

0:00:10.000,0:00:12.916  
Hi. Welcome everybody to the Ogden Way  
podcast, the place

0:00:12.916,0:00:15.916  
where we talk about Ogden???s stories  
through the lens of Ogden???s people.

0:00:16.416,0:00:18.458  
Today we're joined by Sarah Kapel.

0:00:18.458,0:00:21.458  
Sarah is the conservation  
director of the Ogden Nature Center.

0:00:21.666,0:00:24.666  
You're the ecologist  
for the nature center as well right?

0:00:24.750,0:00:27.583  
Yes, I'm the on, on-site ecologist.

0:00:27.583,0:00:29.416  
On-site and on staff.

0:00:29.416,0:00:33.875  
And, the nature center  
obviously is a, a place where we,

0:00:34.250,0:00:37.000  
where we value and enjoy,

0:00:37.000,0:00:39.875  
but also manage wildlife  
and their habitats.

0:00:39.875,0:00:40.875  
Right.

0:00:40.875,0:00:43.125  
Which is something that I have  
a long background in before being mayor.

0:00:43.125,0:00:44.625  
Exactly. Yeah.

0:00:44.625,0:00:47.625  
So today we're going to flip the script.

0:00:48.625,0:00:52.333  
Sarah reached out to my office  
asking a whole bunch of questions. Yes.

0:00:52.625,0:00:56.625  
And of which I was happy to provide  
answers, but I felt like the answers

0:00:56.625,0:01:01.625  
were maybe a little more, a little longer  
than just an email or a quick response.

0:01:01.625,0:01:02.208  
I thought that

0:01:03.458,0:01:06.458  
she deserved to  
know more about where I came from and why.

0:01:06.458,0:01:09.375  
But one of the things  
that we talked about in the Ogden Way is,

0:01:09.375,0:01:12.375  
it's, the Ogden Way is a framework  
that connects all of us.

0:01:12.458,0:01:13.625  
And the thing that struck me

0:01:13.625,0:01:18.041  
about the questions you were asking me  
is that you and I landed in the same place

0:01:18.041,0:01:22.166  
in terms of having the same passion  
and values, but we came from different

0:01:23.250,0:01:25.916  
pathways  
to the same places that make sense.

0:01:25.916,0:01:28.541  
And so I wanted to talk  
a bit more about that today.

0:01:28.541,0:01:31.541  
But yeah, rather than me interviewing you

0:01:32.375,0:01:34.750  
we're going to let Sarah interview me.

0:01:34.750,0:01:36.541  
Are you nervous about that?

0:01:36.541,0:01:39.166  
I mean I prefer it.

0:01:39.166,0:01:42.708  
I always tell people  
that I like to work with trees and plants

0:01:42.708,0:01:45.708  
because they don't talk back to me.

0:01:45.708,0:01:47.583  
I don't have to talk to them. Right.

0:01:47.583,0:01:49.750  
I try to set you at ease  
by telling you. Yes.

0:01:49.750,0:01:52.125  
You can call me a tree  
because my shape and size, right?

0:01:52.125,0:01:52.708  
Yeah.

0:01:52.708,0:01:55.500  
And I'm a hobbit  
because of my shape and size.

0:01:55.500,0:01:57.250  
So hopefully that brings some peace. But.

0:01:57.250,0:01:59.583  
Yeah.  
I'll turn the keys over to you. Okay.

0:01:59.583,0:02:02.583  
Just let you. Absolutely. Yes.

0:02:02.750,0:02:05.000  
Well, I just had,

0:02:05.000,0:02:07.875  
you know, a couple of questions  
because of your background.

0:02:07.875,0:02:09.500  
So how was your experience

0:02:09.500,0:02:12.583  
with wildlife management  
influenced your approach to policymaking?

0:02:13.041,0:02:15.708  
And in what ways  
do you think it gives you a unique

0:02:15.708,0:02:18.708  
perspective  
on addressing the challenges Ogden faces?

0:02:19.125,0:02:22.208  
I actually a really good friend of mine  
was just promoted

0:02:22.208,0:02:25.333  
to director of the Division of Wildlife,  
just recently.

0:02:25.875,0:02:31.250  
And so he, before he even applied, he  
called and asked me my advice, etc., and

0:02:32.750,0:02:33.625  
one of the things I told him

0:02:33.625,0:02:37.458  
as I said, that that job is going to be  
a lot more political than my job as mayor.

0:02:37.500,0:02:39.833  
So I'm the mayor of a major city in Utah.

0:02:39.833,0:02:41.875  
And there's a lot of politics in that job.

0:02:41.875,0:02:43.916  
And so

0:02:43.916,0:02:46.333  
wildlife is very political

0:02:46.333,0:02:49.333  
primarily  
because it involves people and passion.

0:02:49.500,0:02:51.875  
That's when things get political.

0:02:51.875,0:02:54.000  
People have strong feelings  
for or against something.

0:02:54.000,0:02:56.333  
It becomes political. Right.

0:02:56.333,0:02:58.666  
And so we all know that wildlife

0:02:58.666,0:03:01.625  
is something that the people of Utah value  
tremendously.

0:03:01.625,0:03:03.958  
There's a lot of different opinions  
around wildlife.

0:03:03.958,0:03:06.958  
And that creates  
a lot of passion and contention.

