

# *Salt Lake City Council Fast Facts*

What: **Health and Wellness of Our Community**

When: **Tuesday, September 29, 2009**  
**3:00 p.m.**

The City Council is concerned with the health and wellness of our community. A discussion will be held on Tuesday, September 29 with presentations from various experts on the topics listed below. Please join us as we meet with community leaders to discuss personal and community wellness and urban health issues. The meeting will also be broadcast live on Channel 17. Rebroadcasts will be available online at [www.slctv.com](http://www.slctv.com) within a week from the date of broadcast.

- **Sexually Transmitted Infections**
  - *Missy Bird, Executive Director  
Planned Parenthood Action Council*
  - *Lynn Beltran, SLVHD  
STD/HIV Program Manager*
- **Healthy Communities Awards**
  - *Brett McIff, State of Utah  
Physical Activity Coordinator*
  - *Darrin Sluga, SLVHD  
Community Development Manager*
- **Upcoming Flu Season Preparation**
  - *Gary Edwards, SLVHD  
Executive Director*
  - *Dr. Dagmar Vitek, SLVHD*
- **Air Quality Awareness**
  - *Dr. Brian Moench, Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment  
President*
- **Urban Farming/Gardening**
  - *Jim Bradley, Salt Lake County Council*
  - *Ben McAdams, Salt Lake City Mayor's Senior Advisor*
  - *Jen Colby, University of Utah Sustainability Coordinator*

## **How you can become involved:**

***Online comments: [council.comments@slcgov.com](mailto:council.comments@slcgov.com)***

***Mail: Salt Lake City Council Office \*One copy is appreciated  
451 South State Street, Room 304  
PO Box 145476  
Salt Lake City Utah 84114-5476***

***Call: 24 Hour Comment Line – 801-535-7654***

***Fax: 801-535-7651***

You may also attend the Public Hearing portion of the Council Meeting to express your thoughts on the briefings and discussions. Each individual will be provided two minutes to speak. If you are unable to attend the night of the public hearing, you may provide verbal comments at prior Council Meetings during the Public Comment portion of the formal meeting or written comments are encouraged any time prior to the issue being scheduled for Council action.

Additional Information regarding the health and wellness night can be found online at [www.slcgov.com/council/agendas](http://www.slcgov.com/council/agendas).

Questions? Please contact Council Staff at 801-535-7600.

# Sexual Health and Youth

Salt Lake Valley Health  
Department



# Sexual Health is an important part of our well being

Sexual Health is directly related to emotional, physical and spiritual well being.



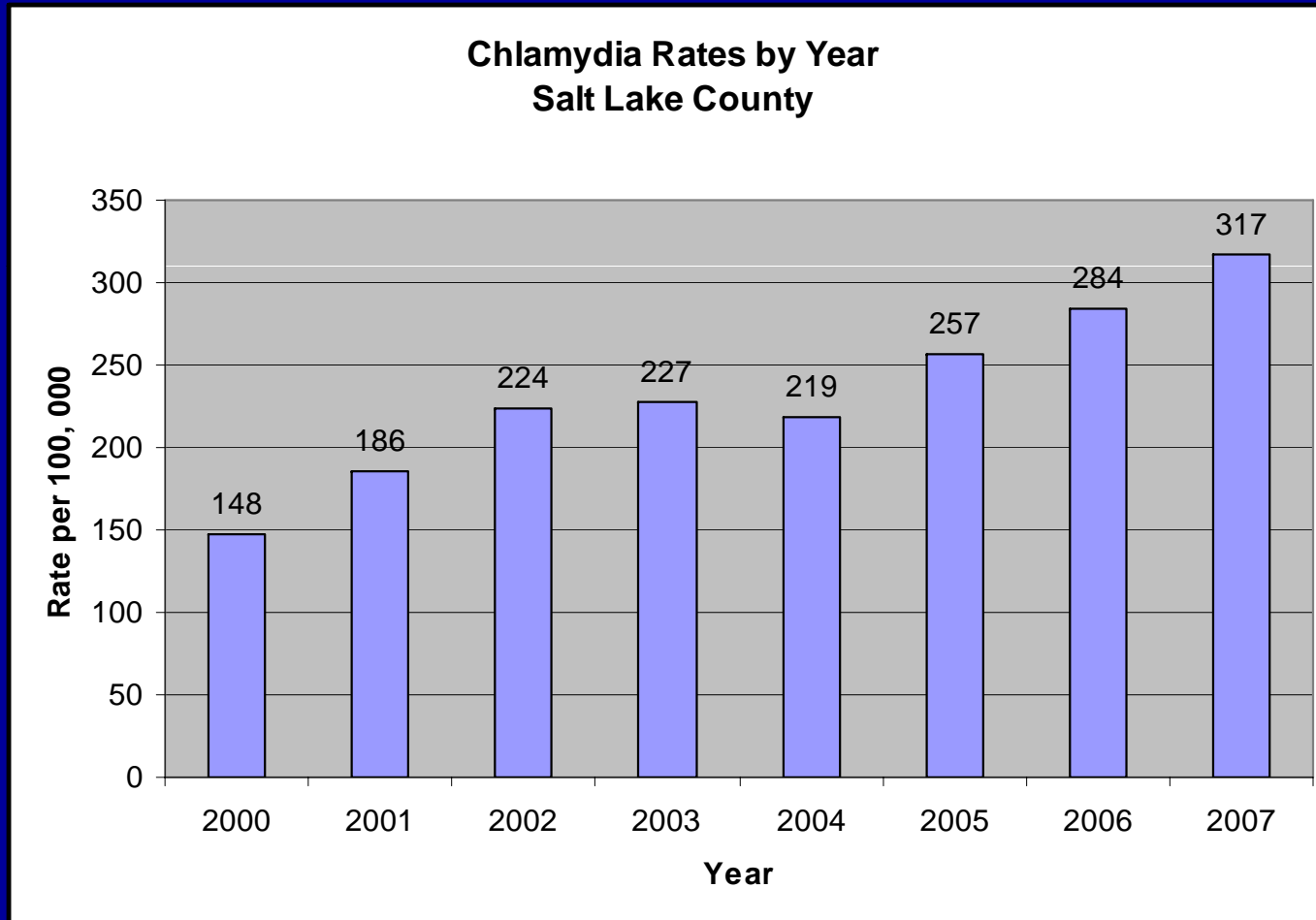
Poor Sexual Health can lead to  
Disease

# Reportable STD's

- Chlamydia – most common reportable infectious disease in U.S., Utah & SLC
  - Gonorrhea
  - Syphilis
  - HIV

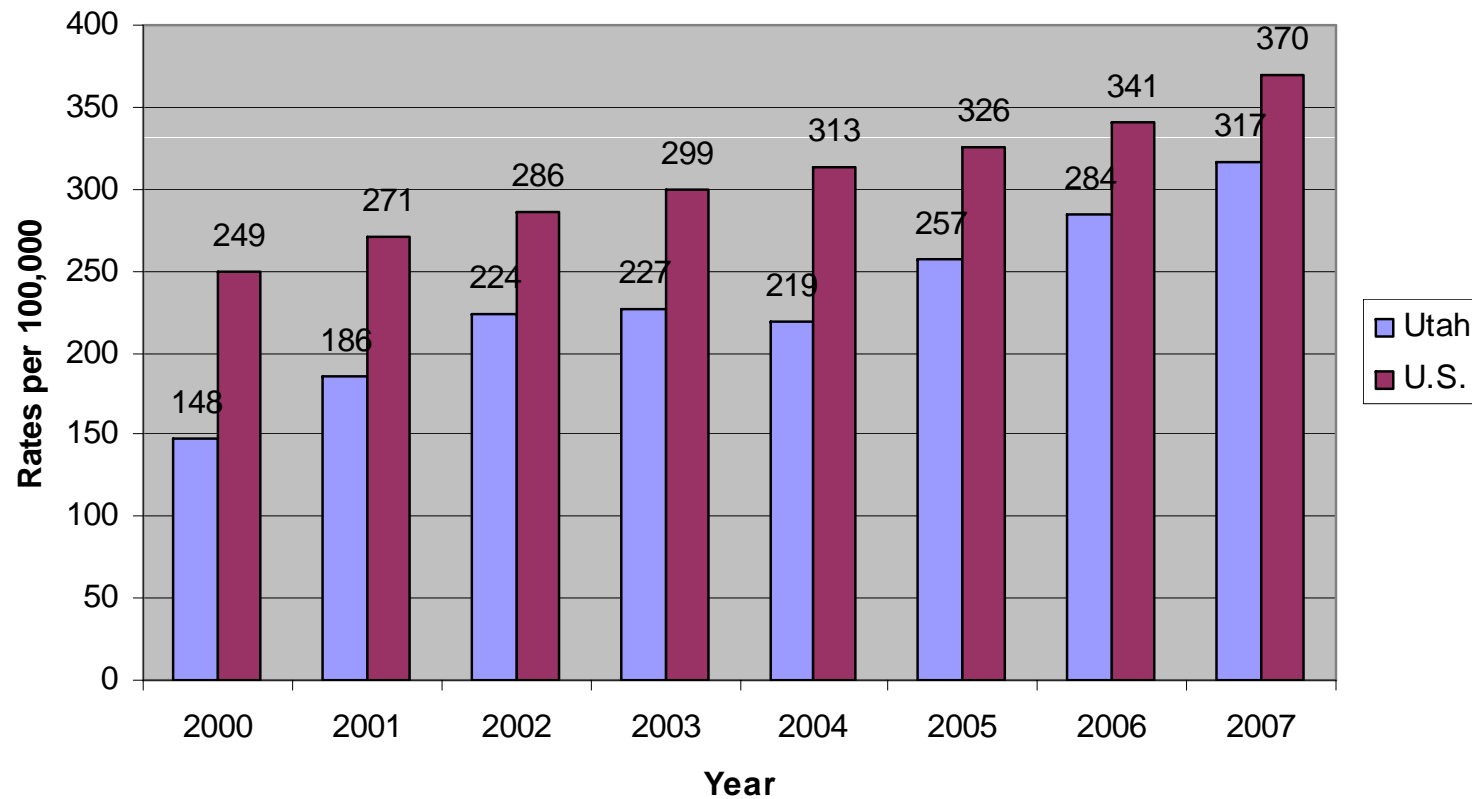
Sexual Health Information should include information on all STD's

