

## Overview

*The Wasatch Regional Open Space Committee used the funds from the planning grant to do the following: identify and develop a preferred regional open space plan; analyze spatial data and integrate alternative preservation plans and conduct sub-regional workshops for the purpose of establishing public priorities for Phase 2 of the Regional Open Space Plan. This study will evaluate nearly 10,000 square miles in five counties-Salt Lake, Davis, Weber, Tooele and Morgan-for potential open space preservation.*

## 2001 Planning Grant Summary

Grant Amount:	\$25,000
Matching Dollars:	\$13,000 (\$28,000 in-kind)
Match:	\$41,000
Project Cost:	\$66,000

# Davis County-Wasatch Open Space Plan

## Local Responsibility

The Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC), WFRC Regional Open Space Subcommittee and Utah State University are coordinating their efforts to complete the scope of work laid out in the plan. Additional partnerships include: Us Geological Survey, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and the Quality Growth Commission.

## State Leadership

The Quality Growth Commission awarded Davis County with a grant in the amount of \$25,000.

## Economic Development

Benefits of open lands include absorbing storm water to prevent floods, purifying water and air, breaking down organic waste, and providing habitat for pollinating animals and insects. Additional incentives include its effect on agriculture and the increased values of residential developments as a result of surrounding open lands.

## Infrastructure Development

Due to the nature of this plan, as a conceptual plan, strategic planning is a bit of a challenge. "The responsibility of implementation will be on the shoulders of individual municipalities and agencies, but the support given by broader entities and a wide network of experts will be tremendously effective."

## Housing Opportunity

Residential development...rarely pays for itself, as it demands police, school, sewer, and other public services. The survey states that when it is included within a residential development, open space adds to the value of surrounding properties, paying for itself while increasing property tax revenues.

## Conservation Ethic

Some of the strategies of the Open Space Plan include: encourage private landowners to consider conservation of their lands, build or enhance the open space system with every new project, update city planning documents to reflect open space concerns, and establish open space program and policies.

*“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.”*

*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.