0:03:07.708,0:03:09.291  
And so

0:03:09.291,0:03:11.458  
I actually come from a,

0:03:11.458,0:03:13.916  
from a job that you wouldn't  
think would have any relation

0:03:13.916,0:03:16.041  
to being a mayor of a major city.

0:03:16.041,0:03:19.375  
But it actually does  
because of all the conflict management

0:03:19.375,0:03:21.500  
that we have to do in that industry.

0:03:21.500,0:03:23.125  
And so I think about policies,

0:03:24.208,0:03:26.291  
differently as a result.

0:03:26.291,0:03:29.375  
Not I don't write policies  
in order to avoid conflict,

0:03:29.583,0:03:32.583  
but the conflict always  
is routed to people.

0:03:33.375,0:03:36.375  
And and passion and purpose.

0:03:36.666,0:03:41.125  
And so my, my mindset is maybe  
a little different paradigm with policy.

0:03:41.791,0:03:45.250  
I absolutely view it  
from the lens of the people the endpoint,

0:03:45.291,0:03:48.625  
the end user, the who are we targeting

0:03:49.500,0:03:52.500  
to serve with the policies  
and decisions we're making.

0:03:53.000,0:03:54.750  
And that was always our perspective.

0:03:54.750,0:03:57.750  
A lot of people think you're doing it  
only to benefit the wildlife.

0:03:57.750,0:04:01.291  
But if the if what the wildlife needs  
doesn't benefit the people of Utah.

0:04:01.458,0:04:04.000  
It's defeating its purpose, right?

0:04:04.000,0:04:06.333  
And so,

0:04:06.333,0:04:08.875  
at DWR, we have a strong culture

0:04:08.875,0:04:12.333  
and ethos around  
hooks and bullets conservation.

0:04:13.041,0:04:16.250  
And so we have a mindset of making sure  
that wildlife

0:04:16.250,0:04:19.250  
is beneficial  
to people to use as a resource.

0:04:19.541,0:04:22.083  
Right.  
So our conservation actions are really,

0:04:23.333,0:04:25.583  
really dedicated to,

0:04:25.583,0:04:28.916  
to making that a helpful,  
valuable resource to people.

0:04:29.583,0:04:29.791  
Right.

0:04:29.791,0:04:32.958  
And that's, that's the paradigm  
I apply here as well.

0:04:34.083,0:04:34.333  
Right.

0:04:34.333,0:04:38.958  
And I mean, a lot of the,  
you know, hunting

0:04:38.958,0:04:42.875  
tags, portion of that will go to research  
and a lot of it goes to conservation.

0:04:42.875,0:04:45.250  
And so it is this feedback loop.

0:04:45.250,0:04:49.916  
You might think it's just about your  
personal gain of, of hunting this animal.

0:04:49.916,0:04:50.375  
It might be.

0:04:50.375,0:04:53.458  
But you know, there's, there's ways

0:04:53.458,0:04:56.500  
that we tax it in a way that we see  
the benefits on the other side.

0:04:56.500,0:04:58.750  
And, and research  
goes back into it. Right.

0:04:58.750,0:05:01.208  
So and the and the

0:05:01.208,0:05:04.291  
the North American model of wildlife  
management is really rooted around

0:05:05.041,0:05:08.750  
the hunting and fishing permits,  
the excise taxes that are collected

0:05:09.000,0:05:10.916  
national level  
and distributed to the states.

0:05:10.916,0:05:13.916  
And those revenues are user based.

0:05:14.541,0:05:16.083  
Right. It's this form of user fee.

0:05:16.083,0:05:20.000  
And so those that use the resource  
are the ones that benefit from it as well.

0:05:20.208,0:05:20.416  
Right.

0:05:20.416,0:05:24.083  
And so there's this feedback of investment  
and then return for

0:05:24.083,0:05:27.083  
those of us that that value  
and use the resource.

0:05:27.916,0:05:30.083  
And that's important because

0:05:31.375,0:05:33.291  
it brings the people and the policies

0:05:33.291,0:05:36.750  
and the, in this case,  
the animals into really close alignment.

0:05:38.083,0:05:41.083  
And I think a lot of people lose  
sight of that.

0:05:42.208,0:05:45.375  
Hunters, hunters and anglers feel like  
they are the original conservationists

0:05:45.375,0:05:46.458  
because they are.

0:05:46.458,0:05:49.458  
That's how conservation was created  
in North America,

0:05:49.791,0:05:51.041  
all the way back to Teddy Roosevelt.

0:05:51.041,0:05:54.833  
And even before you can read all  
about the history of Pinchot and

0:05:55.250,0:05:59.041  
and Roosevelt, etc., in protecting land,  
protecting space

0:05:59.375,0:06:03.458  
and protecting wildlife through  
conservation, through hunting and fishing.

0:06:03.458,0:06:06.666  
But what comes with it also is  
and is an intrinsic ethos,

0:06:06.666,0:06:10.750  
like an intrinsic value of the wildlife  
watching,

0:06:11.375,0:06:15.208  
being out in the in the landscape,  
amongst the habitats right?

0:06:15.666,0:06:18.666  
Whether you're harvesting or not,  
harvesting,

0:06:19.166,0:06:21.125  
there's something  
that draws you out there.

0:06:22.291,0:06:25.291  
And it could be the pursuit or the hunt  
or the catch.

