

REIMAGINE NATURE

SLC PUBLIC LANDS MASTER PLAN

CAN YOU REIMAGINE NATURAL LANDS?

Our natural lands, urban forest and city parks help shape and define our city.

86% of SLC residents who responded to the 2017 Needs Assessment prioritize investments to improve existing parks, trails and natural areas.

By 2050 our temps could rise **10°** leading to poorer air quality.

Our 86,500 trees, including 7,000 trees in city golf courses, provide a cooling of summer temps by **6°**

Salt Lake City's proposed trails, including expansion of the Silver Trail, will add another 129.4 miles to the system, the equivalent of adding another Jordan River Parkway (the longest paved urban trail in the US).

\$85,000 per year to clean up nuisance graffiti.

63% of public lands assets are in fair to poor condition.

Activating underutilized spaces with activities such as outdoor education, guided nature walks, wildflowers and birding would increase park service as the city grows.

Over the last 20 years SLC's urban forests have been in decline.

SLC urban forest hosts **260** species of trees that support biodiversity and improve air quality.

>50% of all global species are at risk of extinction leading to rapid biodiversity loss.

SLC public lands have opportunity to increase biodiversity by adding more natural habitat like recent efforts at Fairmount Park Pond and the Pils Wetland Preserve.

Take the survey at:
ReimagineNatureSLC.com



REIMAGINE NATURE
SLC PUBLIC LANDS
MASTER PLAN



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INTRODUCTION

Our natural lands, urban forest and city parks help shape and define our city. Now more than ever we rely on them for personal health, community identity and civic ideals. It is time for us to plan a bright future by reimagining these spaces together.





Figure 1: On the ground stencils to promote website and survey.

Salt Lake City is developing a new Public Lands Master Plan. As an important first step, the City called on all community members to help reimagine the future of our Public Lands: the nature in our city that enhances the quality of our lives. The Public Lands Master Plan will establish an inspirational framework to guide how we grow and prioritize investments for the next 10-20 years within the three public lands divisions (Parks, Trails & Natural Lands, and Urban Forestry). In acknowledgment of the findings from the 2019 Salt Lake City Parks and Public Lands Needs Assessment that included a statistically valid community survey, this effort will address current challenges to improve our public lands system.

The engagement metrics for the year-long process are to connect with

10,000 people that are representative of the city’s demographic makeup.

Given the goals of this master plan, it has been given the name, “Reimagine Nature.” Reimagine Nature will use comprehensive, evidence-based analysis, coupled with community engagement, to prioritize and identify transformative projects for Salt Lake City’s public lands.

Community engagement for this process is open during three engagement windows:

- 1-Discover: Foundation of Understanding
- 2-Reimagine: Visioning Transformational Projects and Priority Actions
- 3-Transform: Draft and Final Master Plan.

This report provides a summary of the first engagement window and how results will inform window 2.

PROJECT TIMELINE

**WINTER 2020/2021 PHASE I:
DISCOVER:
FOUNDATION OF UNDERSTANDING
SLC PUBLIC LANDS**

**August 26, 2020
Six-Week Community Engagement
Window #1 Opens**

**WINTER-SPRING 2021 PHASE II:
REIMAGINE: VISIONING
TRANSFORMATION**

**Quarter 1-2, 2021:
Community Engagement
Window #2**

**SPRING-SUMMER 2021 PHASE III:
TRANSFORM: DRAFT AND FINAL
MASTER PLAN**

**Quarters 2-3 2021
Final Community Engagement
Window #3**

HOW WE LISTENED

The planning team used a multi-pronged approach to engagement that included:

- On-line surveys widely advertised;
- Pop-up events and intercept interviews;
- Organizational partnerships to reach underrepresented groups; and
- Digital outreach, which included over 40 social media posts, a paid Facebook ad targeting West Side residents, and an email opt-in form.



Figure 2: University of Utah Urban Planning Students Conducting Intercept Interviews

ENGAGEMENT METHODOLOGY AND OUTREACH APPROACH

ENGAGEMENT METHODS

In order to create a unifying vision for Public Lands over the next 10-20 years, the planning team used a multi-pronged approach that included on-line surveys, pop-up events and tactical partnerships to reach typically underrepresented groups.

The first window of community engagement launched on August 26, 2020 with an on-line, six-week survey and closed in December 2020 with community stakeholder focus groups. The goal of this window was to create a foundation for understanding, share preliminary ideas for feedback and gather new ideas from the public. Using COVID-19 protocols, the city's framework for equitable engagement best practices and multiple types of tactics, over 7,000 Salt Lake City community members participated in providing input during ice cream and food truck pop-up events, University of Utah student-led intercept interviews, trailside snack activities and virtual connections by website, email and phone.

SURVEY FORMAT

An on-line survey translated in English and Spanish consisted of nine content questions and six demographic questions. Much of the survey included multiple choice questions for respondent efficiency and also included a number of open ended question prompts for collection of perceptions and ideas. 3,735 responded to the on-line survey, and 91% of the questions were answered. Intercept interviews were conducted at 44 different locations including local parks, trailheads and businesses. This survey included a few similar multiple choice questions, but had more open ended questions to encourage a dialog and prompt new ideas.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

A graphic snapshot poster, digital graphic and poster were provided to inform of the current state of public lands with data on key trends around stewardship, equity and livability.

This section of the report summarizes who we heard from, what areas of Salt Lake City responses came from and other demographic indicators.

