

UTAHNS' VISION FOR 2050

RECREATION



*Your Utah,
Your Future*



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UTAHNS' VISION FOR 2050

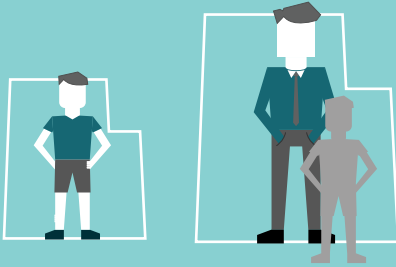
RECREATION



YOUR UTAH, YOUR FUTURE

PROCESS

UTAH IS GROWING.



TODAY

There are three million people living in Utah.

2050

By 2050 there will be 5.4 million—the population will nearly double in 35 years!

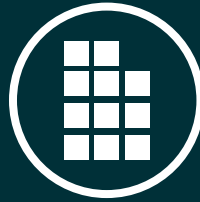
THAT MEANS

2 x the

HOMES JOBS SKIERS
CARS STUDENTS FOOD

OUR GOAL

HELP UTAHNS CREATE A VISION FOR UTAH'S FUTURE



11 TOPICS

Utahns' values guided the selection of 11 topics critical to the future of Utah.



UTAHNS' VALUES

Values studies told us not just what Utahns care about, but why they care about those things.



ACTION TEAMS

Experts from across the state studied the topics and helped shape potential scenarios for the future.

SCENARIOS



8 ACTION TEAMS

OF 400 EXPERTS WORKED FOR 18 MONTHS TO DEVELOP POTENTIAL SCENARIOS FOR UTAH'S GROWTH ACROSS EACH TOPIC.

YOUR UTAH, YOUR FUTURE SURVEY



53,000 UTAHNS

WEIGHED IN ON EACH TOPIC AND EACH SCENARIO, TELLING US WHAT THEY WANT UTAH TO LOOK LIKE IN 2050.

VISION FOR 2050



A COMBINATION

OF SURVEY RESULTS, VALUES, AND ACTION TEAM INPUT FORMED A VISION FOR UTAH'S FUTURE.

Utahns love spending time outdoors recreating with friends and family.

INTRODUCTION

UTAH IS KNOWN FOR ITS BEAUTIFUL NATURAL SURROUNDINGS. Year-round, Utahns have incomparable access to outdoor recreation and enjoy activities ranging from biking and hiking to skiing and horseback riding to fishing, hunting, climbing, camping and more. Utahns value the state's outdoor recreation because it provides opportunities to spend time with their friends and families and strengthen their relationships. Outdoor activity also allows Utahns to enjoy better mental and physical health, live longer, and have a greater sense of happiness and personal freedom. In addition, Utah's world-renowned outdoors and recreation attract employers and tourists, stimulating the state's economy.

UTAHNS WANT A PLAN FOR THE FUTURE OF OUTDOOR RECREATION. Although Utahns are generally happy with the recreational opportunities in the state, they worry that some recreational areas are becoming less enjoyable and accessible due to overcrowding. As the population continues to grow and as tourism increases, many facilities are already overburdened, and the numbers will only increase in the decades to come. Currently, the state has no recreation plan to accommodate the future demand, but Utahns want to plan ahead and invest in new parks, trails, campgrounds, picnic areas, and other facilities to ensure they continue to enjoy excellent access to world-class outdoor recreation.

YOUR UTAH, YOUR FUTURE

VISION FOR RECREATION



THE VISION

Utahns envision being able to easily access a wide variety of uncrowded recreational opportunities. In addition to Utah's natural lands, they want parks, trails, and open spaces throughout their towns and cities. They see themselves and future generations using the state's recreational resources to live active, healthy lives and to spend time with family and friends. They envision Utah remaining a premier place for outdoor recreation for both residents and visitors.



GOALS

- 1** Provide access to outdoor recreation near people's homes through a network of parks, trails, and open space.
- 2** Provide convenient access to outdoor destinations that are farther away by developing and maintaining campgrounds, picnic areas, hiking trails, off-highway vehicle trails, and state and national recreation areas.
- 3** Minimize crowding at outdoor recreational facilities.
- 4** Maximize the economic benefit of outdoor recreation through tourism, a quality of life that attracts employers and employees, and growth of outdoor recreation-based industries.

KEY STRATEGIES

- 1** Create and invest in a comprehensive statewide plan for recreation.
- 2** Establish a connected network of trails, parks, and bike lanes throughout urban areas.
- 3** Develop additional recreational facilities to accommodate increasing demand and to avoid overcrowding.
- 4** Continue to promote Utah's outdoor recreation outside the state to draw tourists to Utah.
- 5** Continue to grow the outdoor recreation economy by attracting tourism-based businesses and equipment manufacturers to the state.

For more details on these and other strategies, see the Recommended Strategies section beginning on p. 35.

BACKGROUND:

WHERE WE ARE TODAY



OUTDOOR RECREATION IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF LIFE IN UTAH.