0:06:25.416,0:06:25.875  
Right?

0:06:25.875,0:06:29.708  
Or it can just be to view it  
before you pursue it, to hunt or to catch.

0:06:29.750,0:06:31.166  
You know what I mean. Right.

0:06:31.166,0:06:34.500  
But at the end of the day, it's important  
that people value

0:06:34.666,0:06:37.625  
wildlife and the habitats they occupy.

0:06:37.625,0:06:40.250  
And why? Right. Right.

0:06:40.250,0:06:42.000  
So I think that's the role  
that the nature center

0:06:42.000,0:06:44.041  
can play, an important role  
in terms of educating people

0:06:44.041,0:06:47.041  
on the value of wildlife  
in their habitats.

0:06:47.250,0:06:50.250  
While supporting every avenue  
and pathway to

0:06:50.625,0:06:52.750  
that love, right? Absolutely.

0:06:52.750,0:06:54.416  
Yeah.  
For some people that come to the nature

0:06:54.416,0:06:56.458  
center,  
it's their first time seeing a deer.

0:06:56.458,0:07:01.333  
We have a healthy population of deer  
or fox or, you know, whatever it might be.

0:07:02.625,0:07:05.083  
But yeah, it's a way to connect them

0:07:05.083,0:07:07.666  
to the nature,  
and then maybe they'll go to appreciate

0:07:07.666,0:07:11.416  
and pick up hobbies, you know, and,  
and or make it a lifestyle like I have.

0:07:11.875,0:07:13.791  
That's right. Yeah. Yeah.

0:07:13.791,0:07:15.833  
Make it a career even. Yes. Exactly.

0:07:15.833,0:07:16.166  
Yeah.

0:07:16.166,0:07:18.958  
Are there specific initiatives  
or partnerships you're working on

0:07:18.958,0:07:23.291  
to increase public awareness or engagement  
around conservation efforts in the city?

0:07:23.375,0:07:28.208  
So I in my past,  
I was accustomed to protecting

0:07:28.208,0:07:31.208  
and preserving and actively managing

0:07:31.666,0:07:34.375  
tens of thousands

if not hundreds of thousands

0:07:34.375,0:07:38.666  
or even millions of acres of of wildlife  
habitat and landscape.

0:07:39.250,0:07:42.250  
That's the scale  
at which I'm accustomed to operating.

0:07:43.666,0:07:47.208  
So whether that's actively managing  
and making habitat

0:07:47.208,0:07:51.875  
improvements  
on the landscape, restoration post-fire or

0:07:53.000,0:07:56.291  
something that you guys do at the nature  
center using beaver dam analogs to,

0:07:57.625,0:07:57.958  
to look

0:07:57.958,0:08:01.541  
similar to what a beaver does ecologically  
or even using beavers themselves.

0:08:01.875,0:08:04.875  
I've done a lot of river restoration.

0:08:05.166,0:08:08.708  
So some of those things apply  
to being a mayor in a city like ours.

0:08:09.541,0:08:11.625  
Most of them do not. Right?

0:08:11.625,0:08:13.250  
So we have two.

0:08:13.250,0:08:14.708  
We're  
at the confluence of two major rivers.

0:08:14.708,0:08:16.333  
The origin of the Weber River.

0:08:16.333,0:08:19.541  
In my past, I was really heavily involved  
in the \$6 million restoration

0:08:19.541,0:08:21.583  
project  
in our downtown of the Ogden River.

0:08:21.583,0:08:24.250  
And there's a lot of that same work  
continuing on in the Weber

0:08:24.250,0:08:26.625  
and in the lower  
reaches of the of the Ogden.

0:08:26.625,0:08:29.625  
And so, so that that passion continues.

0:08:30.083,0:08:33.083  
But when you talk about

0:08:33.250,0:08:36.250  
wildlife, landscapes and habitats,

0:08:37.500,0:08:39.875  
you have to talk about access to them.

0:08:39.875,0:08:44.458

And for us here in this city,  
we don't have a huge breadth of,

0:08:45.416,0:08:48.416  
you know, big game or herd management  
or anything like that.

0:08:48.625,0:08:51.708  
But we do play an important role  
for access through trails

0:08:52.541,0:08:54.750  
and public access to making sure

0:08:54.750,0:08:57.750  
that those are publicly available  
and accessible trails.

0:08:57.833,0:09:01.291  
Making sure that there's as much,  
accessibility access

0:09:01.541,0:09:07.375  
to opportunities like the Kingfisher  
Wetlands down on, on the pathway project.

0:09:07.416,0:09:07.666  
Right.

0:09:07.666,0:09:10.791  
And making sure that our pathway  
is smooth and available

0:09:10.791,0:09:13.791  
to anybody with varying abilities, etc.

0:09:14.000,0:09:19.166  
to me, those are more of an urban  
setting way of providing

0:09:19.166,0:09:23.541  
opportunity, access to opportunities  
to be outdoors, to be amongst wildlife.

0:09:24.541,0:09:26.791  
Those riparian zones  
are some of the most species

0:09:26.791,0:09:29.791  
rich and diverse habitat types that exist.

0:09:30.291,0:09:31.791  
There.

0:09:31.791,0:09:34.625  
Trying to remember some numbers,  
but probably 85% of the species in Utah

0:09:34.625,0:09:37.625  
use riparian zones,  
but they only occupy probably

0:09:38.000,0:09:42.125  
a percent or two of the total land cover  
in the state of Utah.

