

VISION AND GOALS OF OPEN SPACE

Open space is not – and cannot be – an end in or of itself. Rather, various types of open space are used as tools to help design/create the future of Midway City, as captured in the Community Vision Statement of the [10 Year Plan](#). Different open space tools are applicable to different city design objectives, each of which has a unique purpose. These design objectives provide the necessary next level of detail for related open space planning, consistent with the Vision Statement and Midway values.

There are four Midway design objectives requiring use of open space tools. They are:

1. PRESERVE INTER-CITY SPACE

Today views of Heber Valley provide a clear sense of separate cities – Midway, Heber, Charleston – separated by expanses of agriculture. Years ago many Wasatch front cities were the same (e.g., Provo/Orem), but are now “sprawled” together into a single urban mass. As one of the fastest growing counties in the USA, Wasatch is certainly vulnerable to the same fate. Preserving Midway City’s rural setting in relation to other population centers in the Heber Valley may involve acquisition of strategically located non-development buffer zones.

2. PRESERVE MIDWAY’S UNIQUE INTRA-CITY CHARACTER

Midway City has a multi-faceted character, including clearly rural older areas, and newer developments with typical suburban character. The historic rural areas provide a unique character / atmosphere. Preserving this character on require purchase of development rights on selected intra-city spaces currently in agricultural use, or of historic value.

3. CREATE LOCAL NEIGHBORHOOD “OPENESS”

A sense of spaciousness in residential communities is provided by large setbacks, establishment of view corridors through restriction on view obstructing fences or structures, small community use areas (playgrounds, etc.), larger lot size zoning, and density regulations. For the most part, these features are required by city code, and not realized by open space acquisition. Recent revisions to city code have supported this objective, and further revisions can assist in its further realization.

4. PROVIDE PUBLIC RECREATION VENUES

This objective primarily focuses on parks, trails, and outdoor recreational or athletic venues. A separate chapter in the General Plan addresses these, but they are included here in acknowledgement of their importance in Midway’s open space objectives, and often require public funds in their acquisition / construction.

It is likely that the Open Space Bond currently under discussion would be used only for the first two objectives. Forthcoming selection criteria will clarify this.

These design objectives elaborate on the Community Vision Statement and further define the City’s values and priorities for open space. Use of limited city resources in the acquisition or preservation of open space demands disciplined focus, insuring each acquisition is well purposed to its respective design objective.

The above is an extraction from the Midway 10 Year Plan, Chapter 10: Open Space. For more detail see chapter 10 posted on this web site.