



SPANISH FORK
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

THE RIVER BOTTOMS
VISION

LAND USE • ENVIRONMENT • AGRICULTURE • RECREATION



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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**HERITAGE
VALUES AND
LEGACY**

01



OUR HERITAGE

Spanish Fork has long been identified as an agricultural community. In 1850, the first settler claimed land in the area and soon after, populated it with cattle. Since then, the area has grown its roots in agriculture. The first Utah County Livestock Show, for example, was held within the Spanish Fork City boundaries in 1925, with three livestock auctions and agrarian-centered businesses opening within the town thereafter. These farms and businesses have not only had an economic impact on the residents of the area, but a cultural impact, as well. The agricultural landscape, complete with open fields and pastoral landscapes, has strongly influenced the city's sense of place and identity. The River Bottoms represents the natural and agrarian heritage of Utah County, and provides direction about how to plan for the future.

For the past several decades, Spanish Fork's Land Use Element

of the General Plan designated the majority of the River Bottoms area as Agricultural. Spanish Fork City has not contemplated any significant development in the River Bottoms but, in recent years, has received several proposals for annexation and multiple requests for development approvals. These proposals led City staff and officials to discuss the future of the area and whether plans should change to allow for development and, if so, what forms potential development might take. City staff, officials and the community have decided to act proactively to ensure the protection of the character of the River Bottoms.

The River Bottoms are located north of E 8800 and Powerhouse Road; west of the Golf Course and S Rivers Bottom Road; south of East Rivers Bottom Road South Lane and the City Limits and east of South State Road 198.

VALUES AND VISION

FOUNDED ON COMMUNITY PLANS

Previous City-wide planning efforts provide decades of insight about the River Bottoms. The voices from these earlier efforts are recognized and are carried forward into this visioning process. The 2001 Nebo Community Vision, a collaboration among Utah County and ten Utah County communities, articulates the desired future for eastern Utah County and the River Bottoms, and documents the values and character that are shared by all the project participants. The 2008 Spanish Fork Master Plan also documents extensive outreach to determine what Spanish Fork citizens desired. In the River Bottoms, although immediately adjacent to the City, the sounds of urbanity dissipate and sense of serenity is clear. The sense of the community in 2008 was that the River Bottoms should remain a place where nature and residents coexist. The Spanish Fork

Comprehensive Plan acknowledges the Nebo Community Vision, as well as does the Utah County General Plan.

The River Bottoms Vision also responds to and builds on City plans such as the Parks, Recreation and Trail Master Plan. This Plan acknowledges existing and the rapidly growing popularity of trails, parks and open space, including the integration of nature. The Parks, Recreation and Trail Master Plan recommends an increase in trails for pedestrians and bikers, links to other trail systems, connect neighborhoods by asphalt and soft surface trails. The Plan also indicated a need for new parks in the future, one of which could be located in the River Bottoms area on over 80 acres. The City's goal for parkland is 5.9 acres per 1000 persons.





THE IMPORTANCE OF PLANNING

Creating a legacy for generations to come is the “Why” we plan. The River Bottoms Vision also discusses the “How” and finally the “What”, or the desired future conditions in the River Bottoms. The River Bottoms Vision is based on commonly shared values, those values that are broadly supported and agreed upon. The visioning process is premised on:

- Respect for private property and agricultural operators
- Ensuring transparency
- Fostering creative ideas and conversations
- Respect for the landscape and how it informs future uses
- Building on our heritage and values
- Listening to those who live here now and those who will live here decades from now.

Thinking big and creatively is how to guide the future of the River Bottoms toward the vision.