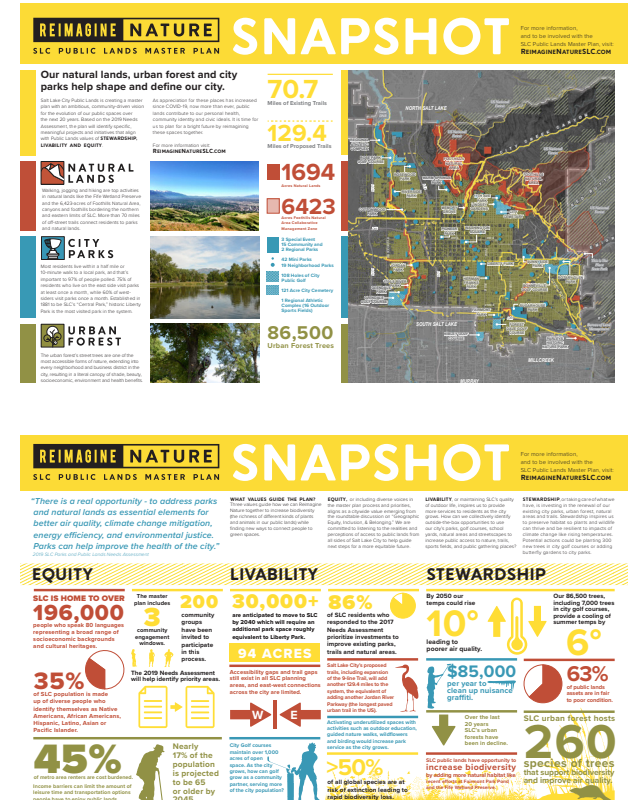
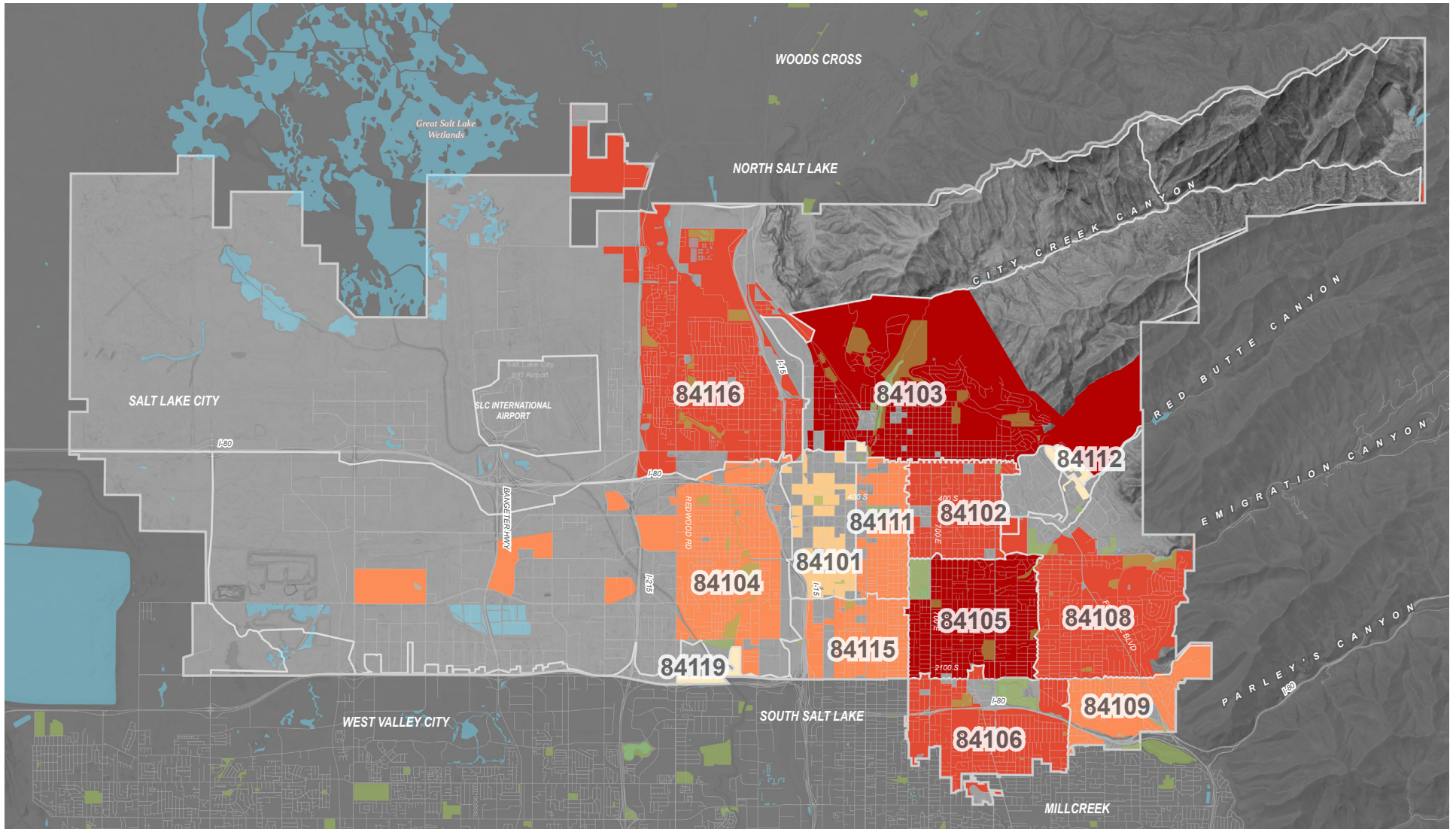


Figure 3: Snapshot poster displaying current facts about Salt Lake City Public Lands

SURVEY RESPONDENTS REACHED

SLC RESIDENTS BY ZIP CODE



ZIP CODE

84112

84119

84101

84111

84109

84115

84104

84102

84108

84116

84106

84103

84105

SURVEY
RESPONDENTS

12

23

74

134

139

140

153

220

239

241

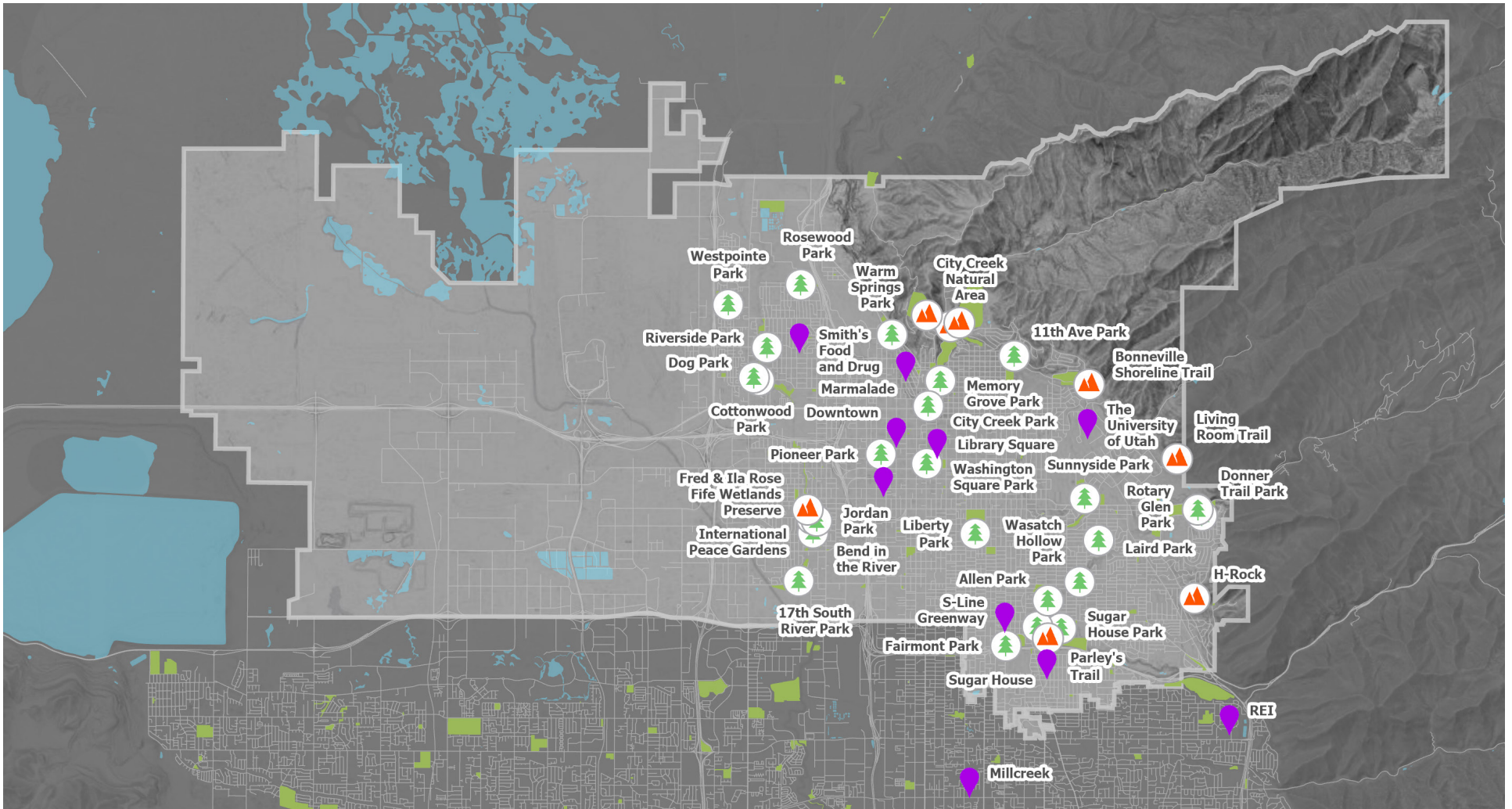
254

328

395

STUDENT INTERCEPT LOCATIONS

University OF Utah CITY & METROPOLITAN PLANNING STUDENT INTERVIEWS



STUDENT INTERCEPT INTERVIEW LOCATIONS



PARKS



NATURAL AREAS



OTHER LOCATIONS

SURVEY RESPONDENTS

635

ORGANIZATIONS & ESTABLISHMENTS REACHED

236

ENGAGEMENT BY THE NUMBERS

SURVEYS	4,455
PUBLIC SURVEY	3,735
CITY STAFF SURVEY	85
INTERCEPT SURVEYS	635
POPUP EVENTS	2,320
ICE CREAM SOCIAL DISTANCING	
TRAILSIDE SNACKS	
TRAIL INTERCEPTS	
MICRO-ENGAGEMENT EVENTS	
FOCUS GROUPS	47
17 COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS	260
COMMUNITY COUNCILS	
BOARDS AND COMMITTEES	
ENGAGEMENT WITH OVER 200+ COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS	

Figure 4: The table above provides a snapshot of total engagement events and number of participants.



