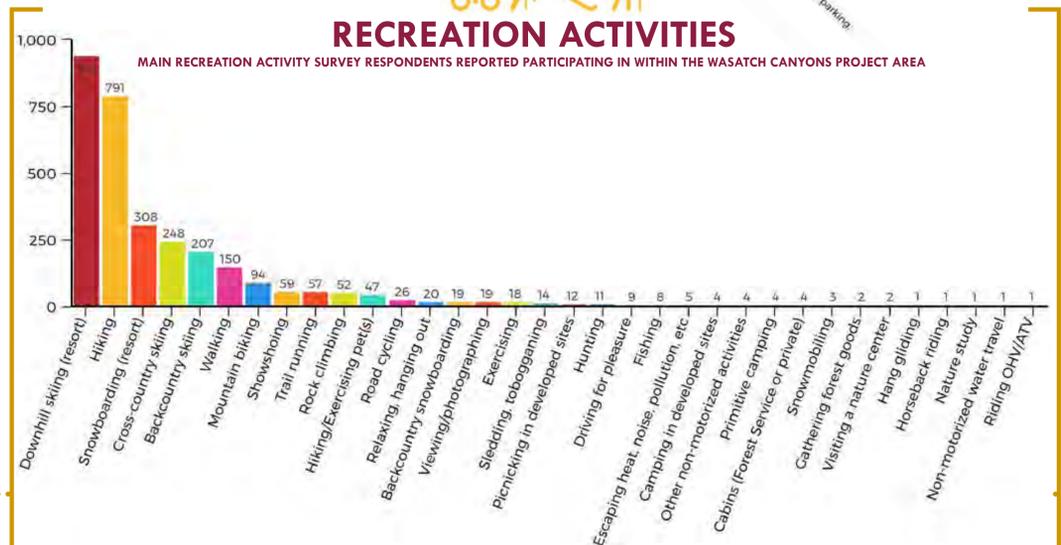
WHAT ARE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES FOR RECREATION IN THE CANYONS?

This data is from Online Survey #1: Stakeholder Survey. This survey was intended to provide a snapshot of current perceptions of the Wasatch Canyons to provide a basis for the project moving forward. This is not statistically valid.



RECREATION ACTIVITIES

MAIN RECREATION ACTIVITY SURVEY RESPONDENTS REPORTED PARTICIPATING IN WITHIN THE WASATCH CANYONS PROJECT AREA



30%

70%

IN THE WASATCH CANYONS 70% OF YEAR-ROUND VISITOR USE IS AT DISPERSED RECREATION AREAS, WHILE 30% IS AT THE SKI RESORTS.

QUICK FACTS ENVIRONMENT

What We're Hearing

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

"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."

Project Facts

- The canyons provide a **vital source of clean affordable drinking water for more than half a million residents of the Salt Lake Valley**. These canyons have a watershed management plan, stream health monitoring plan, and laws to protect both the water and habitat values. Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities, Salt Lake Valley Health Department, Salt Lake County, and the US Forest Service all work together to protect this vital resource.
Source: Envision Utah, Wasatch Canyons Tomorrow (2010)

- The economic impact of replacing the 18,000 acre-feet of water supplied by Little Cottonwood Creek would cost an **estimated \$125 million**.
Source: Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake & Sandy [MWDSL] (2014)

- The Salt Lake City Watershed Ordinance (Salt Lake City Code §17.04) establishes guidelines for existing water agreements for the use of "surplus" water. Each agreement establishes a volume of water available and the geographic area in which the water can be used. These agreements cannot be expanded.

- Salt Lake County is considered an air quality maintenance zone for ozone, and non-attainment area for small particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5).
Source: Utah DEQ (<https://deq.utah.gov/Pollutants/A/air/pollutants/index.htm>)

- Much of the vegetation in the project area is experiencing ongoing stress. Ecosystem function is affected by fragmentation, invasive plants, and habitat loss—**effects that are typically strongest near developed areas and human activities**.

