

SEVEN GREENWAYS



VISION PLAN



ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

FEBRUARY 2022



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SEVEN GREENWAYS VISION PLAN

PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PROVIDES THE STRUCTURE OF THE SEVEN GREENWAYS VISION PLAN.

METHODS REACHED COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE SALT LAKE VALLEY TO IDENTIFY RESTRAINTS AND OPPORTUNITIES, RECOMMENDATIONS, BEST PRACTICES, AND CREATIVE SOLUTIONS THAT FORM THE FRAMEWORK OF THE PLAN.

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SURVEY

Community members and stakeholders had a one-month period to fill out the public survey on priorities, opportunities, and challenges. The survey was offered in Spanish and English. It was posted on the project website and distributed through the Technical Committee, Focus Groups, social media, and newsletter networks. Targeting was used to reach specific population groups. University of Utah students utilized on-the-ground intercept surveying and targeted outreach, organized around each municipality, to ensure equitable engagement.

Students fill out surveys in Salt Lake City.

OUR URBAN CREEKS HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO BECOME AN EQUITABLE, INNOVATIVE, AND RESILIENT SYSTEM OF GREENWAY CORRIDORS.

ABOUT

The survey was launched February 17, 2021, and was active for one month. The survey was distributed online and promoted on social media, through email lists, by partners, and via word of mouth. University of Utah students targeted survey distribution through intercept surveying and interviews that did not rely on participants having internet access. The survey was offered in English and Spanish to accommodate the diverse presence within our communities.

RESPONDENTS

A total of 1,178 people took the survey. The majority are from Salt Lake City (46 percent) and

Millcreek (23 percent). Respondents are primarily white (85 percent), which is comparable to the total percentage of white residents in Salt Lake County (87 percent). Female participation was the highest at 55 percent. There was an even distribution of age groups represented.

VISITATION

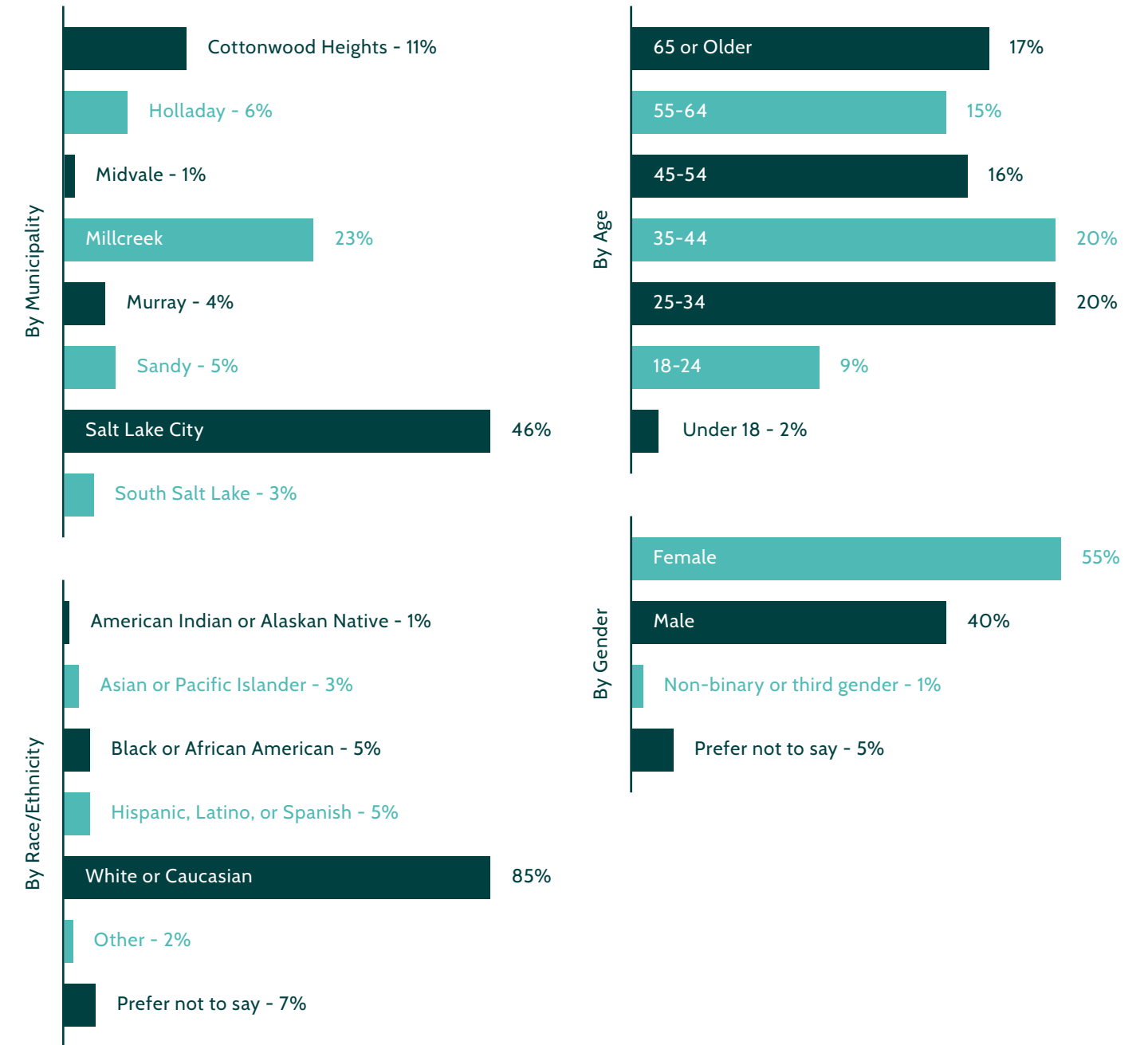
Mill and Big Cottonwood Creeks are indicated as the most visited creeks with 70 percent of respondents reporting they've spent time at each within the last 12 months. Interestingly, Mill Creek, in the scope area, has very little publicly accessible open space at 11 percent and is the most developed corridor at 81 percent. One possible explanation is respondents thought of the popular canyon areas when answering this question. These two creeks were followed by Little Cottonwood Creek at 62 percent and City Creek at 58.

