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# Utah Outdoor Partners Survey of Tech Sector Employees

The most important factor for Utah's tech sector employees deciding to move to or stay in Utah is access to outdoor recreation and wilderness.

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# Utah Outdoor Partners Survey of Tech Sector Employees

## Analysis in Brief

Utah's outdoors are important to tech sector employees. In fact, access to Utah's outdoor recreation opportunities and wilderness was the most important rated factor for locating or staying in Utah.

Utah's tech sector is the fastest growing industry in the state while offering well-paying jobs that often encourage a healthy work-life balance. Utah's easy access to wilderness offers many outdoor recreation opportunities year-round, and is therefore used as a recruitment tool for marketing Utah as a place where a work-life balance is accessible, enjoyable, and awe-inspiring. As we learned in our 2018 survey of Utah businesses, Utah's outdoor lifestyle is a major reason companies located here. This follow-up study surveyed tech sector employees to determine the importance of Utah's outdoors in moving to - or choosing to stay - in Utah.

**94% of all respondents indicated outdoor recreation was important in coping with the pandemic**



### Transplants to Utah

- Of the 55% of transplants that moved to Utah for a job, **45% said Utah's outdoor recreation and/or access to wilderness and public lands was used to recruit them**, over cost of living (34%) and career advancement opportunities (32%).
- 79% rated outdoor recreation and/or access to wilderness and public lands as the most important factor in their decision to move to Utah**, over career advancement opportunities (71%) and pay/benefits (68%).
- 98% of transplants have tried new outdoor recreational activities or visited new public lands since moving to Utah.

### Utah Natives

- Of Utah natives working in the tech industry that have left Utah and moved back (98%), **82% said outdoor recreation and/or access to wilderness and public lands was the most important factor in moving back**, over family (76%), career opportunities (76%), and cost of living (61%).

### All Respondents

- Of the 38% who chose to stay in Utah despite a higher-salary offer elsewhere, **85% said outdoor recreation and/or access to wilderness and public lands was their most important factor in choosing to stay**, over cost of living (78%), family (73%), and commute (69%).
- 59% utilize Utah's outdoors once a week or more.

*“Being able to get out and do the things I love makes life worth living. Having access to outdoor places is why I stay in Utah.”*

i. See 2019 Tech Report here: <https://gardner.utah.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019TechReportVol1.pdf>  
 ii. See 2018 Outdoor Partners report here: <https://gardner.utah.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018-Outdoor-Partners-Report-FINAL-1.pdf>

# Introduction and Methodology

This 2020 study sought to understand views of Utah's outdoors by Utah's tech sector workforce. Utah's tech sector is the fastest growing industry in the state, offering well-paying jobs to both Utah natives and talent from the rest of the world. So how does easy access to year-round wilderness and inherent activities impact the desire of tech sector professionals to relocate or remain in Utah?

This research complements a 2018 survey conducted by the Gardner Policy Institute of Utah businesses regarding the importance of Utah's outdoors to employee recruitment and retention, and overall desirability of doing business in the state.

This report describes the survey findings of Utah transplants, Utah natives, and the importance of the outdoors during the COVID-19 pandemic. This report also compares the findings of the 2018 report of employers to that of employees.

Utah Outdoor Partners contracted the Gardner Institute for this research. The questionnaire and survey instrument was developed in partnership, programmed by Institute researchers, and pretested to ensure accurate programming. The survey instrument can be found in Appendix A.

The Gardner Institute and Utah Outdoor Partners partnered with Silicon Slopes to distribute the survey through email newsletters and social media channels. Utah Outdoor Partners also ran targeted social media ads and engaged in outreach to tech sector companies to share with their employees.

The survey was in the field from October 6 to November 25, 2020. Gift cards were offered as an incentive in the form of a random drawing to participate in the survey. While anyone could take the survey, this report focuses on respondents that work in Utah's tech sector. This designation was determined from both asking where they were employed and whether they worked in the tech industry, which resulted in 254 respondents represented by 140 unique employers.

## Limitations

This research used a non-probability sample where outreach was targeted to a specific population rather than random sampling of the total population. The results are not generalizable to the entire tech sector population since every tech sector employee was not invited to participate in the survey.

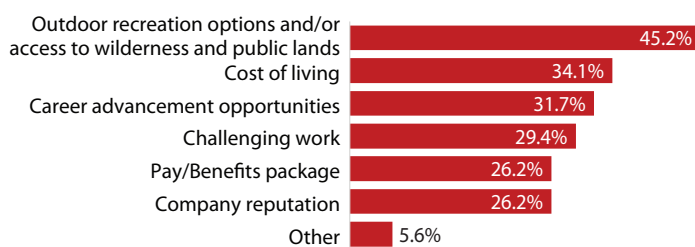
# Findings

Utah's outdoors are important to tech sector employees. In fact, access to Utah's outdoor recreation opportunities and wilderness was the most important rated factor for locating or staying in Utah.

## Utah Transplants

Of the 126 respondents who were not born in Utah, 55% (N=69) moved to Utah for a job. Of those, 69% have lived here under 10 years, and 31% over 11 years. This study sought to understand any recruitment efforts from the employers they for whom they moved to Utah. When asked which recruitment efforts they recalled, the most often selected option was outdoor recreation options and/or access to wilderness and public lands (see Figure 1).

**Figure 1. Recruitment efforts used by employers to attract Utah transplants**



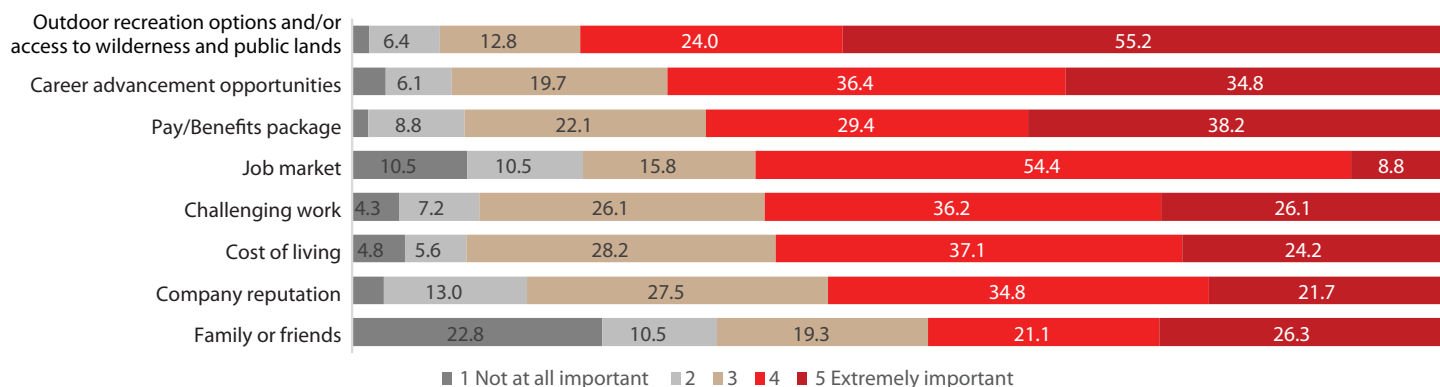
Outdoor recreation options and/or access to wilderness and public lands was also the most important factor for making the decision to move to Utah. Career advancement and pay followed in importance. Figure 2 is sorted by the sum of 4 and 5 on a 1-5 scale where 1 is "not at all important," and 5 is "extremely important" to denote general importance.

Eighty-five percent of Utah transplants indicated outdoor recreation and/or access to wilderness and public lands have grown in importance to their lives since moving to Utah, and 98% have tried new outdoor activities since moving here.

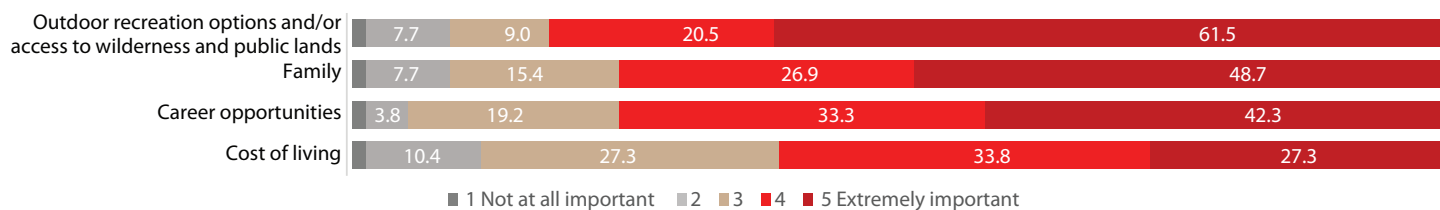
## Utah Natives

The rest of the sample, 128 or 50% of respondents, are Utah natives. Ninety-eight percent of these tech-sector natives have moved away and decided to come back. When asked to rank the following factors for moving back to Utah in importance on a scale of 1-5, where 1 is "not at all important" and 5 is "extremely important," outdoor recreation options and access to wilderness and public lands topped the list. Figure 3 is sorted by the sum of 4 and 5 on that scale to denote general importance.

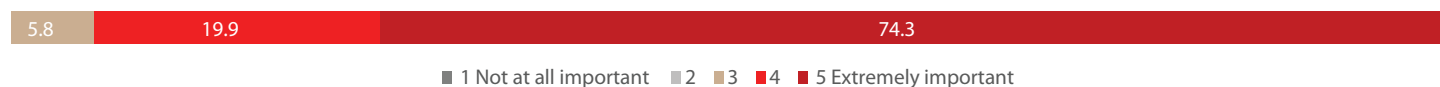
**Figure 2. Important factors for moving to Utah**



**Figure 3. Important factors in moving back to Utah**



**Figure 4. Importance of outdoor recreation in coping with the pandemic.**



**All Respondents**

**Impacts of COVID-19**

To mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus in 2020, many Utahns sought ways to spend time that limited public interaction. This study wanted to understand the importance of Utah’s outdoors and whether access to outdoor recreation was utilized more by tech sector employees during the COVID-19 epidemic. Additionally, Table 1 shows that while the difference between outdoor use before and since COVID-19 isn’t significant, 59% of respondents utilizing Utah’s outdoors once a week or more is notable.

**Chose Utah over Better Pay**

Thirty-eight percent of respondents (N=96) decided to stay in Utah despite a job offer in another state. These respondents were asked to rate in importance several factors in their decision to forgo higher income to stay in Utah, where 1 is “not at all important” and 5 is “extremely important.” Figure 5 is sorted by the sum of 4 and 5 on that scale to denote general importance.

Outdoor recreation options and access to wilderness and public lands topped the list, followed by cost of living, family, then commute.