Figure 5: Trailside snack bike trailer.



Figure 6: Ice cream social distancing interviews.

PARTICIPATION FINDINGS

The two surveys conducted gathered feedback from a wide range of the community. The on-line public survey reached 3,735 people while the student intercept interview survey reached 635 people at 44 different locations. The on-line survey reached the most people living in the Capitol Hill, Avenues and East Liberty Park neighborhoods, followed by the Sugar House, Northwest, Eastern Central City, and East Bench neighborhoods. The intercept interviews gathered feedback from different geographic areas than the on-line survey, gathering the most feedback from Sugar House, followed by the West Salt Lake/ Glendale neighborhoods and the Central City neighborhood.

The surveys captured input from different demographics. To track if the representation of responses equitably reflected the Salt Lake City community, the planning team compared the on-line public survey demographics to that of Salt Lake City.

While the on-line survey did reach a variety of people, respondents were 80% white, a number greater than the City's demographic composition which is only 73.1% white. To help boost input from people of color, University of Utah students conducted intercept interviews throughout Salt Lake City and Public Lands staff lead focus groups with stakeholder organizations who provide services to underrepresented populations.

The intercept interviews were successful at reaching a diverse audience that is more representative of the community's population. Figure 7 shows the percentage of respondents by race/ethnicity for each survey. Intercept interviews also reached more female respondents, younger respondents, and more lower income representation than the on-line survey.

REPRESENTATIVE PARTICIPATION



SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

	PUBLIC SURVEY	INTERCEPT SURVEY	SALT LAKE CITY DEMOGRAPHICS
ASIAN	1.5%	3.7%	5.4%
AMERICAN INDIAN	0.3%	1.3%	1.4%
BLACK / AFRICAN AMERICAN	0.5%	5.5%	2.3%
HISPANIC / LATINO	4.0%	14.9%	21.6%
NATIVE HAWAIIAN / PACIFIC ISLANDER	0.3%	2.9%	1.5%
WHITE	80.0%	65.4%	73.1%
OTHER	1.2%	2.9%	3.4%
PREFER NOT TO SAY	4.0%	2.4%	

Figure 7: To track if the representation of responses equitably reflected the Salt Lake City community, the planning team compared the public survey demographics to that of Salt Lake City. To help boost input from people of color, University of Utah students conducted intercept interviews throughout Salt Lake City and Public Lands staff lead focus groups with stakeholder organizations who provide services to underrepresented populations.

FINDINGS

Salt Lake City's population is 200,591
 With a 2% margin of error and 95% confidence level, the survey sample size is representative to the population
 (N= 3,000)

WHAT WE HEARD

This section provides a summary of the input received from engagement opportunities in this order:

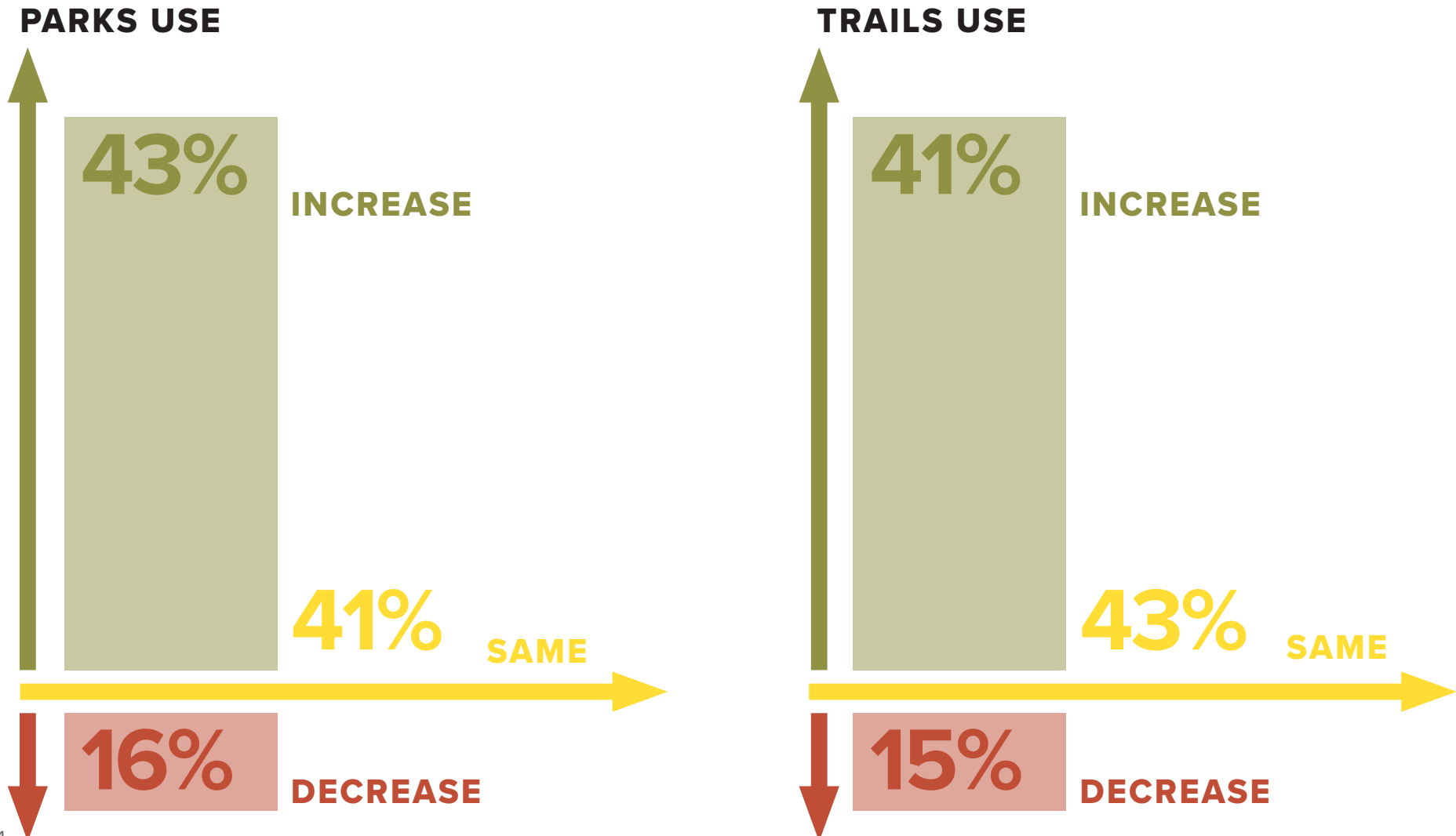
1. Community Survey
2. Intercept Interviews
3. Community Focus Groups
4. SLC Staff Survey



PARK/TRAIL USE HAS INCREASED

FREQUENCY OF USE THIS YEAR (2020) compared to previous years

Source: 2020 Community Survey (on-line / 3735 total respondents)



SLC HAS ACCESSIBLE PARKS/TRAILS

82-83% of respondents feel they can easily access a park, while over half feel that spaces with abundant trees, bike paths and trails are near home. 46-52% of respondents feel they can access a natural area. Golf courses and recreational centers were not viewed as accessible to most respondent's homes.

Source: 2020 Community Survey (on-line / 3735 total respondents)

Source: 2020 Intercept Survey (in person / 635 total respondents)

Q - Which of these is easy for you to access from your home?

(Select all that apply)

	PUBLIC SURVEY	INTERCEPT SURVEY
A CITY PARK	83%	82%
COMMUTER or RECREATIONAL BIKE PATH	62%	N/A
RECREATIONAL TRAIL	60%	59%
A STREET or PUBLIC SPACE with abundant TREES	60%	N/A
NATURAL AREA or NATURAL OPEN SPACE	52%	46%
CITY GOLF COURSE	38%	22%
OTHER OUTDOOR or RECREATIONAL CENTER	31%	N/A
NONE of the ABOVE	3%	N/A

TOP STEWARDSHIP ACTIONS

Biodiversity, the environment, trails & maintaining existing amenities were themes that emerged among survey respondents. The most chosen actions are highlighted below.

