





ENGAGEMENT REPORT

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COLLABORATIVE PLAN

APPROACH

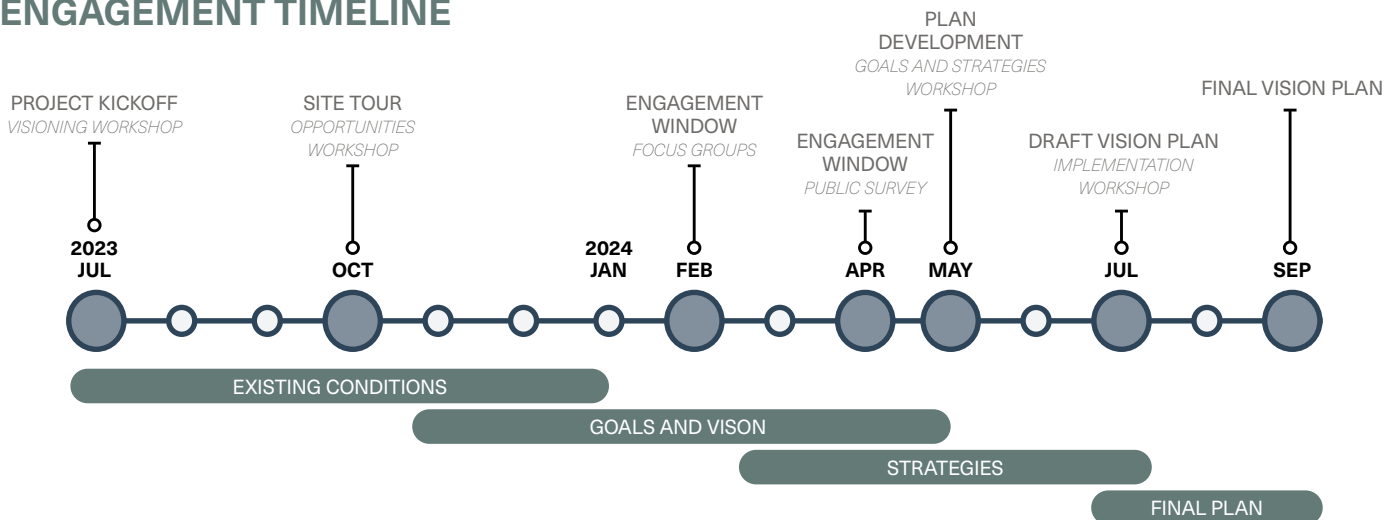
Community engagement and stakeholder input were an important component in shaping the recommendations of this plan. In order to reach community members across the large study area, a variety of engagement strategies were utilized. Among these strategies were steering committee meetings with representatives from local government, a presentation at the regional watershed symposium, and an online public survey inviting residents, employees, and visitors of the area to share their vision for the future of southwest Salt Lake County's Waterways.

The engagement process began with a project kickoff meeting with the steering committee. The project team solicited input for the existing conditions analysis, which was presented at a site tour and presentation with the steering committee a few months later. After the in-person workshop and site tour, focus groups comprised of stakeholder organizations and community members convened in early 2024 to discuss challenges and opportunities to be addressed by the plan recommendations. Feedback from these meetings was used to refine the public survey, which was distributed in the spring of 2024.

ENGAGEMENT TOOLS

- Project Website
- Project StoryMap
- Steering Committee
- Focus Groups
- Public Survey
- Social Media
- E-mail outreach
- Newsletters
- KUER Article
- Watershed Symposium Presentation

PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND ENGAGEMENT TIMELINE



THEMES OF COMMUNITY INPUT

There were several themes that consistently emerged throughout stakeholder and community engagement sessions. These themes informed the priorities for the plan's recommendations, and included:

PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION

- Drought tolerant and native vegetation
- Enhance riparian zones
- Protect habitat areas

WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

- Encourage aquifer recharge and flow to the Great Salt Lake
- Improve water quality
- Reduce water consumption

RECREATION AND ACCESS

- Provide safe access to water
- Improve trail networks
- Improve park amenities

DEVELOPMENT THREATS

- Turn development towards the waterways
- Implement setback requirements
- Update zoning

COLLABORATION AND EDUCATION

- Public/private partnership
- Improve waterway stewardship
- Educate community members on waterway issues



Bikers along the Jordan River Parkway Trail

STEERING COMMITTEE

To help guide the vision of this plan and reflect the specific needs and challenges of each municipality in the study area, a Steering Committee was assembled. This Steering Committee included representatives from municipal leadership, county leadership, local non-governmental organizations, and state and federal organizations. Each member of the Steering Committee brought a unique perspective on community, environment, transportation, or economic opportunities.

