

UTAH OPEN LANDS' ADVENTURE AWARE GUIDE



ABOUT UTAH OPEN LANDS

UOL is a land trust dedicated to preserving Utah's natural heritage and quality of life for future generations. Our efforts prioritize the agricultural, scenic, recreational, historic, and wildlife values of open land. The tool we use to protect open spaces is a conservation easement, a legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust which limits development of a property.

Founded in 1990, Utah Open Lands has protected over **64,000 acres** of open space across the state of Utah. Our passion for protecting Utah's open spaces is the driving force behind our work. We take great pride in all that we do and are proud to be a 501(c)3 non-profit and nationally accredited land trust organization. Our dedication to conservation work ensures that landscapes remain undeveloped in perpetuity.





BONANZA FLAT CONSERVATION AREA
1512 ACRES | PROTECTED IN 2020



CASTLETON TOWER PRESERVE
221 ACRES | PROTECTED IN 2001



BRIDAL VEIL FALLS
23 ACRES | PROTECTED IN 2020

ADVENTURE AWARE

Welcome to Utah Open Land's Adventure Aware guide, where we invite you to embark on a journey to cultivate environmental stewardship. In a world where the fragility of our open spaces is increasingly evident, it is vital that we cultivate a mindset that ensures the legacy of these cherished landscapes for future generations.

Through our Leave it Loved campaign, we are committed to more than just educating outdoor enthusiasts on responsible practices; we are determined to ignite a profound transformation in the way we engage with our surroundings. We challenge each and every recreationist to embody the principles of stewardship and become shining examples for others to follow, both in the present and in the years to come.

Within the pages of this guide, you will discover a wealth of knowledge and inspiration to Challenge Your Inner Steward. We will equip you with the tools, insights, and practices necessary to become Adventure Aware – a conscientious and mindful explorer of Utah's awe-inspiring landscapes.



RESPECT WILDLIFE



Respecting wildlife is crucial in being Adventure Aware. Whether encountering moose, squirrels, or any other animals. It's important to give animals, especially mothers with young, plenty of space. Never touch or feed them, as this disrupts their natural behavior and diet.

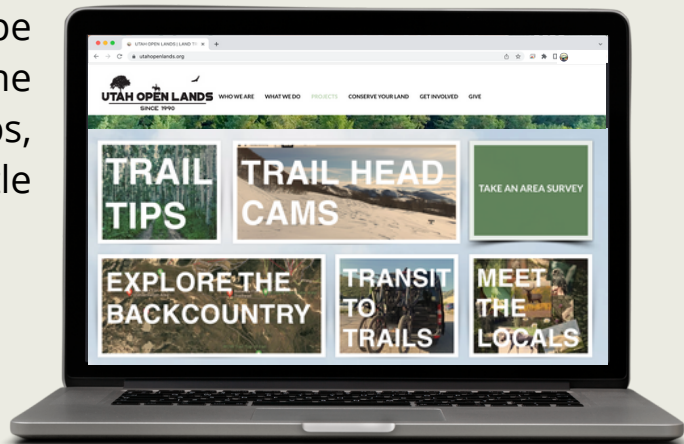
To ensure a harmonious coexistence, dispose of trash and food waste properly. Store food securely and refrain from littering to prevent wildlife from relying on human food sources. By following these simple guidelines, we can show respect for resident creatures, protect their habitat, and preserve the delicate balance of the ecosystems we cherish.

CHECK AHEAD

Being prepared is essential for a safe outdoor adventure. Before setting off, take the time to check important details. Start by checking the weather forecast and pack suitable clothing and gear accordingly. Bring an ample supply of food, water, and sunscreen to stay nourished, hydrated, and protected from the sun.

In addition, be equipped with essential items to handle unexpected situations. Carry a first aid kit, a map or GPS device, and a flashlight or headlamp. It's crucial to prioritize safety by ensuring you have the necessary supplies to navigate and address emergencies. By checking ahead and being prepared, you can have a more enjoyable and worry-free outdoor experience, reducing the likelihood of encountering difficulties while on the trail.