Parleys (43 percent), Red Butte (44 percent), and Emigration (47 percent) Creeks were visited the least among respondents. Low visitation to Parleys Creek is curious due to popular regional parks, including Parleys Historic Nature Park, Tanner Park, and Sugar House Park, and the well-connected Parleys Trail. This result may show low awareness of the creek's location or name.



Figure 1: Walkers along City Creek at Memory Grove in Salt Lake City.

Table 1: Demographic Data of Survey Respondents



Source: Design Workshop, Survey Data (2021).

People tend to visit creeks near homes. Salt Lake City residents report the greatest diversity of creek visitation. Over half of respondents visited City, Red Butte, Emigration, Mill, Big Cottonwood, and Little Cottonwood Creeks. Residents of Cottonwood Heights and Millcreek report the most visitation among municipalities. Midvale residents report the least.

Creek experiences are generally positive. Between 43 and 67 percent reported a positive experience at the seven creeks. Only one to four percent reported a negative experience at any of the creeks. The most visited creeks received the highest positive ratings (62 to 67 percent positive).

Table 2: Top Creek Visitation by Municipality`

CITY	CREEK 1	PERCENT	CREEK 2	PERCENT
Cottonwood Heights	Big Cottonwood Creek	90	Little Cottonwood Creek	67
Holladay	Big Cottonwood Creek	84	Mill Creek	79
Midvale	Big Cottonwood Creek	71	Mill Creek	68
Millcreek	Mill Creek	90	Big Cottonwood Creek	68
Murray	Big Cottonwood Creek	85	Little Cottonwood Creek	76
Sandy	Little Cottonwood Creek	92	Big Cottonwood Creek	75
Salt Lake City	City Creek	83	Mill Creek	68
South Salt Lake	Mill Creek	83	Mill Creek	71

Source: Design Workshop, Survey Data (2021).

VALUES

Respondents indicated the environment was most important when spending time outdoors, choosing nature, wildlife, water quality, and access as top priorities. Wildlife watching and escape from urban life was extremely important to 75 percent. Access to water and water quality was extremely important to 54 percent. These were followed by aesthetic qualities at 45 percent and recreation opportunities at 44 percent. Less important were connecting with friends and family, safety, and being close by or easy to get to.

ACCESS

Respondents report room for improvement of information on creek access. Most respondents were relatively neutral on this—32 percent felt it was somewhat easy to find, 31 percent felt it was neither easy nor difficult, and 22 percent felt it was somewhat difficult.

BARRIERS

The top three reasons preventing access were not having enough information, not within walking or biking distance, and no adequate access. This contradicts the neutral responses in a previous

question about information on creek access. However, corridors can be improved through increased access points and connectivity. In the other section, comments most commonly referenced private property, underground creeks, and lack of access.

ENVIRONMENT & STEWARDSHIP

Respondents prioritized habitat and natural systems over human interactions with the environment. Improving air quality and increasing urban forest was extremely or very important to 93 percent. Protecting environmentally sensitive wildlife habitat was nearly the same level of interest at 92 percent. Other important topics were protecting and enhancing soil and water and air quality. Lower importance was given to community connections and volunteer and educational opportunities.

DESIGN & LAND USE

High importance was placed on acquisitions of open spaces and connecting wildlife corridors. Approximately 91 percent indicated this was extremely or very important. Additional extremely or very important topics included incentivizing daylighting and/or restoration of creeks (78 percent), encouraging private property owners to participate in goals (73),

and providing more trailheads and access points (73). Low on the list were items related to human activity, including encouraging higher

density development close to the greenways and increasing programming and public art.