The first Steering Committee meeting was held virtually in July 2023. The goal of this meeting was to identify the major issues and opportunities for the plan to address, identify the project study area, and develop a draft of the vision statement and plan title.

The second Steering Committee meeting was held in person in October 2023. The team convened for a tour of several sites throughout the study area to assess existing conditions and understand the breadth of conditions that exist around the waterways today. The tour was followed by a presentation of existing conditions research and a workshop to begin mapping opportunity areas.

The third Steering Committee meeting was held virtually in May 2024. This meeting was held to collect feedback on the plan vision, goals, and draft strategies. Steering Committee members added to and edited the draft strategies to represent the collective vision.

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Jennifer Robison, Bluffdale
- Grant Crowell, Bluffdale
- Tessa Stitzer, Copperton
- Michael Maloy, Herriman
- Jason Lethbridge, Riverton
- Lisa Halversen, Riverton
- Bianca Paulino, MSD
- Curtis D. Woodward, MSD
- Kayla Mauldin, MSD
- Angelica Haro, West Jordan
- Mark Forsythe, West Jordan
- Megan Jensen, West Jordan
- Betsy Byrne, NPS



Steering Committee members on a site tour and presentation



FOCUS GROUPS

Planning topics for the H2Oquirrh Vision Plan were explored in one-time focus group meeting discussions among industry experts, stakeholders, and members of the public. These three meetings were conducted virtually on February 7th and 8th, 2024 and each lasted 1.5 hours. The topics for the groups included Outdoor Recreation, Natural Systems & Water Resources, and Land Use & Built Environment.

OUTDOOR RECREATION

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Participants generally felt that the waterways present opportunities to preserve space for outdoor recreation and connectivity between communities.
- Trail systems have gaps in connectivity that make them unreliable and potentially dangerous for commuters, with canal trails called out specifically.
- Participants cited development impacts in general as the most pertinent challenge to this vision plan. It was noted that these impacts include pollution, loss of open space, wildlife habitat, and drought, among other issues.
- Large increase in population of mountain bikers, especially youth, was noted as a trend in outdoor recreation in this area.
- Generally, connectivity to parks and open space along the trail system was a high priority for this focus group, as well as more multi-modal paved trails and safe street crossings.

NATURAL SYSTEMS & WATER RESOURCES

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Development impacts to the waterways and need for preservation of open space were noted as the most important aspects of this vision plan.
- It was noted that canals are being treated as a stormwater conveyance, which is a potential issue for water management and quality.
- Increasing public awareness about ecological and hydrologic function of the waterways was noted as a crucial aspect of protection.
- Work with communities to establish protections in the near term and work towards zoning and setback protections in the future.

LAND USE & BUILT ENVIRONMENT

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Upcoming projects present challenges and opportunities for improvement, with retail development posing the biggest challenge.
- Developments that do not acknowledge or utilize the waterways create barriers to preservation and interaction.
- Improved connections and safe crossings were noted as the two most important improvement opportunities to the trails system.
- Leaving buffers and viewing the waterways as an amenity would benefit the area in terms of land use.
- Low impact development practices were identified as an appropriate strategy for the plan.
- Need for multimodal connections, preservation of open space, and waterway development impacts were noted as the largest challenges to this area.

ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTED

- Bike Utah
- Ivory Homes
- Jordan River Commission
- Perpetual Housing Fund
- RioTinto
- Riverton City
- The Oquirrh Foundation
- Tree Utah
- Utah Open Lands
- UTA
- UT Division of Water Quality
- UT Division of Water Resources
- UT Division of Outdoor Recreation
- West Jordan City

SURVEY

ADVERTISING

The H2Oquirrh Vision Plan public survey was open from April 1st to May 31st, 2024. WFRC, Salt Lake County, and the partner cities used all of their advertising channels to advertise the survey, including social media posts (Instagram, X, LinkedIn, and Facebook), newsletters, emails, and flyers.