# Disease Rates (Salt Lake County)



# Comparative Data

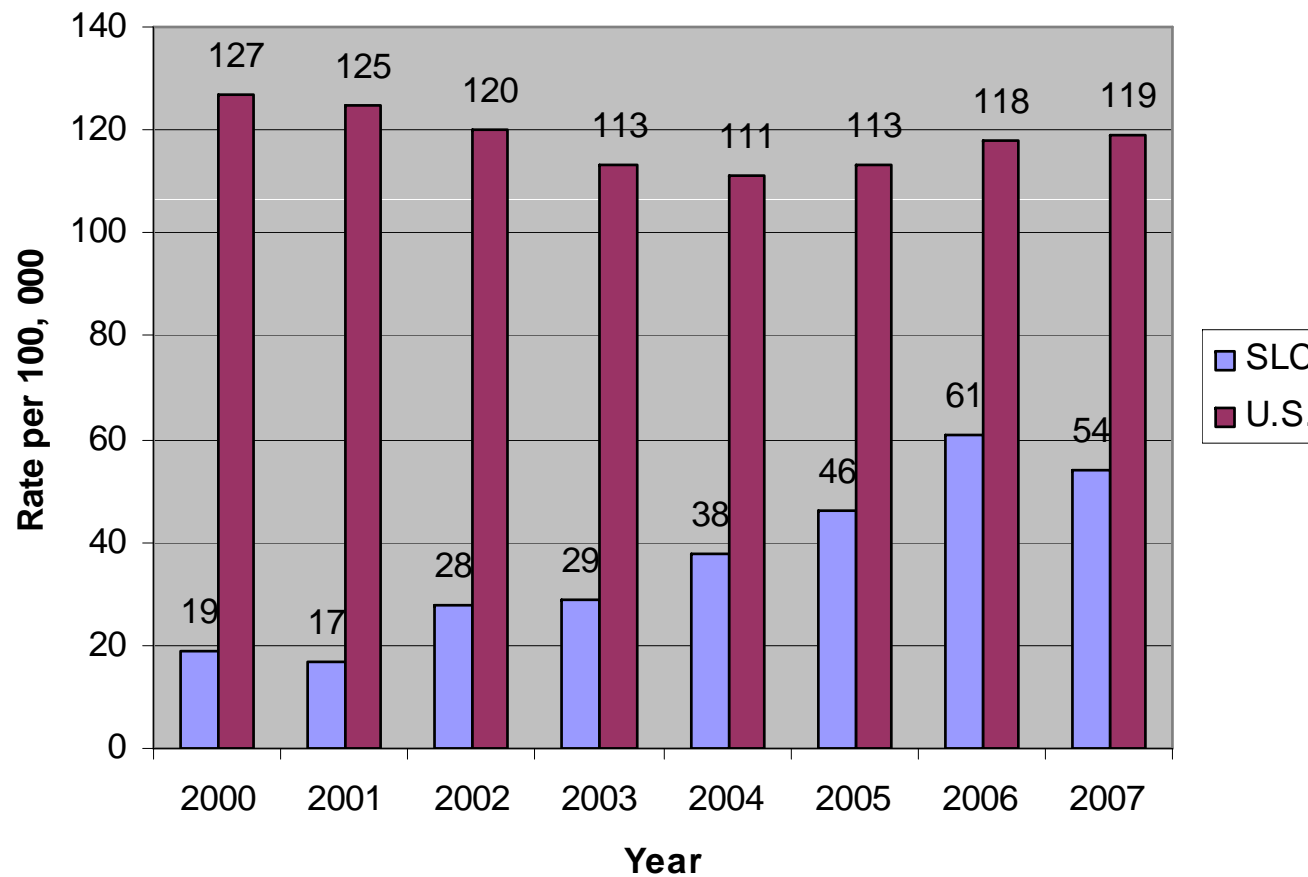
## Chlamydia Rates Salt Lake County and U.S.





# Gonorrhea Rates

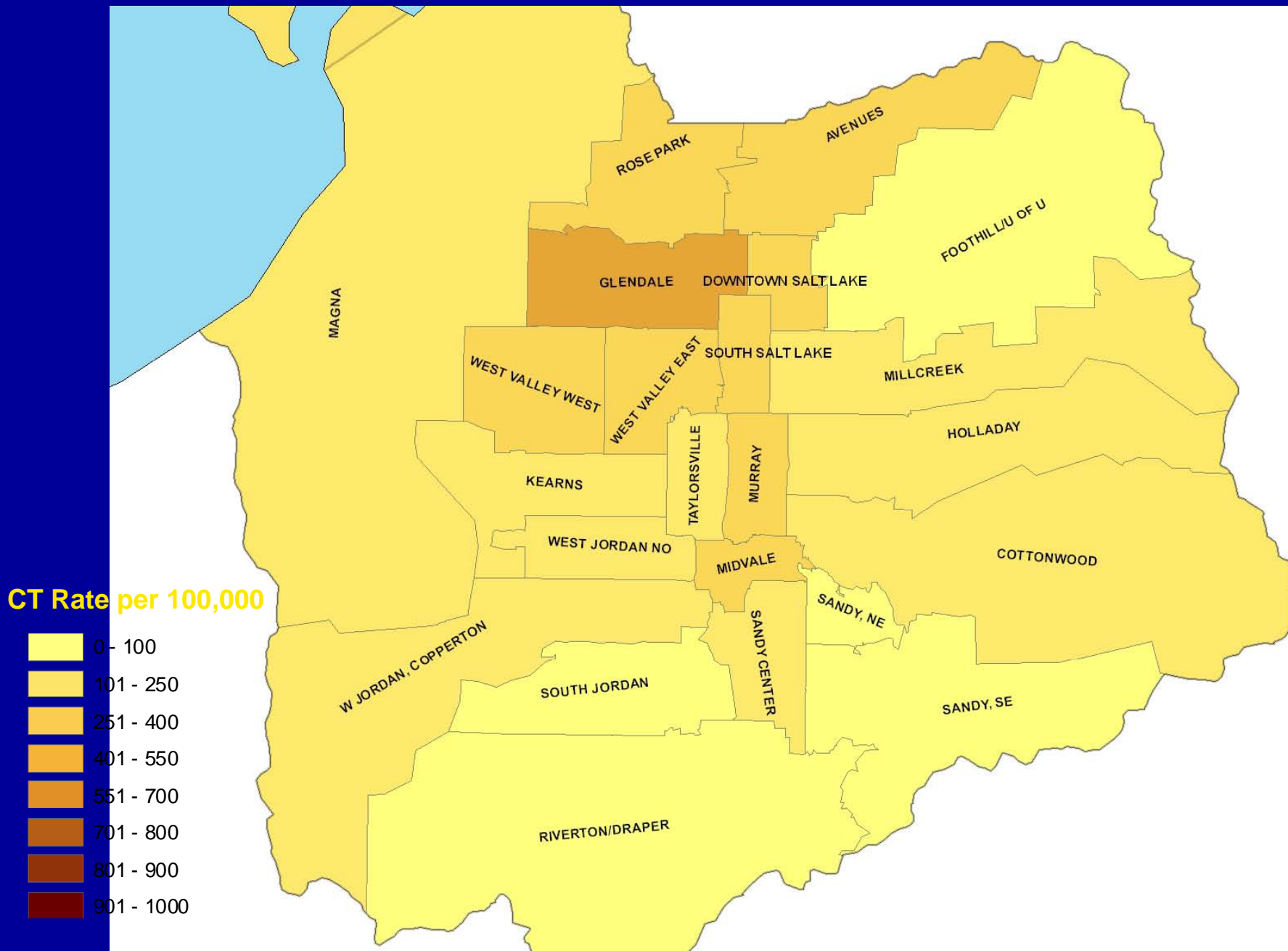
Gonorrhea Rates SLC and U.S.



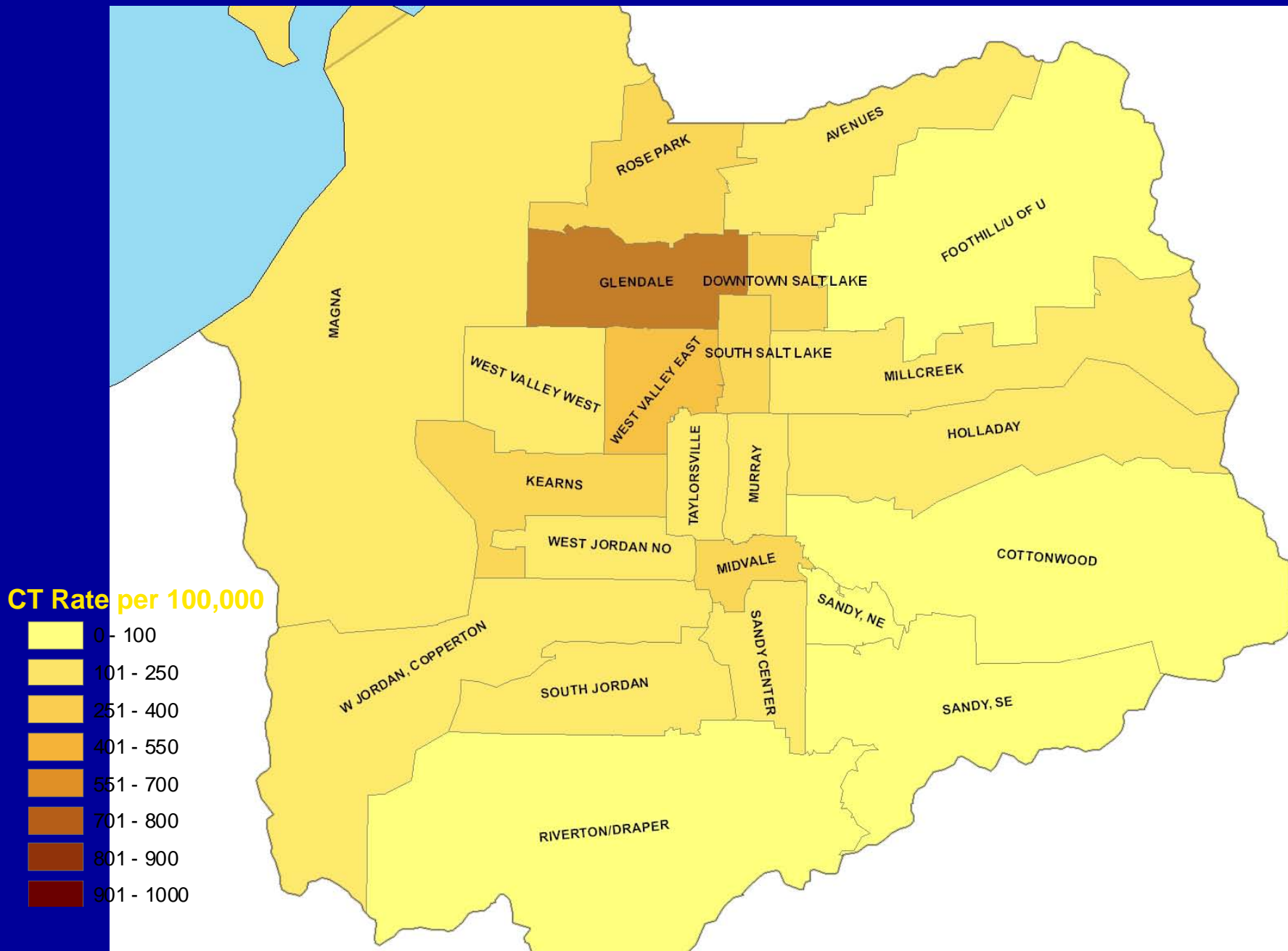
# Gonorrhea

- Utah had the fastest growing increase in rate of Gonorrhea infection for several years
- Nationally, there has been a rise in cases of drug resistant Gonorrhea. There is currently only one remaining class of antibiotics left to fight gonorrhea: cephalosporins.

