

To our Mayor and City Council:

Presented by Stephen and Barbara Olsen residing at [REDACTED] Lorita Way, Cottonwood Heights. Our home and property back up to Little Cottonwood Creek. We have lived here for 30 years.

Quotes from Cottonwood Heights City: **"Parks, Trails, & Open Space Master Plan"**:

- "The trail network accesses public lands for city resident and non-city users **without interfering with the quality of life of nearby residents or infringing on private property rights.**" P. 22
- "Staff should consider the following key factors when prioritizing specific projects: **How compatible is the proposed open space or recreational uses of this parcel with the adjacent land uses?**" p. 50
- **"Are the projected annual management and maintenance costs acceptable and reasonable?" p.51**
- **"Are there any Hazards associated with the property?" p. 51**
- According to Salt Lake County's watershed predictions, "Little Cottonwood Creek poses a serious safety issue during runoff. Little Cottonwood runoff is 50% higher than Big Cottonwood Creek": <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/c5115234c6df4eb59ea13da5916ddeb0>
- Under Utah State Law **governments are not allowed to use eminent domain to seize property for the purpose of developing public trails.** [see Utah Code Section 78B-6-501\(3\)\(a\)](#)

Therefore, it is clear that the proposed Little Cottonwood Creek Trail does not meet the policy and requirements set forth in the Cottonwood Heights Master Plan nor is it lawful for the City to use eminent domain to develop this trail.

We strongly oppose this plan and ask that the Mayor and City Council remove the proposed Little Cottonwood Creek trail from its Master Plan and request they vote to acknowledge and comply with Utah law prohibiting trail development in Cottonwood Heights using eminent domain.

We further request that our City Government officials inform and invite all affected property owners, by notice in the US Mail, of any future City Meetings proposing changes to our property. Simply posting notices in a local newspaper may fulfill the legal notice requirements however it doesn't meet our elected officials' ethical obligation to invite public input on issues that affect our personal lives and homes.

Sincerely,

Stephen Olsen and other Concerned Neighbors of Cottonwood Heights