

2009

Salt Lake County Water Quality Stewardship Plan SYNOPSIS

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

Implementation is the heart of the Stewardship Plan.
Some examples of implementation activities are:

Open Space Preservation

– Open space preservation is an important aspect of a healthy watershed. Open space provides several benefits such as habitat, infiltration capacity, flood control, and groundwater recharge.

Wetland Restoration/ enhancement

– The restoration or enhancement of wetlands that have been impacted and are no longer functioning properly provide benefit to water quality, groundwater and habitat.

Volunteer Programs

– There are numerous volunteer programs that encourage active participation by individuals and groups such as: litter and dog feces removal, plantings, and educational programs. Volunteers may also be involved with the protection and enhancement of recreational opportunities in a watershed.

Vegetated Swales – A vegetated swale is a broad, shallow channel with a dense stand of vegetation covering the side slopes and bottom. Swales are designed to convey stormwater and trap particulate pollutants, promote infiltration, and reduce the velocity of stormwater runoff.

Buffer Protection Ordinances

– Buffers are the natural boundary between a waterway and existing developments. An ordinance can establish a specific size of buffer to be maintained for the protection of water quality and aquatic habitat. An example of this is the Salt Lake City Riparian Corridor Overlay District Ordinance.

Natural Channel Restoration

– Natural channel restoration refers to the re-establishment of the original stream channel in order for the stream to maintain healthy aquatic and riparian habitat.



Flood Control and Water Quality Division
Salt Lake County





September 2009

Salt Lake County Stewards,

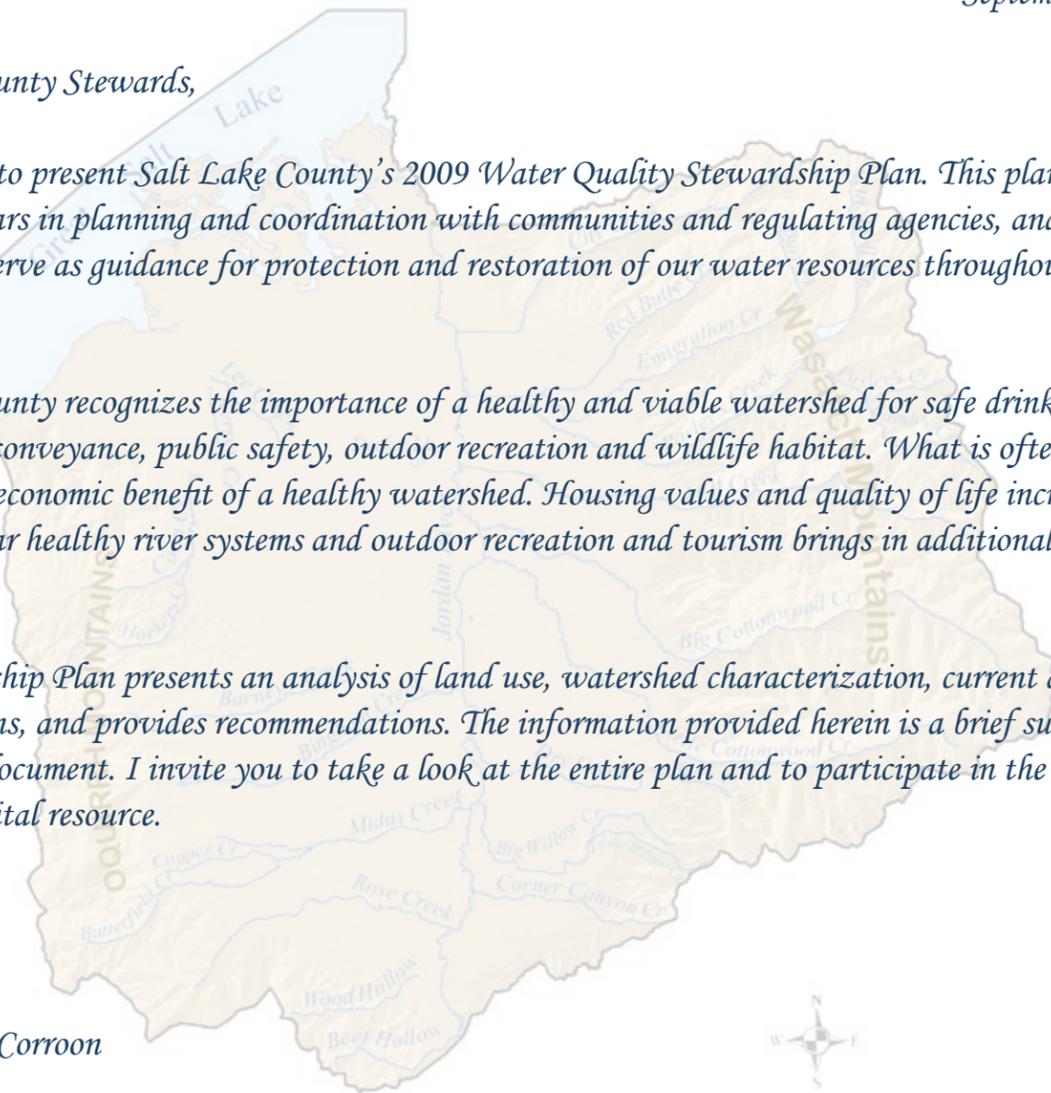
I am pleased to present Salt Lake County's 2009 Water Quality Stewardship Plan. This plan has been three years in planning and coordination with communities and regulating agencies, and is intended to serve as guidance for protection and restoration of our water resources throughout the County.

