
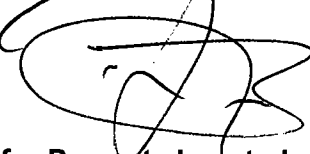




## MEMORANDUM

To: Rocky Fluhart, Chief Administrative Officer   
From: Louis Zunguze, Community Development Director   
Re: **North Salt Lake City - Proposed Disconnection for Property Located at Approximately 405 West 2300 North**  
Date: May 13, 2005

Rocky,

On December 14, 2004, the Salt Lake City Council voted to deny a request by the City of North Salt Lake for a mutual boundary adjustment for an 80 acre piece of property located at approximately 405 West 2300 North. The City of North Salt Lake subsequently filed a formal petition for disconnection, the public hearing for which was held on April 19, 2005. The accompanying information was assembled by the Planning Division to assist the City Council in making its decision concerning this matter.

Please let me know if you need additional information.

Thank You.

C. Brent Wilde, Deputy Community Development Director  
Doug Wheelwright, Deputy Planning Director  
Ed Rutan, City Attorney  
Lynn Pace, Deputy City Attorney  
Ray McCandless, Principal Planner

## MEMORANDUM

Date: May 12, 2005  
TO: Salt Lake City Council  
FROM: Salt Lake City Planning Office  
(Staff Contacts: Doug Wheelwright and Ray McCandless)



### NORTH SALT LAKE PETITION FOR DISCONNECTION

Dear Council Members:

On December 14, 2004, the Salt Lake City Council voted to deny a request by the City of North Salt Lake for a mutual boundary adjustment for an 80 acre piece of property on the high bench area east of Beck Street at approximately 405 West 2300 North. Subsequently, per Utah State Code, Section 10-2-502.5. Hearing on request for disconnection - Determination by municipal legislative body -- Petition in district court, the City of North Salt Lake filed a formal petition for disconnection, the public hearing for which was held on April 19, 2005. The following information was assembled by the Salt Lake City Planning Staff in order to assist the City Council in making a decision on this matter.

The North Salt Lake Eastside General Plan, which was recently adopted by the City of North Salt Lake, anticipates the extension of the municipal jurisdiction of North Salt Lake over the subject property and proposes using the southernmost 70-acres of this property as open space which includes a future 23 acre municipal cemetery. The North Salt Lake Eastside General Plan also shows residential development on the northernmost 10-acres as detailed in previous Staff Reports to the City Council.

### **Recommendation**

It is the recommendation of the Salt Lake City Planning Staff that the North Salt Lake Property be retained within Salt Lake City for zoning and remain publicly owned by a governmental entity or other acceptable open space preservation entity to prevent conversion of the property for urban development. Accordingly, North Salt Lake City's petition for disconnection should be denied. This recommendation is based upon the following factors:

### **I. Subject Property Description**

Salt Lake City's open spaces lie within three landforms that are identified in the 1992 Salt Lake City Open Space Plan. The three main landforms include the Mountains / Foothills landform, the Valley landform, which is the urbanized areas of the City, and the areas abutting the Great Salt Lake or Lake Basin/Shore Uplands landform. Each landform has its own set of characteristics that sets it apart from the other two.

The North Salt Lake property is part of the Mountain / Foothills landform. The property is situated on the ancient Lake Bonneville shoreline which was created approximately 15,000 years ago during the late Pleistocene period (Ice Age) when the lake was at its highest level at about 5,200 feet above sea level. The lake covered 20,000 square miles in area and was nearly 1,000 feet deep in the area of the present Great Salt Lake, covering most of western Utah. Approximately 14,500 years ago, the lake breached an area at Red Rock Pass in Southern Idaho that caused the lake to drop catastrophically approximately 360 feet to what is now referred to as the Provo level shoreline. Over time, the lake gradually receded from the Provo level shoreline elevation to its current "normal" level at between approximately 4200 and 4212 feet above sea level. According to Lehi F. Hintze, in Geologic History of Utah, "The shorelines are one of the most conspicuous geologic features in western Utah". The Lake Bonneville shoreline is a typical and prominent geologic feature that is visible all along the foothills of the Wasatch Mountains and the mountains of the west desert, at its consistent elevation, but its width of the shoreline terrace varies due to location aspect and the composition of the materials which were eroded by the shoreline wave action.

This segment of the Lake Bonneville Bench is unique for three reasons. First, it is one of the last remaining undeveloped segments of the Lake Bonneville Bench in close proximity to the urbanized areas of the Wasatch Front. It has extensive width and near native vegetative cover. This great width forms a "grand expression" of the

shoreline beach terrace formation. This great width is due to the location of the subject property and its resultant exposure aspect which took the brunt of the great storm driven wave action for five centuries, while the ancient Lake Bonneville existed at its high point at the end of the Ice Age.

Second, the North Salt Lake General Plan Amendment of 2003 refers to the North Salt Lake property as "a geologic antiquity of Lake Bonneville shoreline". A "geoantiquity" is a high quality example of an unusual or rare geologic feature. A locally residing university Geology professor, Dr. John Bowman, stated as part of the public testimony on the boundary adjustment hearing, that the North Salt Lake property is unique and that "nowhere in the world that I am aware of is there a major city or metropolitan area such as Salt Lake that is adjacent to one of the finest examples of Pleistocene lake terraces developed on our planet" (see attached letter).

