



# SLC Foothills Trail System Plan Update



## Greater Avenues Community Council

*Wednesday, July 13, 2022*

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# Salt Lake City Foothills Trail System Plan Vision & Goals

**Vision:** *The Foothills Natural Area will provide a variety of recreational trail experiences for diverse ages and abilities while managing the Foothills' environmental resources for future generations.*

## **Goals:**

- *Environmentally Sustainable*
- *Low-Maintenance*
- *Accessible*
- *Safe*
- *Enjoyable*



# PHASE I: Successes, Challenges, & Lessons Learned

## Successes

- **15+ miles of new or rehabbed trails in Central Foothills, between Dry Creek and City Creek, that are signed and will have maintenance plans.**
- User-specific trails for increased safety and enjoyment.
- High level of positive feedback from new and existing trail users based on survey and email feedback.



# PHASE I: Successes, Challenges, & Lessons Learned

## Challenges

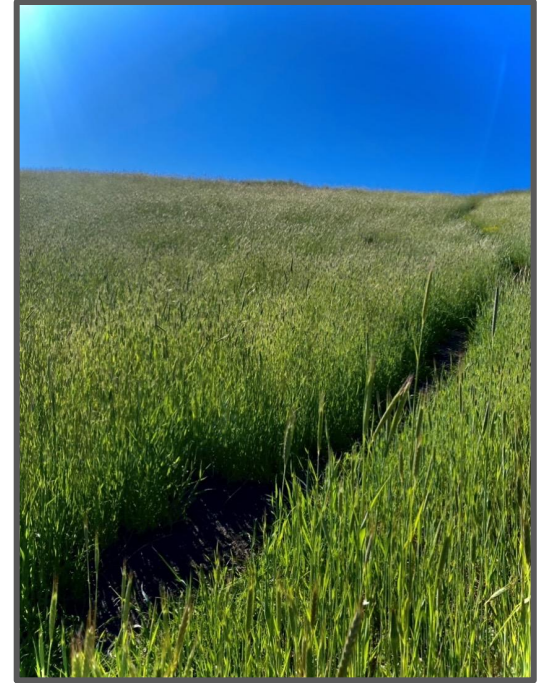
- **Significant critical feedback concerned with design and sustainability of new trails, not incorporating existing trails, insignificant environmental and cultural analysis.**
- Public Lands lost trust of some community members and did not communicate as often as needed.
- SLC Growth + Pandemic = New Users = More need for diverse trails for diverse users.



# PHASE I.5: The Pause before Phase II

## The Last 12 months

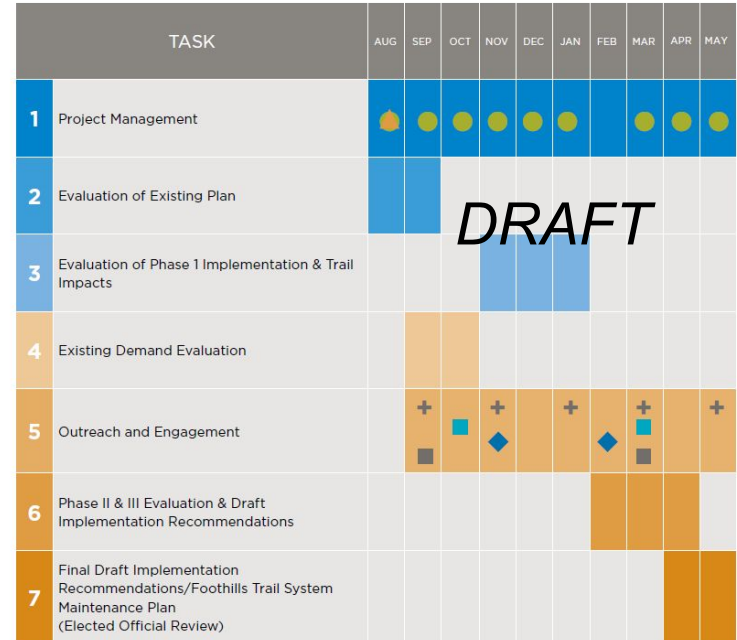
- **The “Pause” between Phase I and II will allow us to:**
  - Broaden environmental and cultural analysis
  - Evaluate Phase I trail construction and Trails Plan and add maintenance plan and capacity research.
  - Strengthen communications efforts to keep community informed
- Fall/Winter: **SWCA** hired to conduct extensive ecological and analysis with priority of Phase I and II trail corridors and habitat and cultural study areas. Should complete analysis in fall 2022.
- Spring/Summer 2022: **Trail consultant** hired with extensive experience in recreation and conservation planning and evaluation. NOT a trail builder, but a conservation and recreation planning consultant.



# PHASE II: What's Next

## Trails Plan and Construction Evaluation

- August 2022 - summer 2023
  - Evaluate Trails Plan and new trails, provide findings and recommendations, and create formal addendum to be approved by Mayor and City Council.
  - **Outreach and engagement will include internal groups (city departments); external groups (e.g. Save Our Foothills, SLC Trails Alliance); Community Councils (comment and input; recommendations); elected City officials; & Story Map and Social Pinpoint (custom website for public comment and input)**
  - Trail maintenance and open space conservation plan



*DRAFT*

Meeting Key:

- ▲ Project Kickoff
- Internal Stakeholder Session
- Management Team Meeting
- ◆ External Stakeholder Session
- + Technical Committee
- Community Council Updates

# PHASE II: What's Next

## The Next 12 - 18 months

### SLC Public Lands

- Create landowner agreements with State of Utah, University of Utah, US Forest Service for Phase II trail development and management plans.
- Maintain FNA trails and open space in partnership with volunteers, staff, Park Rangers (TBD), and stakeholder groups.
- **Collaborate with stakeholder groups like SOF and SLCTA to implement a “education and etiquette campaign” to promote best practices on complex issues such as dog, e-bikes, and land sustainability.**
- Plan for possible new trail construction in fall 2023, if ready.

