

# Argument for the City of Bountiful Park and Trails General Obligation Bond

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This November, voters will have the opportunity to approve an \$8 million Park and Trails General Obligation Bond to preserve valuable open space and provide more outdoor recreation opportunities for Bountiful residents and their families. Investing in and protecting our City's open space is crucial to maintaining the high-quality of life appreciated by residents. As the State's population and need for housing increases, open space is in high-demand but is becoming harder to find and more importantly to retain. Once our open space is gone, our available space to recreate in and enjoy is gone.

**Washington Elementary Site: Purchase and Improvements** - \$3.5 million from the Park and Trails Bond will be used to purchase the 10-acre Washington Elementary site (located at 340 West 650 South). Purchasing this property will preserve valuable green space in lieu of more houses or apartments. Approximately \$2.5 million will be available to improve and expand the recreation amenities and sports fields there. We frequently hear from residents about the need for more sports fields. Bountiful has very few flat areas that can accommodate football, soccer, or lacrosse, so families are often required to travel to other cities to play games. The 10-acre site would provide space to accommodate a variety of field sports and other recreation uses. We will carefully collect resident input through a public design process to determine what other improvements and amenities would be desirable for our residents.

**Bountiful City Trails System** - The remaining \$2 million will be used to expand and improve the City's recreational trail system. Our City's wonderful location near the mountains provides many opportunities for hiking, biking and outdoor fun. A 2017 resident survey identified increased access and expanded trails as the top priority. Last fall the City Council adopted a Trails Master Plan. Plans include trail connections between canyons, more and improved bike and hike trails, and a new downhill-only path in Mueller Park Canyon to separate traffic on the popular trail. The Bountiful Trails Advisory Committee will assist in determining plans and soliciting community feedback.

**Value to Residents**- We take our responsibilities using taxpayer funds very seriously, and work hard to maintain high-quality services while keeping taxes low:

- Bountiful City has a history of responsibly using money and has no tax-supported debt.
- Of the 50 largest cities in the State, Bountiful has the 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest property tax rate and ranks 4<sup>th</sup> lowest in taxes and fees per \$1,000 of resident income.
- Bountiful City has a AA-Bond rating, meaning the City is a trusted borrow with access to good interest rates.

With this bond, over a 20-year period the estimated property tax increase would be \$32.57 per year on a \$371,000 primary residence, equaling just \$2-3 per month for the average household. Regardless of where in the City you live or where you choose to recreate, protecting open space is one way to preserve and enjoy Bountiful City now and for generations to come. Please vote FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.