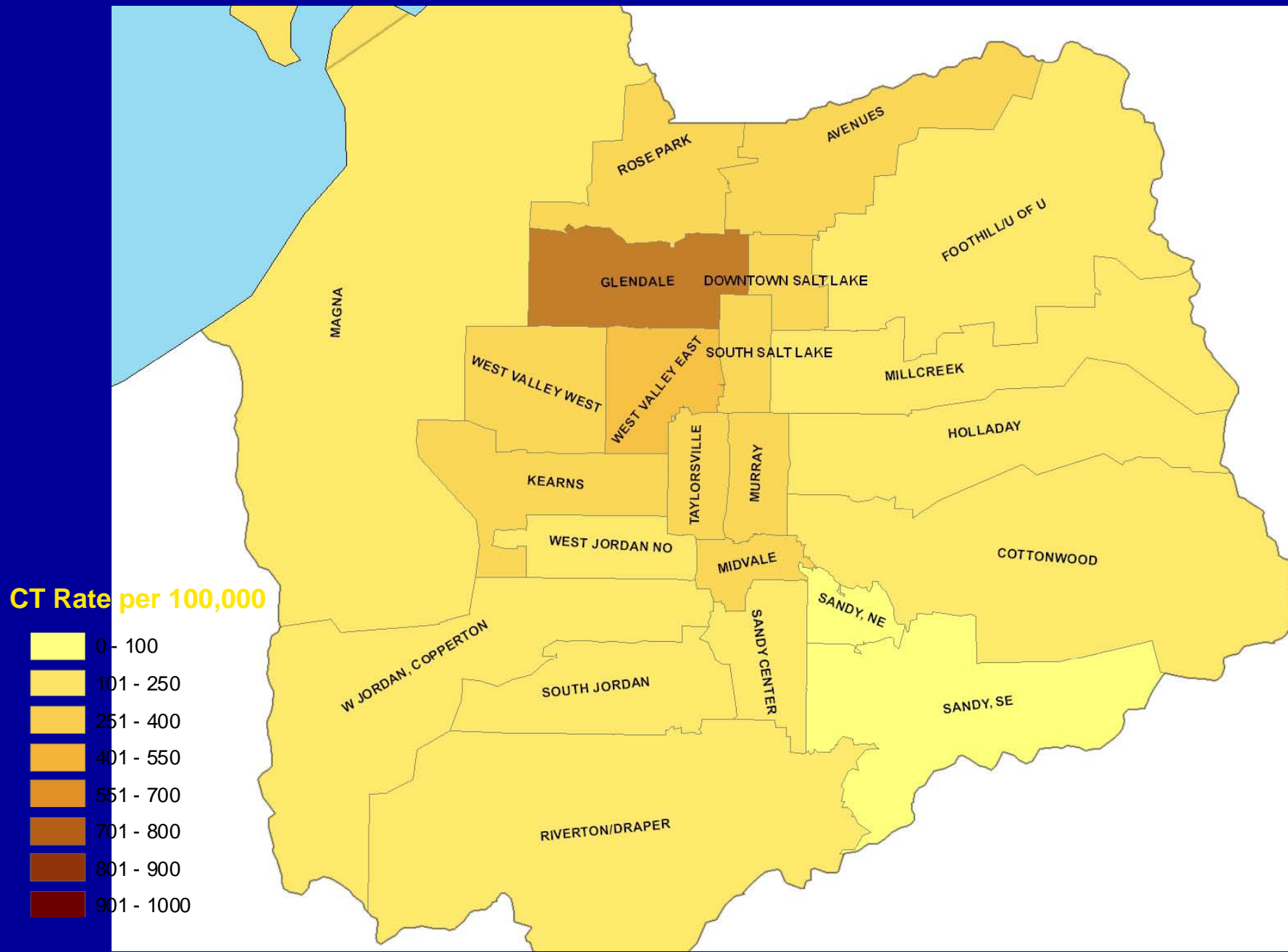
# 2003 Salt Lake County Chlamydia – Total (Crude)



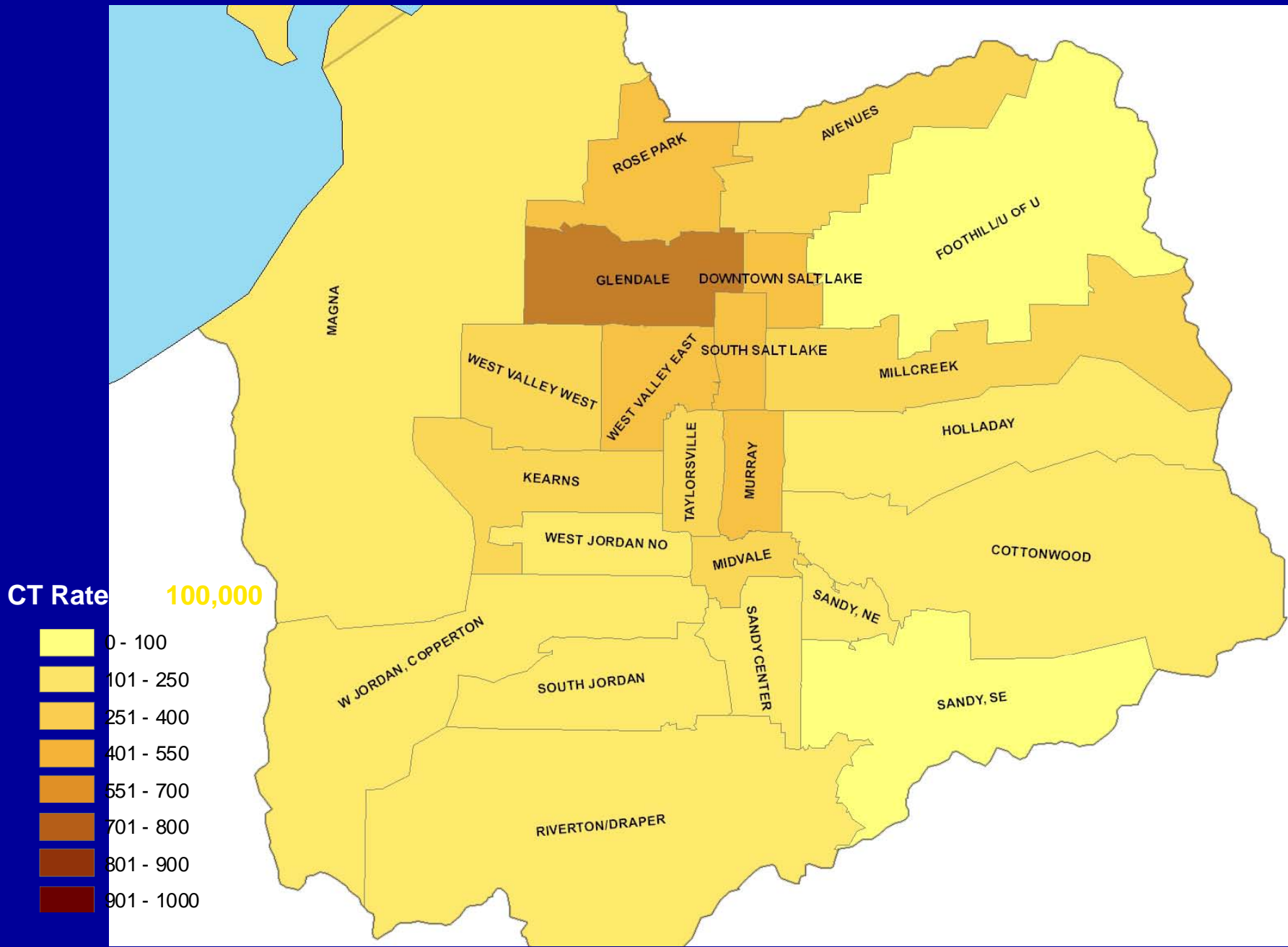
# 2004 Salt Lake County Chlamydia – Total (Crude)



# 2005 Salt Lake County Chlamydia – Total (Crude)



# 2006 Salt Lake County Chlamydia – Total (Crude)



# Facts

- According to the CDC, 19 million Americans catch an STD every year. Half of these infections are in people aged 15 to 24.
- The CDC received reports of more than 1 million Chlamydia infections in 2006, up from 2005. CDC experts believe that the actual infection rate is closer to 3 million.

# Screening Recommendations

- The CDC recommends annual Chlamydia screening for all sexually active females 25 and under and for women older than 25 with risk factors such as a new sex partner or multiple partners.



# The Power of Screening

- In 2007, the overall rate of chlamydial infection in the United States among women (543.6 cases per 100,000 females) was almost three times the rate among men (190.0 cases per 100,000 males), reflecting the large number of women screened for this disease.

# Re-Infection

- Chlamydia and Gonorrhea are treatable infections.
- According to the CDC, up to 25% of women treated for Chlamydia get re-infected within three to six months.

# Physical Consequences of having an STD

- Infertility
- Complications with pregnancy
- Heart Conditions
- Arthritis
- Baby's born to an untreated mother can develop eye infections, pneumonia, meningitis

# Why are Rates increasing?

- Increases in Screening
- Increases in Reporting
- Increases in Morbidity – according to the CDC, one in four teenagers nationwide has an STD.

# Why are there increases in Morbidity?

- Media – increased sexual content
- Technology
- Changes in Social Construct
  - More acceptable to be sexually active
  - More acceptable to have multiple partners
- Inaccurate information is being given
  - Friends
  - Common myths

We Have identified a problem.

How do we best work to solve it?

# Together!

Community must include partnerships!

- Family
- School
- Medical providers
- Media
- Businesses
- Community Leaders

Right now youth are getting mixed messages because the community cannot agree on Sexual Health related issues.

# What is Currently Being Done

- Media Campaign –
  - Catch the Answers
  - Mailings to medical providers
  - Educational Presentations
    - SLVHD Parent/Teen Discussion groups
- House Bill Proposal by Rep. Christensen
  - School Education



# Parent/Teen Discussion

- Teens are looking for guidance from parents even if they do not act like it.
- According to the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, teens rank parents as the number one influence on their sexual decisions.

# Start Talking

- Develop a plan
- Practice
- Be open
- Be age appropriate
- Don't assume
- Don't be afraid to look for guidance
- Talk about emotions
  - “Postponing”

Keep Talking!

## Resource Page for Parents

[HTTP://WWW.4PARENTS.GOV/PSA/OUTREACHCENTER/](http://www.4parents.gov/psa/outreachcenter/)

[HTTP://WWW.CDC.GOV/PRC/PDF/WORK-SITE-PARENTING-PROGRAM-PROMOTES.PDF](http://www.cdc.gov/prc/pdf/work-site-parenting-program-promotes.pdf)

Suggestions, Comments,  
Questions



**SALT LAKE  
COUNTY**

**COUNTY COUNCIL**

Jim Bradley  
Councilman At-Large

Kerri C. Nakamura  
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2001 South State Street  
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September 23, 2009

Carlton Christensen, Chair  
And Members of the Salt Lake City Council  
451 South State Street, Suite 304  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

Dear Chair Christensen and Members of the City Council:

Thank you for including an update on Salt Lake County's urban farming program as part of your community health and wellness discussion. I believe that few things are more central to the health and vitality of the valley than bringing food and fuel production closer to home.

On August 18, 2009, the County Council unanimously endorsed the urban agriculture program proposal. Even in these lean budget times, Council Members quickly saw the myriad of benefits that flow from an urban agriculture program focused on local food and bio fuel production. The overarching goal of the program is to provide access to idle, publicly owned land to allow farmers to put it to beneficial use by growing crops.

I have attached a copy of the proposal I shared with my County Council colleagues for your review. I have also attached an editorial from the Salt Lake Tribune.

Since the County Council's endorsement, the urban agricultural program has moved forward very quickly. Nationwide and certainly in the Salt Lake valley, there exists a lot of public excitement surrounding urban farming initiatives. County officials have worked diligently to capture this natural momentum.

Mayor Peter Corroon recently assigned urban farming coordination responsibilities to Julie Peck-Dabling, the County's Open Space Coordinator. Like the open space acquisition program, it is my hope that local entities countywide will collaborate on urban farming.

While researching agricultural opportunities, my staff called various cities and asked for cursory land inventories. The Salt Lake City Mayor's office responded enthusiastically, offering up several parcels of varying sizes. One of the most intriguing sites was a 200-acre parcel owned by Salt Lake City Public Utilities. This traditionally non-agronomic land, the future site of a wastewater treatment plant, is exactly the type of land our partners from Utah State University were looking for as part of an emerging bio fuel program.

Partnerships, including a working relationship with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for equipment and labor, are in place for the bio fuel program. On September 30, a USTAR grant funding application will be submitted. Once funding is secure, we look forward to supporting USU scientists as they analyze and prepare soil and plant seeds on the Salt Lake City parcel for a spring, 2010 harvest.

On the bio fuel production side of the program, the work of Utah State University scientists has propelled Utah, Salt Lake County, and Salt Lake City to the forefront of exciting changes in bio fuel development. The demonstrated commitment from local government officials throughout Salt Lake County provides the environment necessary to further comprehensive studies on the bio fuel front. The National Bio Diesel Board recently recognized our leadership in this area.