Source: 2020 Community Survey
(on-line / 3735 total respondents)

Q - What stewardship actions would be most impactful to public lands over the next 10-20 years?

(Select all that apply)

DIRECT ACTIONS



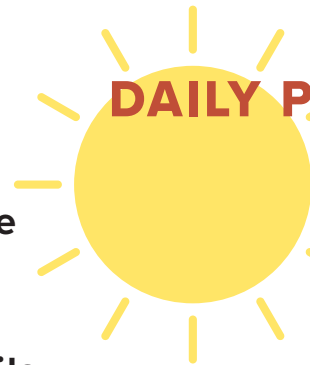
- Create wildflower meadows
- Incorporate more native, waterwise plants in landscaping
- Plant more trees
- Expand public access points to trails
- Add or renovate aged restrooms, playgrounds and other amenities

FUNDING



- Acquire additional natural areas
- Acquire lands adjacent to water
- Invest in increased maintenance
- Improve the City's donation process
- Develop adoption programs

DAILY PRACTICES



- Support active modes of transportation
- Expand collaboration with non-profit organizations
- Host education events
- Improve capacity to respond to environmental emergencies
- Create a Biodiversity Advisory Committee



Figure 8: Student intercept surveys captured input from 635 members of the community.

Respondents were asked to select all that apply to the question “Thinking long-term over the next 10-20 years, what stewardship actions do you think would be most impactful to the public lands that include city parks, urban forests, natural areas and trails?” A list of options followed that was divided into three categories: direct actions, funding, and daily practices.

Direct actions that support greater biodiversity and a healthy environment were the most selected. These actions included creating wildflower meadows and pollinator gardens, incorporating

more native and waterwise plants, and planting more trees.

Taking care of existing amenities and infrastructure was the next theme that emerged. Maintaining trails, renovating playgrounds and restrooms, preventing degrading activity and adding more waste bins were the next most selected actions.

DIRECT STEWARDSHIP ACTIONS	% SELECTED
Create wildflower meadows for bees and other pollinators in parks, streets, the cemetery, and golf courses.	69%
Incorporate more native, waterwise plants in landscaping.	64%
Plant more trees in parks and natural areas	63%
Maintain natural-surface trails and improve or expand public access points	57%
Add or renovate aged restrooms, playgrounds and other amenities	50%
Increase enforcement of activities that degrade natural resources including inappropriate recreation use, predation from cats, exposure to pesticides or other toxins, light and noise pollution.	50%
Add and service more bins.	47%
Increase the frequency of litter clean-up	37%
Install better signage in parks, trails and natural areas for wayfinding and interpretation	29%
Other ideas for direct action.	11%

Source: 2020 Community Survey (on-line / 3735 total respondents)

STEWARDSHIP IDEAS

Additional ideas/themes from respondents for the stewardship of public lands included....

Source: 2020 Community Survey (on-line / 3735 total respondents)

“I WOULD VOLUNTEER TO CLEAN UP PARKS, PAINT BATHROOMS, HELP WITH TRASH AND WASTE DISPOSAL I WOULD ALSO DONATE MONEY TO GROUPS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO STEWARDSHIP OF THE PARKS.”

“ENCOURAGE NON-MOTORIZED VISITATION. SUPPLY AND TIMELY SERVICE WASTE RECEPTACLES. LANDSCAPE WITH BROAD ECOLOGICAL GOALS, E.G. NOT JUST TREES BUT FLOWER AND OPEN AREAS THAT SUPPORT BIRDS AND BEES.”

“WORK WITH SCHOOL DISTRICTS ON BIODIVERSITY EDUCATION AND CURRICULUM INCLUDING HANDS ON PROJECTS TO GIVE OUR YOUNGEST CITIZENRY A SENSE OF OWNERSHIP.”

“TO CLEAN UP OUR AIR WE SHOULD INVEST IN ADVERTISING AND INCENTIVES TO GET PEOPLE TO BIKE TO WORK OR USE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION.”

“MORE RECYCLING OPTIONS.”

“ENLIST PUBLIC HELP BY HOLDING TRAIL DAYS AND EVENTS TO HELP MAINTAIN PUBLIC AMENITIES.”

“HOST EDUCATIONAL EVENTS TO BUILD LAND ETHICS.”

Funding choices also supported the environment with respondents choosing options to increase habitat blocks and corridors and support riparian health. 54% of respondents chose to fund trail maintenance, supporting the choice action of maintaining trails. Half of respondents also support improving donation processes for public lands.

The top selected daily practice for stewardship was to support active modes of transportation. This was the most selected answer among all stewardship options, with 71% support. This confirms support for the trail system as well as methods for reducing carbon footprints.

Expanding collaborations with schools and organizations to provide stewardship opportunities, as well as hosting education events to build land ethics were the next top-selected daily practices at 67% and 44%. This indicates a desire for programming as well as volunteer opportunities and community-led efforts.

FUNDING CHOICES STEWARDSHIP	% SELECTED
Acquire additional natural areas to increase size of existing habitat blocks or connect wildlife corridors	65%
Acquire lands adjacent to water course to support riparian health and reduce flooding risks	55%
Invest in increased maintenance for trails and trail corridors	54%
Invest in increased maintenance for priority parks and natural areas	53%
Improve the City’s donation process and actively solicit private donations to support stewardship.	50%
Add more staff to care for trees	33%
Hire a Stewardship Coordinator .	29%
Other Ideas for Funding.	7%

Source: 2020 Community Survey (on-line / 3735 total respondents)

DAILY PRACTICES CHOICES STEWARDSHIP	% SELECTED
Support active modes of transportation to reduce carbon footprint (e.g., walking, biking)	71%
Expand collaborations with non-profits, schools, community centers, and others to enhance education and stewardship opportunities.	67%
Host educational events to build land ethics.	44%
Work with City departments to improve capacity and resources to respond to oil spills, wildfire and other environmental emergencies.	42%
Support “ Friends of the Parks ” groups.	40%
Create a Biodiversity Advisory Committee composed of public members, technical experts, and staff to guide biodiversity conservation efforts.	40%
Develop ranger/ambassador programs	37%
Other Ideas to Encourage Daily Practices	4%

Source: 2020 Community Survey (on-line / 3735 total respondents)

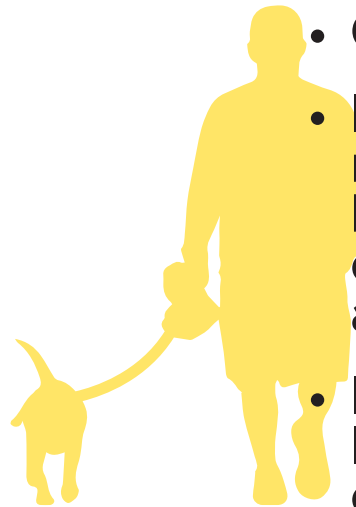
TOP LIVABILITY ACTIONS

A thriving urban forest, improving networks for active transportation and investing in neighborhood public lands were seen as the top actions that would improve livability in SLC.

Source: 2020 Community Survey (on-line / 3735 total respondents)

Q - What do you think would most benefit the livability of Salt Lake City and encourage you to get outside more often?

(Pick your top 2)



- Grow our urban forests _____ **46%**
- Improve the sidewalk and trail network in order to travel by bike and foot to public lands and everyday destinations like work and school _____ **44%**
- Invest in neighborhood public lands and amenities that encourage everyday use _____ **42%**



Figure 9: Student intercept survey taken at the Bonneville Shoreline Trail.

Respondents were asked to select their top two choices for the question, “Which of the following system-wide approaches do you think would most benefit the livability (or quality of life) of Salt Lake City and encourage you to get outside more often?”

The top selections for livability mirrored themes from the top selections for stewardship. These choices also supported environmental health, trails and active transportation, and investing in places close to home. Twice as many people felt investing in neighborhood parks that encourage everyday use was important for livability than the regional public lands that are destinations.

Growing the urban forest to provide shade, clean water and air was the top selection at 46%. This was followed by improving the sidewalk and trail network, selected by 44% of respondents, and investing in neighborhood public lands and amenities, at 42%.

