

**City of Cottonwood Heights commits \$1,000,000 to Cottonwood Canyon Baseland Protection**

*Cottonwood Heights allocates Bonneville Shoreline dollars to Utah Open Lands protection project*

At a council work session meeting at on Tuesday the Cottonwood Heights City Council committed \$1,000,000 from funds the city had set aside for Bonneville Shoreline Trail protection and improvement. Utah Open Lands had requested that the City commit funds toward the 26 acre project at the base of Little Cottonwood Canyon that is currently slated for 11 lots. Prior to the Council's commitment, the city's Parks, Trails, and Open Space Committee made a formal recommendation for the city to contribute the requested funding. This is a significant investment for the community and an important step in accomplishing city priorities to enhance quality of life and promote preservation of open space.

"If we fail to raise the necessary funds this land will be developed" said Wendy Fisher, Executive Director Utah Open Lands. "We applaud the City for coming in with a significant contribution toward this critical open space." Said Fisher.

The land, currently subject to a development agreement, has been secured through an option agreement that provides Utah Open Lands with a little over 3 months to secure funds for the \$3 million purchase price. The decision by the City of Cottonwood Heights accomplished a critical benchmark in the project. Utah Open Lands needed to raise half of the purchase price by March 20<sup>th</sup> and with the pledge from the City of Cottonwood Heights as well as the funding from the State's LeRay McAllister Fund, the organization can meet that deadline and continue to work toward the remaining funding.

"Open space and access to recreational opportunities is important to our community" said Cottonwood Heights mayor Mike Peterson. "We have made funding for Bonneville Shoreline Trail a priority which is why we have set aside funding for trail creation, trail heads and even acquisition. This project fits into that source of funds and we will be cheering Utah Open Lands on to get this across the finish line." Said Mayor Peterson