For food production, Salt Lake County is currently examining parcels (including some of the parcels identified by the Salt Lake City Mayor's Office) with the goal of issuing a request for proposals this winter. We expect to receive community supported agriculture (CSA), community garden, and commercial farming proposals for the land.

While just the beginning, it is my hope that by returning some of our publicly owned lands to agricultural use until we need them for other purposes, we will set the stage to actually purchase farmland during our next open space acquisition process. In my view, securing farmland land for long-term agricultural use is in the best interest of the community at large on many levels.

Again, thank you for taking time to discuss these exciting initiatives and I look forward to our continued partnership as we pioneer a re-emergence of agricultural land uses in the Salt Lake valley.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Bradley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jim Bradley  
Council Member at Large



# SALT LAKE COUNTY

## COUNTY COUNCIL

Jim Bradley  
Councilman At-Large

Kerri C. Nakamura  
Council Advisor

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801 / 468-2930  
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TO: Salt Lake County Council  
FROM: Jim Bradley, Council Member At Large "C"  
DATE: August 15, 2009  
RE: Urban Farming proposal

### Background

At Committee of the Whole meeting on February 24, I shared with Council Members an article written by Michael Pollan last fall, addressed to the President-Elect as the "Farmer In Chief." At that meeting, the Council asked that I continue to explore the possibility of a Salt Lake County-sponsored Urban Farming program and that I develop a proposal for the Council's consideration. The Council's motion of support suggested that the Community Services Subcommittee be the first to review the proposal. I shared my proposal with the Community Services Subcommittee on August 11, 2009. Upon reviewing the proposal and background materials, the subcommittee unanimously moved the proposal forward for full Council consideration.

Since January, I have spent countless hours reviewing other communities' programs, meeting with interested parties, touring potential parcels of land and developing the proposal that is before you.

One of my goals with this proposal is to have an Urban Farming program well established in Salt Lake County so that when the Council decides to place another open space acquisition bond before the voters, we include in that proposal a goal of purchasing and protecting agricultural lands in the Salt Lake valley. The pressure upon the valley's remaining farmers to sell their rich land and soil for urbanized development is high and will only increase with time. I am convinced that the preservation of some of these parcels will pay enormous dividends in the future.

I have included several documents to guide our discussion and for your consideration. Specifically, attached please find:

- An Urban Farming program proposal
- A follow-up of a land parcel tour for potential food production
- A follow-up of a land parcel tour for potential biofuel production
- An outline of the Freeways to Fuel program headed by Utah State University

I have also made available to all Council Members electronic copies of the following:

- A sampling of other communities' programs



- Boulder, Colorado's urban farming program outline
- Letters of support
- A variety of related articles

### **Recommendation**

Please consider adopting the following motion:

***I move that we adopt a motion of support for the Urban Farming initiative outlined and that we request the Mayor's Office to assign development of the program to the County's Open Space Coordinator or another position of the Administration's choosing. Further, the Administration should:***

- ***Inform the Council of the assignment of the Urban Farming program by October 15, 2009***
- ***Establish an Urban Farming Technical Advisory Committee by October 31, 2009***
- ***Present Urban Farming program guidelines, vetted by the Technical Advisory Committee, to the Council by December 31, 2009***
- ***Issue an RFP seeking Urban Farming proposals on one or more County parcels by January 31, 2010, to enable farming to begin during the 2010 growing season.***

(It is important to note that based on the condition of the land parcels analyzed, year one will be dedicated to weed remediation, with food production in years 2 and beyond. This is less of an issue for biofuel production.)

Thank you for your consideration.

# Urban Farming Proposal

## Background

Sustained development in Salt Lake County is quickly transforming remaining farmland and open spaces into neighborhoods and shopping centers. The family farms that once dotted the landscape and provided fresh produce, meat, and other agricultural products to Salt Lake valley residents are disappearing.

In 2007 (the last year for which data is available,) Salt Lake County was home to 587 family farms, comprising 107,477 acres of land. This represents less than 25% of the total land area in Salt Lake County. The farmland is 27% cropland; 60% pasture, and 13% other uses. Most farms in the Salt Lake Valley are 1-9 acres in size. Approximately 25% of the farms are 10-49 acres. Ten percent are 50-179 acres, and fewer than 10% are larger than 180 acres. Very few farms are larger than 1,000 acres.

Citizens in Salt Lake County, like citizens elsewhere, are becoming keenly aware of the negative impacts to our local economy and environment as food production moves farther away from the place of consumption. The citizens of Salt Lake County would benefit from the option of purchasing locally produced food. That option becomes less available as land development pressures squeeze out family farms.

Salt Lake County has a strong history of responsible stewardship for land in the valley. From adoption of the foothill and canyon overlay zone in the early 1990s, to the County Council's leadership in putting an aggressive open space acquisition bond before the voters in 2006, we have consistently shown leadership in the areas of land preservation and land use. Our adoption of the Jordan River Blueprint in 2008 continued our commitment to change land use patterns along the river with a goal of decreasing pollutants entering the Jordan River waterway. Establishing an Urban Farming program on publicly held land in the valley is the next logical progression in the County's stewardship efforts.

In developing the Salt Lake County Urban Farming proposal, an analysis of other urban agricultural programs was completed. Attached to this report please find an outline of some of the research. Additional background materials are available if Council Members are interested in perusing them.

The Urban Farming program envisioned for Salt Lake County would focus on food production and biofuel development. As designed, projects anticipated as part of the County's program will start small, but will likely serve as a catalyst to other projects throughout the valley.

## Urban Farming Policy Objectives

- Preserve agricultural land to meet the nutritional needs of present and future generations
- Support local farmers
- Promote the use of biofuel production on non-traditional agronomic lands

- Preserve acreage for the County's future needs (parks, recreation, other facilities)
- Preserve agricultural acreage along the Jordan River corridor
- Decrease the pollutants entering the Jordan River waterway
- Promote a healthy lifestyle and nutrition within Salt Lake County
- Provide agricultural-based economic development opportunities
- Decrease maintenance costs on County-owned land
- Provide a nutritious source of local produce to area food banks and pantries
- Provide a local opportunity for schools to develop agricultural literacy and a knowledge of food production and safety among students in cooperation with "Ag in the Classroom."
- Encourage young people to consider agricultural and horticultural sciences as career options.
- Enhance the quality of life for Salt Lake County citizens by maintaining open vistas and a mix of land uses.

### Basic Requirements for a Successful Program

On June 22, 2009, a group of Salt Lake County officials and representatives from the Utah State University Extension Office spent the day exploring available parcels of land in Salt Lake County. The major finding of the tour was that Salt Lake County already has in place, or can quickly put in place, the key elements to form a successful food production Urban Farming Program. The Utah State University scientists suggest that with proper planning, a program can be established on one or more parcels by next spring. A copy of the follow-up report from the tour is attached.

Similarly, on August 6, 2009, a group of Salt Lake County officials, Salt Lake City officials, and representatives from Utah State University spent the morning exploring a 200 acre parcel of land in Salt Lake City for a biofuel production project. Preliminary findings suggest that a biofuel project is promising on the site and, with proper planning, can begin almost immediately. A copy of the follow-up report from this tour is also attached.

The basic requirements for a successful Urban Farming food production and biofuel program include:

- ✓ Enthusiastic Program Manager potentially with an agronomic or horticulture background or working access to individuals with such expertise:

**The Council could request that the Administration assign the Urban Farming program to the County's existing Open Space Coordinator and in doing so, remove the 2-year time-limited status of this position; or request that the Administration bring its recommendation for managing the Urban Farming program to the Council by October 15, 2009.**

- ✓ Urban Farming Technical Advisory Committee, including but not limited to representation from:
  - Salt Lake County Mayor's Office
  - Salt Lake County Council Office
  - Salt Lake County District Attorney's Office

- Salt Lake County Parks & Recreation
- Salt Lake County Health Department
- Salt Lake County Real Estate Division
- Utah Department of Agriculture
- Utah State Department of Environmental Quality
- Utah Department of Transportation
- Utah State University
- Local Farm Bureau
- LDS Church
- Interested partner municipalities (Salt Lake City, Murray City, South Jordan, West Jordan)
- RioTinto (large land owner)
- Wasatch Community Gardens
- Utah Open Lands

**The Council could consider adopting a motion requesting that the Technical Advisory Committee be established by October 31, 2009.**

- ✓ Land (5-10 acre parcels for smaller operation; 10+ acre parcels for larger operation)
  - Wheadon Farms
  - 8 acre parcel near Mountain View Golf Course
  - Salt Lake City parcels (would require interlocal cooperation agreements)
  - Land near Oxbow Jail (land has not been assessed)
  - Miscellaneous neighborhood parks (land has not been assessed)
  - 200 acre parcel in Salt Lake City potentially for biofuel production

**The most promising parcels food production are Wheadon Farms and the Mountain View parcels. Several Salt Lake City parcels are also promising. If the Salt Lake City parcels are included in the County's program, interlocal cooperation agreements between the County and Salt Lake City will be required. (It is important to note that on all sites investigated, the first year will be dedicated to weed removal with food production occurring in years 2 and beyond.) In addition to the identified parcels, Salt Lake County could send notice to other municipalities in the county that they can add parcels to the program if they desire. Preliminary conversations with other municipalities suggest that many may have parcels that would be ideal for urban farming.**

**The 200 acre parcel in Salt Lake City is promising for biofuel production.**

- ✓ Access to water: several land parcels have access to water and Salt Lake County controls undesignated Jordan River water shares that can possibly be transferred to other parcels

**The public parcels identified to date all have access to water or water rights.**

The exception is the 200 acre biofuel site. However, the biofuel program anticipates dry farming conditions.

- ✓ Vehicular access to the land: most parcels include access

The parcels included in the tour all include vehicular access.

## Options for Models of Operation

For food production, the County could issue a request for proposals (RFP) for each parcel of land contemplated. Rather than asking for a specific model of operation, we should see what is proposed by those responding to the RFP. Some probable models of operation might include:

- Contract with an existing for-profit farm enterprise to work acreage until Salt Lake County is ready to change the use of the land. Issue a multiple year lease that is renewable (i.e. 5+ year increments.)
  - Transform select existing neighborhood park space into a working Community Garden or Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) or other agricultural enterprise
  - Create one or more new CSAs on County-or other publicly-owned land
- Biofuel projects will initially be handled as demonstration projects and will be done through interlocal agreements between coordinating governmental entities.

## Sampling of Issues to Address

There are several technical issues that will need to be addressed in developing and managing an urban farming program. The Technical Advisory Committee will be vital as the County addresses these issues. Some of the issues to be addressed include:

- Liability issues related to leasing public land for private enterprise
- Length of initial contract and options for extension
- Use of biosolids on biofuel sites
- Zoning requirements – does our zoning code allow agricultural uses in many zones?
- Policy requirements for “subsidy” of public land
  - How tightly should we regulate the farming methods? Organic or not?
  - Should we require that excess food be donated to the Food Bank or area pantries?
  - Wage considerations?
  - Hiring local workers

## Conclusion

We request that the Council support the implementation of a Salt Lake County Urban Farming program by specifically supporting the following:

- Assign urban farming to the County's Open Space Coordinator or another position designated by the Administration. If the Administration chooses to assign the program to the Open Space Coordinator, the Council should consider removing the two-year time limited status designation associated with this position and include the Urban Farming program in the Open Space Coordinator position job description that is scheduled for Council consideration. The Council could ask the Administration to inform the Council of its program management direction by October 15, 2009.
- Adopt a legislative intent statement that an Urban Farming Technical Advisory Committee be established by October 31, 2009.
- Adopt a legislative intent statement that an Urban Farming Program outline, vetted by the Technical Advisory Committee, be presented to the County Council for consideration by December 31, 2009.
- Adopt a legislative intent statement that an RFP be issued seeking bids for an urban farming enterprise on one or more parcels of County land by January 31, 2010 so that farming can begin in the Spring of 2010. (It is important to note that based on the condition of the land parcels analyzed, year one will be dedicated to weed remediation, with food production in years 2 and beyond. This is less of an issue for biofuel production.)