Third, the Lake Bonneville shoreline at this location is atypically wide, nearly 1000 feet, and is relatively undisturbed with near native vegetation. Appreciation of the uniqueness of this segment of the shoreline is best observed by experiencing the views while being physically up on the bench on the existing location of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail where the views of the Salt Lake Valley and Great Salt Lake are outstanding. This area is a critical element of the Bonneville Shoreline trail and provides recreational opportunities for residents of both North Salt Lake City and Salt Lake City, as well as, for the urbanized region. By protecting the

property as natural open space, the existing natural beauty and geologic significance of the area is preserved in perpetuity for the enjoyment of both communities.

## **II. Zoning History of the Parcel**

The subject property has been a part of Salt Lake City ever since the City was incorporated in 1860. The City of North Salt Lake did not acquire the subject property until 1949. Zoning maps archived in the Salt Lake City Planning Office show that from 1927, when Salt Lake City originally adopted zoning, the property was zoned for single-family dwellings (Residential 'R-1' Single Family Dwelling). Between 1941 and 1958, the property was zoned for single-family and two-family dwellings (Residential "A" District 1&2 Family Dwelling and Residential 'R-2' Two Family Dwellings). From 1963 to 1974, the property was zoned for single-family dwellings (Residential 'R-1' Single Family Dwelling). In 1977, the property was zoned " P-1 Foothill Preservation District " and in 1995, the property was zoned "Open Space District (OS)" as part of the City's 1995 Zoning Rewrite Project. The zoning history of this property according to the zoning maps is as follows:

Zoning Date	Zoning District	Minimum Lot Area for Residential Dwellings
1927 - May	Residential 'R-1' Single Family Dwelling	6,000 sq. ft. (1927 ordinance.)
1927 (Month ?)	Residential 'R-1' Single Family Dwelling	"
1941 - June	Residential "A" District 1&2 Family Dwelling	"
1941 (Month?)	Residential "A" District 1&2 Family Dwelling	"
1943 - January	Residential "A" District 1&2 Family Dwelling	"
1955 - May	Residential "A" District 1&2 Family Dwelling	7,000 sq. ft. (1955 ordinance.)
1958 - November	Residential 'R-2' Two Family Dwellings	5,000 sq. ft. (1955 ordinance.)

1963 - February	Residential 'R-1' Single Family Dwelling	7,000 sq. ft. (1964 ordinance.)
1973 - April	Residential 'R-1' Single Family Dwelling	"
1974 - July	Residential 'R-1' Single Family Dwelling	7,000 sq. ft. (1974 ordinance.)
1977 - April	P-1 Foothill Preservation District	16 acres
1995 - April to Present	OS Open Space District	Not permitted

While the focus from 1927 to 1977 had been on facilitating development of land in an organized way, since 1977, Salt Lake City's zoning districts and minimum lot area standards have become increasingly more restrictive, reflecting a growing awareness of the importance of preserving open space as a planning goal. From the mid 1970s to 1995, the property was zoned Foothill Preservation District (P-1) which limited land use development to extremely low density single-family residential, with the minimum lot size set at 16 acres. At 80 acres, under the P-1 zoning, the maximum number of single family lots allowed on the property was only five lots. With slope restrictions, that number would likely have been fewer. There is no record that anyone representing North Salt Lake City objected to either the 1977 rezoning to Foothill Preservation (P-1), or to the 1995 rezoning to Open Space (OS) for this 80 acre parcel.

### **III. North Salt Lake City's acquisition of the property.**

The subject 80 acres of property is a part of a total of 100 acres that North Salt Lake owns that is located in Northwest and Southwest Quarters of Section 13, Township 1 North, Range 1 West, S.L.B. & M. Survey. Of the 100 Acres, the South 80 Acres and located within the boundaries of Salt Lake County and Salt Lake City. The

chain of title for these 100 acres begins on December 13, 1889, with the recording of a Quit Claim Deed from John Mac Neil to Annie Mac Neil. (Please note that the Salt Lake County Recorder does not have any ownership records prior to the late 1880's, and the Recorder's Office staff speculates that prior ownership records were either destroyed or are in the possession of the L.D.S. Church). On May 17, 1906 Annie Mc Neil Henkel, et al, sold the property by Warranty Deed to C. E. Pace. On September 13, 1910, Charles E. Pace and Harriet E. Pace sold the property to the St. Joseph (sic) Water Irrigation Company. North Salt Lake was incorporated in 1946, within Davis County for municipal purposes, including providing culinary water service to residents. The City of North Salt Lake, a Utah Municipal Corporation, initiated a condemnation action on October 11, 1949, against St. Joseph Water and Irrigation Company, which was finalized by the District Court in a final Judgment of Condemnation Order, dated December 29, 1953. The condemnation order included the water rights, all land and all physical property and improvements of the St. Joseph Water and Irrigation Company, and included an order for North Salt Lake to continue to provide "culinary water" service to six residential homes, located outside the city limits of North Salt Lake, which the St. Joseph system was connected to. North Salt Lake has continued to hold fee title ownership of the subject property up to the present date.