Livability choices for improving biodiversity, investing in regional destinations and finding unique urban spaces to utilize for nature and recreation were only selected by under 20% of respondents. This result conflicts with the previous survey results as these options would support the other top choices. This may point to a disconnect between perceptions of how livability is achieved.

LIVABILITY CHOICES	% SELECTED
Grow our urban forests to help provide shade, clean water and air for our city and neighborhoods.	46%
Improve the sidewalk and trail network in order to travel by bike and foot to public lands and everyday destinations like work and school.	44%
Invest in neighborhood public lands and amenities that encourage everyday use.	42%
Focus on improving environmental health and biodiversity (the richness of different kinds of plants and animals in our public lands).	19%
Invest in regional public lands and amenities that create unique destinations.	18%
Find outside-the-box opportunities to use our city’s parks, golf courses, school yards, natural areas and streetscapes to increase public access to nature, trails, sports fields, and public gathering places.	16%
Other ideas to benefit livability.	4%

Source: 2020 Community Survey (on-line / 3735 total respondents)

LIVABILITY IDEAS

Additional ideas/themes from respondents for the livability of public lands included....

Source: 2020 Community Survey (on-line / 3735 total respondents)

“PEOPLE ARE DESPERATE TO RECONNECT WITH NATURE, SO A FOCUS ON ENCOURAGING WILDLIFE (ESPECIALLY NATIVES) SHOULD BE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO SLC.”

“MORE TRAILS CLOSER TO HOME SO I AND MY NEIGHBORS DON’T HAVE TO DRIVE TO OTHER PLACES (MILLCREEK, DRAPER, HERRIMAN, ETC.) FOR TRAIL RUNNING AND RIDING OPPORTUNITIES.”

“ADD NEIGHBORHOOD OPPORTUNITIES TO SPEND TIME IN WATER. SALT LAKE CITY IS GETTING HOTTER SUMMERS AND ONE OF THE KEY MISSING PUBLIC LAND OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESIDENTS IS ACCESS TO WATER FOR RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.”

“SUBSTANTIALLY IMPROVE TREE COVER IN NEIGHBORHOODS, PARKS AND NATURAL AREAS BY 50% TO COMPENSATE FOR HUMAN IMPACTS.”

“MORE BIKE PATHS.”

“WORK WITH SCHOOLS AND YOUNG PEOPLE TO COME UP WITH IDEAS ABOUT LIVABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE.”

“EXPAND COMMUNITY GARDENS.”

TOP EQUITY THEMES

Respondents were asked to provide a written answer to the question, “When you imagine our public lands 10-20 years from now, what changes can we make to our public lands system to help serve and include all people more equably?”

Top themes from the community survey open ended responses around equity included:

- Providing education, activities and programs
- Empowering the community
- Equitable investment in existing and new Public Lands amenities

The intercept interviews and focus groups took a deeper dive into equity related to public lands. The University of Utah students highlighted the following takeaways from these conversations:

- Invest In Neighborhood Parks
- Cultivate Cultural Representation
- Assess West Side vs. East Side Quality
- Connect Green Spaces And Support Active Transportation
- Promote The Ranger Program



Figure 10: Murals in Salt Lake City.

EQUITY IDEAS

Additional ideas/themes from respondents to increase equity related to public lands included....

Source: 2020 Community Survey (on-line / 3735 total respondents)

Q - When you imagine our public lands 10-20 years from now, what changes can we make to our public lands system to help serve and include all people more equably?

(Write in response)

“REACH OUT AND LISTEN. SPECIFIC PLACE-BASED RESPONSES FOR ACTS OF RESTORATION, MAINTENANCE, AND DEVELOPMENT.”

“RETHINK AND RESTRUCTURE OUR NATURAL AREAS TO INCLUDE THE CONTRIBUTIONS, LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS, AND BETTER SYSTEMS OF CARE OF THE LAND BY INDIGENOUS PEOPLE.”

“PROVIDE ACCESS TO TRAILS VIA WALKING, BIKING AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION.

INCREASE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICES WHILE DECREASING THE AMOUNT OF PARKING LOTS AND SPACES THAT COULD INSTEAD BE USED AS GREEN SPACES/URBAN GARDENS.”

“SIDEWALKS THAT ARE TRULY ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL PEOPLE.”

“RECRUIT STEWARDS, RANGERS/ AMBASSADORS, AND VOLUNTEERS FROM MINORITY COMMUNITIES NEAR THE PUBLIC LANDS.”

EQUITY IDEAS

Additional ideas/themes from respondents to increase equity related to public lands included....

Source: 2020 Community Survey (on-line / 3735 total respondents)

“INCREASED ACCESSIBILITY FOR ALL MEMBERS OF SOCIETY, ALONG WITH NATIVE FAUNA THAT CALLS THE SPACE HOME. SO MORE BIKE PATHS, RAMPS FOR WHEELCHAIRS, INCLUSIVE NON-GENDERED BATHROOMS. FOR THE WILD LIFE, CREATING MORE POCKETS OF SPACE NOT MEANT FOR HUMAN TRAFFIC OR USAGE, AND PLANTING MORE NATIVE PLANTS ESSENTIAL TO THEIR NATURAL HABITATS.”

“HAVE SIGNS DISPLAYED IN 2-3 LANGUAGES.”

“A FULLY INTEGRATED TRAIL SYSTEM THROUGH THE CITY SO THAT FOLKS CAN ACCESS TRAILS REGARDLESS OF WHERE THEY ARE.”

“ADD MORE PARKS AND TREES TO AREAS WEST OF I-15 AND CONNECT THOSE TO THE PARKS IN THE EASTERN SIDE OF SLC THROUGH FOOTPATHS AND BIKE PATHS. HIRE MORE BIPOC TO WORK FOR THE PUBLIC LANDS SYSTEM AT ALL LEVELS. PARTNER WITH SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES OF COLOR TO ENCOURAGE USE OF PARKS AND TRAILS IN OUR PUBLIC LANDS. REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF LAND DEDICATED TO GOLF COURSES.”

“MOVE BEYOND ADA BASELINE REQUIREMENTS & REALLY FOCUS ON ACCESSIBILITY LIKE LIBERTY PARK ROTARY PLAYGROUND.”

“ADJUST PLANS TO THE DIVERSE NEEDS OF THE NEIGHBORHOODS. THE PEOPLE NEAR THE FOOTHILLS MIGHT DESIRE A DIFFERENT APPROACH THAN PEOPLE LIVING IN THE WEST SIDE OF THE CITY. I THINK ALL AREAS WOULD LIKE GREAT PARKS, NATURAL OPEN SPACE AND BETTER CONNECTIVITY.”

GOALS TO PROTECT, GROW & FUND

“Protect” could point to goals such as protecting the environment & open space or enhancing safety, while “grow” aligns with a growing city and population, or the need to grow natural amenities such as Salt Lake’s urban forest. *Source: 2020 Community Survey (on-line / 3735 total respondents)*

Q - Which words sums up what you think should be big 10-year goals of Salt Lake City Public Lands?
(Select all that apply)

10 YEAR GOALS - WORD ASSOCIATION

PROTECT	76%
GROW	57%
FUND	45%
CONNECT	43%
EQUITY	31%
WELCOME	31%
PRIORITIZE	30%
RESILIENT	17%
EMPOWER	16%
OTHER	5%



Figure 11: Community feedback at a pop up event in Liberty Park. Respondents were asked to select all that apply to the question, “Which words sums up what you think should be big 10-year goals of Salt Lake City Public Lands?”

BIG IDEAS

Regional connectivity was an important theme that emerged, with over 50% of respondents choosing big ideas that increase regional trail networks. Reimagining neighborhood and urban greenspaces were next on the list of priorities.