SOME ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF RECREATION

Tourism generates billions of dollars of revenue for the state each year, and much of that tourism is focused on recreation. Recreation and tourism in Utah account for:

- 6.3 million visits to national parks each year.
- 3.8 million visits by skiers each year.
- 124,000 jobs
- \$6.9 billion in revenue each year.

Recreation contributes to Utahns' high quality of life and is a major factor in Utah's economy. Year-round, Utah provides a variety of recreational facilities and activities through its many canyons, ski areas, state and national parks, wilderness areas, campsites, hiking and biking trails, lakes, rivers, neighborhood parks, sports fields, and more. As a state, however, Utah has no current plan to accommodate future increases in population and tourism.

Many communities in Utah rely on recreation and tourism as a primary industry cluster. In addition to providing direct economic contributions through increased revenue, outdoor recreation creates a high quality of life, attracting top talent to Utah. It also attracts major employers, including businesses related to outdoor recreation (such as equipment manufacturers).

The increasing popularity of Utah's recreational resources like ski areas and national parks has led to some overcrowding, frustrating both tourists and Utahns.

Demand for Utah's recreational facilities will continue to increase. As the state population grows and as tourism increases, these areas will be more heavily used and under more strain than ever before.

Maintaining and expanding recreational facilities has costs, but if these facilities are not improved to accommodate growth, recreation will diminish as a key contributor to Utah's good economy and high quality of life.

HOW WE CREATED A VISION:

PEOPLE AND PROCESS



TO CREATE A VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF OUTDOOR RECREATION IN UTAH, A TEAM OF EXPERTS GATHERED OVER A TWO-YEAR PERIOD TO SHARE KNOWLEDGE AND EXTENSIVELY RESEARCH AND DISCUSS OPTIONS.

Members of the Agriculture, Public Lands, and Recreation Action Team were selected by Governor Gary Herbert and Envision Utah to represent a spectrum of professional experience and political affiliations. Team members included recreation experts, legislators, county commissioners, city planners, federal and state officials, and others from across the state. From 2013 to 2015, the action team met to identify Utahns' choices related to recreation, create scenarios for public input, and synthesize a vision for the future. The process of creating this vision also included the following components:

- 1 A 2014 values study. This study was conducted by Heart+Mind Strategies to identify (1) what factors Utahns view as affecting their quality of life the most and (2) the underlying emotions and values tied to those factors. The study found that outdoor recreation is one of the top contributors to Utah's high quality of life. Utahns care about recreation because it provides opportunities for them to spend time with their families and friends and leads to a healthy, enjoyable lifestyle. (More information on the values study can be found in the Utahns' Values section on p. 17.)
- 2 The "Build Your 2050 Utah" web app. This app allowed Utahns to identify what recreational facilities are most important to them and interactively test the effects of certain decisions concerning recreational investments. More than 3,000 people across Utah gave input through the app. Most shared a strong desire to increase the number of Utah's recreational facilities to keep up with population growth and tourism.

The action team used this information to create four different scenarios for the future of outdoor recreation in Utah. The four scenarios differed in the amount of investment put into recreational facilities and the extent to which Utah continues to promote tourism outside of the state. These scenarios (p. 21) were presented to the public in the Your Utah, Your Future survey in spring 2015, and 52,845 Utahns weighed in.

After receiving public input on the four recreation scenarios, the action team met to frame a vision, including goals and strategies, to achieve what Utahns said they wanted for outdoor recreation in 2050.

ACTION TEAM MEMBERS

CHAIRS



**LEONARD
BLACKHAM**

*Former Commissioner, Utah
Department of Agriculture
and Food*



**KATHLEEN
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*Director, Public Lands Policy
Coordination Office*



**WENDY
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*Executive Director, Utah Open
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**BRAD
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Alma Adams*Commissioner, Iron County***Bruce Adams***San Juan County Council***LuAnn Adams***Commissioner, Utah Department of
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Representatives***Gene Ciarus***Grand County Council***Mark Clemens***Utah Chapter, Sierra Club***Mark Compton***President, Utah Mining Association***Larry Crist***U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service***Jim Dabakis***Utah Senate***LaNiece Davenport***Wasatch Front Regional Council***Joan Degiorgio***The Nature Conservancy***Jack Draxler***Utah House of Representatives***Hans Ehrbar***University of Utah Department of
Economics***John Evans***Petzl Climbing Equipment***John Fairchild***Utah Division of Wildlife Resources***David Garbett***Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance***Julia Geisler***Executive Director, Salt Lake Climbers
Alliance***Kerry Gibson***Commissioner, Weber County***Laura Hanson***Executive Director, Jordan River Commission*