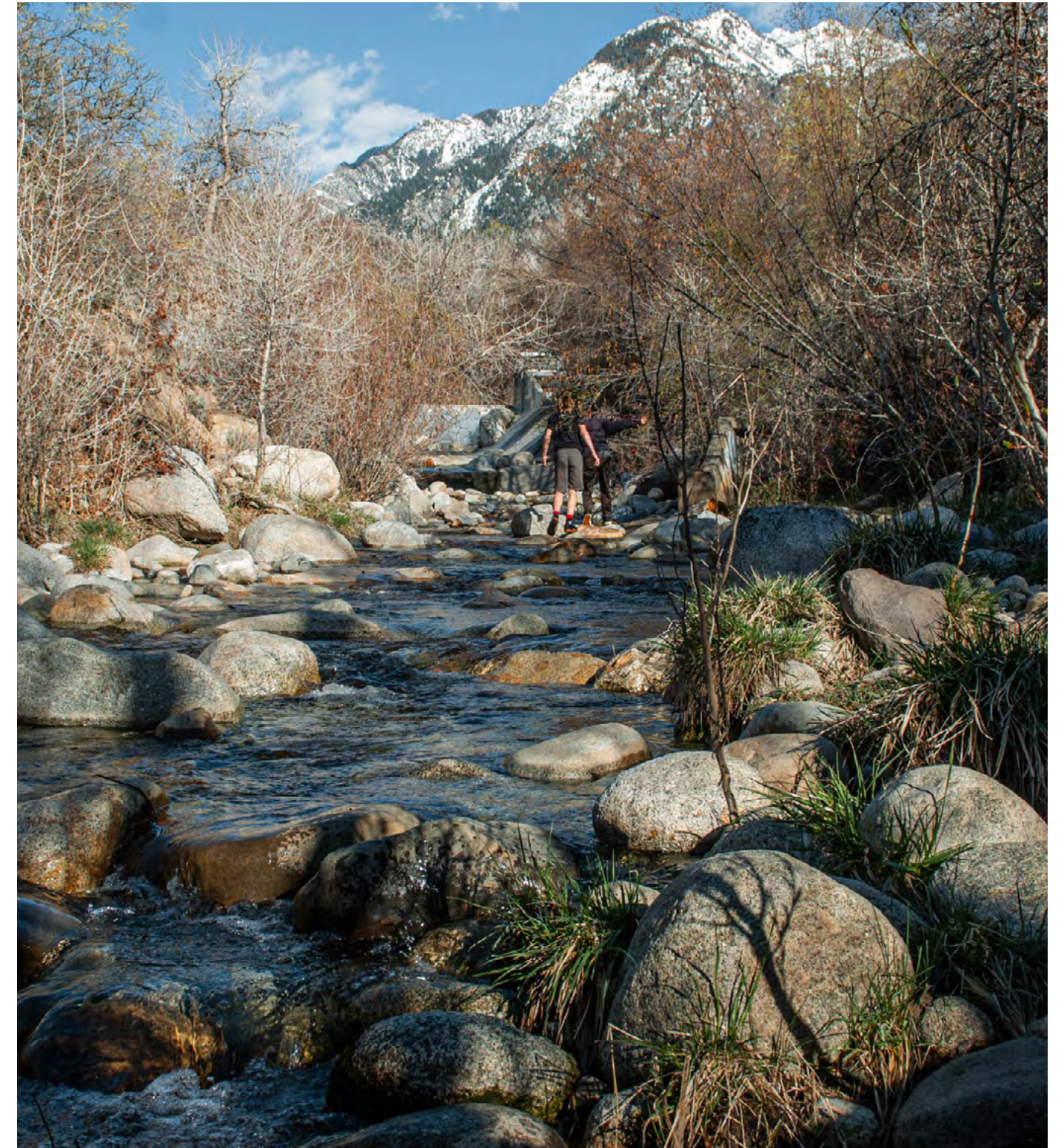
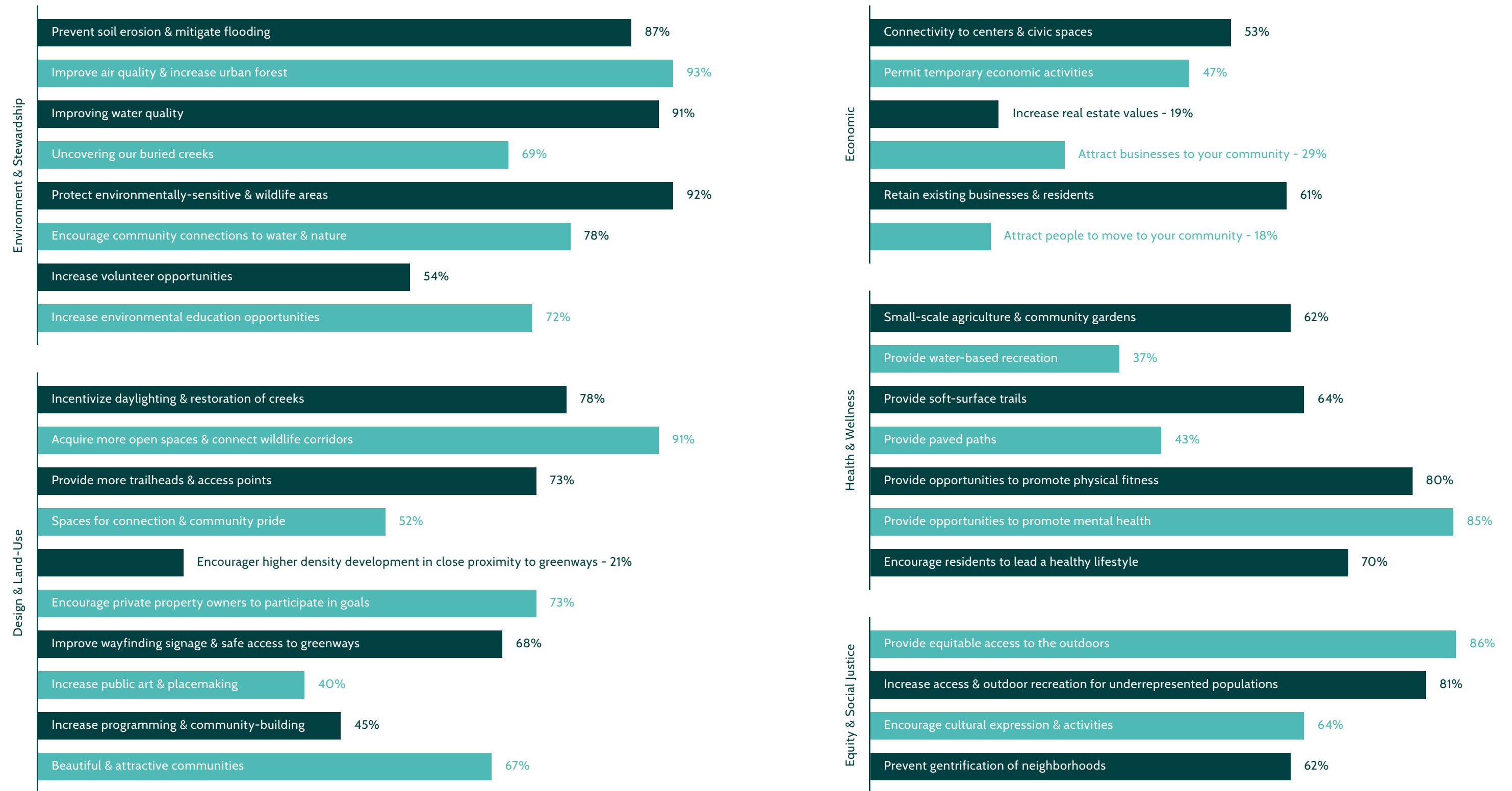


Figure 2: Kids enjoying Little Cottonwood Creek at Quail Hollow Open Space in Sandy.

Table 3: Extremely & Very Important Topics by Theme of Survey



Source: Design Workshop, Survey Data (2021).