# Urban Farming Fam Tour

June 22, 2009  
Follow-up Report

## Participants

Jim Bradley, SLCo Council Member	Kerri Nakamura, SLCo Council Office
Erin Litvack, SLCo Community Development Director	Julie Peck-Dabling, SLCo Open Space Coordinator
Michael Gallegos, SLCo Comm. & Resource Dev.	Rachel Broadbent, SLCo Intern
Chuck Gay, Utah State University	Dallas Hanks, Utah State University
Shawn Olsen, Utah State University	Ralph Whitesides, Utah State University
Wendy Fisher, Utah Open Lands	Wendy Wolf, Utah Open Lands
Jeff Lachowski, RioTinto	

## Background

The Salt Lake County Urban Farming tour included site visits to seven properties (five publicly held; and two privately owned with willing conservation easement owners) for the purpose of receiving feedback from Utah State University scientists regarding the viability of sites for participation in an Urban Agricultural program. The specific types of agricultural uses discussed for the parcels included:

- commercial agricultural operation;
- community supported agriculture (CSA) either for-profit or not-for-profit;
- community gardens.

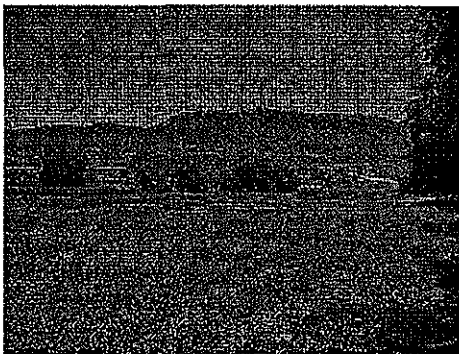
## General Observations

- To ensure success, the Urban Farming Program should be assigned to an administrative staff person that is passionate about urban agriculture and the related issues. Potentially, this person should possess an agronomic or horticultural background or have working access to individuals with such expertise.
- Liability issues surrounding the operation of community gardens or other private agricultural enterprises on public land must be addressed.
- Most commercial agriculture and CSA operations will want a commitment of more than 5 years initially, especially if it takes 2-3 years to rehabilitate soils. It is possible that soil rehabilitation could be done more quickly with alternative methods. One such method is plastic mulch combined with high value fresh crops to make the areas productive almost immediately, however this method would require a clean water source. Other ideas include temporary greenhouses or utilization of roundup ready crops.

- By subsidizing the land, the County should expect that policy directives regarding the agricultural operation be achieved. Sample policy directives might include, organic farming; surplus food donated to area food banks; employee wage considerations; neighborhood workers; etc.
- Chicago, Portland, and Boulder cities have experience using public land for private farming enterprise. The counties of King County, Washington and Multnomah County, Oregon are also leaders in urban agriculture on publicly held land. We will gather policies and program guides from these communities. Utah State University officials will talk with agricultural colleagues to see if there are other communities leasing public land for private farming as anticipated in Salt Lake County.
- Berries are a good cash-crop and berry production should be explored for Salt Lake County's urban farming program.

## **Site-Specific Observations**

### **Wheadon Farms – owned by Salt Lake County**



Located at approximately 13800 South 300 East, the 64-acre Wheadon Farms property was purchased by Salt Lake County with parks bond funds. Utah Open Lands maintains a conservation easement on the property. Wendy Fisher noted that in accordance with the conservation easement provisions, a portion of the property must be maintained for agricultural purposes. Wendy indicated that a master planning process for the future use of Wheadon Farms is currently underway. Utah Open Lands is participating in the master planning process.

Wendy also noted that a large portion of the Wheadon Farm property is considered "prime farmland" if irrigated. However, the southeastern portion of the property is not considered "prime farmland." The southeastern portion is sloped. This slope may be a good location for orchards or vineyards as traditional tillage would be difficult.

Utah State University scientists noted that the weeds on the prime and non-prime portions of the land are pervasive. On the "prime farmland" portions, mitigating the weeds will likely take one or two growing seasons to restore the soil for agricultural purposes. However, some of the mitigation measures (i.e. using highly competitive grass species or plants) may provide an interim economic opportunity for a farmer preparing the land for future use. Chuck Gay, of Utah State University, suggested that the soil on Wheadon Farm is of very good quality. Wendy Fisher added that some of the soils are considered "significant soil types" meaning that agricultural operations on these portions may qualify for additional grant funding sources.

Wendy also noted that a ground well is located on the Wheadon Farm parcel. This water source is unique and makes it possible for a farmer to extend the growing season on Wheadon Farm from May to November. Extension of the growing season can significantly increase the profitability of an agricultural operation.



**Recommendation:** The Wheadon Farm property is currently subleased to a private individual for agricultural use and grazing. The tour team is concerned that the property maintenance standards of that lease may not be sufficient to protect the County's investment in the land. The County should consider enhancing the maintenance standards to minimize land rehabilitation costs. If identified soon, a Wheadon Farm parcel could be ready for agricultural use next season as part of a County Urban Farming Pilot project, however, the first season's use would likely be transitional as soils are prepared for more extensive use.

**Harrison Property – privately owned – willing seller for conservation easement**



Located at approximately 10000 South, between the Jordan River and I-15, the 40-acre Harrison Family property is an historical family farm surrounded by commercial developments in South Jordan City. Much of the farm, including the historical farm site, is currently zoned commercial by South Jordan City. The Harrison family is potentially interested in placing a conservation easement over the land to halt commercial development proposals. The land abuts the Jordan River, includes an irrigated pasture and the farmland is on higher ground, above

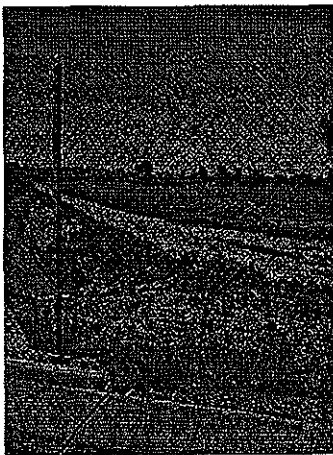
a sloping hillside. Adjacent lands are publicly held URMCC (Utah Reclamation Mitigation Conservation Commission) sites.



The tour team was not able to walk the site, but from visual observation determined that many agricultural opportunities exist if the County were to acquire the Harrison Family Property.

**Recommendation:** If the Harrison family is interested in placing a conservation easement on the land, those negotiations should go forward.

**Mountain View Golf Course surplus land – owned by Salt Lake County**



Located at approximately 9000 South 2700 West, the Mountain View Golf Course is an 18-hole Salt Lake County golf course. Parallel to hole 15 and a canal owned by Utah and Salt Lake Canal, the parcel consists of approximately eight acres of undeveloped, surplus land. Currently, golf course staff mows the weeds on the land, but the weeds remain a source of concern for nearby homeowners. It also appears that grass clippings and other green debris are occasionally dumped on the property, most likely by golf course grounds crews.

Kennecott conveys water in the Utah and Salt Lake Canal. There is potential for Kennecott to provide canal water for interim use on this property. Additionally, the County owns water shares with this property.

The Utah State University team of scientists noted that the agricultural opportunities for this parcel are numerous. The soils on the site are of good quality and the weeds, while present,

are not as pervasive as on some other sites. Because of the parcel's proximity to hole 15 of the golf course and the potential for errant golf balls, it may be advisable to seek a use for this land that would not require individuals to be onsite often.

**Recommendation:** This land could be available next season as part of a County Urban Farming pilot project. Rather than outline the County's preferred use, the County may want to allow bidders to propose uses. Utah State University scientists envision sod farms, tree farms, pot-in-pot agriculture, orchards, berry/vegetable production or other similar uses on this parcel. Additionally, the county currently has a 1 million tree initiative. It would be ideal to be able to use land parcels, similar to this parcel, for the production of these trees. Currently the trees are either purchased from locations such as Oregon. By raising the trees locally, we would ensure climate compatibility. While this approach would require up front capital investment from the County, it could save money over time by having the County's own trees ready to plant as needed. Because the trees would be suited to the environment, there would likely be less attrition. Finally, there is an environmental advantage in not shipping trees from a distance as well as having the ecological benefits of the maturing trees in our valley.

**Brems Property –privately owned – willing seller for conservation easement**

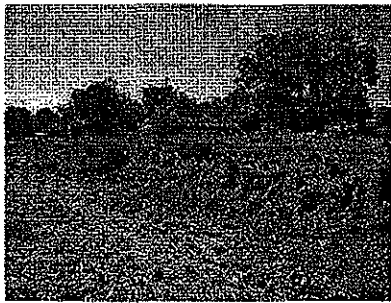
Located at 8393 South 1300 West, this three-acre parcel is near the Jordan River and the Jordan Valley Conservancy District. The parcel does not directly abut the Jordan River, but there is a creek/canal running through the property. The property includes a farmhouse.



Utah State University scientists noted that mustard weed and white top are pervasive on the site. The site needs considerable rehabilitation for restoration of soils for agricultural use. One suggestion is to establish highly competitive grass species (turf or seed) for a season, and then turn the land into horse pasture for two or three seasons. After grazing for two-or three seasons, the land could then be considered for other agricultural use. A positive feature is that the plot is directly adjacent to the road, facilitating access. The Utah State University team also noted that there is a heavy demand for horse pastures in urbanized areas.

**Recommendation:** If the Brems family is interested in placing a conservation easement on this land, those negotiations should go forward. In the meantime, the Brems family may want to consider establishing a mitigation plan for the property to enhance the property's agricultural potential.

**Salt Lake City parcels on 900 South at 1000 – 1200 West (along the rail trail corridor)**



Located along the rail/trail corridor on 900 South from approximately 1000 West to 1200 West are four parcels of land. All parcels have existing pervasive weeds. Three of the four parcels are not presently fenced, however, one parcel at approximately 1200 West, is fenced. Unless all parcels are fenced, the best use for the remaining parcels might be a community garden. However, if the three remaining parcels were fenced, a CSA or for-profit small acreage farm project may be possible. These suggestions are based on the concern that lacking fencing, as crops became harvest ready the locals might start taking it. A local community garden could be the answer in that the locals have a vested interest in protecting the crop. Another idea discussed was using the space for greenhouses. The concern about produce appropriation by neighbors would be less as the greenhouses could be secured.

The Utah State University team believes that with proper soil preparations, three of the four sites could be ready for a community garden by next season. However, one parcel (a triangular piece on the east side of 1000 West) contains thick thistle and poor soil quality, which presents extensive soil preparation concerns. This piece of property is located along a portion of the Jordan River Parkway trail. Observations during our site visit suggest heavy trail use.

While some of the land may be ideal for the USU safflower and/or canola project, because the parcels are relatively small such use may not be cost effective.

**Recommendation:** Salt Lake City could consider having its Park's Department use equipment to begin soil rehabilitation efforts on these parcels. The City could/should bring in excess topsoil from other locations for use on these parcels. Alternatively, Salt Lake City could consider issuing an RFP for a soil specialist to prepare one or several parcels for community gardening. If Salt Lake City decides to operate a community garden on one or more of parcels in this CDBG-eligible area, City officials should seek the services of Utah State University for assistance with community garden, health and nutrition programs geared toward income-eligible communities.

If, however, Salt Lake City decides to fence additional parcels and operate the parcels as CSA or for-profit small acreage farm properties, the enterprises will likely provide employment opportunities for citizens in the surrounding neighborhood.