#### **IV. Nature of Water Use by North Salt Lake**

North Salt Lake City owns and operates a water source named "Tunnel Spring" (No. 57-71) which has a 0.10 cubic feet per second flow right dating back to 1925



(presumably first developed by the St. Joseph Water and Irrigation Company). Original water diversion records initially called the water source “developed spring and tunnel” and noted a 150 foot long horizontal tunnel, which collected water and conveyed it to the location of the natural spring. The water was then piped approximately one mile to the northwest to join the North Salt Lake City municipal system. Water use records indicate that North Salt Lake City has been continuously using water from this source, with 566.5 acre feet being reported as used for the calendar year 2003 (the last year reported on web site for Utah State Division of Water Rights.) A telephone call to the State Division of Water Rights verified that the “Tunnel Springs” water source is an active water source used by the City of North Salt Lake. (Note: Please see attached map of water sources located in the vicinity of the subject property.)

North Salt Lake City also owns, and prior to 1994, used the water from two other springs located on property now owned by Staker/Parsons, located immediately west of the subject property. Current records show no water use by the City from those two locations since 1993, with a note stating for 2001, “not in use” and for 2002, “not in service”.

## **V. Salt Lake City's Policies on Open Space**

Both the Capitol Hill Community Master Plan and The Beck Street Reclamation Framework and Foothill Area Plan identify the North Salt Lake property as open

space. Master Plan and policy considerations specific to North Salt Lake City's request for disconnection include the following:

#### Capitol Hill Community Master Plan

The Future Land Use Map of the adopted 1999 Capitol Hill Community Master Plan, identifies the North Salt Lake City property as Foothill Open Space (Ordinance No. 92, 2001).

An action item of the Open Space and Recreation section of the Capitol Hill Community Master Plan, is to "Implement recommendations and policies of the Open Space plan as it relates to the Capitol Hill Community" (Related Master Plans, page 6).

In an effort to protect open space, a policy of the Environmental section of the Capitol Hill Community Master Plan recommends to "Maintain public ownership of existing publicly owned property in the foothills". (Foothill Protection and Development, page 20).

#### The Beck Street Reclamation Framework and Foothill Area Plan

The Beck Street Reclamation Framework and Foothill Area Plan, which was completed on September 15, 1998 and adopted by Salt Lake City on September 21, 1999, identifies this property as Open Space (The Beck Street Reclamation Framework and Foothill Area Plan was developed jointly by Salt Lake City

and North Salt Lake City). This Master Plan recognizes the importance of preserving the Lake Bonneville bench area above Beck Street as it is largely intact and as a popular site for recreational activities such as hiking and mountain biking. It is the site of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail. The Beck Street Reclamation Framework and Foothill Area Plan states that "The Bonneville Bench should be maintained as open space, and the Bonneville Shoreline Trail formalized within a designated corridor". The Plan also states that "Most of the upper bench is zoned Open Space (OS) and includes both public and private lands that are currently undeveloped and are intended to remain so."

The Beck Street Reclamation Framework and Foothill Area Plan, discusses the value of open space as:

"Open space has an inherent value beyond the demonstrated value for the study area:

1. Open space enhances the quality of life by adding aesthetic value to an area, preserving wildlife habitat and offering recreational opportunities
2. Recreation opportunities in open space areas are of value to the broader community and for visitors to an area. Recreation could include more active pursuits such as hiking, mountain biking and cross-country skiing, or passive activities such as bird-watching, appreciating wildlife and enjoying a beautiful view.

3. Environmental health of an area is enhanced by open space. This includes preserving wildlife habitat, providing noise and air pollution abatement, flood control and ground water recharge.
4. The environmental impacts of development can be avoided through maintaining land as open space."

The bench area is described as the natural uphill link between North Salt Lake City and Salt Lake City. The benefits of preserving the Bonneville Bench area for wildlife habitat, open space, aquifer recharge and overall quality of life is discussed in detail in the Master Plan. The Open Space Plan states that "The foothills provide important wildlife habitat and water resources for the City which should be maintained." The Plan also states that "The foothills provide a visual transition between the built urban environment and the mountains, and provide a scenic backdrop to the City which should be protected." The Plan also states that "The foothills provide recreational opportunities for hiking, biking and wildlife observations which are desired by residents."

Given these benefits, protection of the remaining open spaces in and around the City is an important goal. The North Salt Lake City Property is one of these remaining open spaces.

The Preferred Land Use map of the Beck Street Plan shows the Bonneville Shoreline Trail extending north and south through the property but does not go into

detail about what specific open space land uses (natural or developed) are appropriate for this property.

#### Salt Lake City Open Space Plan

The Salt Lake City Open Space Plan, adopted in 1992, identifies trail and open space corridor opportunities throughout the City. The main goals of the plan include:

1. Conserve the natural environment
2. Enhance open space amenities for all citizens
3. Connect the various parts of the City to natural environments.
4. Educate the citizens on proper use of open space.

The potential open space corridors are detailed on a series of 15 maps. The maps do not detail the bench area north of Ensign Peak but the Shoreline Trail Corridor (Map 1 of the series) shows a trail extending northward from 700 North Street called the Bonneville Boulevard Historic Road. The Bonneville Shoreline Trail also connects north of Ensign Peak and connects with the communication tower road.

The Open Space Plan discusses in detail the value of open space, including recreational opportunities and preservation of wildlife habitat along the foothills and Bonneville bench areas.