APPROACH

The was intended to collect feedback on the vision and current challenges facing southwest Salt Lake County's waterways, and the responses were used to shape the plan's vision, goals, and strategies around the community's desires and needs. The first part of the survey asked about how people currently interact with the waterways, followed by multiple-choice and free response questions about how people would like to see them used in the future. Optional demographic information was collected at the end of the survey.

RESPONSES

The survey received 245 responses from across the study area. Most respondents were somewhat familiar with the waterways and visit the corridors less than once a month. The top three most visited waterways included Butterfield Creek, Rose Creek, and Bingham Creek. Walking and running were the most common activities reported, but biking, taking in the view, and using parks were also common responses.

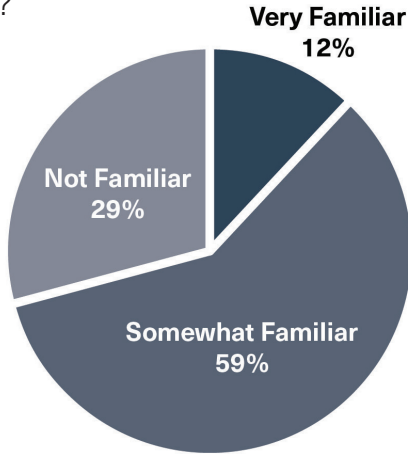
Most respondents indicated preservation as a top priority for the vision plan for both water quality and plant and animal communities. Recreation, education, and development regulations were also common themes that emerged. These priorities were consistent in the multiple choice and free response sections of the survey.



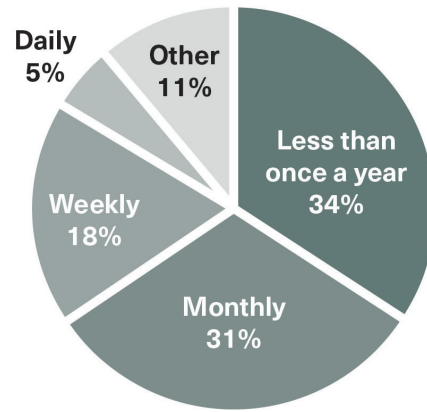
Flowers in bloom along a creek

HOW DO YOU CURRENTLY USE THE WATERWAYS?

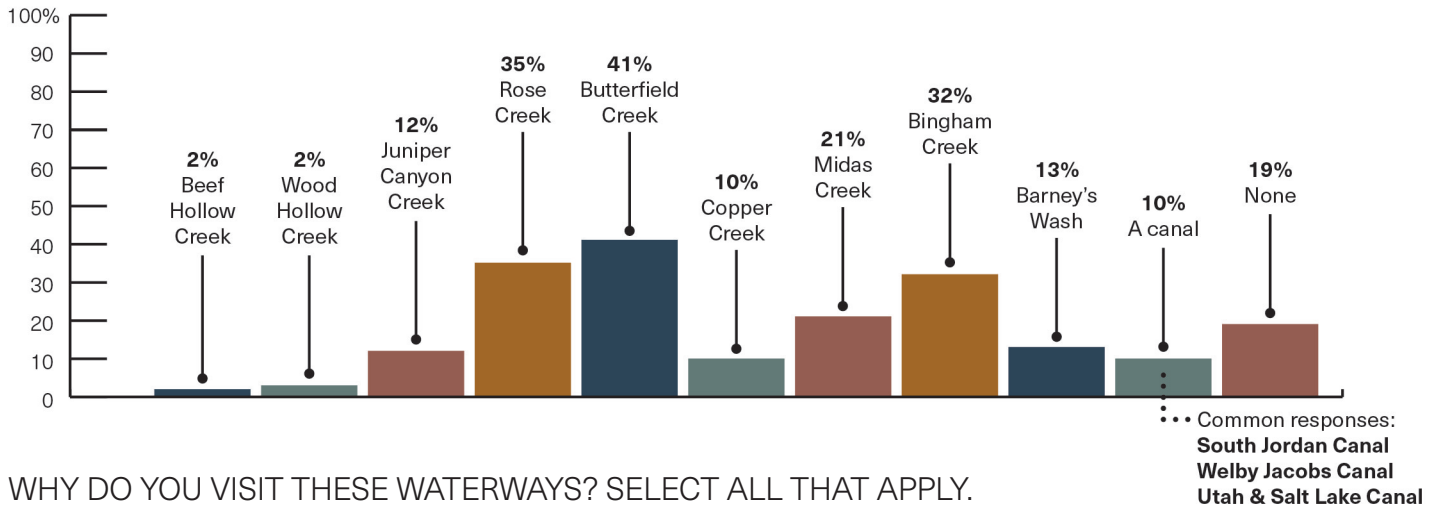
HOW FAMILIAR ARE YOU WITH THE WATERWAYS IN SOUTHWEST SALT LAKE COUNTY?