**Table 1. Outdoor recreation activity before and since COVID-19**

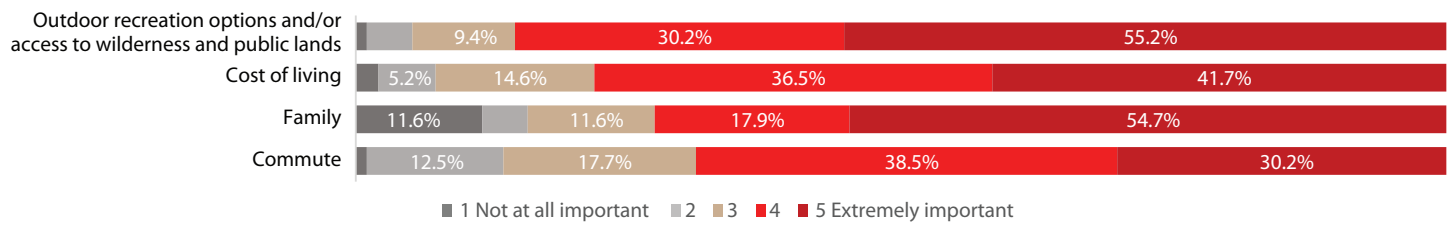
	Before COVID-19	Since COVID-19	Difference
A few times per year	10.2%	15.5%	5.2
Once a month	7.9%	8.3%	0.5
A couple times a month	22.4%	17.1%	-5.4
<b>A couple times a month or less</b>	<b>40.6%</b>	<b>40.9%</b>	<b>0.3</b>
Once a week	14.2%	17.1%	2.9
Few times a week	37.8%	32.9%	-4.9
Every day	7.5%	9.1%	1.6
<b>Once a week or more</b>	<b>59.4%</b>	<b>59.1%</b>	<b>-0.3</b>

**Comparing Employer and Employee Sentiment**

The 2018 report surveyed Utah’s fastest growing businesses. While the tech sector is the fastest growing industry, this business survey included all sectors. Therefore, this does not compare tech sector employers to tech sector employees, but employers of the fastest growing businesses with tech sector employees.

Businesses surveyed had similar sentiment to tech sector employees about the importance of Utah’s outdoors to locating to Utah. Utah’s outdoor lifestyle and access to outdoor

**Figure 5. Factors in decision to forgo higher income to stay in Utah**



recreation were the second and third most often chosen factors for locating their business in Utah, and that access was cited as the second most important factor for possible business expansion. However, when asked about factors that allow their businesses to attract and retain employees, Utah’s outdoor recreation variety and outdoor lifestyle were the least chosen options. This is incongruent with results from the tech sector employee survey, where Utah’s outdoors was most often used as a recruitment tool from employers for whom they relocated and the most important factor for relocating. It could be argued this most often used recruitment tool is successful in that outdoor recreation options and access to Utah’s wilderness and public lands were rated the most important factor for moving to Utah.

**In Their Own Words**

This survey included opportunities for respondents to share their view of Utah’s outdoors in their own words. Select questions were coded or themed for the report, and all verbatim open-ended comments can be found in Appendix B. Respondents were asked to describe why outdoor recreation and/or access to wilderness was important to them. Selected verbatim comments that represent the following themes are included below.

**Why is outdoor recreation and/or access to wilderness and public lands important to you?**

Respondents noted the physical health benefits:

*Outdoor recreation provides an opportunity to engage in healthy activities and movement not available through a mostly sedentary technology-focused occupation. There are also networking opportunities through various outdoor recreation groups. (Transplant)*

*Outdoor recreation and/or access to wilderness and public lands is one of the ways I combat the negatives of a sedentary occupation. (Transplant)*

*I find meaning in challenging myself physically in beautiful spaces. I have better health and happiness when I engage in the outdoors. (Native)*

*Research has shown the myriad health and psychological benefits of recreating outside. For me, it’s a chance to escape the doldrums of work life and have fun while exercising. (Native)*

...as well as the mental health benefits:

*It’s how I manage stress. (Transplant)*

*It is one of the things in my life that makes me the most happy. (Transplant)*

*It’s my church, where I go to clear my head, reframe my thinking, remind myself what is important and what is not, and how short our time is. (Transplant)*

*It’s part of my identity as a person and an effective therapeutic strategy. (Native)*

*I like to be outdoors for my mental health, and there are so many options you can get to in an hour or a day. (Native)*

*It benefits my mental health and is what I try to schedule my life around outside of work. (Transplant)*

Respondents note how easy access to Utah’s outdoors helps them disconnect from screens and contributes to a healthy work/life balance:

*I have found spending time outdoors to be critical to my life balance and family quality time. (Transplant)*

*You have balanced life-work situation, to stay in shape, feel happier and not depressed from work overload. Favorite hobbies are outdoors, and Utah has great access to it. (Transplant)*

*I spend 40-60 hours a week staring at a computer screen, often way more - that is physically and emotionally exhausting. I love working in tech, don’t get me wrong, but I’ve been living in Utah for just a few years now and I still stare at the mountains every time we leave the house....I experience a greater sense of peace when I can spend time in nature, getting fresh air, challenging myself to do some new things. I’m from Missouri and, believe me, y’all got a lot of cool outdoors stuff here. (Transplant)*

*I find the wilderness and public lands are where all my favorite activities are. I go out there and decompress, center myself, and become a more contributing member of society. (Transplant)*

*It balances the pressures of work and family with beauty, adventure, and discovery. Even the most burnt out corporate shells become good people again when they #optoutside (Transplant)*

*Outdoor recreation is how I maintain balance with my health and well-being. If I don't have that, I am not successful in other areas of my life. (Transplant)*

*For fitness, recreation, and peace of mind. I am a workaholic and the outdoors is basically my only break. I would go insane without the mountains to mountain bike, ski, and hike in, as well as be inspired by their beauty. (Native)*

*It's where I can think and recharge. I'm naturally an introvert as are most engineers. I love exploring and just having time to think, pray, read, and listen to and watch nature. It's the best art there is, and the best way to get away. It's the opposite of the intensity of work. (Native)*

*To have a balanced day and life in general I need to be outside. I need to be able to get outside and experience something. The more available that access the more likely that is to happen on a daily basis. (Native)*

*It is a great way to break away from the high tech work and continual screen time. (Native)*

Respondents are appreciative of Utah's natural beauty:

*It's beautiful. Nothing beats driving home to a view of the mountains, no matter how bad my day is, the majesty of my natural environment makes me feel blessed that I chose to move here. (Transplant)*

*Utah's scenery and outdoors are one of a kind. From mountain to desert, it's all unique. (Transplant)*

Utah **natives** compare Utah's outdoor access to other states they've lived:

*When I moved, I moved to another city that was considered "outdoorsy." It had nothing on Utah cities, and the lack of urban greenspace (like parks) was notable. There were outdoors spots, but they were often overcrowded or difficult to get to. Because Utah has so many spaces, and they're so nearby, it's a much better experience.*

*It is one of my outlets. I love being outside, away from the world. I was in a bigger city and on the weekends when I wanted to "escape" I would go to the outdoors only to find everyone else there too. There wasn't enough wilderness close by for me to be comfortable and feel like I could breathe.*

*I lived in Manhattan and in Connecticut, Utah is unparalleled with its access to the great outdoors. I can access everything within 5-40 min allowing me to recreate during the week.*

*I spend a significant part of my time in these types of activities. Proximity and ease of access were a key decision in moving back to Utah.*

*Most of my life decisions have been based on access to outdoor recreation and wilderness. The major determining factors in deciding where to live are access to and quality of: skiing, mountain biking, and climbing opportunities. I have prioritized being able to ski, climb and ride my bike before and after work. That is why I put up with the rest of the B.S. that comes with living in Utah.*

**Transplants** to Utah describe the one-of-a-kind access:

*It is part of the charm of Utah. We love living in Utah because of the easy access to the beautiful mountains and national parks.*

*I moved to Utah specifically to have easy access to snowboarding, hiking, and mountain biking.*

*I am from the east coast and was looking for a new experience in the Mountain West. SLC offered the perfect mix of outdoor accessibility and small/affordable city living that I was looking to move too. These things are important to me as I love the outdoors and trying new things.*

*It's very important to my soul, mental, physical health. The bigness, exploration and beauty of our public lands, trails and wilderness make Utah unique and special.*

Respondents view Utah's outdoor recreation and wilderness access vital to their lives:

*It is one of the things in my life that makes me the most happy. (Transplant)*

*It makes life worth living. (Transplant)*

*It's the best thing about life. (Transplant)*

*Recreation and outdoor fitness defines me more than my professional life. (Transplant)*

*It is the only way to enjoy and appreciate living. (Native)*

*It's where and how I spend my free time. (Native)*

*Because it grounds me and reminds me what it means to be a human being. (Native)*

**How would you describe Utah's outdoor access to those considering moving to Utah?**

This question was coded for themes and analyzed. One comment could have more than one code. Comments from each coded theme are included as examples. A complete list of verbatim comments can be found in Appendix B.

<b>Close / Accessible / Easy</b>	29%
<i>"Ski your heart out in the morning and be back at your downtown office by lunch"</i>	
<b>Wide range of opportunities /places to go</b>	21%
<i>"I often say that Utah is a huge playground. I am outdoors very often, and I think it will take the rest of my life to see everything here."</i>	
<b>Amazing / Great / Fantastic / Good</b>	12%
<i>"Perfect. A little too perfect."</i>	
<b>Best in the nation / Unmatched / First class</b>	8%
<i>"Few states have the balance of outdoor access, cost of living, and economy as Utah does."</i>	
<b>Becoming overcrowded / Concerns about growth</b>	7%
<i>"It has been fantastic up until the last couple years. There are too many housing developments going into the foothills and mountains in the Salt Lake and Utah County valleys."</i>	
<b>Don't want others to move here (keep it a secret)</b>	5%
<i>"It is not good at all. Please do not move here. Stay where you are."</i>	
<b>Beautiful</b>	4%
<i>"It's not only accessible, but it's visible. That's a huge deal. You can readily see the beauty of nature from your home or office."</i>	
<b>Great place to live / Best part about Utah</b>	3%
<i>"I think the outdoors and the variety of activities available in the outdoors in Utah are its biggest assets and draw. If someone likes outdoor activities, Utah is a great place to be. It doesn't have a lot to offer otherwise."</i>	
<b>Open-space/ Open country</b>	2%
<i>"Very open and available - free of governmental restrictions and unreasonable costs."</i>	
<b>Misc.</b>	9%
<i>"I've successfully recruited talent to Utah based on the business opportunity and outdoor recreation, even with lower wages."</i>	



# Conclusion

This research shows that Utah's outdoors is the most important factor for relocating to or remaining in Utah to tech sector employees when compared to other factors. It was important that the research capture the viewpoints of employees that moved to Utah as well as those native to Utah. Natives were asked if they had ever lived elsewhere or had forgone opportunities elsewhere in order to capture the importance of the outdoors on their decision to move back or remain. For every perspective, Utah's access to outdoor activity and/or wilderness and public lands was the most important factor in moving to Utah, coming back, or staying.

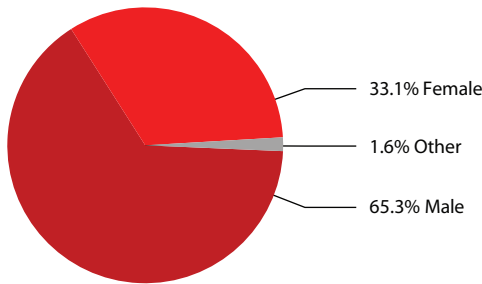
At the time the questionnaire was designed, many Utahns were isolating themselves with little options for activity. It was

decided to determine the role Utah's outdoors had on respondent's pandemic experiences as well. Access to outdoor activity and wilderness was incredibly important to tech sector employees in coping with the pandemic.

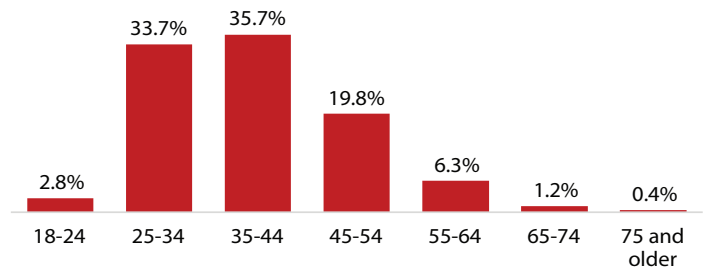
Utah's tech sector employers should take note, particularly since past research showed Utah's outdoors aren't seen as a significant factor in businesses ability to attract and retain employees when compared to career advancement opportunities, caliber of co-workers, company reputation, challenging work, benefits, and recognition. Utah's tech sector employees view Utah's outdoors as the main reason they relocated and the main reason they stay.