0:09:42.125,0:09:44.375  
So they're very rich areas.

0:09:44.375,0:09:47.041  
And that's also where our pathways go.

0:09:47.041,0:09:49.791  
And so it's a great opportunity  
to put people in contact

0:09:49.791,0:09:52.791  
with wildlife, but also doing it in a way

that's very active,

0:09:53.375,0:09:56.375  
that helps to provide  
active and healthy lifestyles,

0:09:56.458,0:09:58.208  
because that's really  
important for our health.

0:09:59.625,0:09:59.875  
And then

0:09:59.875,0:10:03.333  
finally, and basically  
what I'm doing right now, is relaying

0:10:03.875,0:10:06.958  
my old work with the fundamental pillars  
of the Ogden way.

0:10:08.333,0:10:10.125  
It's around infrastructure,

0:10:10.125,0:10:12.958  
access to open spaces.

0:10:12.958,0:10:15.791  
Having opportunities  
to have an active and healthy lifestyle.

0:10:15.791,0:10:18.083  
But also in those areas  
you'll find a lot of people.

0:10:18.083,0:10:21.083  
And so you're having access  
to all those opportunities,

0:10:21.250,0:10:22.791  
including having

0:10:22.791,0:10:25.791  
interactions with one another  
and creating meaningful interactions.

0:10:26.458,0:10:29.916  
And touch points with each other,  
which really is what builds us

0:10:29.916,0:10:31.416  
into a community.

0:10:31.416,0:10:35.166  
So wildlife is something  
that brings people together.

0:10:35.916,0:10:39.750  
It's something that has value, whether  
you provide a dollar amount to it or not.

0:10:40.125,0:10:43.125  
It's an intrinsic value  
that can't be measured.

0:10:43.708,0:10:46.291  
And also is the

0:10:46.291,0:10:49.958  
it's the resource of value  
that makes our outdoor recreation,

0:10:50.875,0:10:54.375  
so valuable,  
either as a visitor or as a resident.

0:10:54.875,0:10:56.125  
Right.

0:10:56.125,0:10:59.333  
So there's tons of overlap,  
but it just has got these different

0:11:00.541,0:11:02.833  
perspectives to it and a different lens.

0:11:02.833,0:11:06.041  
And so the users and the residents  
of Ogden, probably a lot of them probably

0:11:06.041,0:11:09.375  
see it a little bit differently than I do  
just because of how they come to it.

0:11:10.541,0:11:12.791  
But it doesn't mean that  
I don't value it anymore,

0:11:12.791,0:11:15.333  
or that they don't value it  
any more than I do. Right?

0:11:15.333,0:11:18.333  
It's important to all of us  
for a whole number of reasons.

0:11:19.208,0:11:22.291  
And what we often forget  
is that we've got to listen

0:11:22.291,0:11:25.208  
to each other and understand each other  
in order to know where we're coming from.

0:11:25.208,0:11:26.625  
Right. Right.

0:11:26.625,0:11:27.791  
And that's why we're doing this podcast.

0:11:27.791,0:11:29.583  
Yeah. Yeah.

0:11:29.583,0:11:30.416  
Absolutely.

0:11:30.416,0:11:33.458  
And and that kind of leads  
to this question of

0:11:33.708,0:11:37.208  
how do you balance  
the need for urban development and growth

0:11:37.208,0:11:40.750  
with the preservation of Ogden's  
natural resources and outdoor spaces?

0:11:42.833,0:11:45.833  
So to me, I think it's a matter of having,

0:11:47.375,0:11:48.375  
you have to have access

0:11:48.375,0:11:51.375  
to these quality of life amenities

0:11:51.583,0:11:54.125  
if you want to be a community  
where you want to,

0:11:54.125,0:11:57.125  
if you want to be a community  
where you want to raise your family,

0:11:57.500,0:12:00.875

a community where we have  
healthy and happy active lifestyles.

0:12:01.208,0:12:04.333  
You know, I mean,  
and so some of that can be done through,

0:12:04.458,0:12:07.458  
inner city, like in the city parks,

0:12:08.500,0:12:10.541  
but it's not good enough  
to just have a park.

0:12:10.541,0:12:11.458  
A lot of the feedback we hear

0:12:11.458,0:12:14.250  
is that we don't have  
enough amenities at our parks.

0:12:14.250,0:12:17.208  
And so we've got a lot of investment  
to make in individual parks

0:12:17.208,0:12:20.166  
to make sure that the amenities  
that draw people to them,

0:12:20.166,0:12:23.833  
if you don't have the amenities like  
the playground or the ball field, etc..

0:12:24.500,0:12:26.375  
We find that our people just don't use it.

0:12:26.375,0:12:28.208  
And when people don't use it,  
they end up getting used by

0:12:28.208,0:12:29.958  
some people for the wrong reasons.

0:12:29.958,0:12:33.375  
Yeah, then it becomes a detriment  
to a to a neighborhood.

0:12:35.625,0:12:36.125  
But if we

0:12:36.125,0:12:39.125  
if we look at our parks in terms of

0:12:39.166,0:12:42.166  
a fundamental element  
of a healthy neighborhood

0:12:42.583,0:12:45.666  
and making sure that we have access  
through infrastructure that connects

0:12:45.666,0:12:48.833  
to those parks with the homes  
and neighborhoods throughout our city.