Source: 2020 Community Survey (on-line / 3735 total respondents)

Q - Please select any of the potential big ideas listed below that excite you or share your own idea. (Select all that apply)

EMERALD RIBBON	58%
TRAILS - MOUNTAINS TO THE LAKE	54%
REIMAGINE MINI/NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS	49%
REIMAGINE URBAN GREENSPACES	43%
EQUITY MAPPING TOOL	41%
TRANSFORM PIONEER PARK	23%
RANGER AMBASSADOR PROGRAM	23%
OTHER	6%

An initial list of projects were suggested in this question to encourage big thinking. Many of the projects like the Emerald Ribbon Jordan River Parkway and Pioneer Park changes, were older ideas already underway but require a great deal more investment and partnerships to see them completed. Others on the list were ideas that have been shared in the past or city staff have identified as a gap in current approaches, such as an equity mapping tool and neighborhood park design. However, encouraging participants to suggest their own ideas was emphasized. This question received 216 write-in responses and additional open ended questions solicited responses important to this question.

The projects that received the highest level of support were those that covered the largest geographic area: the Emerald Ribbon along the Jordan River Parkway, Trails from the Mountains to the Lake and Reimagining Neighborhood Parks. Pioneer Park and a Ranger Ambassador Program may have received the least amount of support because of their limited area of impact.

BIG IDEAS	% SELECTED
Build Salt Lake’s Emerald Ribbon: Turn the Jordan River Parkway into the City’s most active recreation destination space, by investing in tree canopy, grounds maintenance, a recreational paddle trail, and park development, renewal and expansion from the former Seven Peaks Waterpark at the southern boundary to the Regional Athletic Complex on the north end.	58%
Trails from the Mountains to the Lake: Extend the City’s growing multi-use and natural surface trail network to connect regional recreation destinations, extending west to the Great Salt Lake Marina and east to the Wasatch Crest Trail with the 9Line/ Transvalley Corridor as the backbone.	54%

BIG IDEAS	% SELECTED
Reimagine Salt Lake City’s mini and neighborhood parks: Small parks evolve to reflect neighborhood identity, provide quality amenities and experiences that reflect unique community desires, and provide better options for recreation, respite and community gathering in neighborhood parks.	49%
Reimagine how our citywide Urban Green Spaces can accommodate more public access, provide diverse recreation opportunities, grow food, provide nature.	43%
Create a citywide Equity Mapping Tool that identifies areas of the city that do not have as much access to urban forests, natural areas and city parks. Use this tool to help prioritize areas for investment in public lands.	41%
Transform Pioneer Park into the city’s most dynamic, programmed, and desirable public space, transforming it into both a neighborhood destination, and a regional amenity for events and gatherings.	23%

ADDITIONAL BIG IDEAS

Additional ideas/themes from respondents for big ideas included...

Source: 2020 Community Survey (on-line / 3735 total respondents)

BIG IDEAS	% SELECTED
Implement a citywide Ranger-Ambassador program in the City's parks, natural areas and open spaces that focuses equally on resource protection and enriching the experience for public land visitors.	23%
Other ideas for transformational projects	6%

“CREATE A DIVERSE ARRAY OF MODELS FOR OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS TO ENGAGE IN AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES, FROM THE ESTABLISHED TRADITIONAL “ONE PLOT PER PERSON/ HOUSEHOLD COMMUNITY GARDEN” TO MORE COMMUNITY COOPERATIVE MODELS.”

“WE NEED A PARK AT THE FLEET BLOCK. WE DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH PARKS DOWNTOWN AND THIS NEIGHBORHOOD IS RAPIDLY DENSIFYING.”

“CREATE BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOTS IN OUR PARKS. IMPROVE NATIVE PLANTING. DO MORE NATURE PROGRAMMING WITH SIGNAGE.”

“I’D LOVE TO SEE PUBLIC GREEN SPACE MORE INTEGRATED WITH SHOPPING, RESTAURANTS, AND HOUSING. IT WOULD BE REALLY COOL TO HAVE RESTAURANTS OVERLOOKING THE PARKS.”

“FOCUS ON”CREATING SPACES” IN OUR CITY PARKS. DEVELOP COMMUNITY GATHERING SPACES SUCH AS CAFES, WINE BARS, PLACES TO HOST EVENTS. EXAMPLE IS THE SIZZLER PAD IN SUGARHOUSE PARK. THIS COULD BE TURNED INTO A PARK CAFE WITH LARGE OUTDOOR GRASSY EATING SPACE.”

ADDITIONAL BIG IDEAS

Additional ideas/themes from respondents for big ideas included...

Source: 2020 Community Survey (on-line / 3735 total respondents)

“INCLUDE IN SMALL COMMUNITY NATURAL SPACES SUPPORT AND RESOURCES FOR CERTAIN CITIZEN SCIENCE, CONSERVATION, OR OTHER PROJECTS, LIKE A MONARCH PATCH, WILDLIFE MONITORING, OR COMMUNITY FOOD BANK GARDEN. MAKE IT ACCESSIBLE TO ALL.”

“INCREASE THE URBAN FISHERY OPTIONS IN SALT LAKE CITY.”

“MORE NATURAL WILDLIFE AREAS WITHOUT PAVED TRAILS. A NY CENTRAL PARK SIZE PARK ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE VALLEY.”

“OUTDOOR CLASSROOM AND PARK ACCESS FOR EVERY SLC SD SCHOOL. ALL STUDENTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO ACCESS NATURE AS PART OF THEIR SCHOOL DAY. SLC SHOULD HIRE A PERSON TO LEAD THIS CHARGE AND WORK DIRECTLY WITH SLCSO.”

“ADD NEW AREAS FOR GROWING SPORTS SUCH AS DISC GOLF. THESE HAVE GROWN AS A SIDE EFFECT OF COVID AND ARE SEEING A LOT MORE USE.”

“BUILD A CLIMBING PARK.”

“UNCOVER AND RESTORE THE BURIED AND IMPAIRED CREEKS IN THE SALT LAKE VALLEY.”

INTERCEPT INTERVIEW SURVEY

Intercept Survey respondents were interviewed at 44 different locations and were asked eight free response questions, seven multiple choice questions, and seven demographic questions. Common themes emerged from the free response questions which are summed up below.

Question: “Thinking long-term over the next 10-20 years, what stewardship actions do you think would be most impactful to public lands that include city parks, urban forests, natural areas and trails?”

Themes in the responses included renovating restrooms, trail maintenance, supporting active transportation, planting trees, adding waste bins, planting native, water-wise and pollinator gardens, providing volunteer opportunities, providing cultural and educational events, promoting safety through a ranger ambassador program, acquiring additional natural lands, and supporting friends of the parks groups.

Question: “Are there ways you can imagine yourself contributing to the stewardship of public lands?”

The most common responses included providing volunteer opportunities such as trash clean-up days, tree planting days, and

community trail maintenance. Youth groups were mentioned as organizations that would especially benefit from service-oriented activities. Some respondents were also willing to donate money to fund Public Lands or get involved by participating in public meetings related to Public Land’s issues.

Question: “Do you avoid, not enjoy, or feel uncomfortable in any city parks?”

Themes in the responses indicated that people often do not feel safe in some parks due to homeless encampments, drug use, and a lack of lighting.

Question: “When you imagine our public lands 10-20 years from now, what changes can we make to our public lands system to help serve and include all people more equably?”

Responses included themes such as having better ADA access, improving the quality of park on the west side, services for the homeless population, and improved access to parks such as free public transportation.

Question: “Which 3 words sum up what you think should be big 10-year goals of Salt Lake City Public Lands?”

Common words used included safety, sustainable, verde, variety, trees, accessible, conservation, equity, community, clean, fun, protect, renovate, events, open, connected, inclusive, growth, education,

Question: “What would make this place (park, trail, natural areas, golf course) better?”

Themes in the responses included adding amenities such as lights, water fountains, restrooms, trails in the parks, trees, art, flowers, dog-friendly facilities, trash cans, signage in multiple languages, access to water and food trucks.

Question: “What else should be considered in developing the Public Lands Master Plan for natural areas, urban forests and parks?”

Common responses included a mixture of responses from previous questions including recommending new amenities, one-word statements such as “equity” and “cleanliness” and recommending new activities, events and volunteer opportunities.