# Demographics

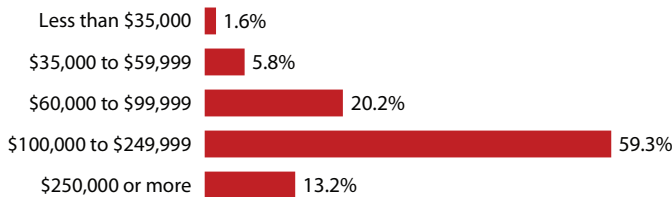
## Gender



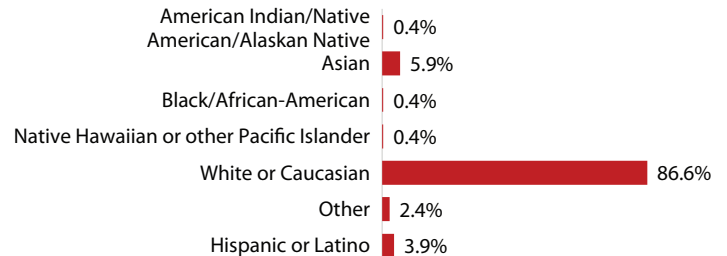
## Age



## Household Income



## Race/Ethnicity



# Appendix A. Survey Instrument

Thank you for your valuable insight on the importance of outdoor recreation to Utah’s technology industry and overall economy. Utah’s tech sector is going through a period of dynamic growth and input is needed from its employees in order to best understand the role outdoor recreation plays in talent recruitment and retention.

Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute researchers will be combining **anonymous** responses from employees in Utah tech-sector businesses so that nonprofit and governmental entities concerned with Utah’s economic development will be able to assess the impact outdoor recreation opportunities have on talent recruitment and retention and the overall desirability of being a tech-sector worker in the state.

Outdoor recreation includes activities in parks, trails, mountains, deserts, and wildlife areas. Outdoor recreation includes activities such as:

- Hiking and camping
- Hunting and fishing
- Canoeing, kayaking and rafting
- Sailing and motorboating
- Biking
- Rock climbing
- Horseback riding
- Skiing

If you have any questions, please reach out to the primary researcher, Marin Christensen: [marin.christensen@utah.edu](mailto:marin.christensen@utah.edu).

We appreciate your participation!

Q1.2 Were you born and/or raised in Utah?

- Yes
- No

Q2.1 Did you move to Utah for a job?

- Yes
- No

Q2.2 How many years have you been in Utah?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## TRANSPLANTS

2.3 What were the following selling points used to recruit you to Utah? Choose all that apply.

- Cost of living
- Outdoor recreation options and/or access to wilderness and public lands
- Pay/Benefits package
- Company reputation
- Career advancement opportunities
- Challenging work
- Not applicable
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Q2.4 How important were the following in the decision to move to Utah?

	Not at all important 1	2	3	4	Extremely important 5
Cost of living	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Outdoor recreation options and/or access to wilderness and public lands	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pay/Benefits package	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Company reputation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Career advancement opportunities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Challenging work	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Family or friends	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Job market	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q2.5 Has outdoor recreation/access to wilderness and public lands grown more important to you since moving to Utah?

- Yes
- No

Q2.6 Why is outdoor recreation and/or access to wilderness and public lands important to you?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Q2.7 Have you tried new outdoor recreational activities or visited new public lands since moving to Utah?

- Yes
- No

Q2.8 What new activities have you tried, or what wilderness and/or public lands have you visited?

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**NATIVES**

Q3.1 Have you moved outside of Utah and made the decision to come back?

- Yes
- No

Q3.2 How important were the following in moving back to Utah?

	Not at all important 1	2	3	4	Extremely important 5
Cost of living	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Family	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Outdoor recreation options and/or access to wilderness and public lands	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Career opportunities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q3.3 Why is access to outdoor recreation and wilderness important to you?

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**ALL RESPONDENTS**

Q4.1 How often were you engaging in outdoor recreation activity before COVID-19 as compared to after? This includes recreation activities in parks, trails, mountains, deserts, and wildlife areas.

	A few times per year	Once a month	A couple times a month	Once a week	Few times a week	Every day
Before COVID-19	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Since COVID-19	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q4.2 How important has access to outdoor recreation been to coping with the pandemic? This includes access to a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities in parks, trails, mountains, deserts, and wildlife areas.

- Not at all important 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- Extremely important 5

Q4.3 Have you been offered a higher salary elsewhere and decided to stay in Utah?

- Yes
- No

Q4.4 Please rate the importance of each factor in your decision to forgo higher income to stay in Utah.

	Not at all important 1	2	3	4	Extremely important 5
Cost of living	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Family	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Outdoor recreation options and/or access to wilderness and public lands	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Commute	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q4.5 If offered, would you move elsewhere for a better paying job?

- Yes
- No
- Depends

Q4.6 Please rate the importance of each factor in your hypothetical decision to forgo higher income to stay in Utah.

	Not at all important 1	2	3	4	Extremely important 5
Cost of living	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Family	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Outdoor recreation options and/or access to wilderness and public lands	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Commute	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q5.1 How would you describe Utah’s outdoor access to those considering moving to Utah?

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Q5.2 Please share any other further comments you have about access to outdoor recreation and/or wilderness and public lands in Utah.

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Q6.1 Do you work in the tech industry?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Q6.2 What company do you work for?

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Q6.3 Please choose your gender.

- Male
- Female
- Other

Q6.4 What is your age category?

- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65-74
- 75 and older

Q6.5 What is your approximate annual household income category?

- Less than \$35,000
- \$35,000 to \$59,999
- \$60,000 to \$99,999
- \$100,000 to \$249,999
- \$250,000 or more

Q6.6 Please identify which of the following best describes your ethnicity/race. (SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)

- American Indian/Native American/Alaskan Native
- Asian
- Black/African-American
- Hispanic or Latino
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- White or Caucasian
- Other** \_\_\_\_\_

Q6.7 Thank you for completing this survey. Please fill out the following if you’d like the chance to win a \$100 gift card!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix B. Verbatim Comments to Open-Ended Comments

### Utah TRANSPLANTS: Why is outdoor recreation and/or access to wilderness and public lands important to you?

Work hard, play hard. I love to get away from all the buzz of the city, and in Utah this is so easy! Also discovered a bunch of new hobbies I would not have considered before (mountain biking, fly fishing).

WELL-BEING, PERSONAL ENJOYMENT.

We need to recharge our brains amongst nature, not with devices

We camped 6 times this summer, we hike regularly, and daily use the local disc golf courses

Way to take a break and relax; experience nature;

To connect with nature, have homes for animals, to limit the population growth, to preserve the climate, to preserve natural resources, to respect mother nature.

This is where I refresh and recharge. I am my best self when I am spending more time outside.

This is probably the #1 reason we live in Utah. I've traveled all across the country, lived in California and Kansas. Utah is the best place for recreation. We live in such a beautiful state. I think without the recreational opportunities available, we'd likely move somewhere else.

this is an area utah has advantage compared to other cities. access to mtn from slc in 15-30min. mild winter with lots of snow was also key. Cost to access (no annual membership) is really nice

There's so much of it in Utah. It gives me and my family a chance to release stress and get some peace and quiet. Utahs scenery and outdoors are one of a kind. From mountain to desert, it's all unique.

There's nothing better than being outside: skiing, camping or exploring here. By far the best resource we have is the outdoors and it must be protected.

Sustainability is my life's work and personal passion. Our planets landscape, life, and ecosystems is more comfortable than my own home. It inspires me to be the best me.

Spending time on the outdoors is an extremely high priority and pristine wild land should be protected

So relaxing.

Snowboarding, hiking, mountains.

Since Covid-19 has limited what activities we can do, outdoor recreation has been great for social distancing and reducing our risk to exposure.

Recreation and outdoor fitness defines me more than my professional life.

Provides opportunity for recreation and exercise at a low cost and with great satisfaction for its beauty

Physical health benefits. Keeps me sane.

Personality and adventurous

Outdoors are so important to my emotional, spiritual, and physical

well-being. I want to make sure that my family and friends and co-workers learn to appreciate and participate in the outdoors.

Outdoor recreation is how I maintain balance with my health and well-being. If I don't have that, I am not successful in other areas of my life. Health is my highest priority.

Outdoor recreation is crucial for wellbeing, psychological and physical. There is something therapeutic about being with nature that can't be replicated with a walk down the street.

Outdoor recreation has been a cornerstone of my life since I was just a wee lad. It's how I balance my life and find the space to grow, challenge myself outside of work, and find peace.

Outdoor recreation and/or access to wilderness and public lands is one of the ways I combat the negatives of a sedentary occupation. I also enjoy the relaxation and mind-clearing effects being in nature has on me, even while doing exhilarating activities.

Nature and outdoor recreation has always been an extremely important part of my life. My parents are athletes and are always outside climbing mountains, skiing, camping etc. I moved to Utah specifically to have easy access to snowboarding, hiking, and mountain biking.

National Parks National Forest access for hiking and camping BLM land for camping and site seeing Close (short distance) access from home All-season opportunities

My wife likes hiking.

Moving around outside is the only thing that makes this turd of a year bearable. Dopamine Dopamine Dopamine. Smiles and fresh air and dopamine.

More than recreation - I have a passion for exploring and discovering beauty in nature and testing myself by having outdoor adventures. I work to live and being outdoors is living!

Mental health, work-life balance

love to be in the outdoors. Great way to be healthy and enjoy the outdoors

Life is short, we should be building a life that isnt work now and retire to enjoy some time doing what you do. If it isnt built into the daily work it will not happen.

Lakes, hiking, mountain biking, snow activities, camp sites, all national parks, open parks around homes and with sites, BLM land its very important to my soul, mental, physical health. The bigness, exploration and beauty of our public lands, trails and wilderness make Utah unique and special.

Its my church, where i go to clear my head, reframe my thinking, remind myself what is important and what is not, and how short our time is.

Its a place to disconnect from the virtual world and recharge

It's so much fun Allows me to make memories and bond with family and friends It's energizing Helps me de-stress Helps me disconnect Helps me gain perspective and focus

It's part of my wellness and mindset mindset towards my lifestyle. I

firmly believe that getting grounded with the outdoors benefits my mental health and lifestyle.

It's what I enjoy doing in my free time

it's the best thing about life

It's one of my most common leisure activities and it's an important factor in my physical and mental well being.

It's my church.

It's help in relaxing and being with nature.

It's easy and cheap way to get some exercise and spend time with friends and enjoy the outdoors.

It's beautiful. Nothing beats driving home to a view of the mountains, no matter how bad my day is, the majesty of my natural environment makes me feel blessed that I chose to move here.

It's a major part of what makes life worth living--it's beneficial to mental and physical wellbeing.

It's a huge part of quality of life and makes this environment a great place to raise a family. Nature is very important to me.

It's a healthy, active and interesting way to entertain myself and my family as well as keeping us all in shape.

It's a good diversion from a regular office job. Outdoor recreation also provides an opportunity to engage in healthy activities and movement not available through a mostly sedentary technology-focused occupation. There are also networking opportunities through various outdoor recreation groups.

It wasn't important at the time I relocated my family, but I knew it was an option nonetheless. Since moving here, I've become addicted to the mountains and run in them almost daily. There's nothing like them.

It provides the perfect balance to working in a team and office environment. I love working with people, but need solitude and nature to balance myself.

it provides balance.