ECONOMY

Topics about economy were the least important among all topics. Increasing real estate values and attracting people to move to your community were not at all important to many respondents (30 and 31 percent, respectively). Though, retaining existing businesses and residents was extremely or very important to 61 percent. There is room to increase awareness of the economic benefits of greenways. On the other hand, there is a necessity to address gentrification, displacement, and loss of serenity and ecological health when developing greenways. In the equity and social justice topic, preventing gentrification was extremely or very important to 62 percent.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Opportunities to promote mental health emerged as the most important topic. Approximately 85 percent indicated it was extremely or very important. Next were opportunities for physical fitness (77 percent) and encouraging healthy lifestyles (70). Soft-surface trails were the top amenity for health and wellness (64 percent important). Paved trails were only selected important by 43 percent. Conversely, 11 percent indicated they are not at all important. Water-based recreation was low in priority with 37 percent selecting extremely or very important. Small-scale agriculture and community gardens ranked higher (62 percent extremely or very important).

EQUITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Providing equitable access to the outdoors and increasing access and outdoor recreation for underrepresented populations were highly important topics (86 and 81 percent extremely or very important, respectively). Lower on the scale was encouraging cultural expression and preventing gentrification. However, they were

still extremely important to the majority of respondents.

OTHER TOPICS

Approximately 218 comments were submitted on topics not addressed in the survey. Popular topics included restoration and daylighting (14 percent), wildlife and habitat preservation (11), dog areas (10), and alternative transportation (8). Although many of these suggestions were covered in the existing topics and survey, it will be important to specifically identify and address many of these in the Plan.

Several comments focused on climate change resiliency. This will be an important topic to address in further engagement. Climate change guides future protection, management, and maintenance of the greenways.

100-YEAR VISIONS

Approximately 548 comments imagined the greenways 100 years from now—their dreams and big ideas. Five themes emerged. The first was the creation of protected natural areas with little adjacent commercial or residential development. Although, there were differing opinions. Some imagined adjacent areas bustling with shops, restaurants, street vendors, community gardens, and art.

Next theme was complete east-west connectivity for active transportation and recreation, as well as for riparian habitat corridors along our creeks, including the full daylighting of underground portions. The third focused on equitable access for all residents and visitors. The fourth was programming education and stewardship opportunities for communities to engage with our creeks. The final theme focused on maintenance of the greenways.

10-YEAR VISIONS

Approximately 1,065 comments imagined the greenways 10 years from now—change that would make an immediate impact. Respondents touched on improving access and connectivity of existing greenways, while providing more information on how to access (such as parking information, trails locations, amenities provided, etc.). Additionally, some suggested increasing parking, while others thought connectivity would facilitate more active transportation and, thus, less parking. Signage and wayfinding was an important consideration, especially how it relates to safety.

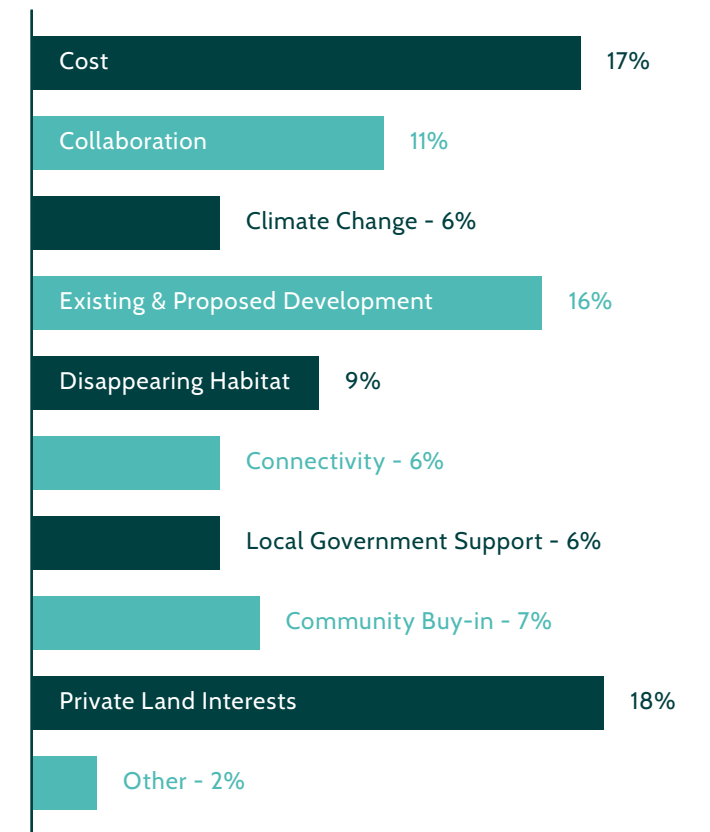
Suggestions included increasing bike lanes, trails, and paths and site-specific stream restoration and daylighting. Specific amenities to include in greenways: water fountains, bathrooms, dog waste management, and trash bins. Many desired more on and off-leash dog areas. However, enforcement of animal ordinances, including leash rules, was a key consideration. Many respondents suggested community events and environmental education programming. Others recommended volunteer clean ups to increase stewardship and maintenance.

FOCUS GROUPS

Five focus group meetings, organized around the core elements, brought together 123 technical experts, stakeholders, and community members. Questions asked attendees about past or present efforts, dreams, big ideas, obstacles, data, and key metrics. Discussions were used to guide the framework of the *Seven Greenways Vision Plan*.

Discussion during the Nature meeting focused on habitat protection and creation, greenway trends, environmental education programming, data, partnerships, and funding opportunities. During the Water meeting, discussion focused

Table 4: Focus Groups' Biggest Obstacles to Vision



Source: Design Workshop, *Focus Group Summaries* (2021).

on water quality conditions and data, public access to water recreation and angling, stream-road crossings, resiliency and flood control, partnerships, and funding opportunities. Discussion during the Community meeting focused on barriers to equity and access, unsheltered folks, and stewardship. The Recreation meeting discussion focused on connectivity, recreation trends and user groups, equity and access, stewardship and volunteering, partnerships, and funding opportunities. Discussion during the Urban meeting focused on development considerations, private property interests, economic and community benefits, plans and policy, partnerships, and funding opportunities.

Students learn about efforts at the Three Creeks Confluence in Salt Lake City.