The 1992 Salt Lake City Open Space Plan recognizes Salt Lake City's outstanding open space resources and amenities. The Wasatch Mountain range, canyon streams, Jordan River, the Great Salt Lake, parks and golf courses all provide important wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities. Given the increasing awareness of the value of open space and increasing development pressures, the need to protect the remaining open spaces in and around the City is evident.

**VI. Open space preservation as public policy and a shared responsibility of surrounding governmental entities.**

In pioneer times, during the governance of the territory by Brigham Young, only the land in the valley floor was allocated for private ownership, with the land “unsuitable for farming” located in the mountains north and east of the City, being considered as common public property. With increasing civil governance control being exercised by the Federal Government, between 1859 and 1896, ownership (and use) of the mountains and foothills became more and more of an issue. Unlimited access for logging of the timber and overgrazing by livestock began to deplete resources and deteriorate the water quality and production capability of the watersheds. The steep foothill lands, denuded of the original vegetative cover, began causing soil erosion as well as producing “flash flooding” from summer thunderstorm events.

By the turn of the century, most of the land in the mountains north and east of the City was owned by the Federal Government or the Union Pacific Railroad, mainly in a alternating checker board pattern of every other survey section (each section containing one square mile, 640 acres of land), due to the land grants to the railroad from the Federal Government as inducements to build the Trans-continental Railroad. With the development of the United States Forest Service in the early part of the twentieth century, some federal government ownership was selectively transferred to the Forest Service, where the physical characteristics of the land met Forest Service requirements. The Salt Lake City Public Utilities Department also acquired much of the railroad owned land in the mountains and canyons for its water production capabilities and to control land use to protect the water resources, during this same time period. Thus, prior to the second depression and the outbreak of World War II, public ownership of the majority of the land in the “Salt Lake Salient” (see map) area containing City Creek Canyon, in northern Salt Lake and Southern Davis Counties, had been accomplished without reliance upon the comprehensive land use planning and zoning powers of local governments to ensure resource protection and to limit development, which became more of the public policy norm in post World War II Western America.

Mining and livestock grazing claims also created some private property ownerships in the mountainous and canyon areas located north and east of Salt Lake City. Some of these ownerships were sold to subsequent private property owners, some of whom had real estate speculation and development ambitions. Zoning began in

Salt Lake City in 1927, and by the post World War II era, economic prosperity and baby-boomer growth pressures began producing rapid development and conversion of open space and agricultural lands to residential subdivisions. Public response to this growth began to create political demands for comprehensive land use master planning efforts to protect the open spaces in the foothills, and Salt Lake City began to frame a public policy which sought to limit the expansion of urban development from extending to the tops of the ridges above the City. This was done for esthetic and urban design reasons as well as for public safety, cost effective delivery of urban and utility services and protection of the water resources that this topography generates. (Prior sections expound upon the zoning and land use planning histories.) By the late 1970s and throughout the 1980s Salt Lake City began adopting community based land use Master Plans calling for zoning limits to be established which would protect the foothills and the water generating canyons from further development.

Salt Lake City policymakers began realizing that to implement all of the evolving public policy goals for the protection of the watersheds and limits on urban development, land use planning and zoning protections would ultimately need to be combined with public property ownership and conservation policies and integrated into a “shared public policy vision” to provide comprehensive protection from development of the publicly and privately held open space properties. The land that was in the ownership of governmental entities was viewed by City policymakers as “safe” from development conversion. The current ownership of the foothill open



space and watershed areas consist of a “Mosaic” of mostly public ownership entities. In the subject area of the Salt Lake Salient, the Salt Lake City Public Utilities Department owns most of the land, followed by the Forest Service. Other “public” owners of the land include Salt Lake County, The City of North Salt Lake, UDOT and the University of Utah. (Please see the attached map of ownership and delineation of the extractive industries zoning.)

Salt Lake City’s comprehensive land use planning documents which most clearly put forth this shared vision and responsibility philosophy are the 1992 Open Space Master Plan and the Beck Street Small Area Plan, with the latter, being funded jointly by Salt Lake City and the City of North Salt Lake. The Beck Street plan also attempted to define the final eastern limits to the extractive industries operations and looked ahead to their eventual cessation of mining activities and the reclamation of the mines and reuse of the property. Salt Lake City also sought to finalize, through its planning documents, development codes and subdivision approvals, the elimination of stubbed streets and stubbed utilities in foothill subdivisions. The City’s practice in foothill subdivision approvals was and is today, to negotiate on a subdivision by subdivision basis with the developer, to reduce the total number of residential lots, limit development expansion areas and produce a negotiated final public and private property ownership boundary and zoning boundary line, while still allowing limited public pedestrian access to the foothills. The Salt Lake City Council also allocated approximately a quarter of a million dollars (\$250,000) to be placed in an Open Space Acquisition Fund in the

early 1990s, for the purpose of acquiring privately held open space from private property owners as they became available.

The fact that the City of North Salt Lake City did not immediately follow Salt Lake City's lead in adopting the Beck Street Plan, after participating and helping to fund its cost, was not immediately noticed by Salt Lake City policymakers nor seen as a sign that North Salt Lake was perhaps interested in separating itself from the prior governmental cooperation and shared vision of development control and public ownership of the entire remaining undeveloped Salt Lake Salient area.