It makes life worth living

It is part of the charm of Utah. We love living in Utah because of the easy access to the beautiful mountains and national parks. We participate in outdoor sports and activities individually and as a family. The public lands are already crowded. If any are closed for private use the remaining lands will just become more congested. And the environment is already struggling to keep up with the demands we are putting on it. We need to preserve as much open land and wilderness as possible.

It is one of the things in my life that makes me the most happy.

It is how manage stress

It centers me. My favorite way to balance my professional work is a mix of family and outdoor recreation (often together)

It benefits my mental health and is what I try to schedule my life around outside of work.

it balances the pressures of work and family with beauty, adventure, and discovery. even the most burnt out corporate shells become good people again when they #optoutside

It allows my family to participate in activities that are fun and bonding but also don't cost a bunch of money for not very fun experiences. Coming from Oklahoma, the ability to go out and have a bonfire up the canyon, go hiking or skiing on a weekend, or just drive through the mountains is a great family activity compared to the same options of the bowling alley, movie theater, etc.

It allows me a mental escape from every day life; getting outside is very therapeutic and also helps keep me in shape.

If I don't have a place to get away from work, then work becomes that much harder to do. Getting out is my release and my relief.

I've been here 10 yrs from the east coast. Utah has endless options for outdoor rec, public lands, and national parks. My family loves skiing, mountain biking, hiking, and camping...living here is a dream. Our public lands need protection and government regulation to conserve them.

I've always enjoyed outdoor exercise without being stopped by "Don't Walk" signs.

I'm an avid trail runner - with two young boys. As a family - we love to get outside to hike and explore.

I'm an avid skier, and access to the mountains is the reason I moved to Salt Lake. Wilderness areas and public lands and the communities that support them are the reason I stay, in spite of the prevailing local cultural differences.

I spend 40-60 hours a week staring at a computer screen, often way more - that is physically and emotionally exhausting. I love working in tech, don't get me wrong, but I've been living in Utah for just a few years now and I still stare at the mountains every time we leave the house. I also got into rockhounding living here and can't wait to check out Topaz Mountain. My wife (who was born/raised here) loves the outdoors - camping, snowboarding, rock climbing, and so on - so I go with her. I mostly do it for myself, though - I experience a greater sense of peace when I can spend time in nature, getting fresh air, challenging myself to do some new things. I'm from Missouri and, believe me, y'all got a lot of cool outdoors stuff here. I'm hoping to get better at snowboarding next - I keep being told by my wife it's the "best snow in the world" here.

I mountain bike 3-4 days per week on average. I hike with my family once or twice a week. I road bike or ride a gravel bike any day I'm not on a mountain bike. We spend summers in the Utah wilderness. Public access to public lands is one of the most important political issues for me. Utah has amazing public lands. Please don't let them fall into private hands.

I specifically looked for jobs in Utah after spending time in southern Utah parks, specifically climbing, hiking, and canyoneering. Getting outside is an important part of my social life and my mental health.

I love the outdoors! They are rejuvenating and inspiring.

I love the balance it creates by being able to work and play. Mountain biking before work or going for a hike after work makes life in Utah much more enjoyable.

I love how easy it is to get out into nature here - it was a great place to raise kids!

I love hiking and being in the mountains, and find it a good activity that involves the whole family.

I like to spend time outside with my family and young kids, and also compete in triathlon, trail running, and other outdoor races.

I like being connected to nature, it's grounding.

I have found spending time outdoors to be critical to my life balance and family quality time.

I have always loved the outdoors and enjoy regular outings to local parks, state parks/forests, national parks/forests and other outdoor locations. Getting outside helps me get centered and recharged.

I had never experienced outdoor recreation and/or access to wilderness and public lands much before I moved to Utah. It was only for a few days in a year when I was living in a major city. Once I moved here, I came to realize what I was missing out on. Now we are in the outdoors almost every other weekend, irrespective of the season.

I grew up snowboarding a ton in the north east. I can't go to Utah for the best snow. I also liked that I had amazing outdoor access so close to a real city.

I grew up in a rural area and the outdoors has a special place in my heart. I've lived in a big city in my past (Shanghai) and knew that having green space and the opportunity to disconnect from the outside world is so important to me personally, so it was a large factor in my decision to move to Utah versus the other opportunities I was also considering at the time.

I find the wilderness and public lands are where all my favorite activities are. I go out there and decompress, center myself, and become a more contributing member of society.

I find happiness in the opportunities that I have to spend time outside in nature. I have enjoyed trying new outdoor activities and enjoy being active and spend time outdoors

I enjoy getting away from people and buildings. This idea is important to me as I raise a child.

I enjoy camping, hiking, driving backways, etc.

I care about my personal health. I want my kids to have access to the outdoors. I like physical endurance challenges.

I appreciate the easy access and wide variety of options. It is not more important than before because I came from Colorado which offers compatible options.

I am from the east coast and was looking for a new experience in the Mountain West. SLC offered the perfect mix of outdoor accessibility and small/affordable city living that I was looking to move to. These things are important to me as I love the outdoors and trying new things.

I am an avid mountain biker and skier. I was living in western Colorado and easy access to outdoors is a must have. Plus, I had skied at Alta once in college and made it a goal to move here for the wasatch mountains.

Hiking and skiing

Having free open space away from populated environments is important to emotionally recharge. I also look for non-digital environments for my kids.

Exploration, adventure, balance. Value of life and living things in contrast to computers and data and social mores.

Exercise

Enjoyment of outdoor activities as recreation.

Enjoying the outdoors inspires and motivates me to work indoors. Hiking, trail running, and climbing inspire me and help me to release stress from work. The outdoors changes everything.

Connection with nature, family. Help children be in touch with nature

Coming from the Midwest, the only outdoor rec I had was the option to walk through some corn fields

Can't live inside all the time. Fresh air and the great outdoors is the antidote to cabin fever. If it's too expensive or takes too long to get to outdoor activities, it makes the metro area far less appealing. Many activities and sports cannot be done in city limits. I have deer, turkeys, foxes, moose, and cougar in my yard (at different times). That's excitement even on cold, snowy, avalanche warning days, when you don't want to venture out.

Biking and trails. Easy access

Better family relationships, mental health

Being in the outdoors really helps me stay grounded in every aspect of my life. I am an avid mountain biker, hiker, and peak bagger. Destressing for work, family, and community is a HUGE factor in my living here. I also find the diversity of options skiing, mountain biking, camping, fishing, four wheeling, all lend themselves to never being bored with options. I only wish we had more water opportunities.

Because of the role it plays in improving my and my family's health and well-being.

Because it's good to go out and do some activities, especially with the current circumstances with COVID-19.

Because I lived in Milwaukee for 18 years

Because all work and no play is unhealthy

Beauty, nature, fresh air, no mask

Basic quality of life. Being outside is healthy and joy-giving.

As someone who enjoys outdoor recreation at least weekly, it's important to have access nearby to trails, national and state parks, and views.

An escape. To keep in shape. Fresh air. Change of scenery.

Ability to have access to hobbies Beautiful scenery with the work from home

You have balanced life-work situation, to stay in shape, feel happier and not depressed from work overload. Favorite hobbies are outdoors, and Utah has great access to it.

**Utah TRANSPLANTS: What new activities have you tried, or what wilderness and/or public lands have you visited?**

**Coded comments of most often mentioned activities and areas:**

Hiking	48	Climbing	21	Various Parks	59
Biking	33	Snowshoeing	13	Moab/Arche	36
Skiing	36	Kayaking	8	Zion	17
Camping	24	Rafting	8		

Winter sports (downhill and cross country skiing, snowshoeing), kayaking, sailing, and paddle boarding. I've visited all of our national parks and a lot of the areas outside of them (BLM lands in the Moab, Escalante, and Northern Wash areas in particular). On the state park side, I've been out to Antelope Island, Bear Lake, East Canyon, Goblin Valley, Goosenecks, Green River, Scofield, and Sand Hollow.

What I did before: ski, snowboard, x-country, running, camping, hiking. New activities: mountain biking, fly fishing, RC airplane flying, back packing. New places I discovered that were not on my radar before moving to Utah: Flaming Gorge, Antelope Island, Uintas, Capitol Reef, Escalante NM and surroundings, Goblin Valley, and probably many more.

went driving, hiking in the areas around Cedar City, and plan to visit Southern Utah again in the near future.

We've tried kayaking, water skiing, and skiing and disc golf

We have visited all 5 Utah National Parks, as well as parks in neighboring states. I have been hiking in national forests. State parks etc. Draper has a great trail system in Corner Canyon, as well as Eagle Mountain Bike Park is a late/early season option for being outside when it is colder. Ski resorts and back country skiing in the Cottonwood canyons. Logan Canyon for great recreation, Bear Lake. 5 Mile Pass Recreation in western Utah county.

Wasatch mountain front short hikes (we have a toddler) in both little/big cottonwood canyons

Visited National Parks, bought cabin at Bear Lake to be closer to outdoor rec opps. Bought local outdoor rec brands like Black Diamond, Cotapaxi, etc.

various parks in south utah and now into jeeping on trails

Trail running, road cycling, and I've visited a ton of new places in the state.

Trail running, mountain cycling, dark skies, national and state parks trail running, San Rafael swell, Grand Staircase-Escalante, most ski resorts. I continued alpine skiing, hiking and backpacking.

To long of a list

State and National parks, climbing, snowboarding, paddleboarding, hiking, camping

Southern Utah national parks (all of them). I have rockclimbed and car camped here more than any other place I've lived.

snowshoeing, skiing, sledding. pc, moab, great basin, stg, jackson hole, logan, am fork, Escalante

Snowshoeing is the main new activity; have visited many public lands in numerous parts of the state, including regular visits to the Unita National forest, SLC parks, Round Valley

Snowboarding, mountain biking, Moab/BLM, Zion, Bryce, Canyonlands

Snowboarding, hiking, camping/backpacking, rockhounding. Mirror Lake, Lake Mary, some of the canyons, that park north of St. George near the amphitheater down there (saw Shrek there, it was awesome). Multiple trails. Oh yeah, and Brian Head! That place was incredible.

Snow boarding, slot canyoneering, southern Utah parks

Skiing, snowshoeing, rock climbing, waterskiing. I've visited wilderness and public lands all over Utah.

Skiing, Ski touring, backpacking, canoeing, hiking a ton more. We've visited most of the state and national parks in the state.

Skiing, rock climbing, snow shoeing. The Uintahs and many other areas.

Skiing, mountain biking. I've also been all over the nearby mountain ranges for hikes. I expected to visit the numerous national/state parks in UT and the the surrounding areas but have not because of COVID.

Skiing, Mountain Biking, Hiking, Rock Climbing, Camping. Zion, Arches, Wasatch, Timpanogos, Bryce, Canyonlands....

Skiing, mountain biking

Skiing, Moab, Zions

skiing, climbing, canyoneering

Skiing Hiking Boating Arches, Moab, Pineciew Reservoir, Cache Valley, Bridal Veil Falls, Provo Canyon

skateboarding

Several national parks. Snowboarding, hiking talk mountains, exploring.

Salt flats

Rock climbing, mountain biking, road biking, backpacking, hiking, All the places (north, south, east, west)

Rock Climbing, Ice Climbing, Mountain Biking, Mountaineering, Backpacking, slack lining

Rock climbing, camping, hiking

Road cycling, hiking, off-roading, mountain biking.

Riding the White Rim trail, trail races in Moab, camping and lots of hiking.

Rafting, Riding ATVs, Hunting Gemstones, Zion NP, Arches NP, Bryce Canyon NP, Grand Staircase, Escalante, etc

Rafting, hunting

Pickleball, tennis, many hiking trails

Off road driving

numerous state parks, many ski resorts and national parks. also ghost towns, lakes, rivers, hikes, etc.