Responses to multiple choice questions in the Intercept Interview reflected that public lands are extremely important to the community. Almost half of respondents did not perceive that there were barriers preventing them from accessing public lands. One interesting observation is that 64% of respondents traveled to the park or trailhead location by car, however over half of the respondents thought that improving the sidewalk and trail network for travel by bike and foot would improve the livability of Salt Lake City. Responses to multiple choice questions from the Intercept Interview Survey are displayed in the following tables.

Question: How did you get here today? (Choose 1).

TRANSPORTATION TO PUBLIC LANDS CHOICES	% SELECTED
Car/Carpool	64%
Walk	22%
Bike/Skateboard/Scooter	9%
Other	2%

Are Salt Lake City parks, trails, natural areas, or golf courses important to you? (Choose 1).

PUBLIC LANDS IMPORTANCE CHOICES	% SELECTED
Extremely Important	85%
Somewhat Important	12%
Indifferent	2%
Unimportant	.03%

What prevents you or your household from spending more time in these outdoor places? (Select all that apply).

BARRIERS TO PUBLIC LANDS CHOICES	% SELECTED
N/A	45%
Places are too crowded	25%
Safety or security concerns	22%
Not accessible to those with disabilities, health or mobility challenges.	5%

Question: Which of the following system-wide approaches do you think would most benefit the livability (or quality of life) of Salt Lake City and encourage you to get out more often? (Select all that apply).

LIVABILITY CHOICES	% SELECTED
Invest in neighborhood public lands and amenities that encourage everyday use.	63%
Improve the sidewalk and trail network for travel by bike and foot	54%
Focus on improving environmental health and biodiversity (the richness of different kinds of plants and animals in our public lands).	42%
Invest in regional public lands and amenities that create unique destinations.	35%

Source: 2020 Intercept Survey (in person / 635 total respondents)

FOCUS GROUP FEEDBACK

Additional ideas and collaborative ideas from focus group stakeholders included...

Source: 2020 Focus Groups (virtual meetings / 39 community organizations and 12 City departments)

A series of focus groups were held to gain insight into stakeholder's shared goals that could inform the Master Plan. Over 39 community organizations and 12 City departments participated in the focus group sessions.

Groups were asked to identify synergies and areas of coordination needed to implement the emerging big ideas and actions of the Master Plan. Stakeholders were also asked to identify ways to increase equity in our parks, urban forests, and natural areas and trails.

"INCREASE ACCESSIBILITY THROUGH MAPS, WAY FINDING, ETC. CREATE BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS ALONG THE JORDAN RIVER TRAIL TO SUPPORT ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS NEAR IT. HIGHLIGHT NEARBY NEIGHBORHOODS AND WORK ON PLACEMAKING."

- SUGAR SPACE

"SAVE OUR CANYONS IS DEFINITELY CONCERNED ABOUT THE IMPACTS AND OVER-CAPACITY OF USE IN THE WASATCH MOUNTAINS AND CANYONS. WE'RE SUPPORTIVE AND DEFINITELY INTERESTED IN BEING INVOLVED WITH THE MOUNTAINS TO LAKE CONCEPT."

- SAVE OUR CANYONS

ON UTILIZING GOLF COURSES: "MAYBE DO A PLANTING OF SOME NATIVE SPECIES, YOU KNOW, THE LITTLE COPSES OF OAKS AND MAPLES AND BOX ELDERS THAT EXIST IN THAT GOLF COURSE ARE REALLY NEEDED AND ACTUALLY HARBOR QUITE A BIT OF WILDLIFE."

- TRAILS UTAH

"ADD MORE CONNECTIONS THROUGH NEIGHBORHOODS AND BUSINESS DISTRICTS"

- SLC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FOCUS GROUP FEEDBACK

Additional ideas and collaborative ideas from focus group stakeholders included...

Source: 2020 Focus Groups (virtual meetings / 39 community organizations and 12 City departments)

“WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY IN TAKING CARE OF WATER THAT REACHES THE LAKE AND CONNECTING PEOPLE TO THE LAKE. WATER FLOWING UNDERNEATH OUR FEET DOESN'T GO AWAY. TELLING STORIES AND CONNECTING CULTURE IS POWERFUL TO SHOW THE DIVERSITY OF HUMANS AND THE ENVIRONMENT.”

- WESTMINSTER COLLEGE

“VOLUNTEERISM CAN BE A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO HELP PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES GET OUT OF THE HOUSE.”

**-UTAH
DOWNSYNDROME
FOUNDATION**

“TREES ARE A HUGE ISSUE. THE WEST SIDE LOST A LOT OF LARGE, OLD TREES DURING THE WIND STORM. INCREASING TREES IN ROSE PARK AND GLENDALE.”

-WESTVIEW MEDIA

“PARKS DESIGNED FOR PEOPLE WITH DIFFERENT ABILITIES ARE NOT NECESSARILY LESS FUN FOR THOSE WITHOUT DISABILITIES. TRAILS MAY BE SET UP FOR AN UPRIGHT BIKE, BUT ARE THEY USABLE FOR PEOPLE WHO USE TRIKES OR OTHER TYPES OF BIKES? ACCESSIBLE ROUTES TO PARKS ARE NEEDED.”

**- WASATCH
ADAPTIVE SPORTS**

FOCUS GROUP FEEDBACK

Additional ideas and collaborative ideas from focus group stakeholders included...

Source: 2020 Focus Groups (virtual meetings / 39 community organizations and 12 City departments)

“I THINK REALLY THINKING ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES TO HIRE LOCAL COMMUNITY RESIDENTS TO DO THIS PLANNING, TO DO PROGRAMMING AND REALLY INVEST IN THE PEOPLE WHO CAN MAKE THIS, THOSE WHO CAN COME AND BRING A VOICE TO THAT”

- MESTIZO INSTITUTE

“REGARDING THE GLENNVILLE AKA GROVE AREA, FOR ME IT’S IMPORTANT TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR YOUTH HERE. TO FEEL SAFE TO GO TO THESE PARKS AND TO SEE THESE PARKS. WHAT A GREAT PLACE TO HANG OUT AND WHAT A GREAT PLACE FOR US AS ADULTS TO PROVIDE MENTORSHIP.”

- ICHAMPS

“MAKE SPACES SAFE FOR ALL RESIDENTS, INCLUDING THOSE WHO ARE UNHOUSED.”

- SLC HOUSING & NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT

“I WOULD LOVE TO SEE MORE EMPHASIS ON URBAN AGRICULTURE. COMMUNITY GARDENS ARE A GREAT WAY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SMALLER PROPERTIES.”