**Salt Lake City parcel east of the Jordan River on Cornell at approximately 900 North**

Located along the Jordan River Parkway at approximately 900 North and Cornell Street, this parcel is reported to be approximately 5 acres in size. The parcel appears to include a community garden – or



possibly a private garden that encroaches on public land. The remaining area



includes pervasive weeds that appear to be mowed on a regular basis. Additionally there are quite a few ornamental trees planted adjacent to the road. Maples and ornamental crab apples. These trees would be compatible with a community garden, but may be a nuisance for any for-profit usage seeking to maximize area.

Unfenced, this land could be used for a community garden. To consider the site for a CSA or for-profit small acreage farm, Salt Lake City would need to consider fencing. The fencing plan would need to be sensitive to the nearby Jordan River Parkway trail. Observations during our site visit suggest heavy trail use.

**Recommendation:** This parcel is ideal for use in an Urban Farming project. Salt Lake City's decision with regard to fencing will determine the best use. If possible, the site should be fenced and used as a CSA or small-acreage farm. It is likely that the farm would provide employment opportunities for citizens in the surrounding neighborhood.

# Urban Farming Bio Fuel Tour

August 6, 2009  
Follow-up Report

## Participants

Michael Gallegos, SLCo Comm. & Resource Dev.  
Mark Stanley, Salt Lake City Public Utilities  
Dallas Hanks, Utah State University

Kerri Nakamura, SLCo Councilman Jim Bradley's Office  
Laura Briefer, Salt Lake City Public Utilities  
Michael Bouck, Utah State University

## Background

Freeways to Fuel is a national alliance (F2F Alliance) established to investigate the use of non-traditional agronomic lands such as roadside rights-of-way, military bases, airport lands, and other publicly held parcels for the growth of biofuel feedstock crops.

The program was started in 2007 by Utah State University and the Utah Department of Transportation. Today, the alliance includes government, industry, academia, and biofuel organization representatives. The Alliance is actively working with communities in northern Utah and the United States Air Force on biofuel projects.

A more detailed program description is attached. Additionally, more information on the Freeways to Fuel project is available at [www.freewaystofuel.org](http://www.freewaystofuel.org).

When Salt Lake County officials led an urban farming familiarization tour to look at potential urban farming land parcels in June, 2009, representatives of the Alliance attended. Subsequently, Salt Lake City officials identified approximately 200 acres of publicly held land that is potentially available for participation in the biofuel project. The land is owned by the Salt Lake City Public Utilities Department and is located at approximately 4400 West, south of Interstate I-80.

On August 5, 2009, a team of officials representing Salt Lake County, Salt Lake City Public Utilities, and Utah State University met on site to take soil samples. Based on a preliminary analysis, if the soil samples are favorable, the site is an ideal location for a biofuel pilot project. If the soils are favorable, staff from the F2F Alliance will begin to develop a biofuel pilot proposal for this site.

Like other urban farming and biofuel projects, one goal of this project is to put under-utilized land to productive use. The use contemplated for the 200-acre parcel in Salt Lake City could be a wonderful demonstration of turning vacant, publicly-held land into productive use for the public land-owner. Additionally, the biofuel produced from this site could be used by the landowner; other public or private entities; and/or sold on the open

market. Finally, through this project, Salt Lake City might find a cost-effective way to re-use biosolids from the City's Waste Water Reclamation plant. The contemplated biofuel project does not require water, either in the growing or production of the biofuel.

### **General Site Observations**

- The 200 acre parcel includes approximately 20 acres that once served as the Brown Floral disposal site. An active underground fire continues to burn but causes no problems unless disturbed. These 20 acres should be avoided, although the Utah State University team noted that with proper capping, the former disposal site may be ideal for inclusion in the biofuel program.
- Biosolids from Salt Lake City Public Utilities' Waste Water Reclamation plant could provide ample soil nutrients and may be a cost effective way to enhance the soil quality as part of the pilot project.
- The use of biosolids from the Salt Lake City Waste Water Reclamation plant may result in a cost savings for Salt Lake City and help Salt Lake City meet its sustainability goals. Currently, Salt Lake City hauls biosolids offsite, and is seeking dependable ways that biosolids can be recycled rather than landfilled. Hauling to this 200 acre parcel for the biofuel project would achieve multiple policy goals.
- The Salt Lake City Airport owns land east of and adjacent to the Public Utilities' parcel. In the future, the biofuel project could be expanded onto the airport land.



# Biofuel Feestock Production Project

## What is the FreeWays to Fuel (F2F) National Alliance?

FreeWays to Fuel is a Utah originated and based national alliance designed to investigate the use of non-traditional agronomic lands such as roadside rights-of-way, military bases, and airports for the growth of biofuel feedstock crops across the country. Nearly all highway areas in the United States have monetary costs to maintain. Utah's Department of Transportation (UDOT) alone has nearly 6000 miles of highway roadides that require maintenance at costs of \$300 per mile in 2006. A potential cost reduction could be realized in using this land to grow biofuel feedstock crops. The fuel made from these crops could then be used in the DOT's fleets and other state vehicles.



canola

This project was initiated in 2007, in cooperation with the UDOT and Utah State University. The concept quickly caught the nation's attention and a national alliance was proposed. This alliance would partner with DOTs and land grant colleges in the respective states along with federal government agencies and industry to reduce carbon foot-printing and emissions, decrease America's dependence on foreign oil and solidify our national security by the production of localized biofuel feed stocks.

## Who is the FreeWays to Fuel National Alliance?

To date personnel from the following land grant universities are committed to the Alliance pending funding: Utah State University, Washington State University, University of Idaho, Montana State University, Iowa State University, Michigan State University, North Carolina State University, Auburn University, Penn State University, State College of New York - Cobleskill.

The Alliance has participation from government, academia, industry, and biofuel organizations to provide leadership and strategy.

## What is the Research Objective of the FreeWays to Fuel National Alliance?

FreeWays to Fuel's focus is to investigate the growth of biofuel feedstocks on these non-traditional lands and determine their economic and environmental feasibility. If successful, non-traditional agronomic areas such as road sides, military bases, and airports could serve as biofuel feedstock growth areas disseminating healthy, clean burning fuels into local communities.

## How much land could potentially be utilized by this project?

Assumptions:

- 100 foot wide crop area/mile
- Use conventional agronomic methods
- 1/2 to 2/3 on Western dryland yields
- 100 gallons/mile

Given these assumptions, we estimate that 10 million acres of non-traditional agronomic lands are available to grow about 1 billion million gallons of biodiesel feedstock on our country's rights-of-way.

## What crops will be tested?

To date, safflower, canola and flax have been tested. There are numerous candidates yet to be explored for all types of biofuel production including cellulosic, liquid, gaseous and thermal conversion platforms.

## Will this method displace current farm lands?

F2F is focused on utilizing lands that are not currently in food fiber, feed or flower production. If this project is successful, it will increase the number of non-producing acres available and currently cost money to maintain. Additional benefits include decreased maintenance costs of these areas, reduced anthropogenic emissions, and increased highway corridors aesthetics.



safflower

## What is the economic break even point for fuel produced by this method?

Our current economic model shows that biodiesel produced from this method will be economically feasible given petroleum diesel price \$2.20/gallon and yields are as stated.

## How much money is the FreeWays to Fuel Alliance requesting?

\$3 million 2010 - 2012 for nationalization of research activities. This would include 10 states participating in research activities.

## Contact Information

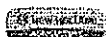
Dallas Hanks / [dallas.hanks@aggiemail.usu.edu](mailto:dallas.hanks@aggiemail.usu.edu)

For More Information About this project, please visit [www.freewaystofuel.org](http://www.freewaystofuel.org)



Utah State University  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

University of Idaho  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



University of Idaho  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

STATE COLLEGE OF NEW YORK  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION  
Cobleskill

# The Salt Lake Tribune

<http://www.sltrib.com>

## Urban farming

Salt Lake County gardens may grow

Tribune Editorial

Salt Lake Tribune

Updated:08/21/2009 06:58:37 PM MDT

# The Salt Lake Tribune

<http://www.sltrib.com>

Large tracts of government land lie fallow, growing nothing but weeds. Some community parks sit underutilized, having a half acre or so to spare. And tens-of-thousands of renters, condo owners and apartment dwellers, without a square foot of land to call their own or a spade to turn it, lose touch with their agrarian past.

Salt Lake County Councilman Jim Bradley is cultivating a plan to change all that. He wants the county to be a leader in the urban farming phenomenon, as city and suburban residents rediscover their roots by producing their own food in an attempt to eat better, save money and fend for themselves.

Noting the spectacular success of the valley's handful of community gardens, where citizens can stake out a plot and grow their own vegetables, Bradley wants the county and its cities to nurture such programs.

And, lamenting the lack of productivity on vacant county lands, he wants to put them back under cultivation.

County officials are plowing ahead with the Bradley plan. The County Council Tuesday agreed to appoint an urban farming manager and form a technical advisory committee that will study the options and issue a report this October advising the county on how to proceed.

Bradley hopes to lease to farmers unused county-owned fields, putting them back into production of food or biofuels. He cited 200 acres on the west side of Salt Lake City that will some day host a wastewater-treatment plant and the 64-acre Wheadon Farms in Draper as examples of untilled tracts that could earn income for the county.

It's a proposal that may not make a lot of dollars, but it certainly makes a lot of sense.

The other component of the plan would involve converting portions of underused county parks into communal vegetable gardens, and urging cities to follow suit. One urban garden in Salt Lake City operated by the nonprofit Wasatch Community Gardens organization has a waiting list five years long for a plot of ground, underscoring the popularity of urban gardens and the need for more.

It's a welcome trend, one that promotes sustainable living, self-sufficiency and good health. Garden-grown vegetables are wholesome, tasty and not subject to FDA recalls.

The vegetable patches, in turn, help grow communities, as neighbors gather in the gardens to swap produce, lend advice and just lean on their shovels and talk. The county is wise to help these gardens grow.

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RALPH BECKER  
MAYOR

## SALT LAKE CITY CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

August 3, 2009

Salt Lake County Council  
Salt Lake County Government Center  
2001 South State Street #N2200  
Salt Lake City, UT 84190

Re: Urban Farming Proposal

Esteemed Salt Lake County Council Members:

This letter is to inform you that my office has received and has reviewed Salt Lake County's Draft Urban Farming Proposal. I would like to thank Councilmember Jim Bradley and Salt Lake County for your leadership and for spear-heading this urban farming proposal.

I offer my enthusiastic support for this proposal and have instructed my staff to provide any assistance that may be helpful. My staff has identified various parcels that could be made available for community-based or local food production as well as several parcels that could be made available for farming to produce bio-fuels for our City and County fleet vehicles. We appreciate the feedback we have received about the suitability of these various parcels and are committed to further exploring these options. Please continue to coordinate with my staff as you advance your analysis of our respective parcels so that we may take necessary administrative steps in order to make any such parcels available on a timely basis.

I understand that Salt Lake County is investigating numerous possibilities throughout the County. It is my hope that Salt Lake City can be a part of your pilot urban farming efforts. Nevertheless, I understand that a myriad of factors are involved in the selection of your pilot projects. If Salt Lake City is not included in your pilot efforts, I look forward to continuing to work with you to learn from your experience and advance an urban farming project in Salt Lake City.

I look forward to continuing to support your efforts.

Sincerely,

Ralph Becker  
Mayor

451 SOUTH STATE STREET, ROOM 306  
P.O. BOX 145474, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84114-5474  
TELEPHONE: 801-535-7704 FAX: 801-535-6331

[www.slccgov.com](http://www.slccgov.com)





Salt Lake County Council

Delivered via email

August 6, 2009

Dear Council Members,

I am writing in support of your consideration of the Urban Farming proposal. In 1997, when Gene Wheadon was asked why he protected his 64 acre farm in Draper, his response was "You can't eat money." Gene had fed miners food from his farm during the depression. When government bread and sugar trucks arrived, Gene would arrive with fresh local produce.