- Climate trends likely to emerge in Utah during the 21st century include a reduction in natural snowpack and snowfall in the early to late winter, which could mean longer shoulder seasons and increased summer resort recreational uses.
Source: Blue Ribbon Advisory Council on Climate Change 2007

By The Numbers

500,000

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

Source: Salt Lake City Public Utilities

50 sq miles

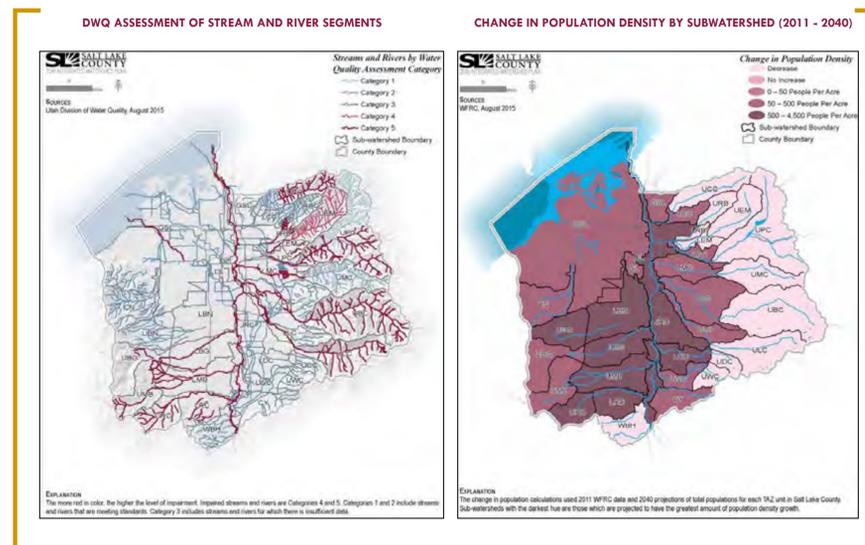
Big Cottonwood Canyon is the largest watershed for the Salt Lake Valley, providing about 18% of the valley's water.

Source: Salt Lake City Watershed Management Plan (1999)

2,923 acres

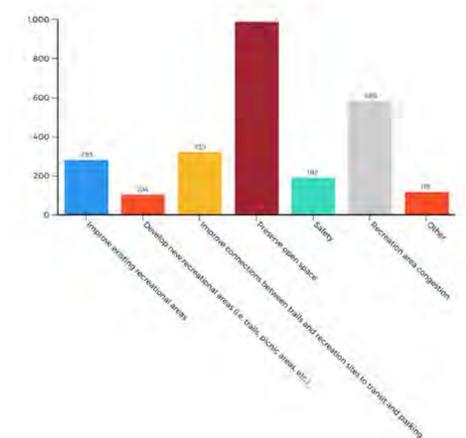
of open space in Salt Lake County.

Source: Salt Lake County

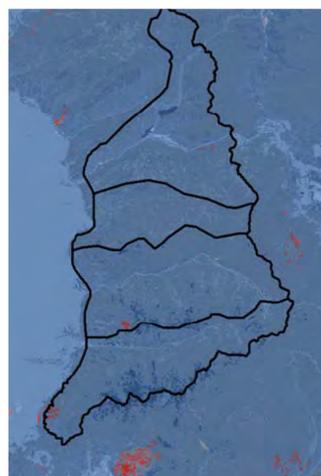


WHAT ARE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES FOR THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE WASATCH CANYONS?

This data is from Online Survey #1: Stakeholder Survey. This survey was intended to provide a snapshot of current perceptions of the Wasatch Canyons to provide a basis for the project moving forward. This is not statistically valid.



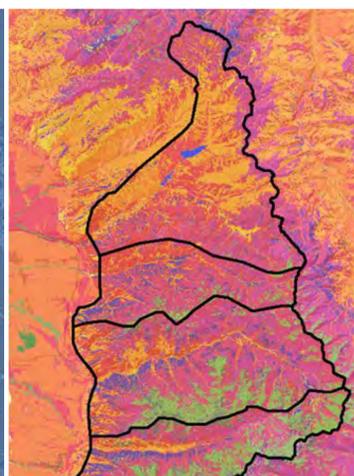
VEGETATION DISTURBANCE



BLUE: LOW DISTURBANCE, RED: HIGH DISTURBANCE

VEGETATION DISTURBANCE HIGHLIGHTS WHERE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS OR VEGETATION CLEARING HAS OCCURRED BETWEEN 2001-2011.