Nordic Skiing, Bouldering, Canoeing Southern Utah Parks, Colorado Parks, Yellowstone National Parks, Uintas, Wasatch, National forests in Northern Utah, American Fork & Provo area forests



New activities: River tubing, snow tubing. Do more: recreational hiking, camping.

Neff's Canyon

National parks. State parks. BLM land. Cross country skiing. Snowshoeing.

National Parks, lakes, camping, hiking, mountain biking, water rafting, and visited a few hot springs

National and State Parks, Jet ski, Lake Powell, camping

Mt biking, mountain climbing

Mountain biking, trail running, snowboarding. Most often in the Wasatch Cache national forest, Corner Canyon regional park, and state trust lands. We usually visit one or two National Parks in Utah every year.

Mountain biking, outdoor rock climbing, Uinta national forest, Uinta-wasatch national forest, canyonlands, dead horse state park, arches national park, Manti-la sal national forest, Escalante national monument, public lands outside of Moab

Mountain biking, hiking, and paddleboarding. Moab, areas around St George, public lands all around Logan, Utah.

Mountain biking and rock climbing

Moab, Goblin Valley, High Uintas, Sundance, Little Sahara Recreation Area

Millcreek Canyon, camping, and fishing.

Lots of national parks, primitive camping on BLM all over Utah, now an avid snowshoer and camper.

Locally, Uinta National Forrest (AF Canyon, Little/Big Cottonwood Canyons, Park City), Moab (Arches), Zions, Sand Dunes

Learnt Skiing, Snowshoeing and kids are now on the slopes almost all weekends from Dec to March. Never was much of a hiker, but took up Hiking and go hiking every weekend in Spring/Summer/Fall. Visited all of Utah's national parks and State Parks multiple times a year.

lake activities, climbing, kayak

Kayaking, gravel biking. I've visited Uintahs quite often, Cache national forest, BLM outside of Moab, and the flaming gorge area.

Kayaking and Timpanogos hiking; plus plenty of other hikes in the Provo Canyon area.

Jetskiing, boating, and tent camping - I've kept up hiking as my main outdoors activity. I've gone to the Uinta National Forest, Arches, Canyonlands, Zion, Kolob Canyon, the Little Sahara, and have hiked a good deal of BLM land in the southwestern area of the state (St. George).

Jeeping Moab trails Camping many interesting places Hiking nearby trails (such as Great Western Trail) Arches National Park Canyonlands National Park (love the Maze District!) Zions National Park Bryce Canyon Cedar Beaks San Rafael Swell - love it! Spiral Jetty Uinta Mountains Dude Ranch

Its all been new to me, so the list is long. Activities like mountaineering, canyoneering, and rafting were new. Parks like YNP, Canyonlands, Great Basin, Zion, Arches and Capitol Reef were new too. I have spend days in the west desert, at Fish Springs Wild Life refuge, and weeks in the Uinta wilderness.

It would be easier to say where I haven't visited :) Uintas, Bears Ears, Grand Staircase, the Swell, St. George, Moab, Goblin Valley. Haven't yet been to Dinosaur/Flaming Gorge area -- that's on the list.

Ice climbing, backcountry skiing

I've hiked slot canyons and wilderness in the southern part of the state. And mountains in the northern part of the state. Canyoneering I guess you would call it. Climbing. We have visited all of the national parks.

I've visited all of the national parks and monuments, many of the state parks, and other natural areas on public lands.

I've been cycling around Salt Lake county, visiting different parks and plotting trips up the canyons.

I tried skiing for the first time when I came to Utah

I visited new places including Moab area parks and Escalante, as well as more local parks like Millcreek canyon, the cottonwoods, Park City, Uintas.

I started mountain biking, and cross country skiing, and have visited the Wasatch, Ashley, and Uintah national parks. I am planning to visit southern Utah's parks soon!

I live in Millcreek, and spend lots of time in the canyons (Millcreek and the Cottonwoods). I travel to everything from birdwatching on wildlife refuges to photography on BLM lands. There are too many to list, honestly!

Hunting, skiing, all the national and state parks

Hikings, Paragliding, Cross Country Skiing, Snowshoeing, Boating, Wake Surfing, Tree rope course, Kayaking, Rafting, Jeeping, Tram ride, Stand up paddle board, Cliff Jumping, Little Saara, Moab, Zion, Canyons and trails.

Hiking. Camping. Fishing. Skiing. Mountain biking.

Hiking, visiting gardens.

hiking, snowshoeing, snow mobiling

Hiking, rock climbing, rafting. Moab/Arches, Zions, Rocky Mountain National Park.

Hiking, rock climbing, horse back riding

Hiking, most of Corner Canyon and Suncrest, Arches

Hiking, camping, kayaking, exploring Utah's national parks (Arches, Canyonlands, Bryce, Zion, Capitol Reef)

Hiking with dogs; canyon driving; camping as an adult

Hiking in wilderness areas; using recreational vehicles to travel higher altitudes.

Hiking

Gravel bike, snowshoe, Cache National Forest, Echo Lake, Bear River Bird Refuge, Jordan River Trail, Weber River Trail, Murdoch Trail, Art Nord Trail, Old Snow Basin, Old Trappers Loop, Pineview Loop, East Canyon (Morgan)

Grand Staircase, Escalante/hole in the rock, Capitol Reef, Grand Rafael Swell, several backpacking trips in the high Uintas.

Everything. Climbing. Skiing. BLM, forest service, national parks, national monuments

Dual sport motorcycling. Recently visited Capitol Reef Natl park  
Deep powder skiing, living on a boat for a long weekend, desert camping, four-wheeling, catch & release trout fishing, float fishing, ....

Cross country skiing, camping, natural parks

Cross country mountain biking, outdoor rock climbing, several of Utah's national parks and public land such as the San Rafael Swell, Bryce Canyon, Capitol Reef, and Flaming Gorge.

Climbing, Rappelling, Canyoneering, snowshoeing, snowboarding, backpacking, kayaking, trail running, Triathlons, Mountain Biking, climbing canyons on a Roadbike, camping everywhere, Zion's, San Raphael Swell, Escalante, Moab, Lake Powell, all the Mountain Lakes, King's Peak, Uintah's, Hunting, fishing, water skiing...

Caving and snowshoeing. I've visited all the national parks. I spend a lot of time in each of the canyons near Salt Lake City. I've visited Joe's valley and the San Rafael swell plus many others!!

Canyoneering, ski touring, mountaineering. Have visited too many public lands to list including national forests, BLM land, national monuments, national parks, local parks, etc

Canyoneering, downhill mountain biking, and cross country skiing.

Bryce canyon, Capital Reef, Zion, BLM land, camped all over Utah

Boating , trail running and hiking

Blood Lake hike; Swaner Preserve

Biking

big hikes, summits, rock scrambles, all over big and small cottonwood canyons as well as national and state parks (bryce, arches/moab, escalante, capitol reef, etc etc etc

Backpacking, hiking, camping in West Desert, various national parks.

Backpacking and boating

Ashley National Forest, Zions, Moab, canyon lands, Mill Creek Canyon, the Cottonwood Canyon's.

Almost all areas, with a focus on the Uintas and southern Utah.

All the Utah national parks

All the national parts, and many of the state parks. Many BLM areas in the desert and mountains. Skiing, x-c skiing, rock climbing, backpacking, hiking, mountain biking.

All the local wilderness areas by the cottonwood canyons, public lands down near Moab, near Hanksville, near St. George area, Dixie national forest, national forest land near snow basin and powder mountain, couple of different areas in the Uintas

All National parks in Utah, rafting, hiking, camping

All around SLC/Provo/Park City/ the canyons exploring

5 Mile Pass, National Parks, national forests

wolf creek pass, mirror lake highway, mountains east of manti, Cedar Breaks, Zion, Pine Valley, BryceCanyon, BearLake, Hot Springs, Antelope Island, This is the Place state park, Golden Spike Monument, Mt Timpangos hikes and roads, Moab, Blanding area, Monument Valley, Pipe Springs, Red Cliffs, Grafton Ghost Town, Harrisburg Ghost Town, Dinosaur tracks in St George and area, etc

Zion, Bryce Canyon, Yellowstone, Tetons - and exploring many of the local canyons (BCC, LCC, Provo, Millcreek). New activities - my older son started skiing, and for me - hiking/trail running in SNOW.

Zion, Moab, Payson Lakes, several other camping spots and many hiking trails

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## **Utah NATIVES: Why is outdoor recreation and/or access to wilderness and public lands important to you?**

Work life balance, to be able to enjoy the time away from work

We are a big part of the natural environment. Seeing the outdoors bring a sense of calm to me and my family. It is our quality time together and our church. We ski, hike, swim, boat, snow shoe, meditate, exercise and breath in the wilderness.

Variety of activities available within a 30 minute drive is incredible. The ability to get outside in all 4 seasons is very important

Utah's wide variety of nature and access to it play a huge part in my mental health and overall quality of life.

Utah outdoors makes Utah unique -it is a resource just like clean water or housing and needs a plan for continued access not just locking up the outdoors

To have a balanced day and life in general I need to be outside. I need to be able to get outside and experience something. The more available that access the more likely that is to happen on a daily basis

To get away from congestion and people in urban settings.

The mountains, lakes and vegetation are so close and so wonderful.

That is what keeps me sane

That is what I choose to do when I am not working. Hiking, biking, backpacking, river rafting, canyoneering. Local Wasatch canyons, Uintahs, and the National Parks and desert of southern Utah.

Spiritually and mentally centered through physical activities and adventuring in the outdoors.

Quality of life, freedom.

Place to get away from Urban life

Now more than ever we need a place to unwind outside our homes. There's no better activity to destress than getting outside into nature. Utah provides amazing and very accessible places to do that.

Most of my life decisions have been based on access to outdoor recreation and wilderness. The major determining factors in deciding where to live are access to and quality of: skiing, mountain biking, and climbing opportunities. I have prioritized being able to ski, climb and ride my bike before and after work. That is why I put up with the rest of the B.S. that comes with living in Utah.

Mental health and overall well-being.

Love being in the mountains.

Learning opportunities for my kids and exercise for the family. Plus spiritually restful

Keeps me healthy physically and mentally. Great place to spend quality time with family.

It's where I can think and recharge. I'm naturally an introvert as are most engineers. I love exploring and just having time to think, pray, read, and listen to and watch nature. It's the best art there is, and the best way to get away. It's the opposite of the intensity of work. They are both great, but we need both.

It's where and how I spend my free time.

It's what I live for. All my hobbies revolve around the outdoors. I absolutely love our mountains and wilderness here in Utah.

It's what I grew up with and what I enjoy doing in my free time. When I moved, I moved to another city that was considered "outdoorsy." It had nothing on Utah cities, and the lack of urban greenspace (like parks) was notable. There were outdoors spots, but they were often overcrowded or difficult to get to. Because Utah has so many spaces, and they're so nearby, it's a much better experience.

It's physically, emotionally, and mentally healthy to get out and enjoy God's creation.

It's part of my identity as a person and an effective therapeutic strategy.

It's my primary form of exercise and social connection. We hike, ski, camp, climb, and take river trips with friends and family. Utah is unique in how close all of these things are to our home in SLC/an international airport.

It's important on so many levels. Research has shown the myriad health and psychological benefits of recreating outside. For me, it's a chance to escape the doldrums of work life and have fun while exercising.

It's a connection to roots and unchanging. It's a way to rejuvenate and reset.

It provides relaxation and a break from normal life, allows me to exercise and think, and gives me solitude and peace. Are you meaning designated Wilderness? I don't think most participants know what that means.