- WASATCH COMMUNITY GARDENS

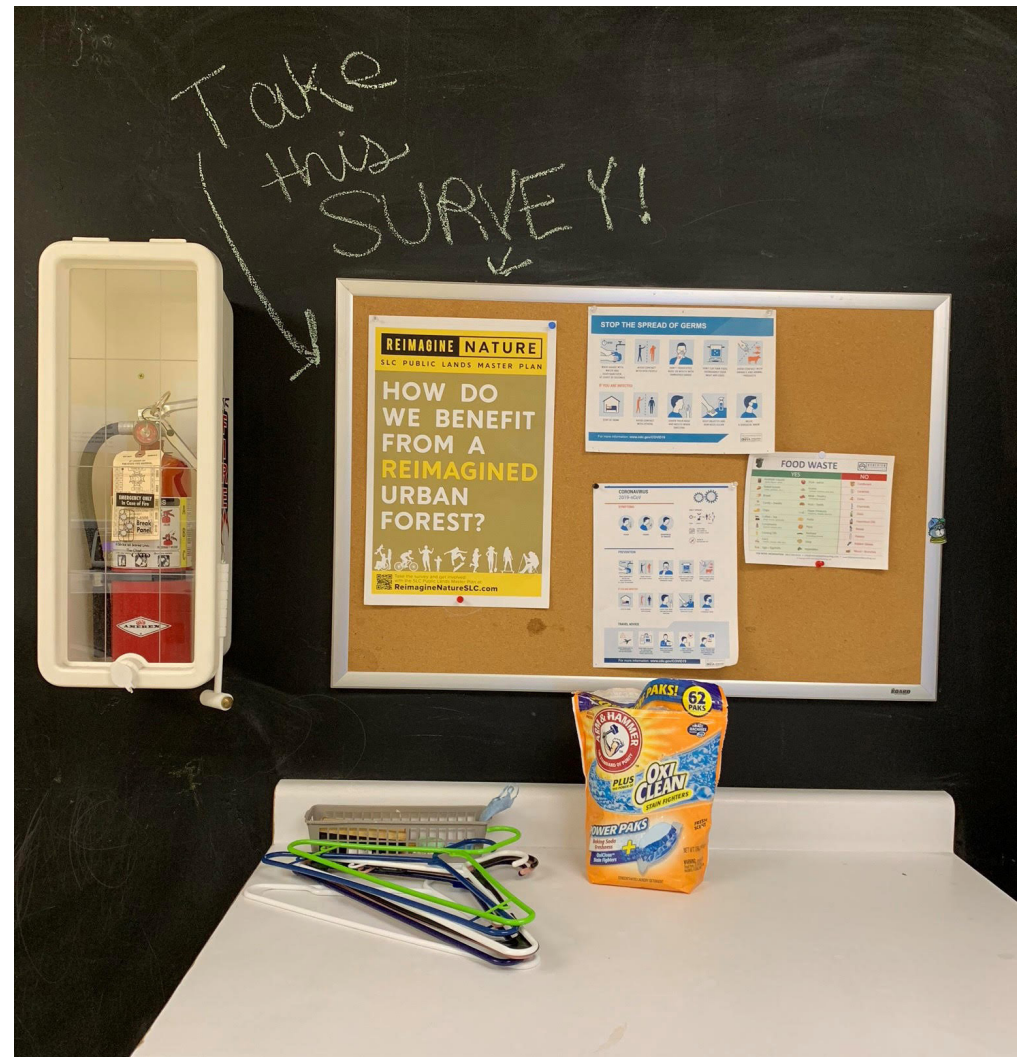
“ACCESS IS AWESOME AND WE WANT PEOPLE TO GET OUT INTO THESE SPACES, BUT HAVING HUMANS IN THESE AREAS CAN IMPACT WHAT THE HABITAT LOOKS LIKE, SO JUST BALANCING THOSE NEEDS AND BEING ABLE TO PROTECT LAND IN CERTAIN WAYS FOR WILDLIFE IS SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT.”

- TRACY AVIARY

HOW INPUT WILL BE USED

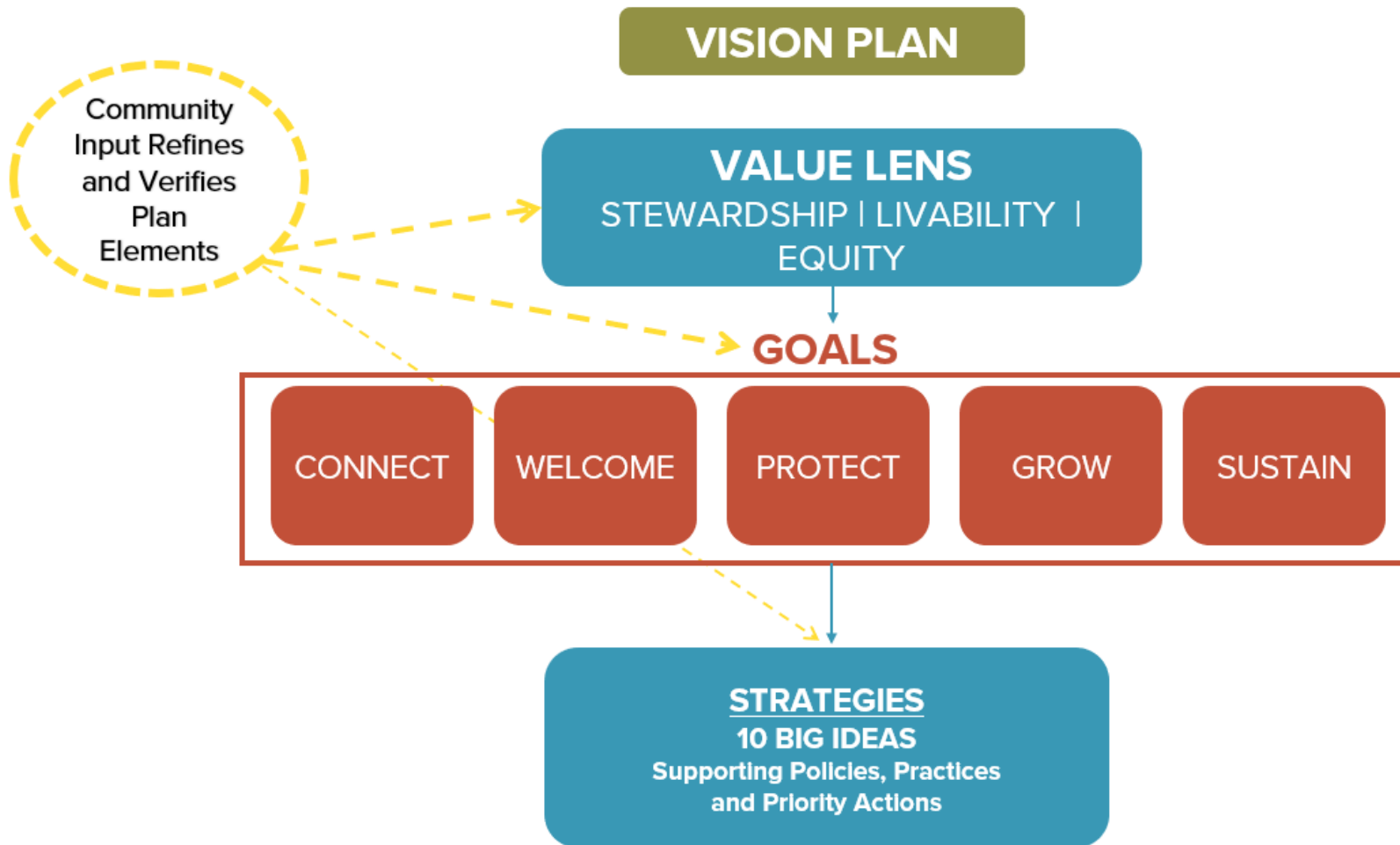
This section presents how the master plan has been refined with community and stakeholder input. Also captured, is a working list of big ideas and top impactful actions that will inform the vision plan implementation.

Engagement window #2 is focused on verifying these refined ideas with the public. Building on the success of the inclusive tactics in window 1, tactics will include collaboration with University of Utah and community groups.



COMMUNITY INPUT ON MASTER PLAN ELEMENTS

Plan Creation



BIG IDEAS REFINED FROM COMMUNITY INPUT (AS OF 2/29/2021)

- 1. JUST FIVE MINUTES FROM HERE**
- 2. FROM THE MOUNTAINS TO THE LAKE**
- 3. NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS REIMAGINED**
- 4. COMING SOON TO A PARK NEAR YOU**
- 5. SLC'S EMERALD RIBBON**
- 6. TELLING OUR STORIES AND OUR HERITAGE**
- 7. A DIVERSE AND HEALTHY URBAN GREEN SPACE
NETWORK: GREEN LOOP, PIONEER PARK, FLEET
BLOCK**
- 8. PROMOTE OUR URBAN FOREST**
- 9. CONNECTING TO ALL OUR GREEN SPACE ASSETS**
- 10. BIODIVERSITY HOT SPOT**

NEXT STEPS:

- Continue to refine vision for 10 big ideas with community stakeholders and staff.
- Draft strategies and actions to support goals and 10 big ideas.
- Explore prioritization methods using value lenses of equity, livability and stewardship.
- Synthesize this work and test with the public to lead to a draft master plan.

APPENDICES

- A. SLC Public Lands Current State Snapshot**
- B. 2020 Reimagine Nature Community Survey Instrument**
- C. Advertisement Methods**
- D. University of Utah Student Report**

Appendices available upon request by emailing Nancy Monteith:
nancy.monteith@slcgov.com