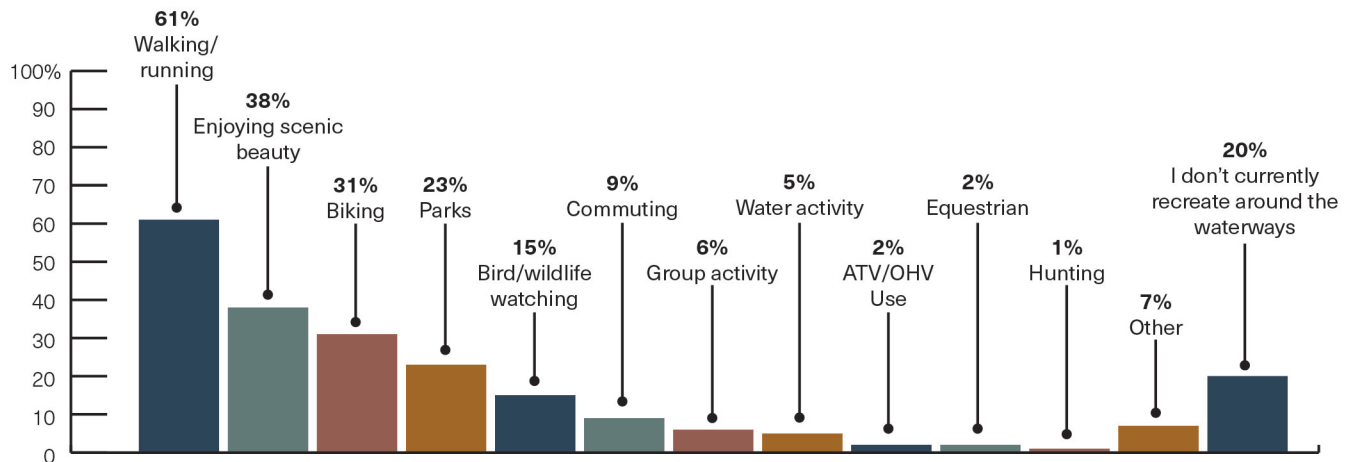
HOW OFTEN DO YOU VISIT THESE CORRIDORS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR?



AT WHICH OF THESE WATER CORRIDORS HAVE YOU SPENT THE MOST TIME? SELECT ALL THAT APPLY.