VISION WORKSHOP

Community members and stakeholders were invited to an online workshop and a series of 15 in-person pop-up workshops to share feedback on opportunities and recommendations. The platform was offered in Spanish and English. A mapping activity, vision boards, and comment wall gathered feedback. It was shared on the project website and distributed through the Technical Committee, Focus Groups, social media, and newsletter networks. Yard signs posted through the Salt Lake Valley ensured equitable engagement.

Yard sign promoting the vision workshop along City Creek.

OUR URBAN CREEKS HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO BECOME AN EQUITABLE, INNOVATIVE, AND RESILIENT SYSTEM OF GREENWAY CORRIDORS.

ABOUT

The second engagement, the vision workshop, was launched July 1, 2021 and was active throughout the month. It included both online and in-person activities. Participants were asked to provide feedback on identified opportunity areas, map opportunity areas of their own, and provide 10-year and 100-year visions for the seven greenways. Engagement was promoted through 104 posted yard signs throughout the Salt Lake Valley, a series of social media posts, an email blast, by partners through an outreach toolkit, and via word of mouth.

Social Pinpoint was used for the online mapping platform and was offered in English and Spanish to better represent our diverse communities. The map shared core element themes, goals, and case studies, opportunity areas identified by municipalities and stakeholders, and a comment wall.

Participants were asked to share feedback on identified opportunity areas and map opportunity areas of their own. They used pins, organized by the core elements, to highlight locations for improvements. Corresponding comments were used to share more information about the opportunity. Participants could also like, dislike, or comment on other opportunity areas.

A series of 15 pop-up workshops were hosted in parks and open spaces throughout the Salt Lake Valley. In-person activities mirrored online methods, including a printed map with core element stickers and post-it notes, vision boards with core element themes, goals, and case studies, and a chalkboard comment wall to capture 10-year and 100-year visions for the seven greenways.

RESPONDENTS

Approximately 298 people were engaged across the 15 pop-up workshops. In addition, there were 811 views of the online platform, spending an average of over three minutes browsing.

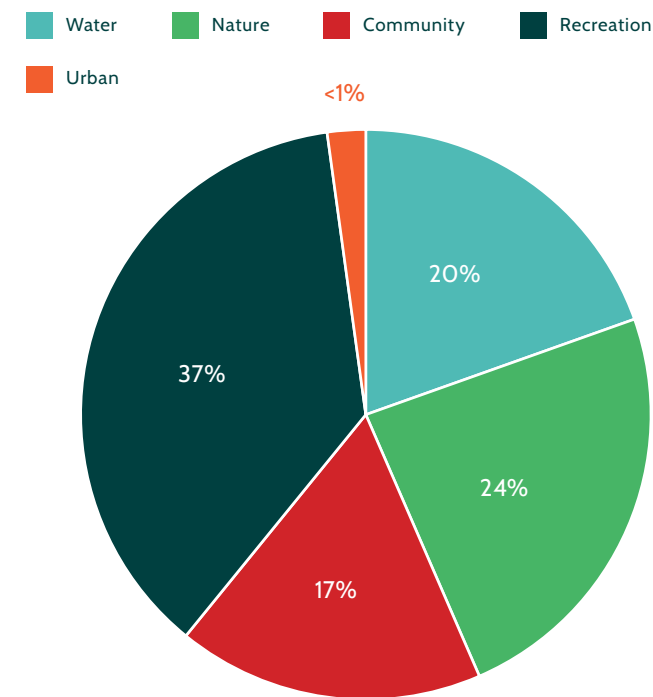
Activities were designed to be approachable. Participants were not required to provide personal information. Pop-up workshop participation was highest at existing community events, including the Three Creeks Confluence Opening Celebration (150 participants) and Little City Beer Garden (35 participants). Beyond those, the next three highest were: Miller Park in Salt Lake City (24 contributors), Memory Grove in Salt Lake City (20 participants), and Crestwood Park in Cottonwood Heights (15 participants). Additional events were held at Scott Avenue Park, Knudsen Park, Parleys Historic Nature Park, City Creek Canyon Trailhead, Sunnyside Park, Allen Park, the Shops at Fort Union, Birkhill Apartments, Hidden Hollow, and Fitts Park.

OPPORTUNITY AREAS

There were 46 pinned locations for community-suggested greenway improvements across the five core elements. Recreation was the most selected (17 pins). This was followed by Nature (11 pins), Water (9 pins), and Community (8 pins). Last was Urban (1 pins). This topic may be less relatable, unclear, or of little priority.

By creek, City Creek had 4 pins. Ideas included: a

Table 5: Opportunity Area Pins by Theme



Source: Design Workshop, Vision Workshop Data (2021).

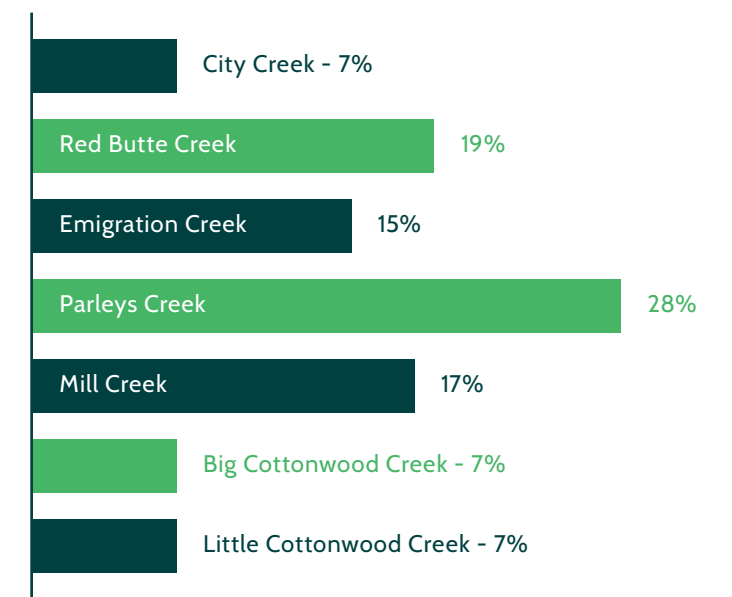
café at the canyon mouth, fishing infrastructure, enhanced creek accessibility, and more trees for wildlife habitat.