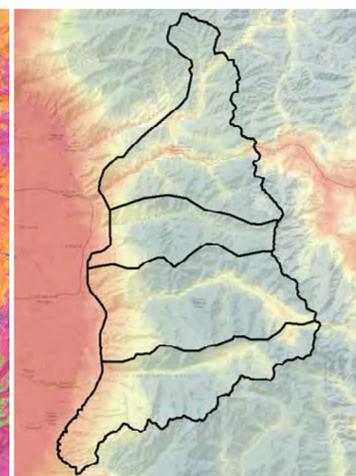
FIRE RISK



GREEN: LOW RISK, ORANGE: MEDIUM RISK, PURPLE: HIGH RISK

THE FIRE RISK MAP SHOWS THE HISTORICAL AVERAGE PERIOD BETWEEN FIRES. THIS IS HELPFUL IN ASSESSING FIRE RISK AREAS.

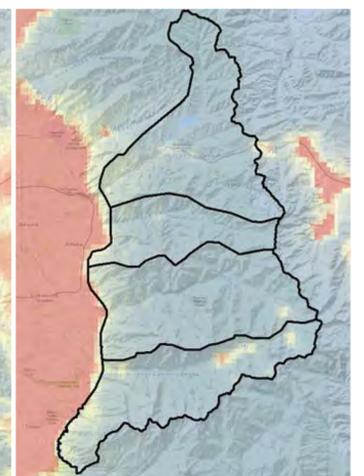
SOUND IMPACT



BLUE: LOW IMPACT, RED: HIGH IMPACT

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.

DARK SKIES



BLUE: LOW IMPACT, RED: HIGH IMPACT

DARK SKIES ARE CRITICALLY IMPORTANT TO HABITAT. THIS IS AN ISSUE OF IMPORTANCE, AND AREAS RECEIVING THE MOST IMPACT INCLUDE RESORT AREAS (WHICH ARE THE MOST DEVELOPED).

QUICK FACTS TRANSPORTATION

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 over use, 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.
Source: UDOT
- 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.
Sources: 1995 and 2015 numbers: UDOT. 2030 Projection: Envision Utah, Wasatch Canyons Tomorrow (2010)
- 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.
Source: WSP/PB Short Term Transportation Memo
- The Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons are high-frequency avalanche areas, which impacts the reliability of canyon roads. An average of **33 avalanches** a year may affect Little Cottonwood Canyon Road (average 11 days/year with road closures (1949-1999); 13 from 1999-2014).
Source: Mountain Accord Transportation Existing Conditions Report
- Crashes are a major concern in all Canyons. In 2015, Parley's had more crashes than Big Cottonwood or Little Cottonwood, yet fewer crashes per year per length of roadway.
Source: UDOT
- In the Cottonwood Canyons, **parking is at or near capacity on peak winter days (15-20 days per year)**. Parking congestion is increasingly becoming a concern in Millcreek Canyon.
- Constrained by slope and public land designation, the primary transportation routes follow the base of the canyons in the Wasatch Canyons.

By The Numbers

78%
of visitors to ski areas arrived by private or rental vehicles.

Source: Ski Utah Survey Data

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.

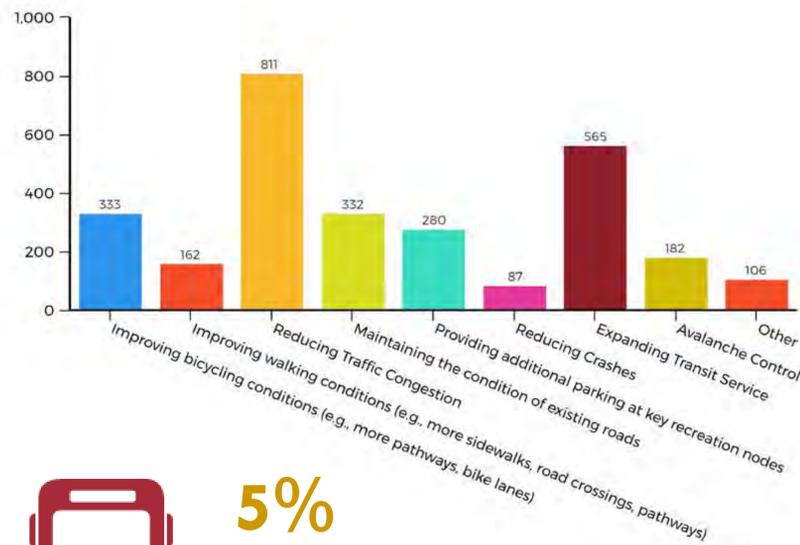
Source: WSP/PB Short Term Transportation Memo
Source: Ski Utah Survey Data

3x
Millcreek Canyon vehicle traffic was at least 3x higher in summer than in winter.