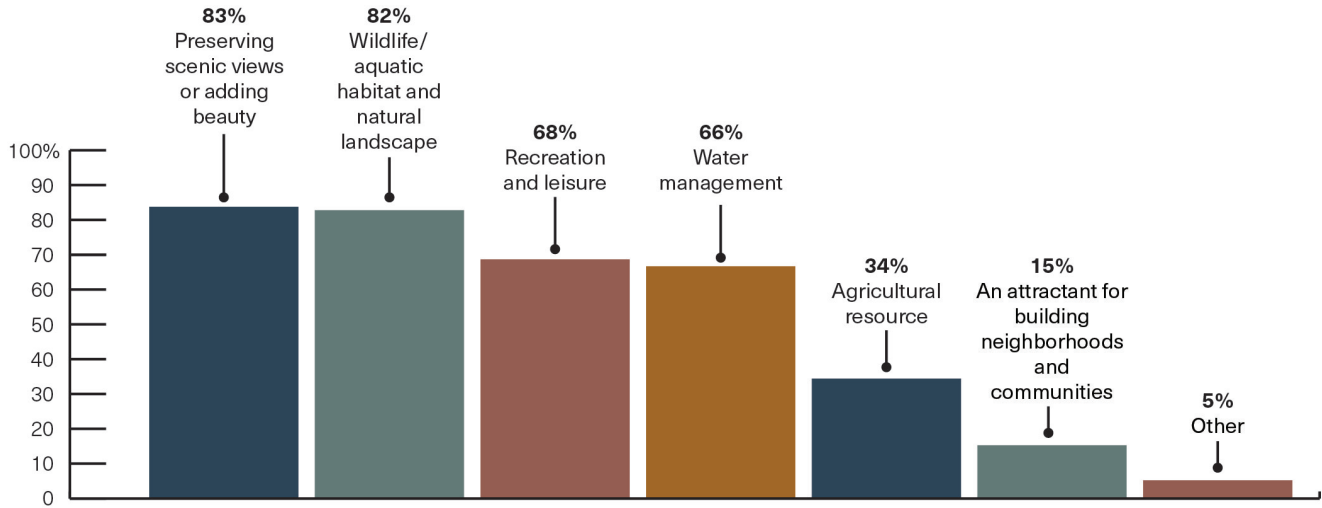


WHY DO YOU VISIT THESE WATERWAYS? SELECT ALL THAT APPLY.

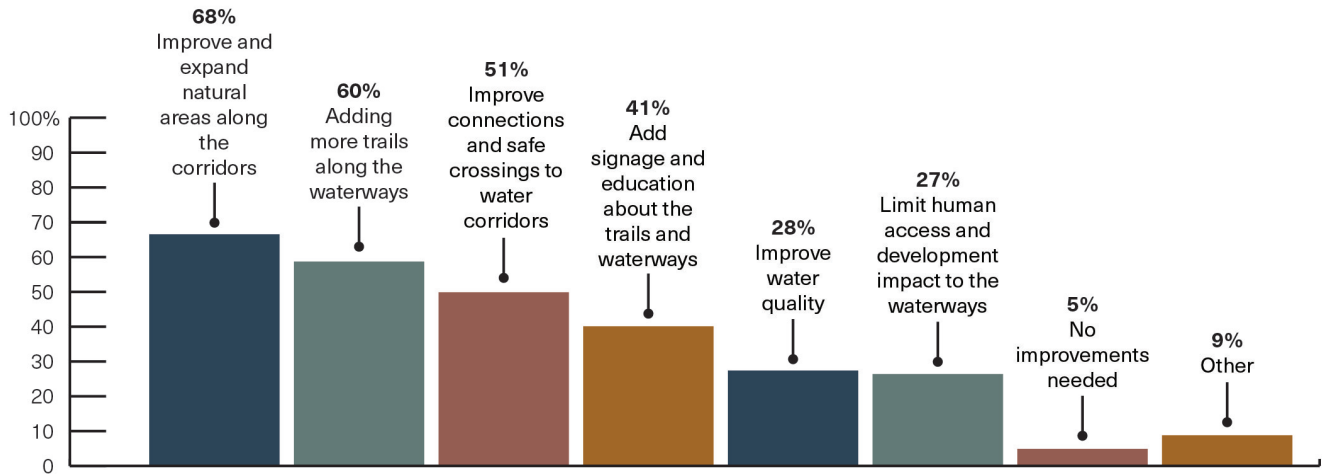


WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF THE WATERWAYS?

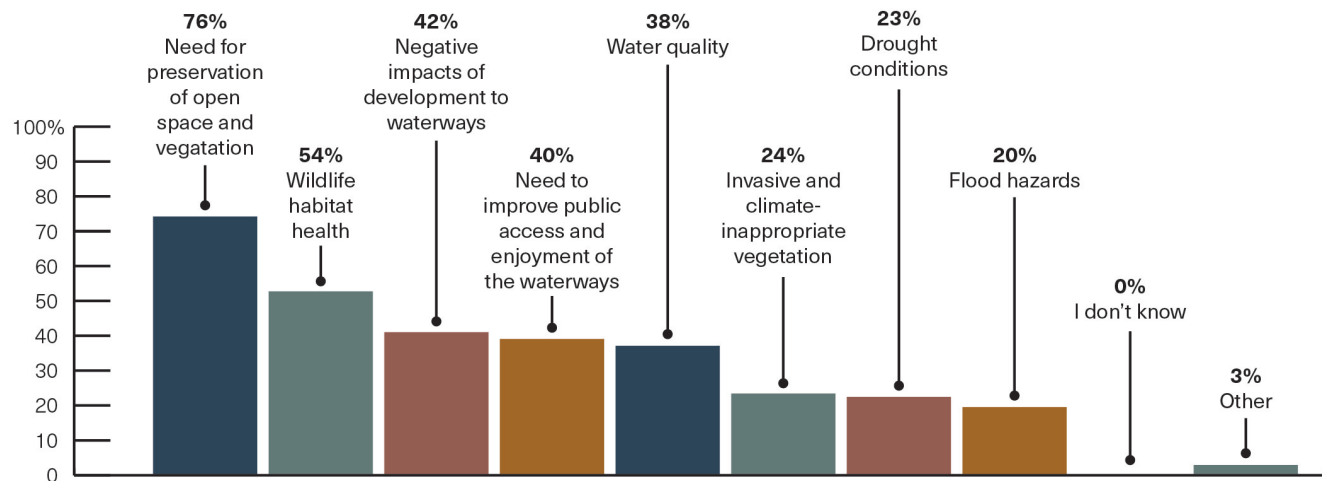
WHAT VALUES SHOULD THESE WATER CORRIDORS PROVIDE? SELECT ALL THAT APPLY.