0:12:49.958,0:12:52.958  
And in the same way  
it connects our schools and our places

0:12:52.958,0:12:56.208  
of worship, etc.,  
with our, our homes and our neighbors.

0:12:57.666,0:13:00.375  
If you look at it in that context  
of a healthy neighborhood,

0:13:00.375,0:13:03.375

open space and parks are critical.

0:13:03.666,0:13:06.583

Then the question is how much right?

0:13:06.583,0:13:09.916

How, how much, how accessible  
and how much should you put into each one.

0:13:09.916,0:13:11.500

And that's kind of a policy choice

0:13:11.500,0:13:14.500

that we have to make  
with the investments that we can.

0:13:14.750,0:13:18.750

But even bigger than that,  
we have other open spaces

0:13:18.750,0:13:22.208

that are not necessarily a pocket park  
or a neighborhood park, right.

0:13:22.875,0:13:24.833

We've got access to the foothills,

0:13:24.833,0:13:28.541

which to me is non-negotiable,  
has to be protected, and it has to be,

0:13:29.666,0:13:32.541

provided for the public benefit.

0:13:32.541,0:13:35.375

I don't see any building opportunities  
on the foothill like that.

0:13:35.375,0:13:38.916

I think it's far too  
valuable in terms of recreation

0:13:38.916,0:13:41.916

and and outdoor opportunity

0:13:42.791,0:13:44.208

for our whole city.

0:13:44.208,0:13:46.750

That's, that's part  
of what makes our city special.

0:13:46.750,0:13:49.958

And then, of course,  
the parkways for the rivers are.

0:13:51.333,0:13:53.500

I spent a career protecting those. Yes.

0:13:53.500,0:13:55.083

Yeah.

0:13:55.083,0:13:56.291

Yeah.

I mean, I think it's something

0:13:56.291,0:14:00.166

that???s neat about Ogden  
and about a lot of Utah cities.

0:14:00.166,0:14:03.000

Is that access to mountains that you have.

0:14:03.000,0:14:05.708

So you have to kind of protect that.

0:14:05.708,0:14:09.583

Because I swear it's only here

that you could just go

0:14:09.583,0:14:13.416  
for a hike after work  
and come up the canyon and explore.

0:14:13.750,0:14:16.625  
And really, where we have challenges isn't

0:14:16.625,0:14:18.083  
necessarily  
making sure that there's access,

0:14:18.083,0:14:21.166  
it???'s managing the competing  
uses of the same areas.

0:14:22.875,0:14:24.125  
For example, we see a lot of conflict

0:14:24.125,0:14:27.666  
between golfers and trail users.

0:14:28.458,0:14:30.416  
Not a lot, some, not a lot.

0:14:30.416,0:14:31.958  
I shouldn't say a lot  
because the overwhelming

0:14:31.958,0:14:35.333  
majority of people respect the  
the ethics of trail use.

0:14:35.625,0:14:36.333  
Right.

0:14:36.333,0:14:39.791  
They don't wander off  
onto unofficial trails or build new trails

0:14:39.791,0:14:42.791  
where they're not intended to be. Right.

0:14:43.125,0:14:45.250  
But this is something that I encountered  
a lot when I worked with the state

0:14:45.250,0:14:48.875  
is there's different users  
of the same places,

0:14:49.583,0:14:53.208  
and we've got to manage the difference  
and manage

0:14:53.250,0:14:56.541  
in a way that allows for everybody  
to enjoy their opportunities out there.

0:14:56.541,0:14:59.541  
Just because you don't mountain bike,

0:14:59.875,0:15:01.875  
doesn't mean it's not,  
mountain biking???'s not

0:15:01.875,0:15:02.791  
valuable.

0:15:02.791,0:15:04.791  
Same should be said for the golfers.

0:15:04.791,0:15:07.833  
If you loved a mountain bike or trail run  
but you don't want to golf,

0:15:08.416,0:15:10.125

you should still respect that.

0:15:10.125,0:15:13.666

They're out in the mountains, in  
the outdoors enjoying it in their own way.

0:15:14.291,0:15:16.333

Achieving an active and healthy lifestyle.

0:15:16.333,0:15:19.916

Doing it with friends and neighbors  
to create those meaningful connections

0:15:19.916,0:15:21.583

with one another. Right.

0:15:21.583,0:15:24.583

Those are all part and parcel,  
part of the way,

0:15:24.833,0:15:27.208

but we all do it in a little bit  
different way.

0:15:27.208,0:15:30.500

And so for us, our role is making sure  
that there's access to the opportunities,

0:15:30.500,0:15:34.291

but also that we're managing  
all of those varying opportunities.

0:15:34.291,0:15:35.916

So there's less and less conflict

0:15:35.916,0:15:38.208

and competing interests  
between the competing interests.

0:15:39.208,0:15:39.916

They're not competing.

0:15:39.916,0:15:43.000

They're all one in the same  
but they're in that same space.

0:15:43.000,0:15:44.625

And so

0:15:44.625,0:15:46.833

it's important  
that we don't set it up to have

0:15:46.833,0:15:49.833

divisiveness in our community  
because we want to be outdoors.

0:15:50.000,0:15:50.833

Right.