The first indications that Salt Lake City public policy makers had, that North Salt Lake City intended to separate itself from the prior cooperative land use planning efforts of the Beck Street joint planning effort, and intended to remove its 80 acres of foothill and Bonneville Bench property from the zoning jurisdiction and control of Salt Lake City was in October 2002. At that time, North Salt Lake City had its City Attorney begin contacts with the Salt Lake City Attorney inquiring about beginning discussions about the potential boundary adjustment, and in April 2003, North Salt Lake City commenced an alternative land use master planning analysis resulting in its adoption of the Eastside General Plan Amendment, adopted by the North Salt Lake City Council on September 16, 2003.

Consistent with prior cooperative planning efforts, if North Salt Lake City elected officials objected to the cooperatively developed land use recommendation of the

Beck Street Plan, (that the 80 acres located within Salt Lake City be zoned open space and to continue to be governmentally owned and protected from development), North Salt Lake City officials should have sought an amendment to the Land Use Plan of the Beck Street Plan, which could have been considered by all affected and previously participating governmental entities in a context of the larger geographical and political area, which was the area of study for the Beck Street Plan. Thus, this was the point (Fall 2002 to Fall 2003) where North Salt Lake policy makers sought to withdraw from the shared public policy vision and shared responsibility which characterized the Beck Street planning effort. Therefore, if Salt Lake City wishes to consider the disconnection from Salt Lake City's planning and zoning jurisdiction, the disconnection should not occur without adequate provisions for protection of the land as natural open space by another acceptable open space preservation entity. Upon failure to arrive at such an understanding, then North Salt Lake City's petition for disconnection should be denied.

**Notes:**

The Lake Bonneville Shoreline discussion and aerial photograph showing the Salt Lake Salient was derived from a Geotechnical Engineering Study conducted by Simon Bymaster Inc. May 18, 2000 Report - SBI Project No. 2-00-150 and from Geologic History of Utah by Lehi F. Hintze - July 1988. Reference map showing the Salt Lake Salient is from U.S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 1500-A-J, published 1992.

