

# SALT LAKE COUNTY

## Natural Areas Land Management Plan Standards and Operations Manual



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# I. OVERVIEW

Salt Lake County (the County) owns and manages a diverse array of developed parks and undeveloped, “open space” lands, some of which are considered natural areas. The County’s mission is to preserve, restore, and enhance these natural areas for their multiple community benefits ranging from aesthetics to wildlife habitat to low-impact recreation opportunities. To effectively manage lands that are set aside as natural areas, the County has developed this Natural Areas Land Management Plan: Standards and Operations Manual (the manual) to care for natural areas under its stewardship.

Residents, communities, and land-management agencies throughout the County have become increasingly concerned about the preservation of open-space and park lands, which are quickly disappearing as development continues at a rapid rate in Salt Lake Valley. The purpose of this manual is to guide County Parks and Recreation staff in identifying, monitoring, and maintaining natural areas under their jurisdiction. Also included in the manual is guidance and procedural direction for reclamation and restoration of natural areas. This manual does not focus on specific parcels of land but rather is generic in nature for application to all natural areas throughout the Salt Lake Valley, including those managed by private organizations, municipalities, and land-management agencies.

This manual establishes standards and guidelines for (1) defining and classifying natural areas by landscape type, (2) maintaining natural areas, and (3) rehabilitating degraded natural areas. Figure 1.1 illustrates the structure of the manual and how best to implement its contents.

In addition to the County’s existing natural areas, more properties are anticipated to be purchased through the Open Space Trust Fund, which was established by the mayor and County Council in 2005 and subsequently approved by County residents in 2006.

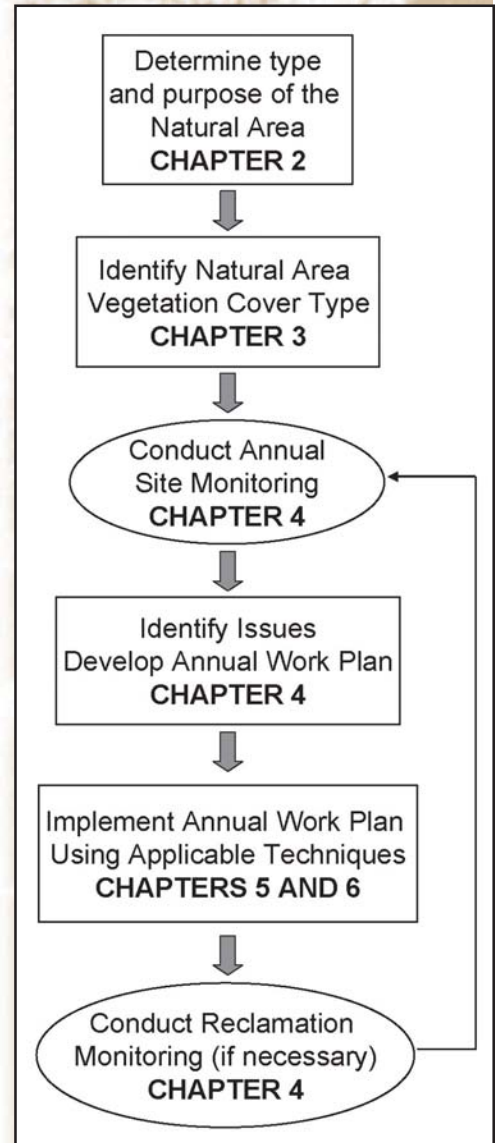


Figure 1.1. Manual implementation flow chart.