Jon Hardman*Natural Resource Conservation Service***David Hinkins***Utah Senate***Sarah Hinners***University of Utah Metropolitan Research Center***Lynn Jackson***Grand County Council***Layne Jones***Mountain Accord***Peter Knudson***Utah Senate***Mike Kohler***Wasatch County Council***Ashley Korenblat***Public Land Solutions***David Livermore***Utah State Director, The Nature Conservancy***John Mathis***Utah House of Representatives***Chris McCandless***Sandy City Council***Kay McIff***Utah House of Representatives***Tara McKee***Utah Office of Outdoor Recreation***Michael Merrill***Salt Lake Chamber***Thayne Mickelson***Utah Conservation Commission***Wayne Niederhauser***Utah Senate***Mike Noel***Utah House of Representatives***Ralph Okerlund***Utah Senate***Juan Palma***State Director, U.S. Bureau of Land Management***Randy Parker***Utah Farm Bureau***Ashley Patterson***Wasatch Community Gardens***Kent Peatross***Commissioner, Duchesne County***Julie Peck-Dabling***Salt Lake County Open Space and Urban Farming***Warren Peterson***Vice President, Farmland Reserve***Nathan Rafferty***President, Ski Utah***Curtis Rowley***Cherry Hill Farms*

Dustin Rowley

Utah Association of Conservation Districts

Eric Sadler

Wasatch Mountain Club

Douglas Sagers

Utah House of Representatives

Selma Sierra

*Director of Energy and Environmental
Policy, Energy Dynamics Laboratory*

George Sommer

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Mike Styler

Utah Department of Natural Resources

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Association*

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Elizabeth Tubbs

Grand County Council

David Ure

Summit County Council

Ron Vance

*Recreational and Resource Manager,
U.S. Forest Service*

Vicki Varela

Managing Director, Utah Office of Tourism

Evan Vickers

Utah Senate

Logan Wilde

Morgan County Council

WHY RECREATION MATTERS:

UTAHNS' VALUES

In 2014, Envision Utah conducted a statewide values study to identify (1) what factors Utahns view as affecting their quality of life the most and (2) the underlying emotions and values tied to those factors.



**RECREATION IS
ESSENTIAL TO A HIGH
QUALITY OF LIFE FOR
UTAHNS.**

The beauty and recreation offered by Utah's outdoors are deeply tied to the core values of Utahns. Outdoor recreational areas and activities help to facilitate close relationships with family and friends while maintaining mental and physical health. This leads to a sense of personal enjoyment, happiness, and family love.

RECREATION AND RELATIONSHIPS



“I want access to recreation and nature so that I can enjoy the outdoors while spending time with family and friends. This allows me to build close relationships and leads to a sense of family love.”

RECREATION AND PEACE OF MIND



“I value access to nature and being active outdoors because it helps me be physically and mentally healthy. This leads to enjoyment of life, happiness, and ultimately peace of mind.”

CHOICES FOR THE FUTURE:

SCENARIO SUMMARIES

The following scenarios were drafted by the Agriculture, Public Lands, and Recreation Action Team to represent possible outcomes for Utah's outdoor recreation in 2050. The scenarios differed in the strategies used to respond to the increased use of recreational areas by Utah's growing population and by the rising number of tourists.

The scenarios were presented to the public as part of the Your Utah, Your Future survey in spring 2015.

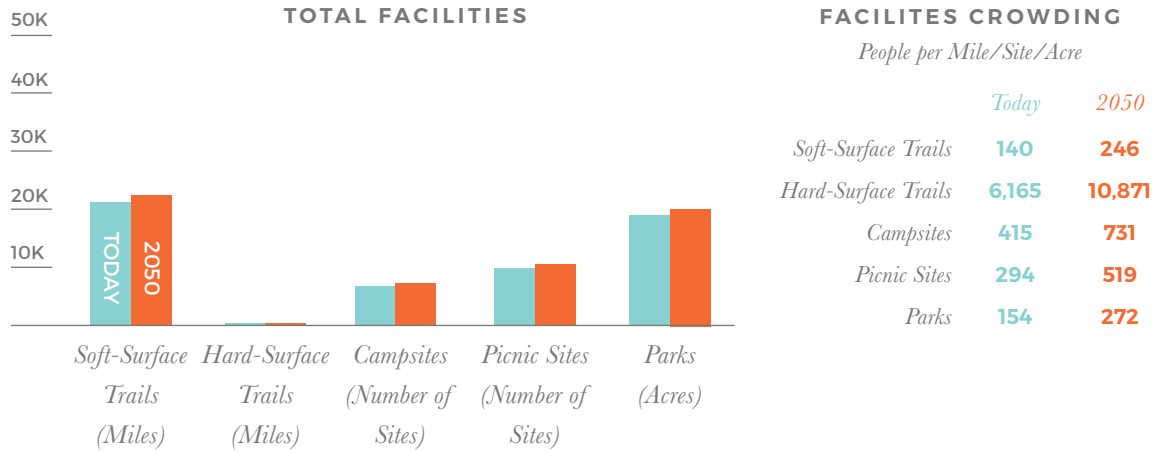
The scenarios were titled Allosaurus, Bonneville Trout, Seagull, Segó Lily, and Quaking Aspen (the state fossil, fish, bird, flower, and tree).

79% OF UTAHNS SELECTED EITHER THE RECREATION SCENARIO PRESENTED IN QUAKING ASPEN OR THE SCENARIO PRESENTED IN SEAGULL AND SEGO LILY.