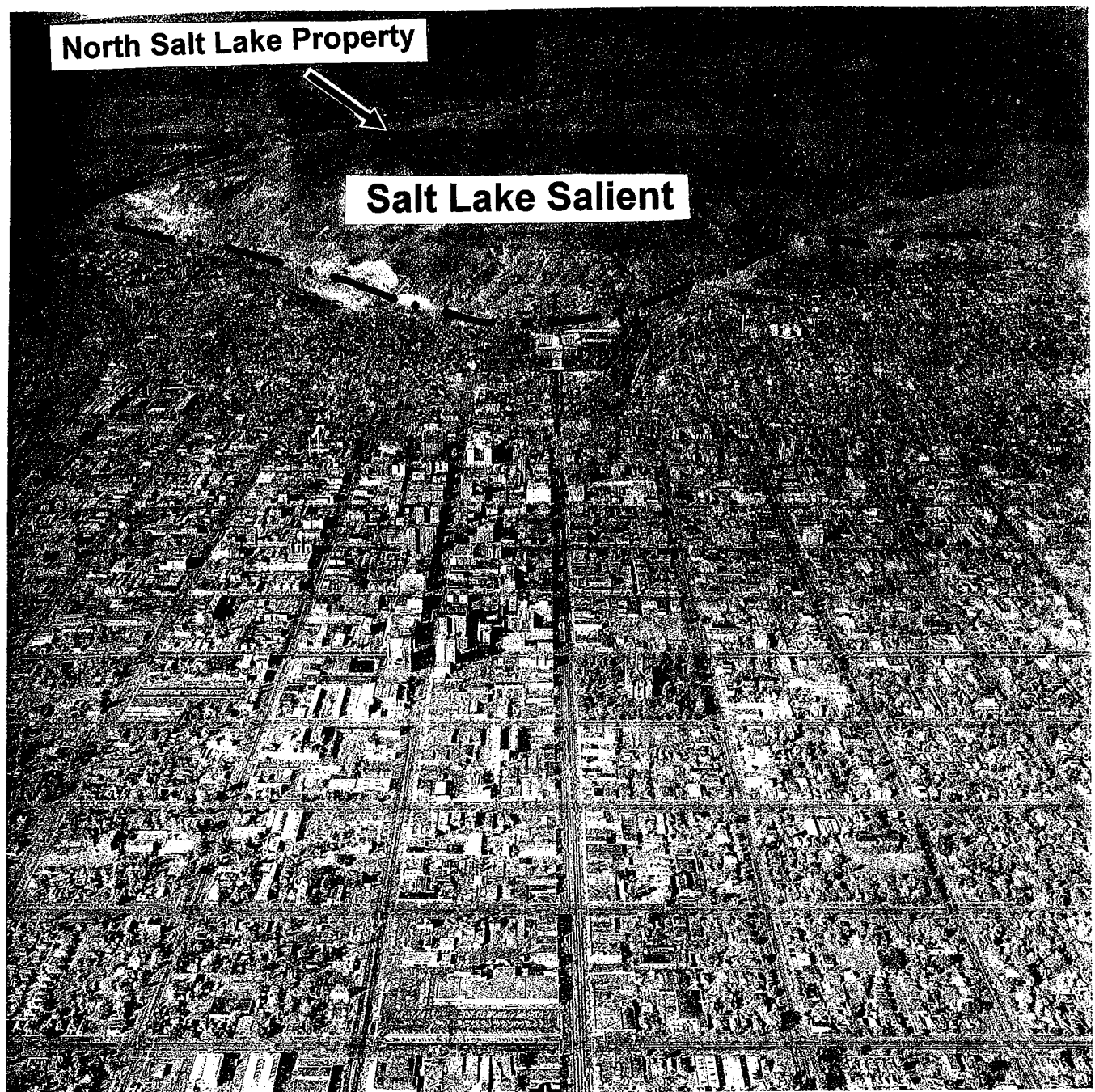
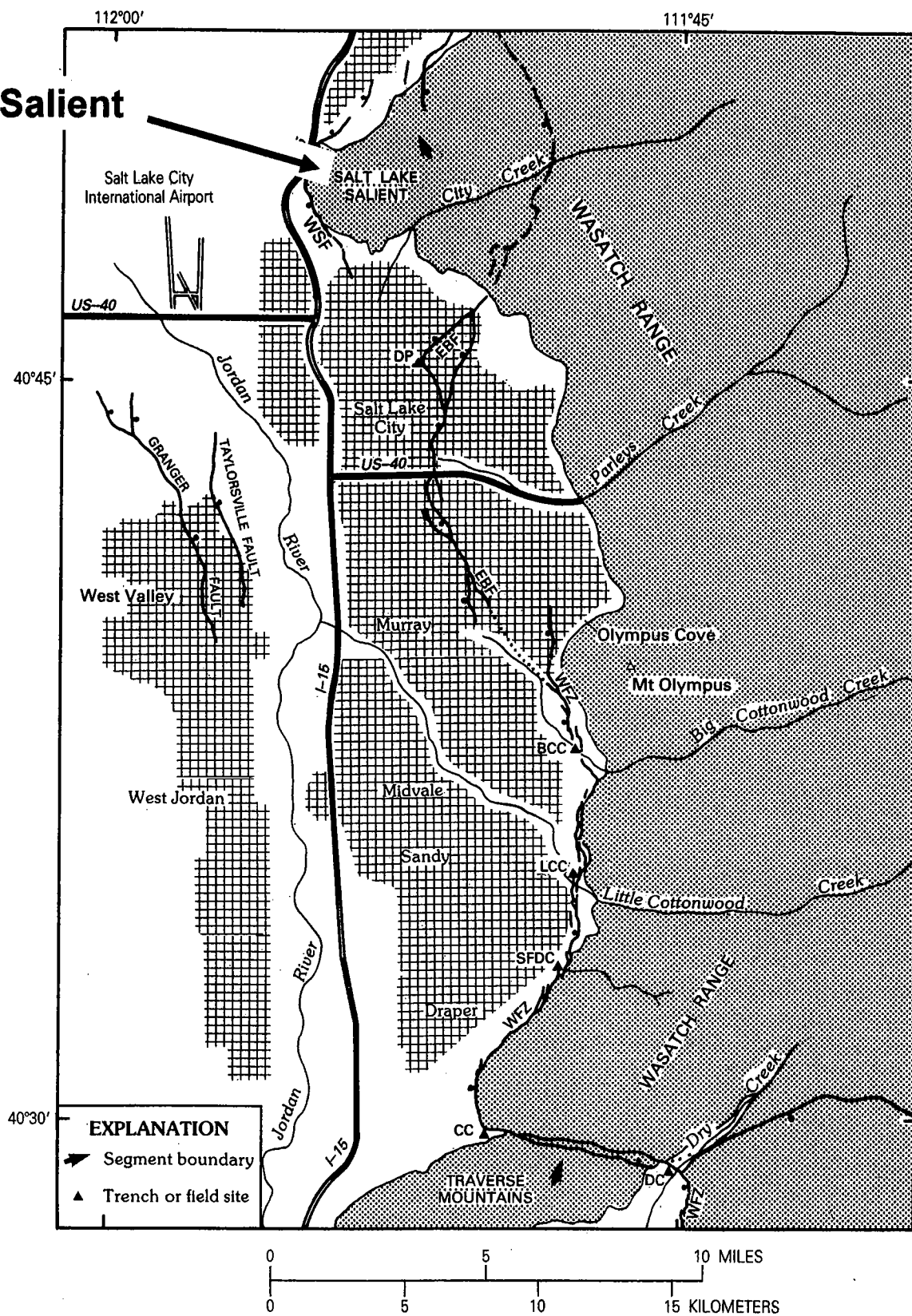


FIGURE 97 — The Salt Lake salient juts out from the Wasatch Front and marks the boundary between the Salt Lake City segment and the Weber segment of the Wasatch Fault, as shown on Figure 96.