Salt Lake County recognizes the importance of a healthy and viable watershed for safe drinking water, flood conveyance, public safety, outdoor recreation and wildlife habitat. What is often overlooked is the economic benefit of a healthy watershed. Housing values and quality of life increase along and near healthy river systems and outdoor recreation and tourism brings in additional revenue to the area.

The Stewardship Plan presents an analysis of land use, watershed characterization, current and future conditions, and provides recommendations. The information provided herein is a brief summary of the main document. I invite you to take a look at the entire plan and to participate in the protection of this vital resource.

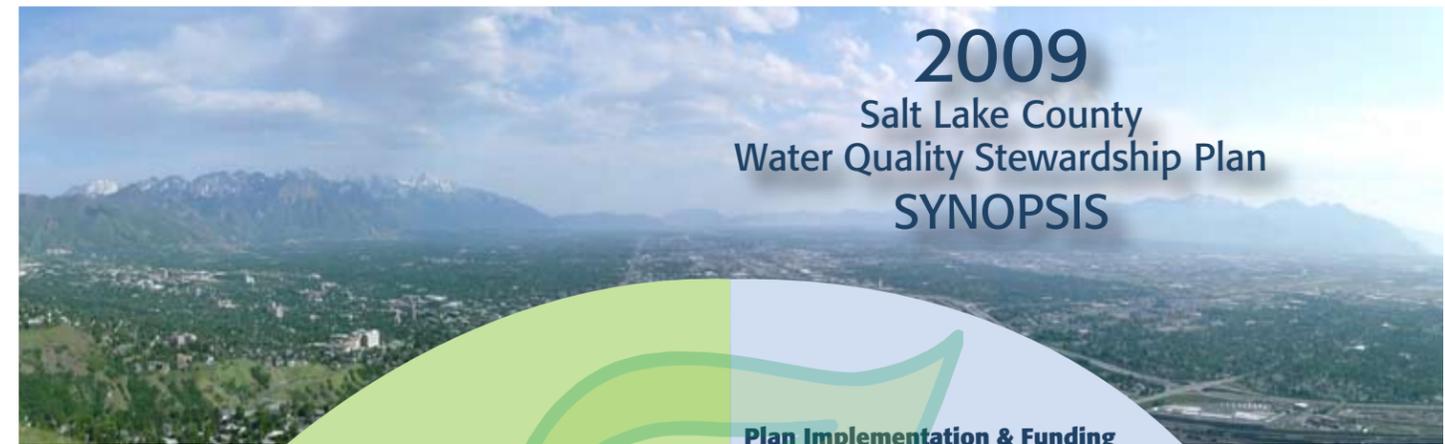
Signed,

Mayor Peter Corroon

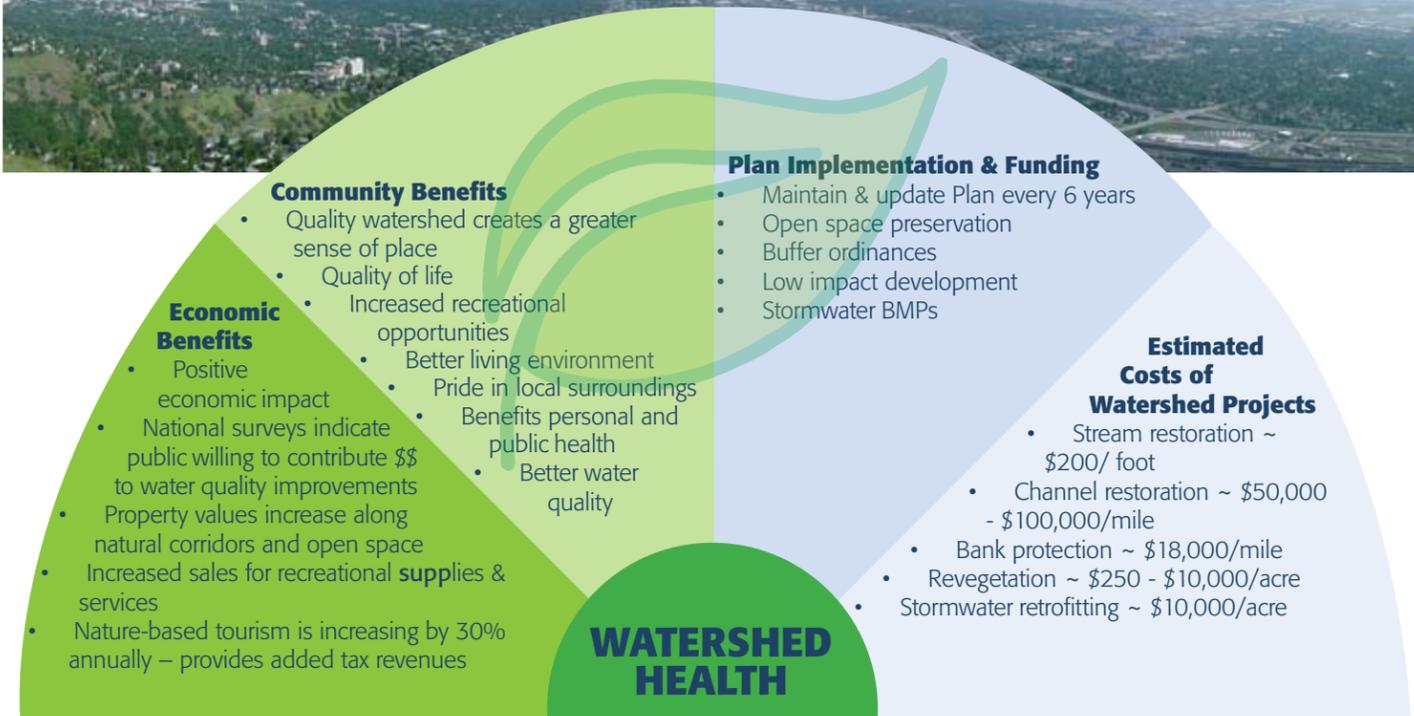


Who to CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS OR INFORMATION

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SMALL INVESTMENTS = BIG BENEFITS





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WITH SOME WORK...



This can become...



THIS!!

The **PURPOSE**

The Purpose of this plan is to provide a framework of goals and policies that will forge water quality stewardship consistent with the Clean Water Act, AND the representative needs of local residents.



VALUE Watershed plans are being developed and implemented nationwide. Communities recognize the value of protecting and restoring watersheds for several reasons, including the following:

- Benefit to residents – recreational and aesthetics
- Adds to quality of life
- Provides funding opportunities
- Protects water quality for water supply
- Potential for added tourism-based revenues
- Benefit for future generations

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SUMMARY

- Salt Lake County designated as Area-wide Water Quality Planning authority in 1978
- Salt Lake County began Stewardship Plan in 2006; plan completed in July 2008 for implementation in 2009. Plan to be supported by Council of Governments and adopted by Salt Lake County Council
- Compiled extensive data for determining existing and future watershed characteristics, including wastewater treatment, based on population and land use
- Developed a broad range of recommendations and guidance on such topics as wastewater treatment, flood conveyance, stormwater, open space acquisition and development strategies