ALLOSAURUS SCENARIO

Few new trails, campgrounds etc.; crowded facilities

\$0.24 Billion Investment



Utah builds very few new outdoor recreational facilities (parks, trails, campgrounds, picnic sites, etc.). As Utah's population nearly doubles and demand for recreation increases, we do not create or implement a long-range strategy to develop or maintain recreational areas. As a result, facilities are crowded, overused, and rundown. As population grows westward along the Wasatch Front, no new facilities

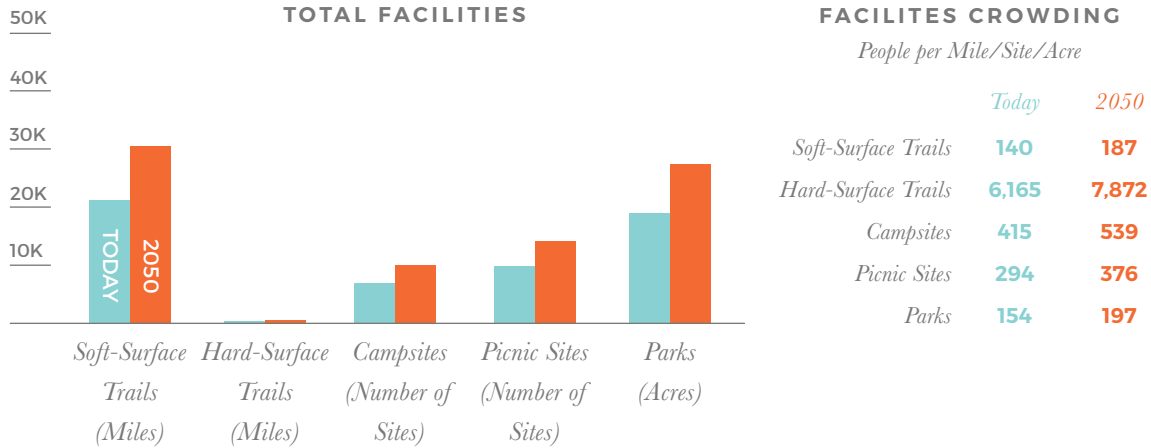
are built in the mountains on the west sides of the Wasatch Front counties.

The recreation experience in Utah diminishes as there is an increase in crowding, resulting in tension and conflict between user groups. Fewer tourists, employees, and employers are drawn to Utah because of the diminished recreational opportunities.

BONNEVILLE TROUT SCENARIO

Some new trails, campgrounds etc.; some crowded facilities

\$2.2 Billion Investment



Utah invests in outdoor recreational facilities at half the rate needed to keep up with growth in usage. The increase in population, tourism, and per-person use of recreational facilities causes some overcrowding. We do not create or implement a long-range strategy to develop or maintain recreational areas, and we also underinvest in facility maintenance. As population grows westward along the Wasatch Front, few new facilities are built in the mountains on the

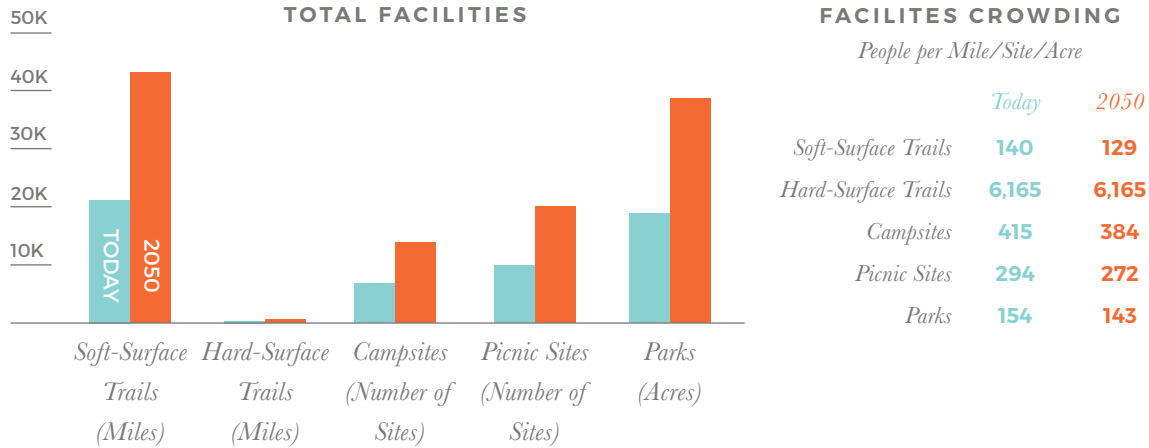
west sides of the Wasatch Front counties. Trails, parks, and open spaces tend to be disconnected.

The recreation experience is diminished because we build about half the recreational facilities needed to accommodate Utah's population growth. Tension and conflict increase between user groups, and fewer tourists, employees, and employers are drawn to Utah.