It provides an outlet to improve mental & physical health.

It is the only way to enjoy and appreciate living. Suppose you understand the earth and spend time and necessary training to enjoy recreating in the outdoors. In that case, naturally, you take better care of others, your home, your family, your job, yourself, and your environment. THE reason I live in Utah is for skiing, climbing, hiking, camping, and canyoneering.

It is one of my outlets. I love being outside, away from the world. I was in a bigger city and on the weekends when I wanted to "escape" I would go to the outdoors only to find everyone else there too. There wasn't enough wilderness close by for me to be comfortable and feel like I could breathe

It is nourishing to the body and the soul. It gives me excuses to invite my out of town friends here to visit. It provides me opportunities to destress. It gives me something fun to do, by myself or with others.

It is key in how I build relationships with family members

It is a great way to destress, relax, and enjoy nature.

It is a great way to break away from the high tech work and continual screen time.

It is a GREAT escape from the pressures of work. It provides dedicated time to be with friends and family!

It creates connection with God and family connections. It takes us out of the hustle and lets us gain perspective. It's fun, creates memories.

In it every week. I live on the east bench and use the trails often. Being outside is a great escape.

I work so that I can have money/free time to be outdoors in the mountains with family/friends.

I spend a significant part of my time in these types of activities. Proximity and ease of access were a key decision in moving back to Utah.

I spend a lot of time outdoors with my family in the summer as well as the winter.

I love skiing, hiking, and access to nature -- I am very supportive of preserving the outdoors in Utah, especially with the mass amount of people moving into the state recently

I love being outdoors, it brings me peace of mind and a sense of belonging.

I love being in the outdoors. It helps ground me and provides opportunity to destress. It allows me to get away from my daily work, relax, recharge and rejuvenate.

I live to ski!

I live in the suburbs and a so access to natural open space gives me and me my family a place to explore and play in an unstructured environment. It is important to my personal mental fitness that I can get away from screens, breath fresh air, get some sunshine and activate my endorphins.

I like to be outdoors for my mental health, and there are so many options you can get to in an hour or a day. I will say though, that the extremely hot summers and inversion are making it harder.

I find meaning in challenging myself physically in beautiful spaces. I have better health and happiness when I engage in the outdoors.

I enjoy camping and spending time with family. To have a variety of places that have different types of activities.

I enjoy being in nature and surrounded by wilderness. Hunting, fishing, hiking, and backpacking, are all best done miles away from the next group over

Hunting and Fishing

Health (the entire ecosystem) and enjoyment.

Growing up in Utah, and then moving back, outdoor recreation and wilderness opportunities and access are critical to the lifestyle, hobbies, and passions we have - including protection, conservation, and sustainable growth/access options.

Great for family activities, physical and mental well being.

God created the great outdoors and it is our responsibility to care for and share it.

Gives an opportunity to expand activities beyond that of businesses and neighborhood resources. Gives a breadth of variety unequalled by any manmade resource.

For our health to exercise but also space from crowded centers of people to think and be in nature.

For fitness, recreation, and peace of mind. I am a workaholic and the outdoors is basically my only break. I would go insane without the mountains to mountain bike, ski, and hike in, as well as be inspired by their beauty.

Family and recreation opportunities to help with work/life balance

Exercise and being outside makes me happy a feel good.

Critical for balanced life, mental health, physical health

Being outside is healing to my soul. I love the convenience of getting to the mountains, the clean air, the access to trails. My family goes camping in our campgrounds every summer. I hike weekly and my kids are starting to hike as well.

Being able to get out and do the things I love makes life worth living. Having access to outdoor places is why I stay in Utah. Mountain biking, skiing, climbing, ice climbing, camping, and evening campfires with the kids. Unless I lived in a ski town in Colorado or Montana, there are few places that I could live that provide such quick access to the mountains.

because it grounds me and reminds me what it means to be a human being

Because it calms me and it's good for my soul

"And into the forrest I go to lose my mind and find my soul - John Muir" That pretty much sums it up. I lived in Manhattan and in Connecticut, Utah is unparalleled with its access to the great outdoors. I can access everything within 5-40 min allowing me to recreate during the week.

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### **ALL Respondents: How would you describe Utah's outdoor access to those considering moving to Utah?**

You're only a minimum of 10-20minutes away from a huge variety of outdoor activities.

You have to get there early or it's too crowded, you have to be able to tolerate garbage everywhere.

You dont know what you are missing out on until you have done it yourself!

Year round access to outdoor activities; wide open space; fresh air

World-class, wild, and yet only at your doorstep.

World-class and unmatched.

World class skiing and mountains. Unparalleled canyons and rock formations to the south.

World class recreation is close by, incredibly varied.

World class

Wild west

Widely available, near where people live. Plus, there's even more access just a few hours drive away with national parks, state parks, monuments, etc.

While the more popular areas can get a bit crowded, a little bit of exploring can provide serenity & beauty that you can't get anywhere else.

What was once a vacation or trip is now an afternoon or weekend jaunt. Much more accessible. Often cell signal if you want to post up and work from a rock somewhere.

We prefer the ocean and warmth, but we appreciate Utah's outdoor scene, but it would not keep us in Utah.

We highlight recent hikes or trips in our company meetings all the time. Utah knows outdoors and they have excellent places to go outside.

Very quick and accessible, place i moved from it took 2 hrs to drive to the mountains

Very open and available - free of governmental restrictions and unreasonable costs

Very nice and worth the move from most states.

Very important. For someone who is not LDS, like myself, I think outdoor access is one fo the primary benefits of living in Utah.

Very good, tough to find better access anywhere else

Very good and close to the city to allow activities even during the weekdays

Very easy to get your nature fix!

Very beautiful mountains within 15 minutes of your residence. Quick access to city life and downtown as well as wilderness. It is a hard to find combination.

Very accessible. A great place to live if you like the outdoors.

Very accessible, but I don't want more people moving here.

Very accessible and a key feature of the state.

Utah's access to the outdoors is the best in the world. So much to do within minutes from your front door.

Utah offers recreation in many areas, and most are within an hour drive of your house!

Utah is one of the few areas where you can ski the slopes in the morning and then have a round of golf in the afternoon. The outdoors is close enough that they can be enjoyed on the evenings and not just the weekend.

Utah is a hidden gem. It's a beautiful place to live with easy access to incredible trails and mountains. It can't be beat.

Utah has seemingly endless opportunities for outdoor recreation. I fish, and I am always able to find nee places to go. Fishing is year-round with a really good ice fishing season. Utah's mountainous landscape offers endless opportunities for hiking and biking trails and camping.

Utah has great access to mountain and wilderness activities, closer than what is available in most metro areas.

Utah has access to almost ever kind of outdoor recreation all year round. It is one of the prides of our state and a lot of work is put in to make sure it stays beautiful and accessible.

Used to be great - Has become incredibly crowed, especially along the wasatch front.

Unreal. You can leave the office and be in 'recreational wilderness' area and doing activities within 30 minutes if you want to.

Unparalleled access and amazing variety.

Unparalleled

Unmatched! Close skiing, close access to beautiful desert areas. Any outdoor activity you want to do (besides surfing) exists in Utah.

Unlimited

unfettered and worth discovering one site at a time (and multiple times thereafter)

Unbeatable. The mountains, trails, rivers, resorts are so close there is never an excuse not to use them.

Top notch, #1

To me it's the best of both worlds, you have the city life and then 20 minutes from downtown you have a con when canyons and access to the great outdoors! Our Outdoor options are endless and such a wide variety.

Time outdoors is just plain good for the soul. It makes work and other issues in your life less stressful, and they are just minutes away - not hours.

This is place where there are pristine settings in every direction - within a two hour drive.

There's no place like it. City and outdoor life truly overlap. Access to diverse outdoor treasures.

There is such a diversity of outdoor areas that are readily accessible to everyone. Everyone can find a place that they will enjoy!

There is so much to explore and learn about the natural world in Utah.

There is no equivalent in the lower 48.

There are trails in almost every city; the mountains and canyons are just a quick drive away.

There are so many parks and trails right outside your backdoor! Not to mention the beautiful view of the mountains you can see from almost anywhere in Utah or Salt Lake Valley.

There are so many opportunities to try outdoor activities. You can try almost every outdoor activity here in Utah! The options are endless

There are few places that give you the ease of access to the outdoors that you have in Salt Lake and Utah valleys. You'll find multiple ski resorts and hundreds of hiking/biking trails less than an hour from down town.

The proximity is incredible. Few other major metro areas are less than 30 minutes from major ski and hiking opps.

The outdoors is literally right in your back yard in Utah, in a way that is tangible and accessible in a manner that can't really be experienced the same way in other states. Easy access to BLM land and state/national forests, regardless of where you live in the state, makes Utah the most outdoorsy state that I've lived in/traveled to, and by a good margin. The varied terrain throughout the state makes it possible to experience so many different types of terrain and wildlife habitats that one generally wouldn't even think possible within the confines of a single state.

The mountains are your backyard. Outdoor activities are easily accessible along the valley.

The easier to access the place is, the more popular and used it is. If you're able to go during the week or can make it to the less easily

accessed stuff, you'll see much smaller crowds and sometimes have the place to yourself. If a trailhead is full, it's best to just move on to another spot rather than clog it up even more (as hard as that can be at times). If you're in to hunting, Salt Lake County is basically unavailable. You'll be safer and have more access in any other county. If you like easy access to the outdoors, I'd recommend against living in Salt Lake County but definitely visiting it for hiking, biking, and such.

The diversity is amazing - mountains, snow, canyons, desert, etc. SO much to see and do outdoors in a very accessible area (no plane ride!)

The best, but threatened by local politics.

The best part about living in Utah

The best outdoor options anywhere!

The best in the nation

The access to immediate outdoors from the Salt Lake Valley is awesome. We have an ever-going set of designated paved paths in the city to get to parks, the mountains are never more than 30 minutes away and often much closer, and within a few hours you have a diverse set of natural landscapes to explore as well.

Terrible. Don't move here.

Tell everyone else to stay away. It's horrible here :). What is so great about the outdoors in Utah is that it isn't too crowded, you don't usually need a reservation, etc. If you market this, then you kill the golden goose for everyone already here. Please don't try to bring more people to Utah--especially by pushing the overrunning of the very thing that makes it great. Zion is my favorite national park, but I haven't been there in years, because the Mighty Five completely overran it. It is so crowded now that I don't enjoy it. No parking, waiting in long lines to board a shuttle and then "hiking" on a trail in single file line with thousands of people is what it has become. Please don't try to bring more people to our state.

Super accessible. The outdoors are within a few minutes of most places where people live and work.

Super accessible with a wide variety of activities to choose from  
Stunning and appreciable

Stellar

Something to do outdoors within 15 minutes no matter where you live.

So close to home

Ski your heart out in the morning and be back at your downtown office by lunch

Ski resorts within 45 minutes and mountain biking trails within 20. Get a ride in before starting your day!

Salt Lake City is at the base of some of the worlds best skiing, snowboarding, hiking, climbing, mtn biking and more. Plus there are all the parks and lands of southern utah to explore as well.

Remarkable and unique. No warm water beeches, but seems like just about every other kind of option is available.

Readily available

Quite good but stretched thin so keep away

Quick, easy access. Lots of options all year round.

Pretty good.

Pretty good but getting crowded. Still too many public resources blocked by private property laws (for example rivers). Other states like Idaho do a much better job with this.

Pretty cool.

Plentiful, diverse, close to major population centers. (Can't say they are undiscovered yet, but not yet overcrowded).