- Monitoring of watershed health will be an ongoing process
- Active participation with identified stakeholders and communities
- Engaged public through: open houses, community council meetings, workshops, and newsletters
- Plan to be updated every 6 years



Public
SURVEY

During the spring of 2007, the County conducted a public survey to determine residents' attitudes and understanding of water quality and watershed health.

http://www.waterresources.slco.org/html/waterQualityStewardship/WaQSP_public.html

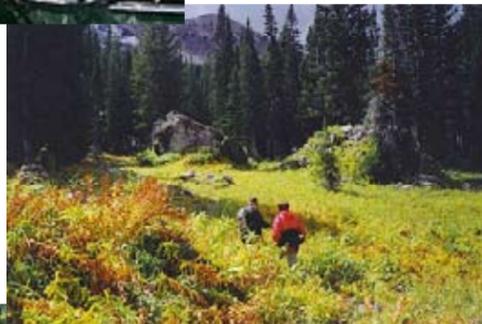
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WHAT DO COUNTY RESIDENTS SAY?



PUBLIC SURVEY RESULTS



- 94% of the residents consider outdoor activities to be very important
- 74% use creeks or river trails for hiking or biking
- The majority of residents indicated that water quality was of the most value to them
- Many survey respondents felt that a healthy economy depends on good water quality in the watershed
- 63% of the residents strongly favor requiring new developments to set aside natural open space.



E XAMPLES OF PROBLEMS
IN SALT LAKE COUNTY



Floodplain Encroachment, Midas Creek



Unstable Banks,
Little Cottonwood Creek



Lack of water, Big Cottonwood Creek



Debris, Mill Creek

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WATERSHED CHARACTERIZATION SUMMARY

- 805 sq. mile watershed (515,200 acres); delineated into 27 distinct sub-watersheds areas
- 16 municipal, 1 county, 5 federal, and 2 state jurisdictions
- Approximately 300 miles of streams
- 54% of the watershed is urban and highly developed
- Population expected to increase by 42% by 2030
- Anticipated loss of ~ 14,000 acres of open space by 2030
- Estimated increase of 5,400 acres of impervious lands by 2030
- Land use analysis indicates that 10 sub-watersheds have less than 10% of watershed area available for recreational opportunities
- Extensive modification of urban stream segments due to development, water supply diversions and flood control purposes
- Portions of streams and rivers in 6 sub-watersheds are not meeting water quality standards as set by the State of Utah
- Of the 229 stream miles that have been assessed, 108 miles (47%) were identified as having unstable bank conditions.
- Jordan River fishery is classified as limited aquatic habitat