SEAGULL AND SEGO LILY SCENARIO

More trails, campgrounds, etc.; little crowding

\$4.8 Billion Investment



Utah builds new recreational facilities (parks, trails, campgrounds, picnic sites, etc.) to meet the growing demand of Utahns, as well as tourism growth at the same rate as population growth. We create and implement a strategy to develop and maintain recreational areas. As population grows westward along the Wasatch Front, new facilities are built in the mountains on the west sides of Wasatch Front counties. In key areas, we connect our parks and open spaces with trails. Outdoor recreational facilities are generally not crowded or overused. Though locals can easily access

and enjoy Utah's outdoors, we do not seek to attract more tourists to Utah. Access to quality outdoor recreation continues to attract employers and employees, benefiting the economy, as does some growth in the outdoor recreation industry.

We build recreational facilities to accommodate the growing population and a proportional growth in tourism. Utahns' health is similar to today due to similar access to recreational areas. Employees and employers are drawn to Utah, but tourism does not increase faster than the population.

QUAKING ASPEN SCENARIO

More trails, campgrounds, etc.; tourism promoted; little crowding

\$5.1 Billion Investment



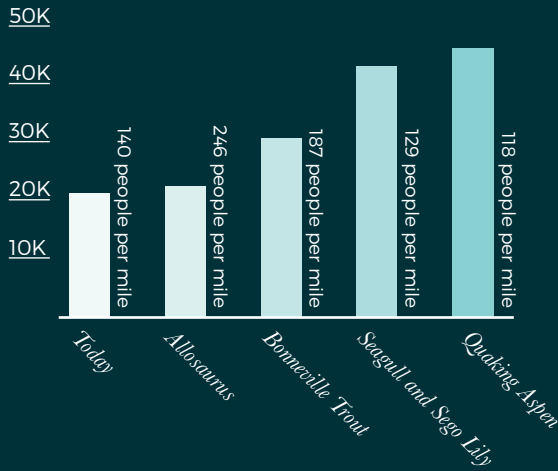
Utah significantly invests in building new recreational facilities to meet the growing demand of both Utahns and tourists. We create and implement a long-range strategy to develop and maintain recreational areas and expand tourism to strengthen Utah's economy. As population grows westward along the Wasatch Front, new facilities are built in the mountains on the west sides of the Wasatch Front counties. National and international tourism, particularly for our national parks and ski areas, is promoted. Because

we have prepared to accommodate our growing population and increased tourism, overcrowding generally does not occur.

We build recreational facilities to accommodate both the growing population and the increasing number of tourists, resulting in a decrease of conflicts between user groups. Employees and employers are drawn to Utah. The tourism and the outdoor recreation industry both flourish in Utah, benefiting our economy.

SUMMARY OF SCENARIOS

SOFT-SURFACE TRAILS (MILES)

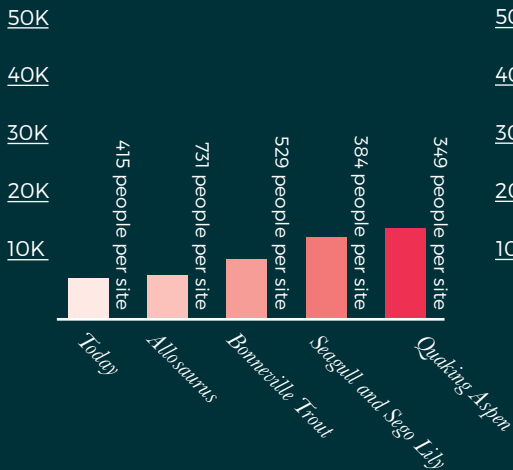


HARD-SURFACE TRAILS (MILES)

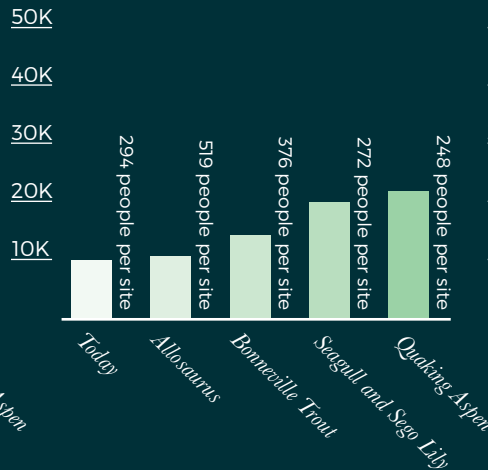
(Scale adjusted to show contrast)



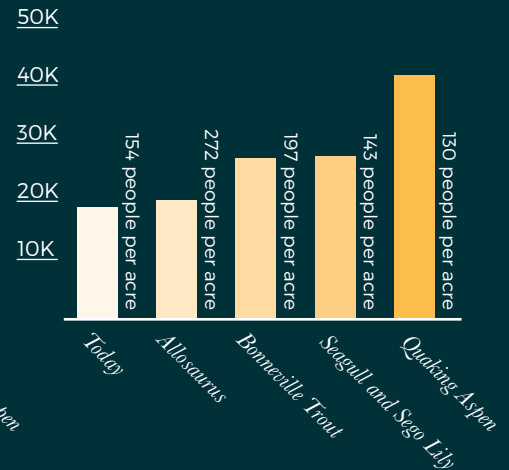
CAMPSITES (NUMBER OF SITES)