Red Butte Creek: 6 pins. Ideas included: a trail from the canyon mouth to Sunnyside Park, an underpass at Foothill Boulevard and a light rail station at the intersection, and collaboration with the University of Utah.

Emigration Creek: 4 pins. Ideas included: riparian restoration at Rotary Park, integration of the California, Mormon Pioneer, and Pony Express National Historic Trails, and a trail from Blaine Natural Area to Allen Park.

Parleys Creek: 11 pins. Ideas included: creek restoration at Suicide Rock, daylighting between Hidden Hollow and Three Creeks Confluence, naturalizing the creek and pond at Sugar House Park, maintaining creek flow, trash receptacles at Hidden Hollow, and a trail into Parleys Canyon.

Table 6: Opportunity Area Pins by Creek

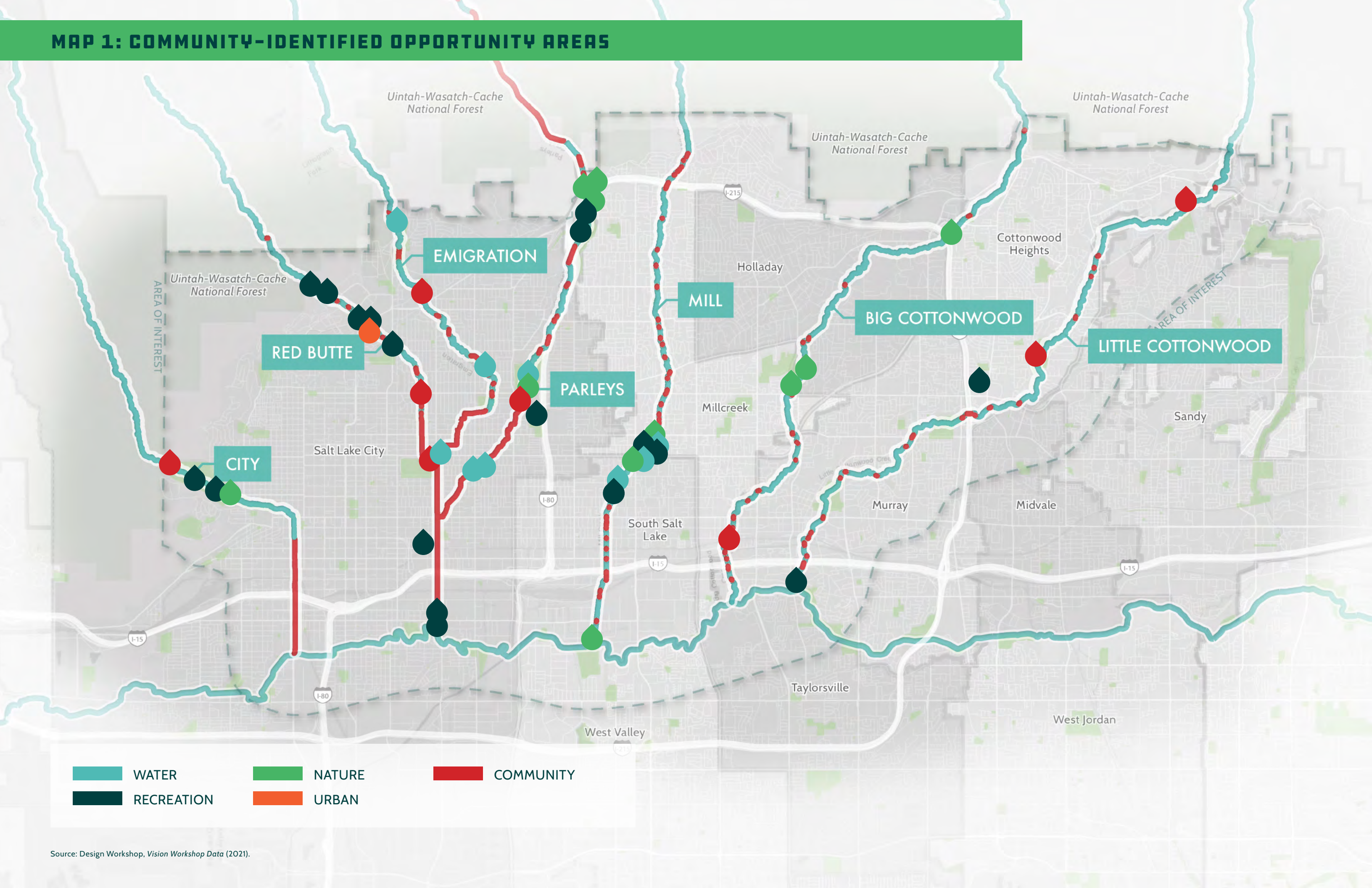


There were 4 pins where Red Butte, Emigration, and Parleys Creeks flow together. Ideas included: daylighting upstream of the Three Creeks Confluence, boat access on a daylighted channel along 1300 South, and celebrating the confluence of Red Butte and Emigration Creeks at Liberty Park.

Mill Creek: 9 pins. Ideas included: a park at the Mill Creek Confluence, public access to the detention pond east of 500 East, creek daylighting at the proposed 700 East and 3300 South development, an urban fishery and wetland restoration at Scott Avenue Park, a trail from Evergreen Park to Scott Avenue Park, and public access and creek restoration at Mill Creek Gardens.

Big Cottonwood Creek: 4 pins. Ideas included: environmental education at the Old Mill Open Space, creek restoration and trails at the Holladay Hills development and Big Cottonwood Regional Park – Creekside Park, and community gardens along the creek near Main Street.

MAP 1: COMMUNITY-IDENTIFIED OPPORTUNITY AREAS



- WATER
- RECREATION
- NATURE
- URBAN
- COMMUNITY

Source: Design Workshop, Vision Workshop Data (2021).