# Salt Lake Salient

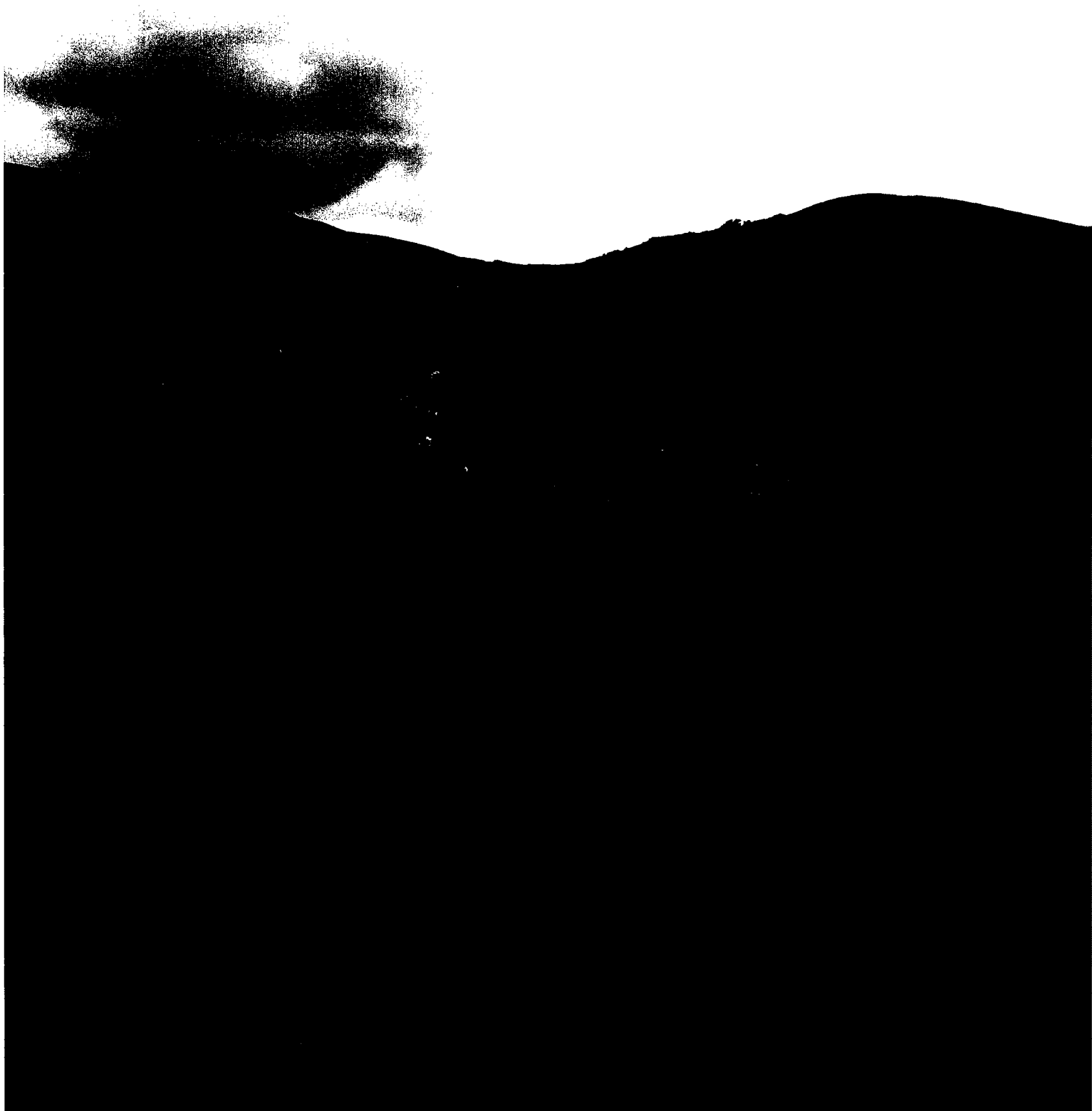




- ★ SLC\_change
- ★ Pu\_change
- SLC Water Rights
- ▤ Parcels
- ▤ Freeways
- ▤ Major Waterways
- Water Rights

1000      0      1000      2000 Feet















Sept. 1, 2004

Mr. Louis Zunguze, Planning Director  
Salt Lake City Planning Commission  
451 S. State St., Rm 406  
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

Dear Sir:

My name is John Bowman and I live in Salt Lake City. I have a Ph.D. in geology and I have taught earth science at the University of Utah for the past 27 years. I have been a Professor of geology and geophysics at the University since 1987. I have also been associated with the Bonneville Shoreline Trail Committee since 1997. I am writing with regard to the North Salt Lake zoning and boundary adjustment issue because I will not be able to attend the Sept. 8 meeting of the Planning Commission. I am writing as a private citizen, not as a representative of the University of Utah, and as a private citizen with an understanding of some of the scientific aspects of this issue. I urge you to retain zoning authority over the property in question, keep it as true open-space, and to begin immediately and urgently to find the necessary monies to purchase the property from North Salt Lake so that this property can be preserved with some kind of conservation easement.

The property in question contains one of the last remaining undeveloped segments of the Bonneville Bench, the preserved shoreline of the Pleistocene (Ice Age) Lake Bonneville, in Salt Lake Valley. This shoreline formed about 15,000 years ago, and marks the highest level (approx. 5100 ft. elevation) attained by Lake Bonneville. The Bonneville Bench is one of the most striking topographic and scenic features of the Wasatch Front in general, and of Salt Lake City in particular. Nowhere in the world that I am aware of is there a major city or metropolitan area such as Salt Lake that is adjacent to one of the finest examples of Pleistocene lake terraces developed on our planet.