PICNIC SITES (NUMBER OF SITES)



PARKS (ACRES)



YOUR UTAH, YOUR FUTURE

SURVEY RESULTS

In April and May 2015, 52,845 Utahns shared their voice through the Your Utah, Your Future survey. Participants chose their favorite scenarios for outdoor recreation and other topics. After choosing their favorite scenarios, survey participants had the option to answer a series of questions to prioritize recreation among other issues, determine the most important outcomes related to recreation, and identify how willing they would be to take specific actions that would ensure those outcomes. The survey results were cross-checked against a random-sample survey to ensure they represented the desires and opinions of Utahns.


1

WHAT UTAHNS WANT FOR RECREATION

Utahns want to increase the number of recreational facilities in the state. Almost 80% chose a scenario with a significant investment in increasing the number of recreational facilities to meet future demand. Of those who want to significantly improve recreational facilities, a little over half chose a scenario in which tourism is promoted and a little less than half chose one in which it is not.


2

WHY UTAHNS WANT IT

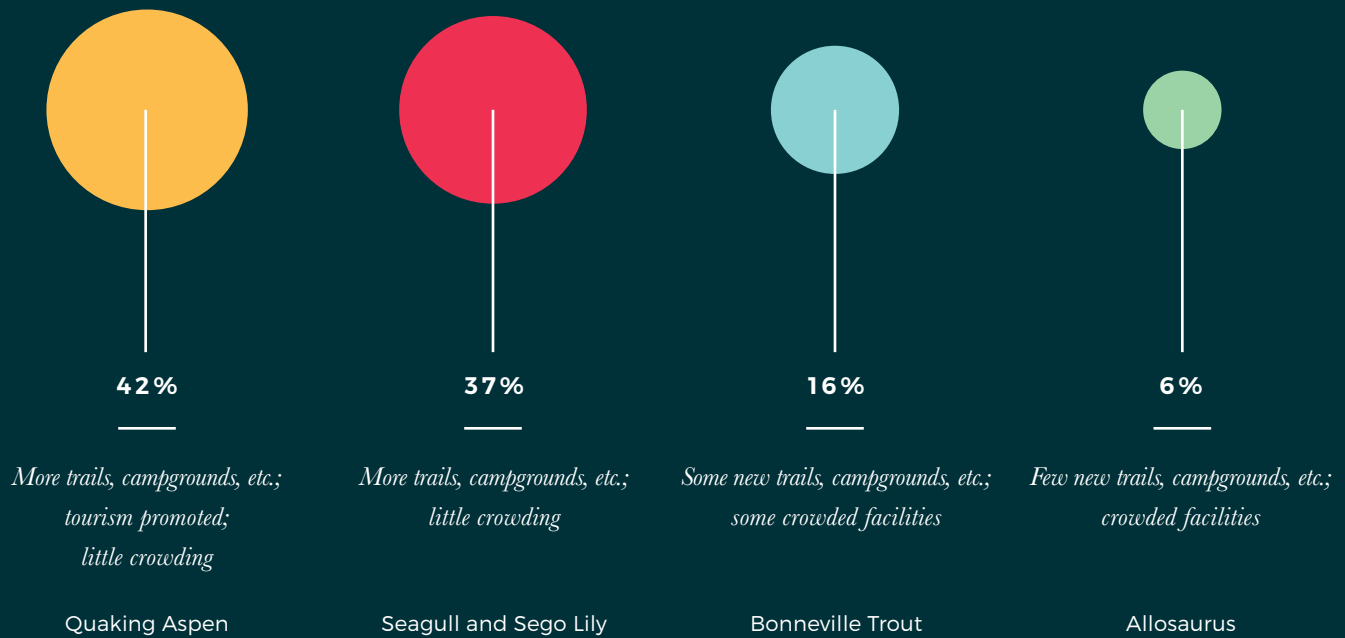
Utahns want good access to outdoor recreation, including both nearby facilities like parks and trails and weekend/destination facilities like campgrounds, hiking and OHV trails, and state and national monuments. Utahns also place importance on maximizing the economic benefits of tourism, but they want to minimize how much crowding there is at recreational facilities.


3

WHAT UTAHNS ARE WILLING TO DO

Utahns are generally willing to have somewhat higher home prices, which would result from charging home builders higher fees for the development of parks and trails. Utahns are very hesitant about expanding recreational facilities in a way that negatively affects the wilderness feel. They are strongly unwilling to pull investment from education or transportation to pay for recreational facilities.

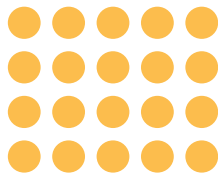
WHAT UTAHNS WANT



WHY UTAHNS WANT IT

(OR WHAT OUTCOMES UTAHNS EXPECT FROM RECREATION)

Survey participants were asked to allocate 100 points across these outcomes based on which they considered most important.



