

# **Wasatch Hollow Open Space Area Planning Process**

## **Salt Lake City Open Space Lands Program**

7/16/09

### Summary

The Wasatch Hollow Natural Open Space Area acquisition and donation, celebrated May 6th, 2009, was accomplished with funds from Salt Lake City and Salt Lake County Open Space Programs, a generous donation from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, with support from Utah Open Lands, Wasatch Hollow Community Council and Wasatch Hollow Community Association.

Located north of Wasatch Hollow Park, the acquisition site is approximately 1.95 acres occupied by natural vegetation and historic springs that feed Emigration Creek year round. Emigration Creek, running along the east border of the property, will be the focus of future restoration efforts. This project was initially submitted by the Open Space Chair of Wasatch Hollow Community Council to the City through the Open Space Lands Program application process in June 2006.

As this project developed, so did partnerships with community stakeholders and Utah Open Lands, a local land trust. During the public campaign to raise funds and secure this site as open space, the property was sold three different times to potential developers. Towards the end of 2008 Salt Lake City secured the newest owners, the Goodwill Family, as willing sellers. The 3.5 acres north east of the acquisition site, donated by the LDS Church offers a significant opportunity to increase stewardship of the areas valuable riparian habitat.

The above partners are collaborating to secure approximately 1.95 acres of open space along Emigration Creek. LDS Church donation of 3.5 acres is not solidified yet. There are concerns about consensus for this project. These lands will be protected through conservation easements which will identify conservation values and will prevent development. Conservation values include scenic, historic, ecological/wildlife, public education and use and agriculture. There will be a public process for decision making, restoration and management plan development.

### Draft Timeline for Planning Process

#### **July**

Wed. 29th 7:15 pm-8:45 pm – Public Meeting at the Anderson Foothill Library in the meeting room to Introduce Planning Process, Timeline and Community Stewardship Program opportunities. Gather input on topics for sub-committee research and educational material to inform planning process (such as Water Quality, CPTED, Landscape Ecology, Restoration and examples of successful projects, etc.

#### **August (20)**

– Hold Meeting with Wasatch Hollow Community Council to collect site data from stakeholder knowledge and review Sub-Committee Research

#### **August (24 or 25)**

– Hold Meeting for Wasatch Hollow Community Steward Program Training

#### **September (23)**

– Hold Meeting to review Conservation Easements and review Wasatch Hollow Community Steward Program Training

#### **October**

– Small Scale Volunteer Restoration Activate

**November**

- Review Conservation Easements, Assess Community Steward Program and Make Necessary Adjustments

**December**

- Le Ray McAllister Fund Awards Announced

**January 2010**

- Begin Public Structured Decision Making Process (see details in next heading)
- 16-22, 2010 – Conduct Structured Decision Making Elicitation Meetings
- Chart Top values and goals gather by consultants from Stakeholders

**February**

- 2 Planning Meetings to Vet and Discuss Values Identified

**March**

- Consultants Develop Conceptual Alternatives Based on Values
- Weed mitigation on 10 acre open space area

**April**

- 2 Planning Meetings Vet and Discuss Conceptual Alternatives
- May Have Grant Funds to Conduct Restoration Planting in Uplands, Meadows and Riparian Areas on Northern 3.5 Acres

**May**

- Consultants Refine Alternatives Based on Input from April Meetings
- May Have Grant Funds to Conduct Restoration Planting in Uplands, Meadows and Riparian Areas on most northerly 3.5 acres

**June**

- Public Planning Meetings to Identify Top 3 Alternatives
- Recommend Top 3 Alternatives to Mayor and City Council

**July**

- Mayor and City Council Select 1 Alternative to Move Forward in Restoration, Use and Management Plan Development

**August**

- Consultants Draft Final Restoration, Use and Management Plan

**September**

- Hold Meeting to Review Final Restoration, Use and Management Plan
- Small Scale Volunteer Restoration Activate

**October**

- Consultants Finalize Restoration, Use and Management Plan

**November**

– Seek Adoption of Wasatch Hollow Restoration, Use and Management Plan

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**Structured Decision Making Process**

**Begins January 2010**

**Process Facilitation**

Salt Lake City Open Space Lands Program (SLC OS) – Land Owner

Utah Open Lands (UOL) – Conservation Easement Holder

Salt Lake County Open Space Lands Program (SLCo OS) – Conservation Easement Holder

Wasatch Hollow Community Council (WHCC) – Assisting with Community Outreach

**Structured Decision Making Process**

Millennium Group Environmental Consulting (MGEC) – Values identification

**Design and Management Plan Preparation**

Consultant – TBD – Conceptual Alternative plans development, and Restoration, Use and Management Plan

**Meetings to be held in January**

1. Elicitation Meeting Groups to Identify Goals and Concerns – MGEC and SLC OS
  - a. Salt Lake City
    - i. Mayors Office
    - ii. City Council
    - iii. Open Space
    - iv. Parks
    - v. Planning
    - vi. Police
    - vii. Property Management
    - viii. Public Utilities
  - b. Conservation Easement Project Partners
    - i. Utah Open Lands
    - ii. Salt Lake County
    - iii. Salt Lake City
  - c. Community Project Partners
    - i. LDS Church
    - ii. Wasatch Hollow Community Council
    - iii. Elected Board Members
    - iv. Open Space Rep.
    - v. Wasatch Hollow Community Association
    - vi. Elected Board Members
  - d. Adjacent Property Owners-Opposed

- e. Adjacent Property Owners-In Support
- f. Specialist
  - i. Ty Harrison – ecologist Westminster
  - ii. Lindsey Christenson – ecologist in neighborhood
  - iii. Melisa Stamp – Bio-west, Stream Assessment
  - iv. Audubon Society
- g. Schools
  - i. Clayton Middle School
  - ii. Wasatch Presbyterian Church preschool
  - iii. Uintah Elementary
  - iv. Bonneville Elementary
  - v. Westminster College
  - vi. University of Utah

- 2. Identify Core Objectives and Values to develop Alternatives - MGEC
- 3. Develop Conceptual Alternatives from values identified in meeting – (continued March 2010 in Draft Timeline)

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