Plentiful - there are TONS of outdoor things to do in Utah. Full of variety - one of the best things about Utah's outdoor access is the variety. Whether you want mountains, desert, forests, lakes, canyons, waterfalls, etc. it's all here, with the associated activities.

Phenomenal.

Perfect. A little too perfect. The thing Utah has to deal with is hyper growth to the outdoors and how to properly regulate it.

Outstanding.

Outrageous variety to satisfy a breadth and depth of interests and abilities.

Outdoor recreation and wilderness right out your backdoor. See the sunrise over the high peaks and set over the lakes. A sense of belonging and autonomy with every breath of the Utah wilderness.

Outdoor rec access in Utah is closer than anywhere else I've been. People really don't understand unless they've been here.

Outdoor activities for everyone. From mild amateurs, to extreme adventurers

Outdoor access is mostly limited by one's imagination. Practical limiting factors are having the right kind of transportation, training, and occasionally not the right infrastructure.

Outdoor access in Utah is great! No matter which part of the state you live in, there are lands to enjoy and explore! Beautiful state!

Open country and free rein :)

Open and accommodating. Plenty of room to learn and grow if you can find a quiet spot to do so.

Not in that moment

nearly perfect.

Most of the Salt Lake Valley is minutes away from hiking, climbing, skiing, camping, fishing, etc. You can go from urban to nature in a matter of minutes.

Many options extremely close to the city. Little cottonwood canyon gets terrible traffic in winter, but there are other options with little traffic.

Lots of outdoor access. Tons of nature things to do here.

Lots of activities to choose from. Just keep in mind obnoxiously hot summers that make outdoors activities a bit tough to handle

I've successfully recruited talent to Utah based on the business opportunity and outdoor recreation, even with lower wages.

It's there, but you've got to get through a bunch of closely packed houses to access it

It's right here.

It's relatively a short drive to everything except a beach.

It's pretty good, but very crowded around SLC.

It's pretty easy to get to a beautiful outdoor spot no matter where in Utah you live, but if you live in the SL valley, you have to deal with the bad air quality all year long.

It's over crowded, heavily saturated, and not as respected as I'd like to see. There needs to be a better implementation on managing traffic up the Wasatch Canyons.

It's one of the main reasons to live in Utah. The state is beautiful, with a high concentration of national parks, monuments, state parks, and wilderness areas. The wide open spaces are great. The state is also family friendly, which makes it easy to enjoy what nature provides.

It's one of the 3 top drivers for our family's move to Utah.

It's not only accessible, but it's visible. That's a huge deal. You can readily see the beauty of nature from your home or office.

It's incredibly unique to have metropolitan life so close to mountain access. You don't get that nearly as much in Denver or Seattle or many other places I've visited or lived that also seem to be outdoor oriented.

It's incredible. I have access to the Jordan River Trail system right at the end of my street. There are plenty of parks along the way for young children. I can take the trail almost all the way to work (when I'm not working remotely). We have quick access to dozens of beautiful mountain hikes with varying difficulty. We have amazing skiing in the winter, yet you can drive 3+ hours south and go canyoneering 9 out of the 12 months in the year.

It's incredible but currently overrun with people. It can be scary to see so many people without masks on our trails.

It's in your backyard and within a few hours of Utah valley or SLC you can get to hundreds of unique spots.

It's great leaving from my front door to the mouth of a canyon in 3 minutes. I have been able to explore parts of our state that I would never have thought of without access to a UTV.

It's fairly accessible. You just need to be motivated to go do it. As a female, I never go hiking or boarding alone so that's the only tough part... i always want to make sure i have a friend with me.

It's expensive to live here, but worth it for how close the outdoors are.

It's easy to access with many options for mountain, desert or water adventures.

It's awful. You'll hate it. Don't move here. Stay where you are.

It's awful, go away. Alternatively, It's great, but it's full. Go to Denver.

It's wonderfully accessible and the diversity of options year round and across the state is so fun

It used to be amazing? Now? Far too many people. Unmanaged crowds, disrespect of the natural environment, particularly by tourists, have ruined much of what has historically made Utah's outdoors so spectacular. Access is a joke.

It is not good at all. Please do not move here. Stay where you are.

It is excellent.

It is a significant problem as traffic and usage has substantially grown over the last 4 or 5 years. It is still pretty great, but the trails and resorts are starting to get very busy - almost too much so for my taste.

It has been fantastic up until the last couple years. There are too many housing developments going into the foothills and mountains in the Salt Lake and Utah County valleys. Suncrest is an example that has absolutely ruined our mountains. There were so many fantastic trails that are now neighborhoods. Wish they would stay out of our mountains.

It has been easy to be in Utah during the pandemic. The low people to massive outdoor spaces meant that there was and is no need to feel "trapped inside". Finally, even the views can add peace to the day, because you know you could get outside without a lot of effort.

It doesn't get any better than here. Just about anywhere along the Wasatch Front you're within 10-20 min of a trail or other outdoor recreation area. We have a huge variety of climates to explore, varying from the north to the south parts of the state and varying by season.

Incredibly accessible – it's nice to be able to plan an afternoon for an outdoor activity, rather than having to commit all day to be outdoors (Of course, you still CAN be outdoors all day, it's just nice that it's close enough to have the option.)

Incredible. Very easy to access trails for all sorts of activity: hiking, biking, running, etc. Minutes to hours from several National Parks as well.

Incredible! Where can you sky in 7 amazing resorts within 45min of driving? Have world-class mountain biking trails within 30min, and experience moose and wildlife?

Incredible!

Incredible outdoor access (frankly, I wish we could prevent so many people outside of Utah from knowing that haha...)

Incredible opportunities to explore and connect with the outdoors

Incredible access to epic skiing less than an hour, hours from redrock county, running trails out your back door.

Incredible

Incomparable. The range and quality of outdoor experiences is outstanding.

In the Bay Area, having the mountains 100 miles away means four to six hours. Here, having the Wasatch Front 15 miles away means you can be halfway up canyon in a half hour. Access access access.

Important

if you live in the right area you can access it without a car.

If you don't know how to care for the outdoors, educate yourself first and then come enjoy them with us.

I wouldn't. I don't want more people moving to Utah, unless they bring employment of Utah workers with them.

I would tell them it's awful, but only because I don't want them to move here. It's already getting crowded

I think we have everything here. Great Mountains, beautiful lakes, magnificent desert

I think the outdoors and the variety of activities available in the outdoors in Utah are its biggest assets and draw. If someone likes outdoor activities, Utah is a great place to be. It doesn't have a lot to offer otherwise.

I often say that Utah is a huge playground. I am outdoors very often, and I think it will take the rest of my life to see everything here.

I like to describe that I can go hiking easily before or after work it's so close. That there are 7 ski resorts within an hour ish drive

Hikes in every county and seeming limitless drives, lakes, skiing around every canyon.

Great. But I wouldn't want to encourage more people to move here.

Great.

Great but we don't want any more people.

Great

Good. Public lands are hard to access because of federal oversight.

Good except Moab needs to step it up.

Good choices but many people who abuse our many outdoor privileges.

Good

Getting increasingly more crowded, a la California/Colorado in the last year.

Generally some of the best access to the outdoors compared to most decent sized cities.

Fun

First-class and almost unparalleled.

Find a friend and enjoy the options. There are several places and events to go.

Few states have the balance of outdoor access, cost of living, and economy as Utah does.

Fantastic, there are a lot of outdoor access opportunities and I'm learning more about them every season.

Fantastic! Easy access to close resources (close to Wasatch Front) and reasonable access to other state-wide opportunities.

Fantastic

Fabulous. But keep it a secret.

Extremely political and at risk of greater regulations and removal of access & opportunities.

Extremely important. Equal to cost of living

Excellent. The two main valleys are still close to the Wasatch and West desert areas, and weekends open up pretty much every possibility in the state.

Everything is here. Mountains, water, sand, red rock, snow, 5 national parks - good people, personal space. Be prepared to be spoiled.

Every season provides a new outdoor paradise.

Endless outdoor access--four seasons! So many options---in any direction to get a dose of recreation in any given weekend. I also tell my friends that it's like living in a Bob Ross painting--love it here.

Easy, simple, just not friendly to crappy little cars with low power and no 4WD.

Easy, quick, in minutes or longer for new adventures.

Easy to navigate, lots of options.

Easy to access

easy and awesome

Easy access. Well documented

Easy access. Best in the country

Easy access to world-class outdoor recreation.

Easy access to national parks and plenty of outdoor activities.

Easy access to everything!

Easy access to a variety of outdoor activities.

Easy

Easily accessible and some of the best and beautiful land in the country.

Don't move to Utah. Don't want more people here to start overcrowding already high-use outdoor access.

Don't move here, it's terrible. 0\_o :)

Crowded these days.

Crowded but worth it.

Convenient, but kind of crowded.

Coming from Pacific Northwest, Utah offers different but still beautiful opportunities. The improving bike trail networks are a big plus.

Closer than other states

Close to cities. Easy to get to. Wide range of possibilities.

Close but getting more crowded as more people move to Utah

Canyons are crowded as well as popular trails. You need to go to the less popular locations.

Better than Colorado...but don't move here--we can't handle it!

Best kept secret in the Country - easy, close access to incredible hiking, skiing, fishing, camping and boating.

Beautiful and varied

Awesome. So much to choose from and so close.

anything you want to do is here in Utah and not going to find better mountains anywhere in the USA

Amazing. Everything is so close and you can really do whatever's outdoor activities you want.

Amazing, lots of choices for most outdoor activities.

Amazing! Such a variety of activities, so there's something for everyone.

Amazing! 10 min and you are hiking.

Amazing outdoor recreation within 30 minutes of your front door, and sometimes without having to get in a car!

Amazing outdoor access that is minutes away from almost anywhere you choose to live.

air quality can be a turn off in Jan/Feb or smoke from summer when trying to get outdoors, or visiting slc

Accessible. Close.

Access is incredible. To be able to be in the mountains within minutes from your home allows for so many more opportunities to experience nature.

Access is great. Ski resort canyons have become insanely crowded and almost unmanageable on weekends.

Access is far better than any other larger city, and the quality is equal to or better than other cities.

Access is challenging due to overcrowding of outdoors

access from the cities/towns within minutes to an amazing trail system

a top priority. whenever i speak to a transplant, it is one of the things they mention.

4 different canyons within 45 minutes from wherever you live.

30 minutes from the most beautiful places on earth.

100% accessible with a wide range of opportunities

10 minutes to the mountains. 15 minutes for fishing. 35 minutes for skiing.

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**ALL: Please share any other further comments you have about access to outdoor recreation and/or wilderness and public lands in Utah.**

Critical that we protect public lands and wilderness. It is primary factor on retaining talent and businesses

While I don't go out into the mountains as much as I would like, it is important to me that they are there in my satisfaction of living here. I go running on the Jordan River Parkway several times a week. If that counts as outdoor recreation, my answer to previous question needs to change (system did not let me go back to make change)

While I appreciate the desire to keep our outdoors clean and serene. The recent actions of the Moab City Council are disturbing. Trying to ban UTVs seems extreme rather than trying to come together for a compromise. I love hiking as much as the next person, but sometimes I love covering more ground and pushing limits in a UTV.

Where else in the world can you be within a 5-hour drive of nearly 10 national parks and dozens of other recreation areas that would be national parks if they were located elsewhere? Access to public lands is a critical piece of what makes the lifestyle in Utah unique.

We recently moved out of the Bay Area where I had trails behind my house. I'm currently in NM waiting on our SLC home to be remodeled. There are no trails here! While I have space I know I would feel less stress/increase enjoyment having place to walk/run vs. concrete.

We needed to move from Washington, D.C. to be close to doctors for our son, and this was a wonderful balance of skiing accessibility, a growing tech community, and the medical care he needs.