Table 7: Top 10 Municipal/Stakeholder-Identified Opportunity Areas by Likes

	NAME	CREEK	LIKES	DESCRIPTION
1	Herman Franks Park	Emigration Creek	10	Daylight the creek to activate and enhance the park space.
2	Wasatch Hollow to Westminster	Emigration Creek	10	Create a trail connection between public spaces along the creek, restore riparian habitat, and stabilize streambanks.
3	Red Butte Gardens to Miller Park	Red Butte Creek	7	Create a trail connection between public spaces along the creek and form partnerships with University of Utah to research creek health.
4	Bonneville Golf Course	Emigration Creek	5	Create a protected trail connection along the creek, restore riparian habitat, and stabilize streambanks.
5	North Temple	City Creek	4	As Salt Lake City develops, daylight the creek and create a trail connection to the Folsom Corridor between West Temple and 400 West.
5	Folsom Corridor	City Creek	4	Revitalizing a rail corridor into a multi-use trail and daylight the creek, connecting east and west-side neighborhoods.
7	Ballpark	Red Butte, Emigration, & Parleys Creeks	3	Daylight the creeks as the neighborhood experiences growth and redevelopment.
7	Sugar House	Parleys Creek	3	Culturally daylight the creek through signage and art.
9	Shops at Fort Union	Little Cottonwood Creek	2	Create a trail connection to the creek, reduce impervious surfaces, and implement green infrastructure to improve water quality.
9	Ivy Place Shopping Village	Big Cottonwood Creek	2	Create a trail connection along the creek, transform abandoned parking lot into green space, restore riparian habitat, create a floodplain, and add a seasonal boat ramp for paddling.

Source: Design Workshop, Vision Workshop Data (2021).

Little Cottonwood Creek: 4 pins. Ideas included: celebrating the creek at the old Paper Mill, a trail from Crestwood Park to Bingham High School, and a boat ramp on the creek near its confluence.

space preservation, reduction of chemical vegetation treatments, more biodiversity, urban forests to improve air quality, riparian buffers, and noxious weed removal.

COMMENT WALL

The online and in-person comment wall captured general 10-year and 100-year ideas for the seven greenways. Approximately 94 comments were given.

By core element, ideas for Recreation included: trail connectivity, fishing infrastructure, gathering spaces, places to wade and swim, bike racks, safe boat passages, water fountains, trash receptacles, better access, playgrounds, and wildlife viewing opportunities.

Ideas for Nature included: natural and open

Ideas for Water included: maintaining creek flows, reducing erosion, stormwater best management practices, and daylighting creeks.

Ideas for Community included: community gardens and food forests, educational signage and information, yearly cleanups, addressing environmental injustices, and community art spaces.

Ideas for Urban included: less development.

On the online platform, participants had the option to like or dislike opportunity areas identified by municipalities and stakeholders.



Figure 3: Chalkboard comment wall at Memory Grove in Salt Lake City.

Overall, the opportunity areas received 65 likes and no dislikes. The three most popular ideas included: Herman Franks Park – Daylight Emigration Creek to activate and enhance the park space (10 likes), Wasatch Hollow to Westminster – Create a trail connection between public spaces along Emigration Creek, restore riparian habitat, and stabilize streambanks (10 likes), and Red Butte Garden to Miller Park – Create a trail connection between public spaces along Red Butte Creek and form partnerships with University of Utah to research creek health (7 likes).

The distribution of likes reflects support for Recreation along the greenways. Many of the opportunity areas also referenced Nature and Water, highlighting community support for these elements as well. While likes may indicate some projects are more popular than others, it is important to note top-rated projects were mostly in Salt Lake City. It may be the case that participation was greater in Salt Lake City than other cities.

Pop-up vision workshop at Memory Grove in Salt Lake City.





DRAFT PLAN

Painted stream intervention over sidewalk in Salt Lake City.

THIS WOULD BE
A GOOD SPOT
FOR A CREEK

Community members and stakeholders had a two-week period to provide feedback on the draft *Seven Greenways Vision Plan*. The plan was posted on the project website and distributed through the Technical Committee, Focus Groups, social media, and newsletter networks.

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HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO
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ABOUT

The final public engagement opportunity was a thorough review of the draft plan document. The 90% draft was published on January 25, 2022 and was available for two weeks. The plan was distributed online and promoted through the Technical Committee, Focus Groups, social media, email lists, partners, and word of mouth.

RESPONDENTS

The Technical Committee was given a one-month period to comment on the 70% draft document. Approximately 193 comments were collected. Feedback was used to produce the 90% draft document.

The Technical Committee, Focus Groups, and the general public were given a two-week period to comment on the 90% draft. Approximately 21 comments were collected and 295 users viewed the draft plan. Feedback was used to produce the final document.



Westminster students draw Emigration Creek in Salt Lake City.

Opportunity area mapping in Memory Grove in Salt Lake City.