Over the past decade, farmers markets have quadrupled nationally. We are not running out of enthusiasm to feed ourselves and communities with local produce, rather we are running out of affordable, farmable lands.

The Salt Lake Valley like Utah County has always had soils that rank as Prime or Statewide significant. This means that much of the land in the Salt Lake Valley can sustain food production with great variety from orchards to vegetable gardens.

Utah Open Lands began 20 years ago as an organization dedicated to open space protection. The organization made sure that agricultural preservation was a critical part of our mission. When the State's Critical Lands Act was passed in the late 90s there was a recognition that self sufficiency was afforded by the protection of open land which contained productive soil resources as well.

Utah Open Lands is supportive of establishing appropriate farming resources on suitable land in Salt Lake County. Community Gardens, like Wasatch Community Gardens have been providing gardening plots for low income households improving the quality of many families diets as well as providing affordable food. Properties like the Wheadon Farm in Draper, now owned by Salt Lake County can serve as a place for a community garden if done appropriately. This is not to say that all land or even the entire Wheadon property would be farmed but it could be one of the benefits to the public of this tremendous open space.

Many communities have seen how the appeal of locally grown food has served as well to bolster their economy. As we look at our current open spaces and future plans for open space protection, landowners interested in continuing to farm and lands that have potential for farming are certainly options that should be considered.

Thank you for your consideration,

Wendy Fisher  
Executive Director

4900 Old Main Hill  
Logan, UT 84322-4900  
Phone: (435) 797-2200  
Fax: (435) 797-3268

6 August 2009

Salt Lake County Council  
Salt Lake County Government Center  
2001 South State Street #N2200  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84190

Re: Urban Farming Proposal

Dear Salt Lake County Council Members:

For decades, Utah State University Extension has enjoyed a rich cooperative relationship with Salt Lake County in supporting consumer horticulture, 4-H youth programs, production agriculture, family and consumer science, and other programs. The Urban Farming Proposal is an exciting and creative addition to the successful programs of the past and present, and USU Extension is pleased to offer support through science-based educational programming for both crop production and consumer utilization. We also recognize the potential for collaborative research on best management practices to support the proposal.

Several facets of the proposal stand out as exemplary. These include allocation of appropriate leadership personnel, the potential of using land for biofuel crops where unsuitable for food production, the win-win of reducing county maintenance costs while productively utilizing open space, the comprehensive nature of the technical advisory committee, the realistic perspective on weed control prior to implementation, exploring new models of farming such as Community Supported Agriculture, and the opportunity to enhance public nutrition while addressing needs raised by the current economic conditions.

Utah State University Extension looks forward to a continued and expanding partnership with Salt Lake County in supporting this timely initiative on urban farming.

Sincerely,



Noelle E. Cockett  
Vice President for University Extension and Agriculture



August 17, 2009

Dear Council Members,

I am writing in support of the Urban Farming proposal. This is a timely proposal that could have great impact our local food system, making more truly local food available to our community. On average, our food travels 1,500 miles before it reaches our plates! This system has a hugely negative impact on our environment, local economy, and health. Promoting more opportunities for local and urban agriculture will preserve valuable urban green space; provide outlets for residents to be involved in producing their own food while building community ties; empower local youth to discover the joys of gardening and eating fresh fruits and vegetables; and enable community members to enjoy healthy food that has traveled 15 feet, not 1,500 miles, to reach the dinner table.

Wasatch Community Gardens (WCG) is a community-based nonprofit that has served the Salt Lake County community since 1989. Our mission is to empower people of all ages and incomes to grow and eat healthy, organic, local food. As we celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary as an organization, we are experiencing unprecedented demand for all of our programs, clear evidence of the need for a county-wide Urban Farming Program. There is currently a five-year waiting list for a plot in one of our five community gardens, attendance at our free community educational workshops has doubled, and we are serving over 1,200 primarily low-income youth in our garden-based educational programs this year.

Community gardens promote sustainability in myriad aspects of our society, including our personal and environmental health, local economy, cultural heritage, neighborhood vitality, and educational environment. In the words of one of WCG's community gardeners,

"I came for the tomatoes and discovered a little haven of accidental friends. It is hard creating community in the city because of the continual coming and going, the difficulty of striking up a conversation with a stranger. The community garden creates a safer space, somehow. A quieter space, shared with other city-dwellers who love to watch green things creep up slowly."

Successful and sustainable community gardens require more than just available land. They thrive when committed and passionate community members self-organize, and are supported with necessary resources such as land, water, education, horticultural and leadership training, liability coverage, and help with volunteer recruitment and media outreach. That said, this proposal provides the first, absolutely necessary step to creating a broad network of community gardens throughout Salt Lake County, and we are in full support.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Claire Uno  
Executive Director

In Oct. 2008, author Michael Pollan wrote an open letter to the future president warning about the waning health of America's food systems. He wrote that "the era of cheap and abundant food appears to be drawing to a close."

Pollan urged the future president to rethink food policies, since they will have a large impact on a wide range of issues including national security, climate change, energy independence and health care.

Pollan is the author of *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History Of Four Meals* and *In Defense Of Food: An Eater's Manifesto*.

*This interview originally aired on Oct. 20, 2008.*

### **Excerpt: 'In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto'**

*NPR.org*, December 31, 2007 · **Food Science's Golden Age**

In the years following the 1977 *Dietary Goals* and the 1982 National Academy of Sciences report on diet and cancer, the food industry, armed with its regulatory absolutism, set about reengineering thousands of popular food products to contain more of the nutrients that science and government had deemed the good ones and fewer of the bad. A golden age for food science dawned. Hyphens sprouted like dandelions in the supermarket aisles: *low-fat, no-cholesterol, high-fiber*. Ingredients labels on formerly two- or three-ingredient foods such as mayonnaise and bread and yogurt ballooned with lengthy lists of new additives — what in a more benighted age would have been called adulterants. The Year of Eating Oat Bran — also known as 1988 — served as a kind of coming-out party for the food scientists, who succeeded in getting the material into nearly every processed food sold in America. Oat bran's moment on the dietary stage didn't last long, but the pattern now was set, and every few years since then, a new oat bran has taken its star turn under the marketing lights. (Here come omega-3s!)

You would not think that common food animals could themselves be rejiggered to fit nutritionist fashion, but in fact some of them could be, and were, in response to the 1977 and 1982 dietary guidelines as animal scientists figured out how to breed leaner pigs and select for leaner beef. With widespread lipophobia taking hold of the human population, countless cattle lost their marbling and lean pork was repositioned as "the new white meat" — tasteless and tough as running shoes, perhaps, but now even a pork chop could compete with chicken as a way for eaters to "reduce saturated fat intake." In the years since then, egg producers figured out a clever way to redeem even the

disreputable egg: By feeding flaxseed to hens, they could elevate levels of omega-3 fatty acids in the yolks.

Aiming to do the same thing for pork and beef fat, the animal scientists are now at work genetically engineering omega-3 fatty acids into pigs and persuading cattle to lurch on flaxseed in the hope of introducing the blessed fish fat where it had never gone before: into hot dogs and hamburgers.

But these whole foods are the exceptions. The typical whole food has much more trouble competing under the rules of nutritionism, if only because something like a banana or an avocado can't quite as readily change its nutritional stripes. (Though rest assured the genetic engineers are hard at work on the problem.) To date, at least, they can't put oat bran in a banana or omega-3s in a peach. So depending on the reigning nutritional orthodoxy, the avocado might either be a high-fat food to be assiduously avoided (Old Think) or a food high in monounsaturated fat to be embraced (New Think). The fate and supermarket sales of each whole food rises and falls with every change in the nutritional weather while the processed foods simply get reformulated and differently supplemented. That's why when the Atkins diet storm hit the food industry in 2003, bread and pasta got a quick redesign (dialing back the carbs; boosting the proteins) while poor unreconstructed potatoes and carrots were left out in the carbohydrate cold. (The low-carb indignities visited on bread and pasta, two formerly "traditional foods that everyone knows," would never have been possible had the imitation rule not been tossed out in 1973. Who would ever buy imitation spaghetti? But of course that is precisely what low-carb pasta is.)

A handful of lucky whole foods have recently gotten the "good nutrient" marketing treatment: The antioxidants in the pomegranate (a fruit formerly more trouble to eat than it was worth) now protect against cancer and erectile dysfunction, apparently, and the omega-3 fatty acids in the (formerly just fattening) walnut ward off heart disease. A whole subcategory of nutritional science — funded by industry and, according to one recent analysis,\* remarkably reliable in its ability to find a health benefit in whatever food it has been commissioned to study — has sprung up to give a nutritionist sheen (and FDA-approved health claim) to all sorts of foods, including some not ordinarily thought of as healthy. The Mars Corporation recently endowed a chair in chocolate science at the University of California at Davis, where research on the antioxidant properties of cacao is making breakthroughs, so it shouldn't be long before we see chocolate bars bearing FDA-approved health claims. (When we do, nutritionism will surely have entered its baroque phase.) Fortunately for everyone playing this game, scientists can find an antioxidant in just about any plant-based food they choose to study.

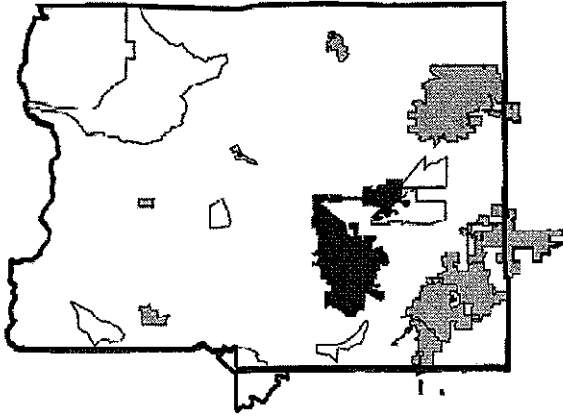
Yet as a general rule it's a whole lot easier to slap a health claim on a box of sugary cereal than on a raw potato or a carrot, with the perverse result that the most healthful foods in the supermarket sit there quietly in the produce section, silent as stroke victims, while a few aisles over in Cereal the Cocoa Puffs and Lucky Charms are screaming their newfound "whole-grain goodness" to the rafters. Watch out for those health claims.

\*L. I. Lesser, C. B. Ebbeling, M. Gozner, D. Wypij, and D. S. Ludwig, "Relationship Between Funding Source and Conclusion Among Nutrition-Related Scientific Articles," *PLoS Medicine*, Vol. 4, No. 1, e5 doi:10.1371/journal.pmed.0040005.

**Excerpted from *IN DEFENSE OF FOOD* by Michael Pollan. Reprinted by arrangement with The Penguin Press, a member of Penguin Group (USA), Inc. Copyright (c) Michael Pollan, 2008.**

# Existing Urban Agriculture Programs and Practices

## Boulder city, Colorado



<b>Area</b>	
- Total	25.4 sq mi
- Land	24.4 sq mi
- Water	1.0 sq mi
<b>Population</b>	
- (2006)	91,685 (city proper)
- Density	3,884.1/sq mi

- Where is the program located within the government-

### Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP)

- Program oversight-

OSMP has two staff members primarily responsible for the record keeping and administration of the agricultural agreements. Two additional staff members work primarily with water rights administration and facility maintenance.

- Is public land is being leased for private agriculture-

The City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP) has an agricultural program that operates on city land owned in fee. This program supports traditional agricultural operations in the Boulder Valley. Predominant agricultural land uses include livestock grazing, hay production and crop production. Typical grains produced include wheat, corn and barley.

OSMP also has conservation easements on agricultural land. The private landowner is primarily responsible for managing the agricultural operation or agreement in these cases. OSMP does consult with these owners from time-to-time on sustainable agricultural practices.

- The structure of the lease agreement-

Attached is a copy of the Lease (Agreement ) for the City of Boulder, Colorado; Open Space and Mountain Parks. The lessee is the User. As they go through the Agreement they take out parts of the document that are not applicable or needed.