We need updated facilities and more facilities including soap dispensers and paper towels and regular cleaning of those facilities across the state. Even rest areas are woefully unkept.



We need to keep investing or risk overcrowding and damaging natural ecosystems

We need to forge a better common ground between all people sharing the land. We shouldn't have "the conservationists" and the "reckless outdoor enthusiasts". We all need to conserve while allowing access.

We need to find a way to scale access as the state becomes more populated.

We need to figure out a better way to protect more of it, particularly as population and awareness continue to go up.

We need to do everything possible to protect the outdoor beauty here.

We need more urban parks

We have to solve canyon traffic issues.

We have to curb the exploitation of our public lands and protect them more! It is a constantly shrinking resource, with more and more people using it.

We are right by parks and a lake, and we love that! It is extremely important for us to be able to go on walks easily and enjoy nature. It would not have to but Utah, we are just glad we have access to it.

We are lucky to live here!

Vast array of activities for different levels

Utah's public lands are its best asset and demand protection and preservation. They are what make Utah the special, unique place that it is.

Utah's leadership wants everyone to drive to work in their own car, and they think public land should only be accessible to extraction industries. Once these priorities change, life will be a lot better here.

Utah is special. I support restrictions on commercial development on wilderness & public lands in Utah, while maintaining reasonable access for recreation.

Trails are becoming more regulated, privately owned, and too busy. I've already seen my favorite trails wholly taken down, monitored by cameras, and/or privately purchased purely to build upon and make money. More and more, our land becomes less protected and exploited (fracking, mining, commercial businesses, etc). I plan to move from Utah in the next 5 - 10 years because of this.

There is so much to explore in Utah you will never get bored.

There is a variety of activities. The environment is also varied from mountains to desert including all four seasons.

There has to be a better way - that doesn't rely on charging people (creating access barriers between haves and have nots) to manage access to Utah's outdoor areas, and prioritize those who live here over tourists.

There are wonderful spots to fish, but if I told you where I would have to kill you

The only reason we would leave... air quality. Utah NEEDS to make clean air a priority to entice more folks to come here.

the mountains, desert and national parks are so accessible. It is a driving factor in why it is so popular.

The more crowded outdoor spaces become the less desirable they are. My enjoyment of public lands has significantly decreased due to increased traffic during the pandemic. Utah's public lands should not be a pawn for economic expansion.

The fact that I have a view of the mountains and Lake from my deck and windows, and that's not unusual is amazing. In Washington, where I was raised, the type of view that's common here, was a premium, typically disguised by trees.

The ease of access makes recreation something that integrates into daily life.

The cost to access the outdoors: accommodations, food, supplies, fuel, park fees, admissions prices, .... is the same or less than elsewhere.

The constant efforts by the state government to control federal lands make me question if the state really considers public lands a priority. Usage in the Wasatch has gotten very high and I worry if it's sustainable without adding more protected lands for recreation.

That we need to preserve what makes Utah great and slow the exponential growth

Thank you for providing this opportunity for us to get away from it all (stresses of daily life) and making this a part of our family's stories for the future.

THANK YOU for providing the access and spaces that we have.

Tell the Californians to not move here and bring their liberal agendas which will eventually restrict and limit outdoor access due to environmentalist policies.

Statewide bike trails would be a huge benefit for the future

State Parks are hidden gems. There are over 40 State Parks. Make it a bucket list to visit them all.

St. George is benefiting from talent that wants the year-round outdoor lifestyle.

Skiing and mountain biking are my release. But the last few years, trails and resorts are packed with people. Parking, commuting, and crowd control needs to be considered moving forward.

send it

River access is a big problem here.

Public lands are being loved to death. We need proactive policy solutions that protect these natural spaces from degradation caused by tourism and recreation ASAP.

Protect them. There is a natural bounty here you can never regain once it's lost.

Proper management and engagement with the outdoor users is key to properly expanding access while ensuring the wild can stay wild. Its a delicate balance as Utah and specifically SLC experiences hyper growth.

Please make our public lands and access to those lands a priority. I realize oil/gas/mineral leases are quick money. Selling off land to developers is easy money. However, preservation of our public lands gives access to everyone for all generations. I own a technology company and a big selling point when we try to recruit is our access to the outdoors. We have the chance to be a high tech/outdoor products mecca. Please don't ruin that for short term gains.

Please keep Californians away!

Pay attention to the information, Buy the passes, Follow the orientation guide, and enjoy it.

Outdoor recreation does seem to have become increasingly more popular in the last few years, and some areas are becoming overcrowded and difficult to access/enjoy because of the sheer number of people.

outdoor image has taken a hit with Outdoor Retailer leaving and Bears Ears. Wish state's political leadership would step up

Our Utah state legislature is completely out of whack with the times. They think that their chumminess with the oil and gas industry is completely fine, even though new jobs and new people in this state DEFINITELY do not want that on our public lands and are keenly concerned about air quality and climate change, even though the legislature clearly is not. The Utah State Parks people don't focus on diversity or inclusion or modernization, and that's due for an upgrade too. I'm afraid that the "old guard" is completely unprepared for the type of people who are moving here and actually value open space, not just oil and gas and monied interests.

Our biggest challenge going forward will be to create additional outdoor recreation opportunities to lessen traffic in the canyons and other areas and to ease the strain on the trail systems. More cities need to create trail systems and recreation that are more easily accessible and maintained. Examples include: Draper's cycle park, Bunny Bradley instructional trails, and Porter Rockwell trail; Park City's Trailside Park and other similar nearby parks; Eagle Mountain's cycling park; and the Jordan River Parkway Trail.

Nothing I haven't shared above.

Nothing beats Utah. I'm in Salt Lake county. I only have to drive 20 to 30 minutes to have access to great hiking and fishing. A two hour driving radius has many options for all outdoor activities.

Need to protect access to public lands and open up more vs restricting access under the guise of "Protection".

need to continue access as we have today for all types of activities

Need solutions to account for increased traffic in the canyons.

NA

My main concern at this point is overuse of Utah's parks. It's wonderful that we all enjoy them, but overcrowding is causing problems.

Most state parks in Utah have much higher recreational fees than other, unreasonably though

More awareness please.

Main reason we have "moved back" after living out of state 3 different times.

Low taxes

Love the land, hate the amount that is in government control. Hoping to continue to have access where it is interesting.

Love the changes to get out

Lots of variety. Unfortunately, many outdoor recreation options are being discovered by many people and spaces are more crowded than they once were. This requires getting better information and doing better planning.

Lots of locations if you going looking for out of the way places.

Let's protect them but maybe not talk about them TOO much. I like them with fewer people.

Let's keep things open and protected! Let's promote safe and responsible use of the wilderness. Anything we can do to reduce traffic in the canyons would be nice as well.

Keep Utah's public lands, public!

Keep public lands public - not state or private, build more camping areas for the public. Provide more funding for national, state parks and the forest service/BLM.

Keep motor off road vehicles off hiking trails.

Keep investing in infrastructure to make traffic up the Wasatch Canyons more safe and accessible.

It's beautiful, and a great natural resource. But we need to invest more in infrastructure so people can continue to enjoy our outdoor life even as our population numbers skyrocket.

It's a big part of what brought me to Utah in the first place and a big part of what keeps me here now.

It seems fun. Im just not a guy who likes hiking and biking and all that.

It is really awesome that people are getting outside more in parks and especially our trails but it feels like there is more wear and tear on those places as well. With this increase in usage, how are public places being maintained and how can we increase the dollars available to create more great open spaces and maintain existing ones? This feels like the tragedy of the commons.

It is getting really busy.

I'm not sure I understand the pricing structure of canyon access D:

I'd like to see more ties of the mountain trails to the city trails. Extend the BST and make it accessible to the city residents without having to drive.

I would trade convenience for protecting what we have! For example, no cars in BCC and LCC.

I would like to see us open more public lands to recreation and reduce wilderness. We need to take super good care of our public lands, but I think doing it under state and forest service control is the right approach rather than the radical wilderness approach.

I wish we had more closer. We need more parking now-a-days. I want more parks within the cities. More open spaces amongst the huge influx of people and building. outdoor recreation doesn't just happen in the mountains. and it would help get more people access.

I wish there was a central place that talks about all of the outdoor rec options and access via one website.

I want Utahns to have more control of wilderness/public lands and the govt less control

I think we should protect the public lands/wildlife in Utah.

I think we need to think about accessibility to the wild not as a commodity, but as a price. When the best part about something is the solitude from busy life, and you put busy life right on its front porch, it loses its magic. Some things need to stay inaccessible. Those who want to experience it will make the effort needed.

I love having easy access to so many beautiful places here in Utah. It's just about as close to heaven as you can get.

I love all that the Utah outdoor rec department provides and hope we maintain that preservation while making it easy for people to enjoy.

I like the ski slopes being less crowded so it pains me to have more people move here

I hope that the government doesn't restrict access or sell off these lands. They are precious.

I have some concerns about forcing people onto buses etc like in the Cottonwood canyons due to growth. I

I have often been very disappointed in the number of cattle grazing in the national forests. I see the devastation, poop and flies even in the most remote areas and wonder what I'm getting out of letting them ruin my forest.

I do not believe that Utah or any other state should consider selling current public land for private real estate or other industrial/commercial development.

I believe it's vital to protect wilderness and public lands and provide convenient access to outdoor recreation.

I am concerned about the massive influx of people to the state having a negative impact on public lands. The tech industry has huge leverage on making protecting public lands a priority for local government. I hope to see this sector use that leverage and feel the responsibility lies heavily on them since it what is driving the migration. Thanks.

Getting very crowded

Environmental protections are much too weak. Many counterproductive uses are allowed. Air quality in the valley often makes outdoor activities a poor health choice, and the problem worsens every year. Lack of government will to make difficult long-term decisions that will benefit the health and well-being of our residents and our visitors is ruining the state. Post pandemic will find me seriously consider moving if things do not change.

Employers recognizing this aspect of life will enable them to attract better talent, more committed, and ultimately more diverse workforces. It is a great amenity to take advantage of for Utah.

Don't move here, we have too many people. Lol. Jk. If people do move here, we should increase public education on respecting nature and the wilderness, including the consequences of not doing so. My greatest fear with an increasing number of people migrating to Utah is the destruction of the wilderness caused by those who do not know how to respect it and preserve it.

Critical that we protect public lands and wilderness. It is primary factor on retaining talent and businesses

Clean up the outdoors and charge more to go to parks to help pay for the cleaning of the mess humans leave

Certain activities are somewhat limited especially along the Wasatch Front. OHV, disc golf, dispersed camping, etc. opportunities are limited in Salt Lake County. If your hobbies don't fall cleanly into hiking, biking, running, and camping at established campgrounds, you may find yourself living in a different county or travelling a ways to participate in your hobbies. There are so many wonderfully beautiful places outside of the Wasatch Front. As you are able, I definitely encourage getting out there a little further and exploring. There's so much National Forest Service, BLM, and SITLA land that you can explore just about anywhere (best to check when planning your trip to be safe). It's a shame we don't have more bigger towns outside of the Wasatch Front than we do to encourage access to these other places rather than concentrating so much population around SLCo.

Biggest barriers are pollution (wildfires, urban areas nearby, ozone due to farms) and lack of public education on how to gently use public lands.

as population grows, management policies will become more important.

Although access is widely available, overcrowding has become a bit of an issue and deterrent since COVID-19

Accessibility!! So close to so much!!

## Endnote

1. See 2018 Outdoor Partners report here: <https://gardner.utah.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018-Outdoor-Partners-Report-FINAL-1.pdf>

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