The geologic study of the Bonneville Bench is an important part of the early scientific and cultural heritage of Salt Lake City and of Utah. The first scientific studies of the Lake Bonneville Benches were begun in this valley in the 1870's by Grove Karl Gilbert and represent some of the first studies of Ice Age lake terraces anywhere in the world. G.K. Gilbert was a protégé of John Wesley Powell, and a pioneer in the first geological and geographical surveys of Utah and the Colorado Plateau. He is not only one of the great geologic pioneers of late 19<sup>th</sup> century United States, he is one of the great American scientists of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Gilbert produced a truly classic study of Lake Bonneville and its lake terraces in 1890 as **Monograph 1**, one of the very first publications of the newly established U.S. Geological Survey.

The Bonneville Bench is a world-class geologic feature—worthy of being called a “geoantiquity”—that is uniquely and closely associated with Salt Lake City and its history. Geoantiquities are high quality examples of unusual or rare geologic features. A geoantiquity is analogous to a site or item of historical or human cultural significance; an antique that is worth preserving. The analogy to human cultural and historical antiques is appropriate. On the “Antiques Road Show”, owners bring items in that at first glance don't look like much and do not appear to have much value. However once the owner learns the history of the item and discovers that it is quite valuable, he/she commits to taking care of—preserving—the item. The same goes with geoantiquities. We have a valuable one right here in Salt Lake City—the Bonneville Bench—that is a rare feature and deserves protection.

Unfortunately, very little of the Bonneville Bench remains undeveloped anywhere in Salt Lake County or Salt Lake City. Two of the last remaining segments of any meaningful length are east of the University of Utah and within this parcel in question in North Salt Lake. Of the two, the section of bench in this North Salt Lake property is significantly wider, and in my opinion is of higher quality than the University segment.

In other areas, particularly in Europe, there are progressive and rapidly developing movements committed to preserving geoantiquities as heritage sites or "geoparks" in the same manner as communities preserve historical sites. Communities are discovering that these geoantiquities can serve as focal points in communities and even as tourist attractions. I invite the Commission to visit websites for some of these sites, and to look at some of the references listed below, to learn more about "geoantiquities" and their value to a community. In our community, the Bonneville Shoreline Trail (BST) is aligned on or near the Bonneville Bench, and this trail is heavily used. This use will increase significantly if the North Salt Lake segment of the BST to the Davis Co. line is secured on this section of the Bonneville Bench as a true urban interface trail.

The Bonneville Bench adds great scenic, cultural, and recreational value to our city, and deserves to be preserved as undeveloped open space. Our community has the opportunity to be pro-active and innovative by preserving this last remaining segment of the Bench. We need to regain the balance between development and preservation of the Bonneville Bench, which is disappearing rapidly in the Salt Lake Valley. I hope I have given you some scientific and historical reasons for saving this segment. Beyond these reasons, all of you have visited the area and have seen for yourself that it is an area of beauty and serenity that is right next to the downtown area. If this segment of the Bonneville Bench is not preserved, there are simply no other good, significant sections of it left to be preserved in Salt Lake City. I have heard all of you on the commission testify to your commitment to preservation and open space. This last, significant segment of the Bonneville Bench is definitely worth preserving.

Respectfully submitted,

*John R. Bowman*  
John R. Bowman

## References

- Chan, M.A., and Godsey, H., 2004 (in press), Geoantiquities: Concepts and applications for education in the urban landscape: *Journal of Geological Education*
- Atwood, G., Felton, A., and Chan, M.A., 2004 (in press), Teacher workshop using geoantiquities: Case history of modern Great Salt Lake and Pleistocene Lake Bonneville shorelines, Utah: *Journal of Geological Education*.
- Chan, M.A., Currey, D.R., Dion, A.N., and Godsey, H.S., 2003, Geoantiquities and geoconservation: *Geotimes* v. 48 n. 6, p. 14-17.
- Chan, M.A., Currey, D.R., Dion, A. and Godsey, H., 2003, Geoantiquities - in the urban landscape (Chapter 2); in G. Heiken, R. Fakundiny, and J. Sutter, eds., *Earth Science in the City: A Reader*. American Geophysical Union monograph. ISBN 0-87590-299-5, p. 21-42
- Chan, M. A., and Currey, D. R., 2001 , Geoantiquities: Earth History in the Urban Landscape: *Utah Geological Survey Notes*, v. 33, n. 1, p. 8.
- Websites (I typed in "geoparks" on Google and go over 9000 hits! Here are few of the first ones.)
- International Network of Geoparks  
<http://www.unesco.org/science/earthsciences/geoparks/geoparks.htm>
- European Geoparks Network  
<http://europeangeoparks.maestrazgo.org/geoparks.htm>
- Geopark Harz  
<http://www.geopark-harz.de/>





# LAND OWNERS

- |   |                             |  |                                      |
|---|-----------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
|  | UNITED STATE FOREST SERVICE |  | OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION BOUNDARY     |
|  | SALT LAKE CITY CORPORATION  |  | MISCELLANEOUS GOVERNMENTAL OWNERSHIP |
|  | EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRY ZONING  |  | PRIVATELY OWNED IN M-1 DISTRICT      |
|  | NORTH SALT LAKE             |  | EDNA BATES PROPERTY                  |