0:15:50.833,0:15:53.833

Well it can be challenging to do that  
in a sustainable way to

0:15:55.541,0:15:59.125

you know, going back  
to the more natural side of our world.

0:15:59.125,0:16:04.000

The wildlife and other natural  
and intrinsic values that we have,

0:16:04.000,0:16:07.000

it can be hard to balance  
all that and be sustainable.

0:16:07.125,0:16:07.875

Right.

0:16:07.875,0:16:12.916  
And that's part of why we have trails  
master plans and why we have trail experts

0:16:12.916,0:16:16.250  
putting trails where they ought to be  
and not where they shouldn't be.

0:16:16.875,0:16:20.000  
So when, when the new trails pop up  
that are not official,

0:16:21.041,0:16:23.500  
it might be for somebodies convenience.

0:16:23.500,0:16:24.083  
Right.

0:16:24.083,0:16:27.083  
It doesn't mean that it's there  
and that it's healthy for the landscape.

0:16:27.750,0:16:30.166  
And so that could be really erosive.

0:16:30.166,0:16:33.166  
For example,  
they could put a trail through

0:16:33.375,0:16:34.833  
big game winter range, for example.

0:16:34.833,0:16:38.625  
They could put it through the riparian  
zone, which is the most sensitive,

0:16:39.500,0:16:41.791  
eco type around.

0:16:41.791,0:16:44.791  
And so there's reasons  
for the things that we do.

0:16:45.250,0:16:46.791  
It's not to be jerks or whatever.

0:16:46.791,0:16:49.791  
It's to create opportunity  
for in our community

0:16:50.208,0:16:51.583  
and then make sure that people have access

0:16:51.583,0:16:54.583  
to those opportunities,  
which is fundamental to the Ogden Way.

0:16:54.708,0:16:57.375  
And if we were picking winners and losers  
and that some people to have access

0:16:57.375,0:16:58.750  
because they enjoy one way

0:17:00.041,0:17:01.541  
but others don't,

0:17:01.541,0:17:04.125  
then I think we're violating  
our principles of the Ogden Way.

0:17:04.125,0:17:05.708  
That makes sense. Yeah.

0:17:05.708,0:17:09.250  
I know one thing that I'm challenged  
with at the Nature Center is

0:17:10.250,0:17:13.416  
we have this wildlife preserve.

0:17:13.875,0:17:16.875  
You know, in the middle of developed area.

0:17:17.000,0:17:21.000  
And so it can lead to a lot of problems  
where, you know, we can't quite

0:17:21.041,0:17:22.333  
let wildlife be wildlife.

0:17:22.333,0:17:23.666  
You mentioned beavers earlier.

0:17:23.666,0:17:26.416  
We love, we have a beaver population.  
We love them.

0:17:26.416,0:17:30.458  
But if they cause, you know, flooding,  
that's of a concern, we can't have that.

0:17:32.041,0:17:35.041  
And then another  
one of the biggest challenges is,

0:17:36.291,0:17:39.291  
our water quality,  
which we see is pretty poor.

0:17:39.333,0:17:42.333  
Just our waterways are right off of

0:17:42.833,0:17:44.583  
major roads or major development areas.

0:17:44.583,0:17:47.541  
And so we'll see high oil content  
in our water we??!!

0:17:47.541,0:17:52.041  
see pretty low dissolved oxygen  
where we really can only support,

0:17:53.041,0:17:55.666  
you know,  
some macroinvertebrate aquatic life.

0:17:55.666,0:17:58.666  
And we don't see,

0:17:59.125,0:18:02.083  
we don't see the healthy waterways  
and they ultimately feed

0:18:02.083,0:18:04.750  
the ponds and wetlands  
that we have at the nature center.

0:18:04.750,0:18:07.750  
And so it can be really a challenge  
because it's, you know,

0:18:08.125,0:18:10.750  
we have to preserve that area  
for the wildlife that live there.

0:18:10.750,0:18:13.916  
But we have a growing pressure  
of the community around us from

0:18:14.416,0:18:17.625  
development and then from Urbanization.

0:18:17.875,0:18:21.208

So when I hear you talk about that,  
it reminds me of

0:18:21.916,0:18:24.916  
kind of where we started  
the interview around

0:18:25.375,0:18:27.875  
the intersection  
between wildlife and people.

0:18:27.875,0:18:30.875  
Habitats and landscapes and people and,

0:18:31.625,0:18:34.625  
you know, we talked about hooks  
and bullets ethos for conservation.

0:18:35.250,0:18:38.250  
That comes with a really strong ethos of

0:18:39.000,0:18:41.333  
hands on active management,

0:18:41.333,0:18:44.750  
because if you're managing in the presence  
of and on behalf of people,

0:18:47.708,0:18:50.000  
you can't  
really just set it and forget it.

0:18:50.000,0:18:52.750  
Meaning you can't just, like,  
put a boundary around it.

0:18:52.750,0:18:55.750  
let it do its own thing  
and then just stay away.

0:18:55.875,0:18:59.625  
Where's the value for the people  
who live in and amongst those habitats?

0:18:59.666,0:19:01.208  
You know what I mean?

0:19:01.208,0:19:05.708  
And so there comes a time in that setting  
that you've got to be active

0:19:05.708,0:19:08.708  
and have your, be hands on  
in your management of the resource

0:19:09.083,0:19:12.083  
to make sure that it's providing  
the maximum benefit both for the wildlife

0:19:12.083,0:19:15.083  
and the resource and for the people  
who have it and enjoy it.

