

7-ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Chapter 7 – Environmental Stewardship

7.1 – WHAT WE KNOW

The agricultural heritage of Providence provides residents and City leaders with firsthand experience and knowledge of the vital role water plays in the economics and environment of the Valley. Providing the City with the tools needed to better manage and conserve its water resources will be vital to the future of the City.

The presence of deer within the City has been, and will continue to be a long topic of discussion. While many enjoy the deer, the animals do have implications on residential gardens, agriculture, and safety. Beyond the aging deer fence erected some 50 years ago, there is not a current solution or set management strategy in place.

The City uses mapping information from Cache County's GIS website <https://www.cachecounty.org/gis/> and has a current Sensitive Areas ordinance in place regarding development in relation to hazard zones of flood, slope, water table, earthquake primary fault, and wildlife. The City will continue to monitor these areas as development continues and must work to protect these areas not only for the purposes of health and safety, but for conservation and ecological sustainability.

The 2009 *Envision Cache Valley Report and Toolkit*, prepared by the Cache Valley Regional Council, identifies through public workshops and surveys, the desire of residents to preserve and protect the water quality, mountain recreation, and the many ecological resources of the area. Residents pointed to cities providing better codes and ordinances for development as the best means to achieve conservation goals. The Toolkit provides Providence with the implementation strategies necessary to achieve these goals.

7.2 – HOW DOES THIS HELP US PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

Logan City's public works department has prepared a Water Conservation plan that identifies strategies and actions the City can take to further reduce waste and overuse of water. See https://www.loganutah.org/government/departments/public_works/water_and_waste_water/conservation_plan.php. Providence will need to consider developing a similar Water Conservation Plan which will identify current water rights, sources, and water demand in the City to better meet future demands and prepare regulating ordinances to enforce these conservation strategies.

Providence developed a 40-Year Water Rights Plan in 2019 that outlines current and projected water use. According to projections, Providence will need to procure additional water shares to meet the needs of the community by 2043, and may need additional water sources as soon as 2035. Adjustments and conservation strategies may extend the deadline for acquiring additional shares.

Continued collaboration with the Division of Wildlife Resources will provide the City with potential solutions and management strategies for the deer population.

Knowing where the areas are that would benefit from environmental stewardship will help the City in making decisions on how far up the hillside to allow development.

7.3 – OVERALL GOAL & OBJECTIVE

The following overall goal, objectives, and action strategies provide a map for addressing the concerns and opportunities for Environmental Stewardship. The overall goal provides the vision and the objectives represent what Providence would like to achieve. The strategies are action items that direct how the overall goal and objectives will be achieved. Many strategies will work to achieve more than one objective.

7-ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

OVERALL GOAL FOR THE CHAPTER – THE GUIDING VISION & INTENT

Providence City will have a plan that proactively mitigates negative impact on natural and environmental resources such as open space, clean air, water quality, and wildlife habitat.

OBJECTIVES – WHAT DO WE WANT TO ACHIEVE?	STRATEGIES – HOW DO WE MAKE IT HAPPEN?	1-5 Years	5-15 Years
The following objectives represent what Providence would like to achieve over the next 15 to 20 years in regard to Environmental Stewardship. The means for how Providence will work toward these objectives is captured in the Action Plan Strategies.	The following action-based strategies will help Providence achieve the overall goal and objectives for Environmental Stewardship.		
1. Minimize negative impacts to watershed, ground water, canals, springs, streams, rivers and other aquatic systems.	a. Prepare a watershed protection plan for areas within the city. Update this plan as needed.		X
	b. Prepare and update water source protection plans for all culinary water sources.		X
	c. Require and enforce storm water pollution prevention plans for all new construction.	X	
	d. Implement plan and enforcement code preventing the inappropriate and illegal discharge of solid or fluids onto the land, into waterways or into the sewer system or ground water aquifers.	X	
2. Protect surface and ground water resources from pollution and depletion.	a. Develop a water conservation plan that includes public education for using water wisely while also preventing stream and groundwater contamination. Update this plan as needed.		X
3. Retain open spaces and scenic views that contribute to the character of Providence.	a. Select and plan for areas to preserve open space, parks, trails, scenic views, etc.	X	
	b. Identify naturally occurring areas on hillsides (steep), unbuildable sites (wetlands, under power lines, rocky outcrop), protected water sheds, waterways, canals, pathways.	X	
	c. Utilize development to incorporate open space such as athletic fields, churches, cemeteries, schools, river walkways, setbacks, buffers, civic gathering places.		X
	d. Specify a north/south “power line trail” and create a plan to allow for enjoyment of scenic views along it.	X	
	e. Create a plan and guidelines for placing benches or seating structures to support a multi-modal network and allow for enjoyment of scenic views throughout the city.	X	
4. Protect and/or maintain existing wildlife habitat, such as wildlife corridors, in a manner that minimizes conflicts and	a. Protect the mountainside area for winter-feeding range.		X
	b. Develop a plan to preserve green space along Spring Creek.		X

7-ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

allows human and animal habitation to coexist.			
5. Respect and tolerate deer and small animal populations within the city in an ethically responsible manner.	a. Work with the Utah Department of Wildlife to evaluate deer management strategies.	X	
6. Acknowledge Sensitive Areas discussed in Providence City Code Title 10 Chapter 5.	a. Utilize the BRAG Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan to identify sensitive areas.	X	
	b. Work with Utah State Engineer and FEMA to mitigate flood hazard areas.	X	
7. Protect areas throughout Providence City from the spread of invasive plants.	a. Work with Cache County Weed Division in their goal to <i>"Uphold the State Noxious Weed Law and assist citizens in their noxious weed control efforts."</i>		X