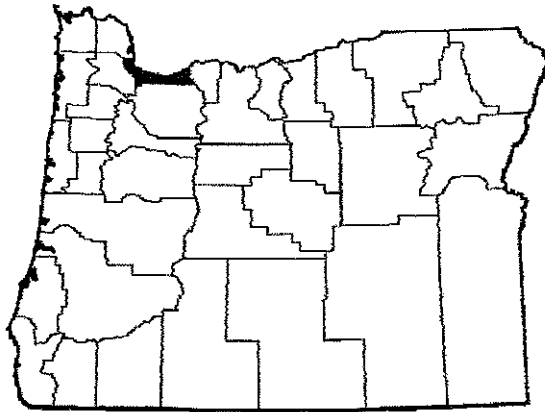
- Is the land cost subsidized-



They do have a policy of less-than-market rates for lease fees, however some of the management requirements are above what would be typically required in other agricultural lease arrangements. For example, livestock operators are required to do the fence maintenance on their leased land. They do not require organic production for the products grown, though OSMP approves the chemical being applied and makes public notice of when and where any chemical applications are being made.

OSMP's agriculture activity is self described as traditional agriculture in a suburban setting.

## Multnomah County, Oregon



<u>Area</u>	
- Total	466 sq mi (1,207 km <sup>2</sup> )
- Land	435 sq mi (1,127 km <sup>2</sup> )
- Water	30 sq mi (78 km <sup>2</sup> ), 6.53%
<u>Population</u>	
- (2000)	660,486
- Density	1,518/sq mi (586/km <sup>2</sup> )

- Where is the program located within the government-

Multnomah County Sustainability Program - Food Policy

Program name: **County Digs**

- Program oversight-

"County Digs," is an urban agriculture project. The County's surplus and tax-foreclosed property is reviewed on an annual basis for appropriate inclusion in the project. If the land is suitable, the property is made available to the public through property transfer or long-term lease for agriculture purposes.

The county identifies possible sites using urban planning graduate students. The county Office of Sustainable Development then checks for cross-purposes. In the case of land acquired through foreclosure, the previous owner is first given the option for repayment. After disqualifying this and other government uses, the site passes to the Greenspace Review Committee to review the specific criteria required for county approval. After reviewing options, they choose an option best aligned with the community's needs.

### **Sources of Support**

AmeriCorps Northwest Service Academy has pledged support for County CROPS through the approval of a full-time professional coordinator position.

Hands On Greater Portland has committed to recruiting and coordinating volunteers for special planting and harvest days.

The Multnomah County Department of Community Justice's Adult Community Service Program is in need of community service projects for its clients and is able to support County CROPS with a steady source of labor for maintenance and harvest of the garden.

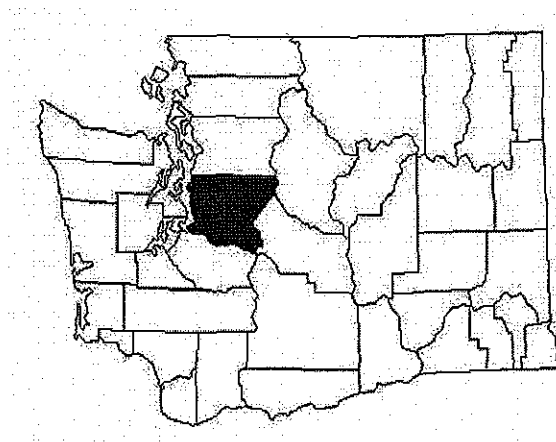
- Is public land is being leased for private agriculture-

The preference is towards property transfer to a local non-profit to manage. County property that is leased is managed by the County Facilities and Property Management Division.

**Additional Program:**

**County CROPS- Community Reaps Our Produce and Shares** Multnomah County CROPS is a program that harnesses surplus county property, community service programs and volunteers to grow fresh, organic vegetables for the Oregon Food Bank. (see attached volunteer form)

## King County, Washington



<b>Area</b>	
- Total	2,307 sq mi (5,975 km <sup>2</sup> )
- Land	2,126 sq mi (5,506 km <sup>2</sup> )
- Water	180 sq mi (466 km <sup>2</sup> ), 7.82%
<b>Population</b> (estimate)	
- (2009)	1,909,300
- Density	816/sq mi (315/km <sup>2</sup> )

- Where is the program located within the government-  
Water and land resource division – Agriculture Program (*Working Resource land*)  
Co-administered by Non-Profit organization Cascade Harvest Coalition

- Program Oversight-

The Agriculture Commission consists of 15 members, all appointed by the County Executive. Eight of the commissioners must be producers engaged in the business of producing an agricultural commodity for market in commercial quantities. All members serve three-year terms. The Agriculture Commission meets monthly to discuss agriculture related issues and agricultural land use.

The leasing of county owned land is facilitated by a non-profit coalition. Cascade Harvest Coalition <http://www.cascadeharvest.org/programs/washington-farmlink> FarmLink is a program to link aspiring farmers with landowners to help build sustainable farming operations. They face many of the same concerns we have. More demand for land than land available. The desire of the landowner to have short lease terms and the desire of the aspiring farmer for a time frame that makes the venture cost and labor effective.

- Is public land is being leased for private agriculture: the policies

As of 2003, more than 13,000 acres of King County farmland have been permanently protected through the Farmland Preservation Program (FPP). The FPP began in 1979 when voters approved an initiative to preserve rapidly diminishing farmland by authorizing the County to purchase development rights, which it is still doing today. By voluntarily selling development rights, property owners agree to covenants, which restrict their land use to agriculture or open space uses and limit housing density. This program permanently preserves agricultural lands that could otherwise be susceptible to sprawl and other types of urban development.

They do lease out some land, but they don't like to be in the business of owning land. They have tried to purchase development rights and or environmental easements (for salmon protection), and get out of the business of owning the land.

From Diggable Cities <http://www.portlandonline.com/bps/index.cfm?c=42793&a=122593>

## **How Municipalities Have Addressed Urban Agriculture**

### **Statewide Actions**

In 1986, New York State formed an Office of Community Gardens within the Department of Agriculture and Markets. The Office was responsible for providing information on available vacant lands and their suitability for use as community gardens. Also, the Office was designed to help community groups access the land by coordination with other State departments and agencies that held title to the vacant lands.

The Tennessee Community Gardening Act of 1977 enables any state resident to apply to the commissioner of agriculture to use vacant land for gardening, with priority given to low-income groups, the elderly, and children. The commissioner collects and distributes information on vacant lands to county officials. Tennessee law prohibits the sale of products grown in community gardens.

### **Community Garden Plans**

**Burlington, VT:** In 1991, the City passed the *Burlington Area Community Gardens Master Plan* to guide the City's management of seven community gardens with 350 garden plots. The plan is in the process of being revised and updated, with the goal to ensure the maintenance of current gardens and reconsider how the most Burlington residents can be served through this City-run program.<sup>3</sup>

**Ottawa City Council** passed the *Community Garden Program Action Plan* on October 27, 2004. This plan calls for modifying the zoning code to make community gardens an allowed use in all zones (except environmentally sensitive zones); look for opportunities to use vacant land to create community gardens; provide a C\$5,000 yearly fund to support new gardens; provide free water access and cover liability insurance for gardens.<sup>4</sup>

### **Urban Agriculture in Comprehensive Plans**

**Berkeley, CA:** The Open Space section of the *Planning Commission General Plan* includes community garden recommendations: building partnerships with community groups and the local school system to build support; keeping the gardens open to the public; and pursuing gardens in dense residential areas where there are few other locations for food production. There is recognition of the importance of community gardens as community spaces and for local food production.<sup>5</sup>

**Seattle's Comprehensive Plan** sets out a goal for quantity of community gardens. The *Urban Village Element* of the Comprehensive Plan calls for: "One dedicated community garden for each 2,500 households in the Village with at least one dedicated garden site." The Urban Villages, in their various configurations, do not contain the entire area of the City, but the denser, residential town centers.<sup>6</sup>

The **Montreal Master Plan** recognizes community gardens as facilities that "contribute to neighbourhood community life and cultural development, reinforce residents' sense of belonging and encourage participation in sports, recreation and outdoor living."<sup>7</sup>

The **District of Columbia Comprehensive Plan Act** of 1984 called for the establishment of a Food Production and Urban Gardens Program, which was implemented in 1987. The program maintains a

vacant lands inventory, provides technical assistance to community gardeners through extension services, and calls for educational gardens to be established.<sup>8</sup>

**Chicago, IL:** The 1998 plan, *Cityspace: An Open Space Plan for Chicago*, calls for development of community gardens in every neighborhood, with a goal of 1,000 community gardens in Chicago by 2005.<sup>9</sup>

## Food System Policy in Comprehensive Plans

**Berkeley, CA:** The *Planning Commission General Plan* includes a statement on food systems and associated actions. Actions include encouraging more training on food production by the public school and University systems; encouraging local institutional purchasing; supporting education in organic and sustainable food systems, and encouraging rooftop and community gardens.<sup>10</sup>

## Community Garden Zoning

The Boston zoning code includes nine Open Space Subdistricts to specify what kinds of activities are allowed there. There is a *Community Garden Open Space Subdistrict* that can include vacant public lands.<sup>11</sup>

In 1985, Montreal was one of the first cities in North America to create community gardening zoning. The City maintains the 100+ gardens with over 6500 garden plots (though some are maintained by the boroughs) and provides seeds, tools, toilets and toolsheds.<sup>12</sup>

## Urban Agriculture Zoning

Montreal has designated a Permanent Agricultural Zone (PAZ) which covers about 4% of the city's total land. Much of the land is now used for an experimental farm run by McGill University, an agricultural park, an eco-museum and an arboretum. The Montreal Master Plan includes an action titled: "Preserve and enhance rural character and agricultural activities in certain areas of the West Island" which talks about steps to take to enhance productive agriculture in Montreal by developing the agricultural park further, ensuring that new home development does not conflict with agriculture near the zone, studying ways to enhance the tourist appeal of the area, and maintaining the PAZ boundaries.

## Council Resolutions

**Seattle, WA:** In 1992, Seattle City Council passed resolution 28610 in support of the City's P-Patch community gardening program. It stated that the City would "include the P-Patch Program in the evaluation of priority use of city surplus property," attempt to fund the management of the program, and supported its expansion.<sup>14</sup>

**Madison, WI:** Two resolutions have been passed by the City's Common Council in support of community gardens. The June 1990 resolution called for the establishment of permanent community gardens on city-owned property, as well as proposed changes to the zoning ordinance to encourage community gardens in newly-platted areas of the city. In 1997, a resolution called for the establishment of a Community Gardens Advisory Council to research ways the City could support community gardens.<sup>15</sup>

**Chicago, IL:** City Council in 1996 established a not-for-profit corporation, NeighborSpace, to manage small public properties as open space, including pocket parks and community gardens. The resolution

recognized that neighborhood groups often lacked the resources and liability insurance needed to own and manage property, and it was in the interest of the City to make use of these properties as open spaces. Eight years later, NeighborSpace owns or leases 48 sites in 31 City wards, most of which are community gardens. This model protects the land long-term.<sup>16</sup>

## Food Charters

Many cities in Canada in particular have developed food charters to state specifically the municipalities' commitment to food security. These charters are adopted by city council bodies. Many of these refer directly to community gardens and urban agriculture. Among many other items related to food security and local food systems,

**Toronto's** Food Charter calls for the protection of local agricultural lands, the support of urban agriculture, and the encouragement of community gardens.<sup>17</sup>

**St. Albert's** Food Charter includes a variety of strategies to support local food production, including using vacant public lands for food production, the construction and operation of neighborhood food storage and distribution systems, and year-round farmers markets.<sup>18</sup>

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