20%

Maximizing economic benefits to Utah through tourism



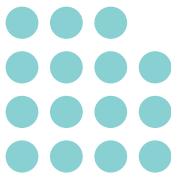
18%

Providing good access to nearby outdoor recreation facilities (trails, parks, etc.)



18%

Providing good access to weekend/destination recreation (campgrounds, hiking/OHV trails, state and national parks/monuments/recreation areas, etc.)



15%

Minimizing how much crowding there is in our outdoor recreation facilities (parks, campgrounds, picnic areas, parking lots, trails, etc.)



11%

Growing the outdoor recreation industry in Utah (equipment manufacturing, etc.)



10%

Minimizing conflicts between user groups

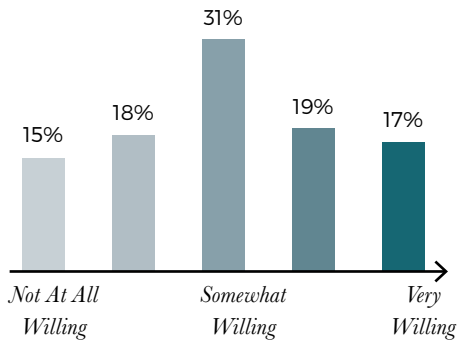


8%

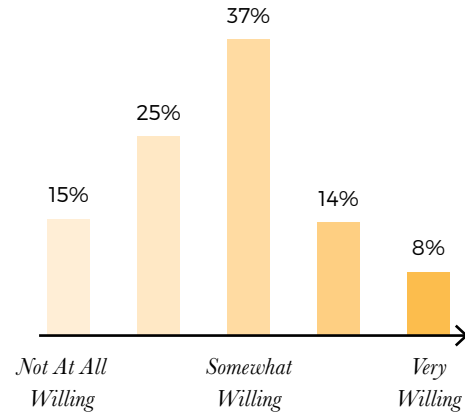
Limiting how much we spend on outdoor recreation facilities (parks, campgrounds, picnic areas, parking lots, trails, etc.)

WHAT UTAHNS ARE WILLING TO DO TO IMPROVE RECREATION

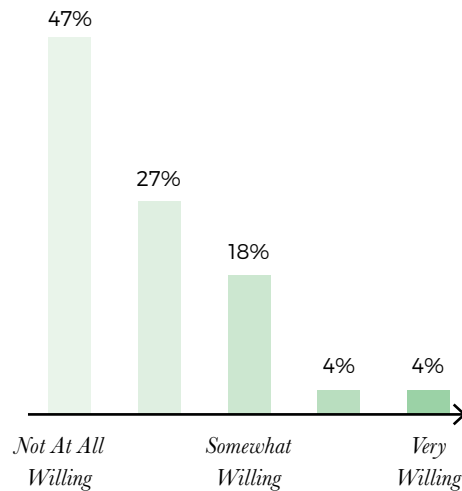
Homes may cost somewhat more because the park impact fees charged to developers need to increase.



Recreation facilities would need to be expanded in some areas, potentially at the expense of maintaining a wilderness feel.



Some investment needs to be pulled from education, transportation, and other issues.

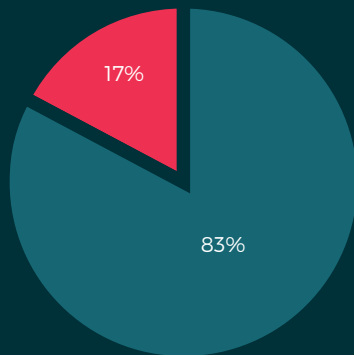


WHAT UTAHNS ARE WILLING TO DO TO IMPROVE RECREATION

SUPPORT FOR NEW RECREATION AREAS

Would you support opening more recreation facilities in mountain ranges just west of the Wasatch Front if the primary benefits were to alleviate crowding in Wasatch Mountain recreation facilities (parking areas, campgrounds, roads, trails, ski resorts, etc.) and provide more recreation access for west-side residents?

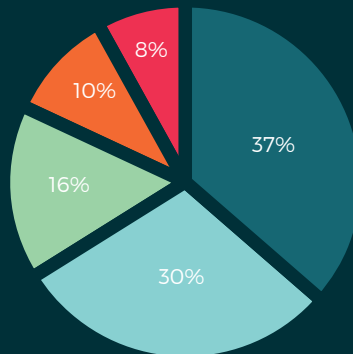
(Recreation areas could be opened in mountain ranges such as the Oquirrh or Stansbury Mountains.)



- Yes, I would support opening more recreation facilities in the west of the Wasatch Front.
- No, I would not support opening more recreation facilities in the west of the Wasatch Front.

SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY PARK AND TRAIL SYSTEMS

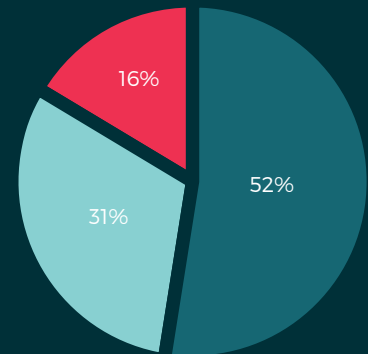
Would you support or oppose allocating more funding to establish an interconnected park and trail system in your community, even if it meant a small tax increase?



- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Neither support nor oppose
- Somewhat oppose
- Strongly oppose

SUPPORT FOR NEW STATE/NATIONAL PARK

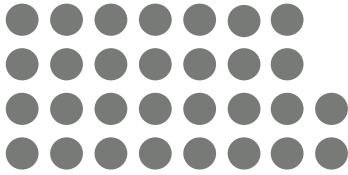
Would you support designating another state or national park in Utah if the primary benefits were to increase tourism revenue and alleviate crowding in existing parks?



- Yes, I would support designating another state or national park in Utah.
- Yes, but only if it doesn't mean adding significant new land-use restrictions for that area.
- No, I would not support designating another state or national park in Utah.

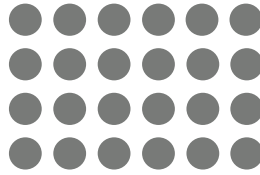
OUTCOMES UTAHNS EXPECT FROM WATER THAT WOULD AFFECT RECREATION

Survey participants were asked to allocate 100 points across these water outcomes based on which they considered most important.



30%

Ensuring there's plenty of water for farms and food production



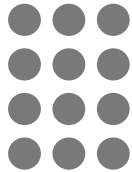
24%

Ensuring there's plenty of water in our streams and lakes for wildlife



13%

Ensuring there's plenty of water in our streams and lakes for recreation



12%

Limiting how much we need to spend maintaining our yards



10%

Minimizing how much we need to spend on water infrastructure (pipes, reservoirs, etc.)



8%

Ensuring we have sufficient grass and other greenery in our yards, parks, and other landscaping



3%

Ensuring we have large yards

REALIZING THE VISION:

RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES



1 Create and invest in a comprehensive statewide recreation plan.

- a) Establish a long-term plan that provides for additional facilities to meet growing demand, improves outdoor access for residents, limits crowding, promotes tourism, and addresses other needs.
- b) Provide a full range of recreational opportunities, while minimizing the potential for conflicts between user groups (e.g., hikers and mountain bikers).

2 Develop additional recreational facilities to accommodate increasing demand and to avoid overcrowding.

- a) Develop recreational facilities in mountain ranges on the west sides of Wasatch Front counties to meet the demand of the growing population and to ease the burden on Wasatch Mountain facilities.
- b) Ensure new recreational facilities don't unduly affect ecosystems, watersheds, or the natural experience.

3 Continue to promote Utah's outdoor recreation outside the state to draw tourists to Utah.

- a) Consider designating another state or national park in Utah, while not adding any significant land-use restrictions to the area.
- b) Encourage and work with communities to invest in their recreational opportunities in order to attract more visitors and benefit the economy.

SOME BENEFITS OF ADDING RECREATIONAL FACILITIES TO ACCOMMODATE GROWTH:

- Helps avoid overcrowding of facilities
- Allows residents and visitors to easily access outdoor recreation
- Maintains high quality of recreational experiences for residents and visitors

SOME BENEFITS OF PROMOTING UTAH'S OUTDOOR RECREATION OUTSIDE THE STATE:

- Increases spending in Utah by outside visitors, providing economic benefits
- Improves the reputation of Utah's outdoor recreation, drawing employers and jobs to Utah

**SOME BENEFITS OF AN
INTERCONNECTED NETWORK OF
TRAILS, PARKS, AND BIKE LANES
THROUGHOUT URBAN AREAS:**

- Improves health of Utahns by increasing their ability to exercise outdoors
- Improves air quality and reduces traffic congestion by providing alternative means of traveling
- Provides habitat and green space
- Reduces the urban heat island effect
- Helps control, absorb, and clean stormwater runoff
- Improves quality of life

4 Mitigate the negative effects of tourism.

- a) Work with communities that are heavily affected by tourism to alleviate impacts on housing, wages, crowding, and other issues related to quality of life.
- b) Meet recreational needs more effectively and with minimum expense, for example, by promoting lesser-used recreational areas as alternatives to more popular areas and by promoting visitation during non-peak times.
- c) Consider pricing and other options to prioritize local resident access to in-demand recreational areas.

5 Establish an interconnected network of trails, parks, and bike lanes throughout urban areas.

- a) Create and implement regional plans to build and maintain interconnected networks of parks and active recreational facilities.
- b) Work with federal, state, and local entities to provide mechanisms to fund the building and maintenance of parks, bike lanes, paths, and trails.

6 Maximize the economic benefit of outdoor recreation.

- a) Use the quality of life offered by outdoor recreation to attract and retain employers and high-quality employees.
- b) Foster recreation-related industries and businesses, such as equipment manufacturing, outdoor equipment sales, tour companies, etc.

