

*Keep the city, city*



*Keep the country, country*



This report is available online at



[www.envisioncachevalley.com](http://www.envisioncachevalley.com)





**ENVISION CACHE VALLEY FINAL REPORT & TOOLKIT**



## Acknowledgements

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Cache County, Utah

Franklin County, Idaho

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**Envision Cache Valley Final Report & Toolkit**

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### Project Facilitator



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## **Keep the city, city**

Invest in our towns—our centers for living, industry and culture.

## **Keep the country, country**

Protect the agricultural and natural lands that sustain us.

Cache Valley is a remarkable place. Brigham Young said that no other valley in the Territory was its equal—it was and is a beautiful and abundant valley. Life was not easy for the first pioneers, but they were resilient, creating an incredible place to live and to pursue one’s dreams, whatever they may be: raising a family, developing businesses, pursuing higher education, making a living from the land’s abundance, or relaxing in its beautiful surroundings.

The quality of human settlement was important to Utah’s founders. In 1892, LDS Church President John Taylor wrote,

*“In all cases in making new settlements, the Saints should be advised to gather together in villages, as has been our custom from the time of our earliest settlement on these mountain valleys. The advantages of this plan, instead of carelessly scattering out over a wide extent of country, are many and obvious...By this means the people can retain their ecclesiastical organizations...Cooperate for the good of all in financial and secular matters, in making ditches, fencing fields, building bridges, and other necessary improvements. Further than this they are a mutual protection and a source of strength... their compact organization gives them many advantages of a social and civic character which might be lost, misapplied or frittered away by spreading out so thinly that inter-communication is difficult, dangerous, inconvenient, and expensive.”*

- Quoted in “Mormon Country” by Wallace Stegner

Times have changed. We don’t face the same challenges, but our task remains the same: to create the best place possible today and for generations to come. In that respect we, too, are pioneers—dreaming and innovating and collaborating to bring our dreams to fruition.

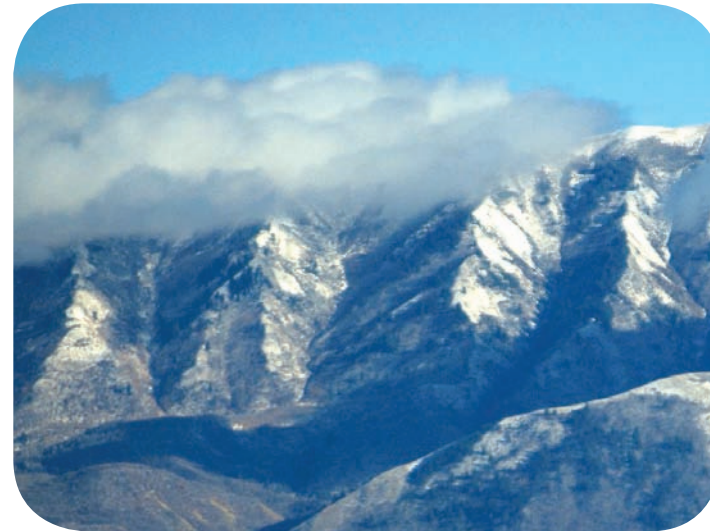
The Cache Valley Vision, illustrated in this document, captures a common dream, our collective hopes for the future. This hope is echoed by voices of the past—who also saw the value of investing in our towns and cities while protecting and enhancing resources in outlying areas. Let’s realize our dreams and keep Cache Valley beautiful, neighborly and prosperous - *The Envision Cache Valley Executive Committee.*





## What is Envision Cache Valley?

*Envision Cache Valley* is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to explore growth-related issues and think together about what Cache Valley should be like in the future. The process reflects the values of the public, the voice of the public, and the vision of the public. Broad public participation in both creating and implementing the vision is the key to this process.



Cache Valley is becoming an increasingly interdependent region. The decisions that are made locally affect everyone regionally. Cache Valley residents breathe the same air, drive the same roads, share a common economy, and enjoy the same natural resources. *Envision Cache Valley* enables us to take a regional look at our future.

As the decisions made today affect our neighbors, the decisions made also affect future generations. *Envision Cache Valley* asks the questions: *What legacy do we want to leave behind for future generations? What kind of future do we want to create for our children and grandchildren?*

*Envision Cache Valley* creates a common dream for the future while respecting the interests of land owners. With this dream in mind, we can move beyond asking, “*What do we want?*” and move toward asking, “*How do we get there?*” The broad public participation that was a part of this process makes the vision and implementation strategy politically actionable. Growth will occur, and what form it takes and what impact it has on our valley depends on the choices we make today. *Envision Cache Valley* represents a legacy that can be created for future generations, as citizens and community and regional leaders work toward common goals.