0:19:15.083,0:19:18.083  
And so that's clearly the case  
for your setting.

0:19:18.375,0:19:19.833  
And that's one of the things I really like  
about

0:19:19.833,0:19:22.625  
the Nature Center is it's an opportunity  
to show that active and

0:19:22.625,0:19:23.666  
hands on management

0:19:24.625,0:19:26.708  
like beaver dam analogs.

0:19:26.708,0:19:27.416  
I've been on the boat.

0:19:27.416,0:19:29.250  
I've been on both sides of the beavers.

0:19:29.250,0:19:30.458  
They are.

0:19:30.458,0:19:33.791  
They can be the most beneficial animal  
in existence.

0:19:34.208,0:19:37.833  
They do so much as ecosystem  
engineers, right?

0:19:38.750,0:19:40.125  
That's why they call them a keystone  
species.

0:19:40.125,0:19:43.291  
They are critical to life  
beyond them, beyond themselves.

0:19:43.875,0:19:45.750  
Many, many times over.

0:19:45.750,0:19:49.750  
I've also been on the other side  
where they are plugging up irrigation

0:19:49.750,0:19:53.958  
infrastructure and get in the way of food  
production for local farmers and local

0:19:55.000,0:19:56.875  
buyers of food, you know.

0:19:56.875,0:20:00.000  
And so they can,  
they can be the, the greatest critter

0:20:00.000,0:20:03.000  
or the worst depending on the setting.

0:20:03.166,0:20:05.708  
That's where beaver  
dam analogs come along.

0:20:05.708,0:20:09.583  
It's a system of structures requires  
a lot of roll up your sleeves.

0:20:09.666,0:20:12.291  
Right. Shovel, pick and shovel  
work to put them into place.

0:20:12.291,0:20:14.708  
But it, it mimics the,

0:20:14.708,0:20:18.250  
the ecosystem functions of the beaver  
without getting all of the downsides of,

0:20:19.291,0:20:20.250  
of their conflict.

0:20:20.250,0:20:21.791  
Right.

0:20:21.791,0:20:24.250  
And so I think that for the nature center  
you're going to

0:20:24.250,0:20:25.416  
you're always gonna have those challenges,

0:20:25.416,0:20:28.625  
especially as urbanization continues  
to, to grow around you.

0:20:29.458,0:20:31.916  
Those challenges  
will become greater and greater.

0:20:31.916,0:20:36.458  
But the so does the responsibility  
to manage actively hands on.

0:20:36.875,0:20:38.416  
Roll up your sleeves. Pick and shovel.

0:20:38.416,0:20:40.708  
Yeah. In response. Right.

0:20:40.708,0:20:41.708  
That's how I see it.

0:20:41.708,0:20:42.000  
Yeah.

0:20:42.000,0:20:45.375  
And I think that's a really great  
opportunity to share with the community

0:20:45.750,0:20:47.375  
the importance of conservation work.

0:20:47.375,0:20:49.833  
It's not just set it and forget it. Right.

0:20:49.833,0:20:52.291  
You can't just protected  
by forgetting about it.

0:20:52.291,0:20:54.000  
Not if you want to do it  
for the benefit of people.

0:20:54.000,0:20:56.250  
Right. Yeah.

0:20:56.250,0:20:56.750  
Yeah.

0:20:56.750,0:21:00.791  
And I mean, these processes take time,  
even in the natural setting.

0:21:00.791,0:21:04.041  
So if you, you know, trying to mimic,

0:21:04.750,0:21:08.208  
with an active restoration  
method, it's going to take time.

0:21:08.208,0:21:09.041  
And you have to.

0:21:09.041,0:21:10.958  
But and those are  
the things that are going to be required

0:21:10.958,0:21:13.166  
if you want to, if we're going to,  
we do have stormwater

0:21:13.166,0:21:17.625  
that comes into our city or our streets  
into our stormwater system, right?

0:21:18.125,0:21:20.916

It makes its way to the nature center eventually. Yes.

0:21:22.125,0:21:23.708  
And I???m assuming you're

0:21:23.708,0:21:27.291  
probably monitoring water quality through the macroinvertebrate community.

0:21:27.958,0:21:28.958  
Right. Yeah.

0:21:28.958,0:21:31.958  
Looking for more ephemeroptera, plecoptera, and trichoptera.

0:21:32.208,0:21:34.625  
If you don't have those three

0:21:34.625,0:21:37.166  
right then you don't have quality water.

0:21:37.166,0:21:37.958  
Yeah.

0:21:37.958,0:21:41.416  
And it's the, it's the hands on actions like the beaver dam analogs

0:21:41.416,0:21:43.833  
that are going to get you the EPT species. Right.

0:21:43.833,0:21:45.791  
And not the ones that you currently have.

0:21:45.791,0:21:48.166  
Right. Yeah. Or like there of.

0:21:48.166,0:21:49.541  
Or a lack there of.

0:21:49.541,0:21:50.500  
Yeah. Yeah.

0:21:50.500,0:21:53.500  
We also do water quality testing through the state

0:21:53.708,0:21:57.958  
water watch program and and we do that across.