Source: Mill Creek Canyon Transportation Feasibility Study, 2012

WHAT ARE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES FOR THE WASATCH CANYONS TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM?

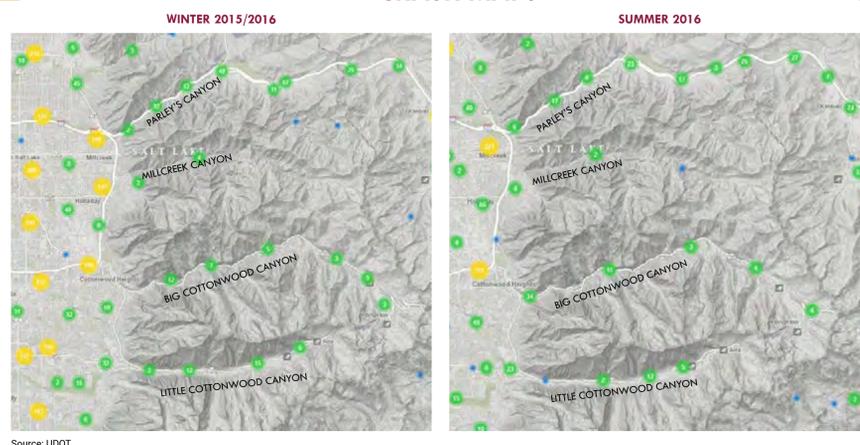
This data is from Online Survey #1: Stakeholder Survey. This survey was intended to provide a snapshot of current perceptions of the Wasatch Canyons to provide a basis for the project moving forward. This is not statistically valid.



5%

OF ALL WINTER TRIPS IN BIG COTTONWOOD AND LITTLE COTTONWOOD ARE MADE USING PUBLIC TRANSIT.

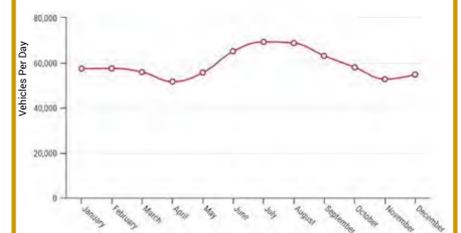
CRASH MAPS



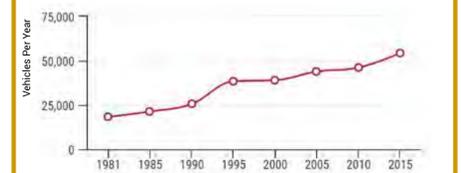
PARLEY'S

1 mile East of I 215 Interchange

AVERAGE DAILY TRAFFIC BY MONTH (ADT)



AVERAGE ANNUAL DAILY TRIPS (AADT)

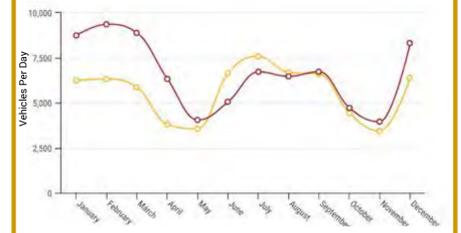


Source: UDOT

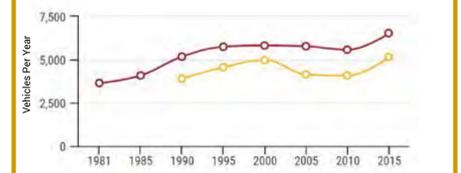
COTTONWOOD CANYONS

SR210 at mouth of Little Cottonwood
SR190 at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon

AVERAGE DAILY TRAFFIC BY MONTH (ADT)



AVERAGE ANNUAL DAILY TRIPS (AADT)



Source: UDOT

QUICK FACTS LAND USE

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."

"Allow resorts to expand base areas and freeze all development everywhere else."