## Background

*Envision Cache Valley* began with the Cache Valley Regional Council, a group created by an interlocal agreement between Cache Valley jurisdictions and made up of elected officials from Franklin County, Idaho, and Cache County, Utah, to address valley-wide issues and work toward mutually beneficial solutions. A steering committee of local citizens with diverse backgrounds led the *Envision Cache Valley* effort. Committee members were committed to a transparent and public process in which citizens explored the challenges associated with



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growth and worked toward the creation of a long-term vision for the valley. The task was to envision a place which future generations will appreciate—a place that preserves and enhances the quality of life that residents currently enjoy. Participants tackled such difficult issues as growth locations and patterns, private property rights, transportation, air quality, water quality, economic development, job growth, agriculture, land consumption, housing, environment, critical lands, and recreation. The Cache Valley Regional Council asked *Envision Utah*, a nonprofit organization that pioneered regional visioning, to facilitate *Envision Cache Valley*.

## Process

The *Envision Cache Valley* process included basic steps to achieve a broadly supported, publicly created vision:

- Research recent and projected population and market trends.
- Engage citizens and stakeholders in activities that explore growth issues and choices.
- Develop a range of scenarios based on public preferences that explore growth issues and choices.
- Explore consequences of each scenario.
- Engage citizens and stakeholders in evaluation of scenarios and their components and consequences.
- Create a vision and vision strategy for Cache Valley that reflects public values.

## What Could Cache Valley Be Like in 2040?

Conservative estimates predict that by 2040 Cache Valley’s present population of about 125,000 people will almost double, to reach nearly a quarter million residents. While some growth comes from outside the valley, as has long been the trend, most growth is internal. Residents continue to have children and people are living longer, and both of these factors significantly affect growth.

Given the likelihood of growth, it is helpful to examine recent development patterns to discover what life might be like if the valley continues growing as it has. The *Envision Cache Valley* process included creating a “baseline scenario,” or picture of what the valley may look like if growth continues both where and how it has in the past. The baseline, then, simply projects the pattern of the past ten years out into the future. It does not necessarily project the most likely future, but it does provide a baseline to which other ideas—ideas that come from the public—can be compared. The baseline helped participants ask themselves if the valley is heading toward the desired future or if some changes are in order.



## Projecting Cache Valley's Population

State governments routinely prepare population estimates and projections to improve state planning, though they are also widely used by local governments, schools and businesses. Working from a baseline year, demographers project births, deaths, and migration out to a given time horizon.

For example, Cache County's 2008 population estimate of 111,841 was used as a baseline to project out to 2060. In this scenario, the county's population reaches 223,442 by 2040 and 331,594 by 2060, assuming an average annual growth rate of 2.2%. Historically, Cache County has tended to grow more quickly than projected, largely due to higher than predicted births and lower than predicted death rates. Franklin County, Idaho, follows a similar trend.

Projections used for this study were obtained from the State of Utah Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (GOPB) and the State of Idaho Department of Public Health. Detailed methodology and analysis is available on the GOPB website.