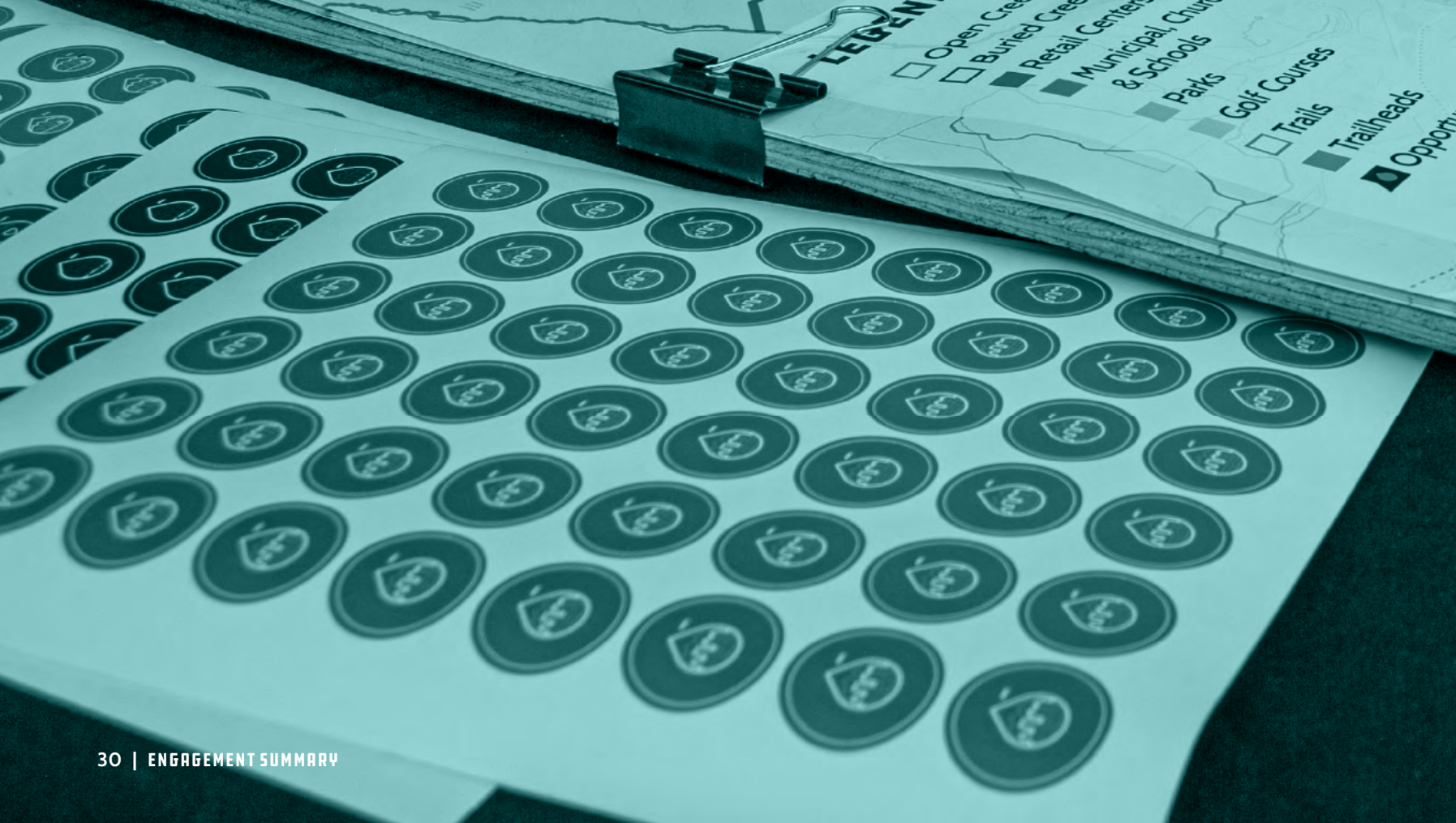


NEW GREENWAYS
VISION PLAN
TELL US ABOUT
YOUR PLACES!

RED BUTTE
CITY

- LEGEND**
- Open Creek
 - Buried Creek
 - Retail Centers
 - Municipal, Churches & Schools
 - Parks
 - Golf Courses
 - Trails
 - Trailheads
 - Opportunity Area

*Note: Ask for more information on each opportunity area.



OPPORTUNITY EXAMPLE
HERMAN FRANKS PARK | 100-YEAR
Daylight Emigration Creek to activate and
enhance the park space.

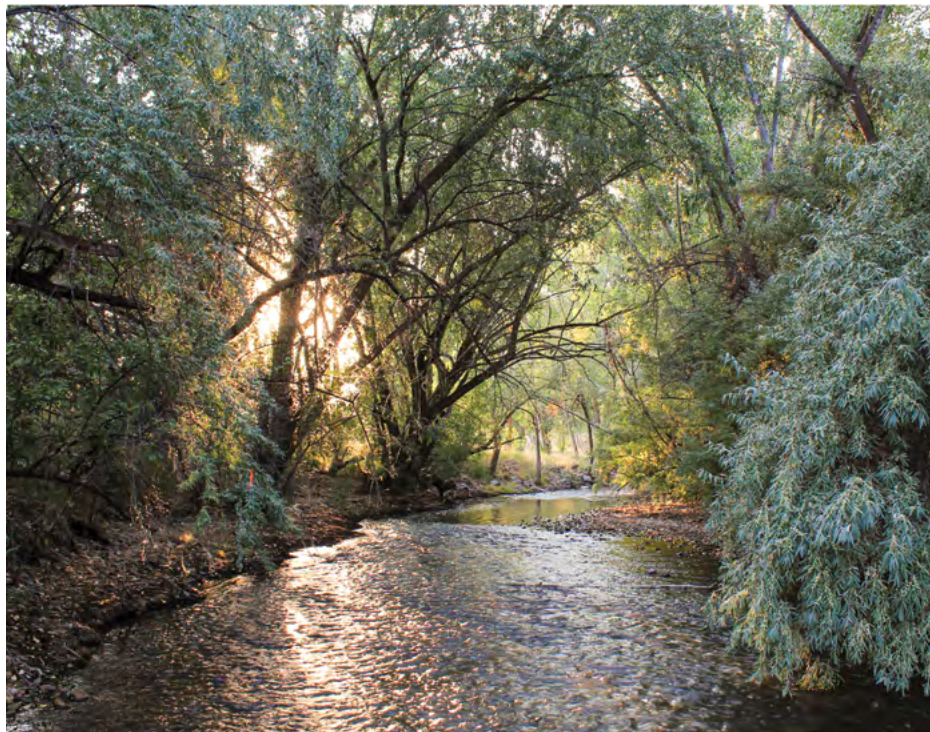


OPPORTUNITY EXAMPLE
HOLLADAY HILLS | 100-YEAR
Restore riparian habitat along Big Cottonwood
Creek and create a floodplain at the river
development.

OPPORTUNITY EXAMPLE
FOLSOM CORRIDOR | 100-YEAR
Rehabilitating an environmental
and daylight Corridor connecting an
east-side neighborhood.

OPPORTUNITY EXAMPLE
REDA BUTTE | 100-YEAR
Rehabilitating an environmental
and daylight Corridor connecting an
east-side neighborhood.

DESIGNWORKSHOP



SEVEN GREENWAYS
VISION PLAN

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