

## Overview

### *The Wasatch Front Regional Open Space Planning*

*study (Phase 1) is a first step toward protecting a network of important open spaces across Weber, Morgan, Davis, Salt Lake, and Tooele Counties. Through meetings with planners and city leaders, public workshops and surveys, and extensive mapping, a vision for the region was created that identifies issues, resources and connections from a scale and perspective never before attempted.*

## 2000 Planning Grant Summary

Grant Amount:	\$25,000
Matching Dollars:	\$18,000 (\$18,000 in-kind)
Match:	\$36,000
Project Cost:	\$61,000

# Davis County Open Space Planning Study

## Local Responsibility

The Wasatch Front Regional Council, with the cooperation of its member local governments, is embarking on a landmark project to help plan the open space future of the region. The project encompasses 5 counties (i.e. Weber, Morgan, Davis, Salt Lake, and Tooele), 53 cities and contains 64 percent of Utah's population.

## State Leadership

The Quality Growth Commission awarded Davis County with a grant in the amount of \$25,000 Utah State University, USGS, Utah Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit and the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources provided additional assistance and support.

## Economic Development

Owners of small businesses have stated that recreation, parks and open space are the single highest priority for relocating their business. When included in a residential development, open space adds to the value of surrounding properties, paying for itself while increasing property tax revenues for a community.

## Infrastructure Development

Protecting open space will decrease infrastructure costs such as police, school, sewer, and other costly public services.

## Housing Opportunity

Residential development rarely pays for itself. When included in a residential development, open space adds to the value of surrounding properties, paying for itself while increasing property tax revenues for a community.

## Conservation Ethic

A strategic plan for all communities involved includes: Build or enhance the open space system with every new project; Update city policies to reflect open space concerns; Establish open space program and policies; Secure funding; Encourage private landowners to consider conservation of their lands. Other strategies include: Directing new development to previous locations of development and maintaining the economic productivity of agriculture and conserving prime farmland.

*"A broad-scale vision for the region was created that identifies issues and open space resources/connections for a scale and perspective rarely, if ever, attempted in Utah, or the United States for that matter."*

*George Ramjoue-Planning Manager*

## Implementation

The study results (reports) have been distributed to our Regional Growth Committee and they are in the process of reviewing the reports. The Regional Growth Committee will be asked to consider endorsing the findings of the report in its next meeting in November. Thereafter, the Regional Growth Committee will recommend to the Regional Council (the WFRC) to review and accept the results of the study. There is a possibility that the Regional Growth Committee may also recommend to the Regional Council that it endorse the study results.

## Promoting Intelligent Growth

The Study can serve as a guide to local governments, or the study results and recommendations could be incorporated into individual local government General Plans.

## Accomplishments

The Study has been completed and has been made available to all of the local government leaders and planners. The Study is now available to the local governments as a planning document and can be used to guide local government planning decisions.

## Benefits

The Regional Open Space Planning Study can be a useful tool for the region and its local governments. A broad-scale vision for the region was created that identifies issues and open space resources/connections for a scale and perspective rarely, if ever, attempted in Utah, or the United States for that matter. The study area was quite large, covering an area of nearly 10,000 square miles. The hope is that it will provide local governments and others with good information and mapping, increased open space awareness, guidelines that can be used on a local level for implementing projects, and draw attention to opportunities for developing a regional open space framework.