"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**.
Source: American Community Fact Finder, 2000 - 2015
- 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 sharp between 2010 and 2015.
Source: American Community Fact Finder, 2000 - 2015
- While the population **only grew by 279 people between 2000 and 2010, there were 815 new homes within the project area**. In 2010 1/3 of the total homes in the project area were vacant. 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 of that 1/3, seasonal use may be dropping.
Source: American Community Fact Finder, 2000 - 2015
- 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

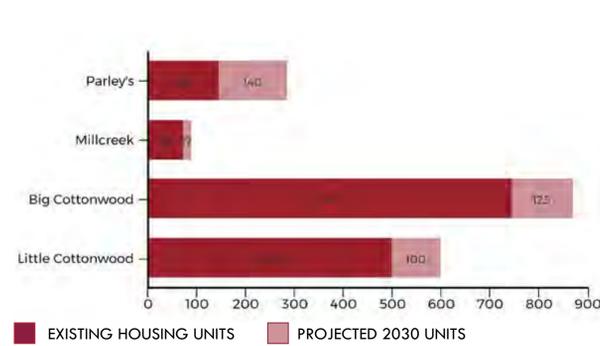
199,506
project area acres

21%
of Big Cottonwood Canyon land is privately owned

36,408
acres of designated wilderness within the project area

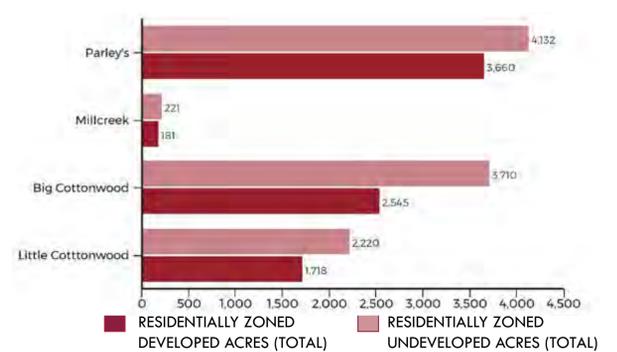
36%
of Parley's Canyon land owned by Salt Lake City for watershed protection

EXISTING AND PROJECTED (2030) HOUSING UNITS



Source: Envision Utah, Wasatch Canyons Tomorrow (2010), updated in 2017 with Salt Lake County Parcel Data

COMPARISON OF ACREAGE ZONED RESIDENTIAL, DEVELOPED AND UNDEVELOPED

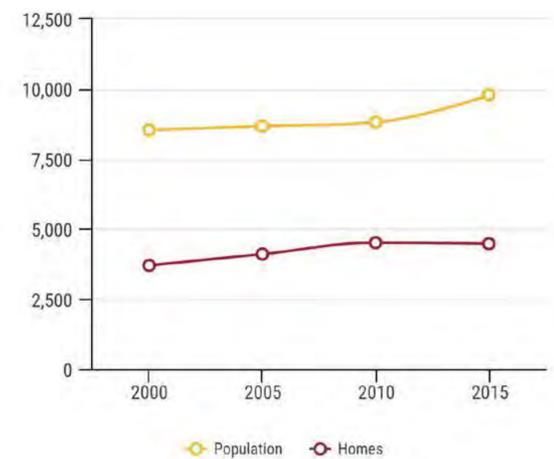


75%

OF JOBS WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA ARE IN THE ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD SERVICES, OR ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT AND RECREATION SECTORS.

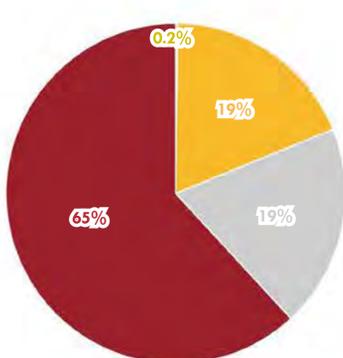


PROJECT AREA POPULATION GROWTH AND HOUSING GROWTH



Source: American Community Fact Finder, 2000 - 2015

PROJECT AREA OWNERSHIP



● Salt Lake County ● Salt Lake City ● Private ● Forest Service

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE!

**JOIN US AT THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!
VISIT [SLCO.ORG/WASATCH-CANYONS](https://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