### 2008 Population Estimate

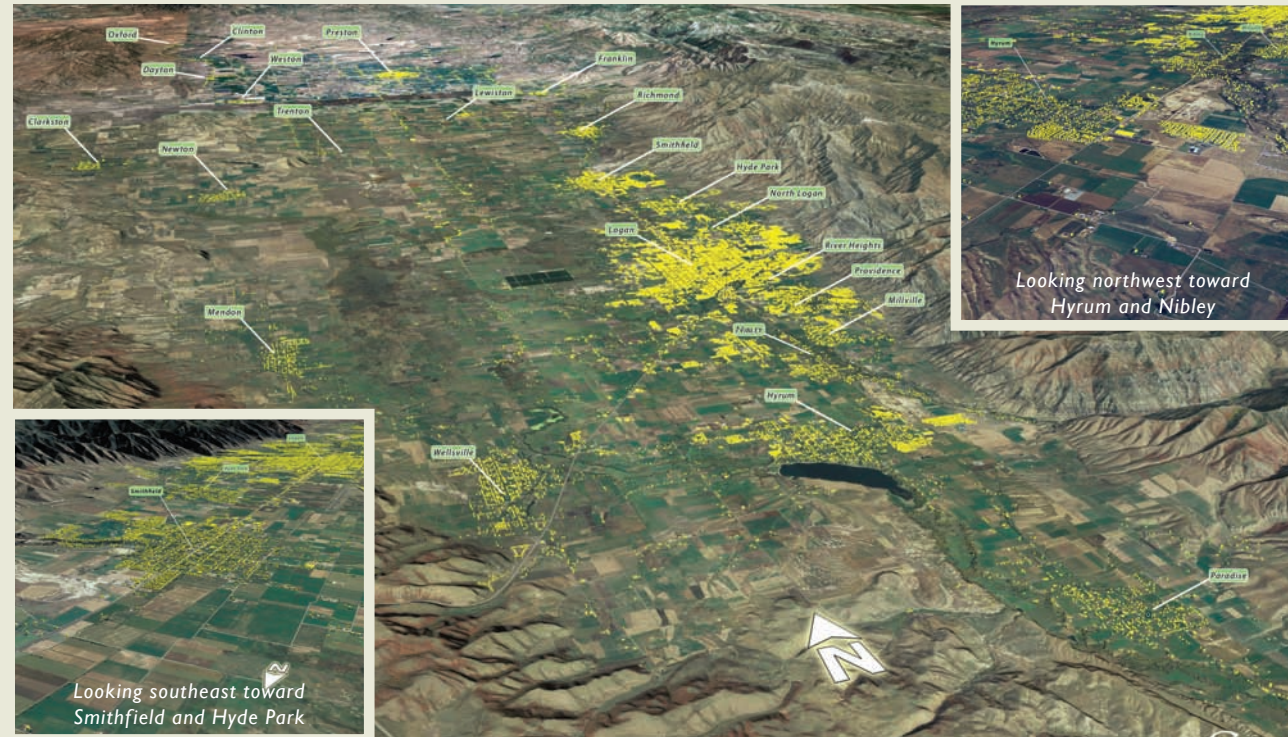


### 2040 Population Projection

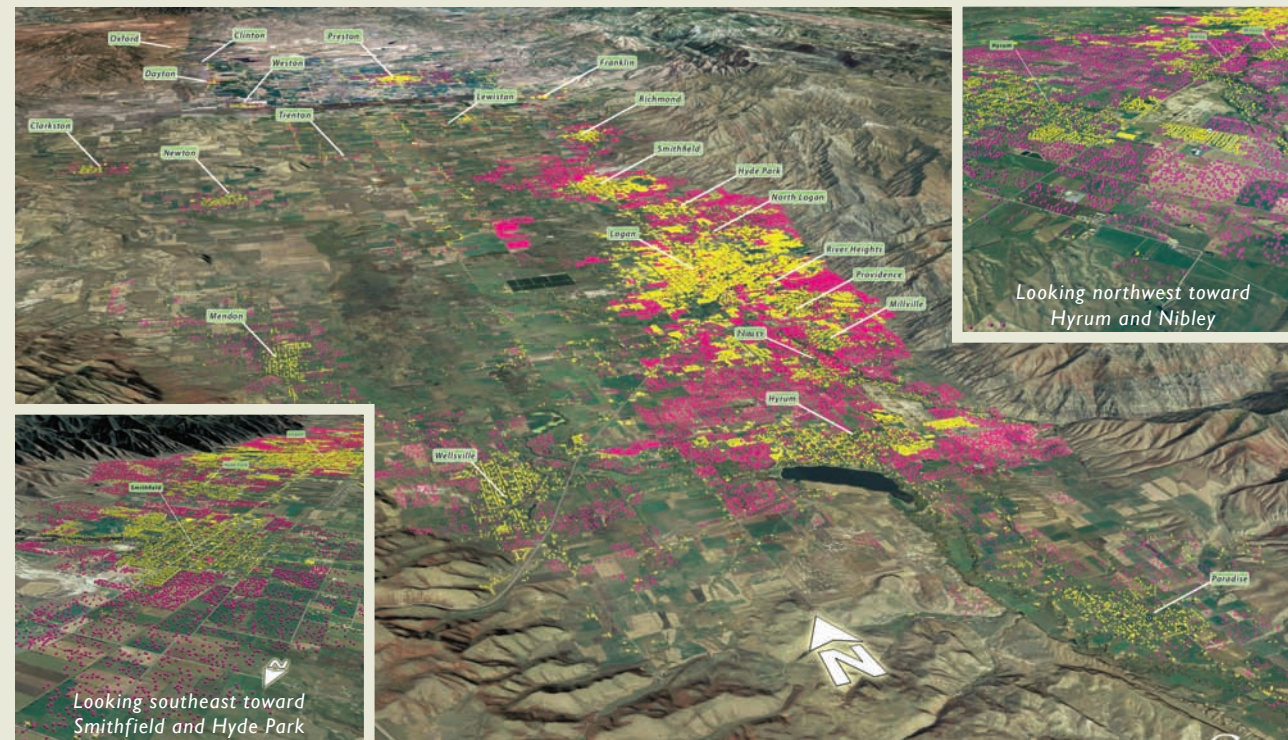


## 2040 Projections

### Current Development in Cache Valley:



### Projected 2040 Development in Cache Valley:



## Developed Lands

If current growth trends continue, new residential growth in Cache Valley could consume about 50 square miles of land; or roughly three times the size of Logan.