Check out our Landscape Landing Pages on the UOL website for trail tips, trailhead cams, shuttle information and more.



TREAD LIGHTLY



Treading lightly is a vital principle of being Adventure Aware. When exploring the outdoors, it's essential to respect and preserve the natural features and resources that make these landscapes extraordinary. Avoid damaging or disturbing lakes, rivers, and other natural elements.

Be mindful of signage and respect the guidelines set forth by land managers. Stay on designated trails to minimize the impact on fragile ecosystems and show reverence for the land. Remember that these trails are sustainably designed to minimize impact on the landscape. Take care not to trample or disturb sensitive plants alongside the trail.

ROAM RESPONSIBLY



When it comes to bringing your wheels along for the ride, follow regulations to ensure the enjoyment of others. Whether you're on a bike or an off-highway vehicle (OHV), staying on designated trails is essential. Ensure that you ride only where permitted.

To further enhance your responsible roaming experience, refrain from playing music out loud on the trails. This consideration allows everyone to immerse themselves in the natural surroundings without unnecessary disruptions. Embrace the peacefulness of the outdoors and show respect for other trail users by keeping music confined to personal headphones or speakers at a low volume, allowing everyone to enjoy the serene beauty of the landscape.



With limited available parking spots at trailheads, it's essential to understand that parking capacity is designed to reflect the carrying capacity of the land. While it may be inconvenient, it is important to refrain from parking in undesignated areas when a trailhead parking lot is full. Instead, consider alternative hiking locations where parking is available, or patiently wait for a legal parking spot to become available.

Exploring options such as biking, carpooling, or utilizing shuttle programs like Transit to Trails can help you navigate the parking puzzle and reduce the strain on parking facilities. By being flexible in your parking approach, you can contribute to a more sustainable and enjoyable outdoor experience for yourself and others.

PAWSITIVE ETIQUETTE



Practicing pawsitive etiquette is crucial when exploring the outdoors with your furry companions. Keeping dogs on leash is a great way to maintain control and respect other trail users. Be a responsible pet owner by promptly picking up after your dog and disposing of their waste properly. Avoid letting your dog trample vegetation by staying on designated trails and discouraging them from wandering off-path. Respect any restrictions on dogs swimming in prohibited lakes to preserve aquatic ecosystems. Finally, recognize that not everyone may be comfortable with dogs, so keeping your pets away from other trail users is important for a positive outdoor experience for everyone involved.

WASTE WISE



Make sure to pack out whatever you pack in, including items that are considered compostable, such as apple cores and banana peels. This includes food wrappers, empty bottles, and any other packaging materials. Before leaving an area where you stopped for a snack or lunch, thoroughly scan for any wrappers, whether they are yours or left behind by others. Carrying a trash bag and a pair of gloves (to ensure hygienic handling) with you to collect and properly dispose of any litter you encounter along the way is a great way to go above and beyond. Consider joining Utah Open Lands for a trash cleanup event. By diligently picking up trash and properly disposing of it, we can play a crucial role in keeping our open spaces and waterways clean and free from pollution.

GET INVOLVED

Being Adventure Aware is not just a one-time practice but a mindset that we should embrace every time we venture into the outdoors. To delve deeper into these topics and access more valuable information, explore the available resources and engage in the ongoing conversations about responsible outdoor recreation and conservation. Share your knowledge and experiences with others to inspire a collective commitment to preserving the natural beauty of our open spaces for generations to come.

Interested in attending a volunteer event with Utah Open lands? Sign up for our volunteer newsletter to receive quarterly updates on upcoming volunteer opportunities.



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Special thanks to Jim Shuler, Jeff Peck and Robert Mazza for photo content in this guide



1488 South Main Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84115
(801)-463-6156

 @UtahOpenLands
www.utahopenlands.org