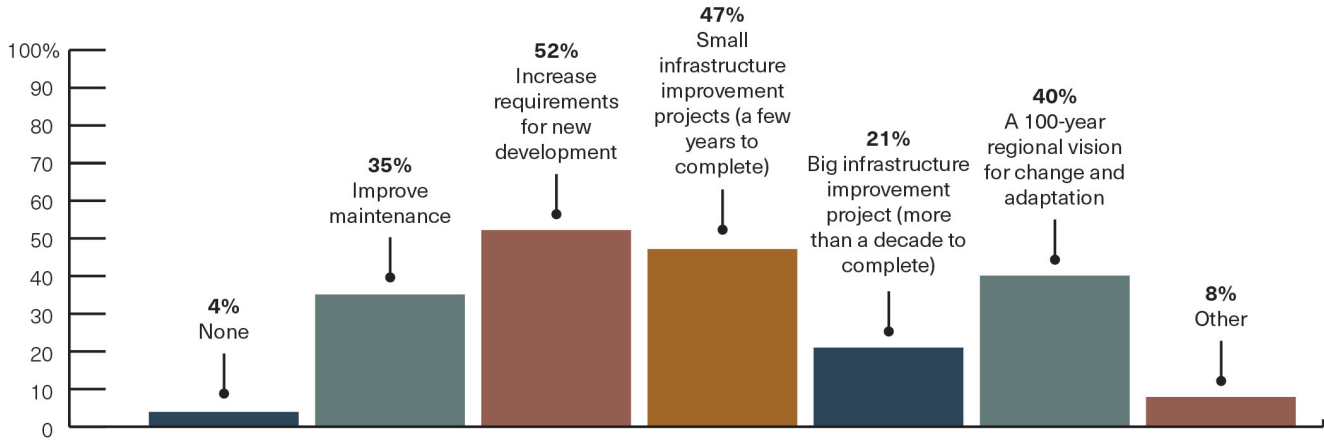
WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES THAT THIS VISION PLAN FOR THE WATERWAYS MUST ADDRESS? SELECT UP TO 3 RESPONSES.



WHAT WOULD HELP YOU ENJOY THE WATER CORRIDORS MORE? SELECT ALL THAT APPLY.



HOW SIGNIFICANT OF CHANGES ARE NEEDED TO IMPROVE THESE WATERWAYS?
SELECT ALL THAT APPLY.



WHAT GOALS SHOULD THIS PLAN ESTABLISH FOR THE WATERWAYS?

COMMON THEMES

PROTECTING WATER QUALITY AND USAGE

PRESERVING PLANT AND ANIMAL HABITATS

RECREATING AT AND ACCESSING THE WATERWAYS

INCREASING COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND INVOLVEMENT

DEVELOPING RESPONSIBLY

QUOTES

"I love the walkways and open space, but I would give it up for quality water source, storage, and use."

"I would really love to have trails that stretch all the way and connect the valley."

"Maintain a reasonable distance between new developments and the waterways to help protect them."

"Expand knowledge and access to trails and waterways without damaging or risking natural habitats."

"Remove non-native plants and replace [them] with native plants and trees along waterways."

"Keep some beautiful space out here, make it easier for the growing public to get out of the city and enjoy."

"Keep water flowing to the Salt Lake."

"Make more trails and maps for public knowledge."

"Preserve the waterways and enhance the natural areas around them with simple pathways."

"The water ways should double both as a trail system and also build water resilience."

"Provide clean water, maintain beauty and open space and provide area for wildlife to flourish and humans to enjoy the beauty and wildlife with minimal disruption."