0:21:57.958,0:22:01.500  
And that's great to see kind of fluxes that as water,

0:22:01.791,0:22:05.000  
our water is agriculture canals.

0:22:05.000,0:22:07.125  
So it's turned off for the season right now.

0:22:07.125,0:22:08.833  
You can see as things change.

0:22:10.458,0:22:11.416  
But yeah,

0:22:11.416,0:22:15.291  
it's, it's always a challenge because we, we,

0:22:15.291,0:22:19.375  
can only do so much on our 150 acres, you know?

0:22:19.750,0:22:23.416  
So we have very responsible  
neighbors, but, you know,

0:22:23.625,0:22:27.083  
development itself  
has a pollution cost that we see.

0:22:27.250,0:22:27.916  
But getting back

0:22:27.916,0:22:30.916  
to our earlier conversation  
about the Ogden River restoration project.

0:22:31.750,0:22:35.375  
What are the values of from my past  
that applied to my current.

0:22:36.666,0:22:39.583  
We actually have, and this again  
getting back to the,

0:22:39.583,0:22:42.583  
the point of hooks and bullets  
and the ethos that comes with it.

0:22:43.500,0:22:47.875  
We, we have long had a city engineer  
who's now my director of public services.

0:22:47.875,0:22:49.375  
Justin Anderson.

0:22:49.375,0:22:52.375  
He has hunted and fished his entire life.

0:22:53.166,0:22:55.625  
You know growing up  
his dad took him all the time.

0:22:55.625,0:22:57.500  
And so he brings that ethos to his work.

0:22:57.500,0:22:58.916  
And what that means is

0:23:00.083,0:23:01.291  
when he's planning,

0:23:01.291,0:23:04.291  
stormwater projects for example,

0:23:04.916,0:23:08.041  
he thinks about the impact on the fishery  
right in the river.

0:23:08.583,0:23:12.750  
And so he's been putting in place  
policies, but also projects that do

0:23:12.750,0:23:16.500  
stormwater retention and polish the water  
before they go into our rivers.

0:23:17.250,0:23:20.041  
And so we actually have  
non-jurisdictional, that's a term

0:23:20.041,0:23:22.833  
in wetland management.

0:23:22.833,0:23:24.916  
non-jurisdictional wetlands,  
which means that they're

0:23:24.916,0:23:28.916

not regulated as a wetland by the,  
Army Corps of Engineers.

0:23:28.916,0:23:33.666  
But they are but they mimic the same  
function ecologically as a wetland would.

0:23:34.333,0:23:35.916  
And therefore, cleaning this,

0:23:35.916,0:23:38.916  
the water that's coming off of our streets  
before goes into our river

0:23:39.541,0:23:42.541  
and then flows downstream  
and then diverted

0:23:42.833,0:23:44.875  
and heading toward the nature center,  
for example.

0:23:44.875,0:23:45.750  
Yeah. Right.

0:23:45.750,0:23:46.083  
Yeah.

0:23:46.083,0:23:49.416  
We actually have a stormwater treatment  
wetland.

0:23:49.625,0:23:52.958  
So, and Justin helped my predecessor.

0:23:53.250,0:23:55.291  
There you go. Gave permission for that.

0:23:55.291,0:23:58.750  
But yeah, we, my predecessor  
was the one that started that,

0:23:58.750,0:24:04.458  
and then I took the position over  
and yeah, we we've built a mimic wetland.

0:24:04.458,0:24:06.958  
It's got, some work ahead of it.

0:24:06.958,0:24:08.375  
Have to vegetate it.

0:24:09.666,0:24:13.375  
But that was kind of the goal is to,  
is to treat.

0:24:13.666,0:24:16.958  
And since wetlands act as natural  
filtration systems, might as well,

0:24:17.166,0:24:20.291  
have a wetland there, provides  
wildlife habitat.

0:24:20.291,0:24:23.750  
And then, everything about the nature  
center???s always about education.

0:24:24.166,0:24:26.416  
And so I always take that as a win.

0:24:26.416,0:24:30.666  
If nothing else, at least  
we can educate someone, you know, a child,

0:24:30.916,0:24:34.916  
on what a PDA is or, what a stormwater  
treatment wetland looks like.

0:24:34.916,0:24:37.750  
Or, you know,  
why water conservation is important

0:24:37.750,0:24:40.750  
and we want to improve water quality  
and quantity across the state.

0:24:40.750,0:24:41.500  
Things like that.

0:24:41.500,0:24:45.750  
It also it also highlights  
how interconnected we are.

0:24:46.666,0:24:50.083  
You're talking about  
like how everything about upstream of you

0:24:50.083,0:24:54.416  
funnels to you, and there's only so much  
you can do to fix what you have.

0:24:54.500,0:24:55.250  
Yeah.

0:24:55.250,0:24:58.000  
And that's kind of the case for all of us.

0:24:58.000,0:24:58.625  
Yeah.

0:24:58.625,0:25:01.125  
We're all a product of the,  
of our environment.

0:25:01.125,0:25:05.458  
And you can put in a ton of energy  
to overcome your environment.

0:25:05.458,0:25:08.125  
If you're in a bad environment  
or a toxic environment,

0:25:08.125,0:25:10.458  
it takes a ton of energy to overcome that.

0:25:10.458,0:25:11.583  
Right.

0:25:11.583,0:25:12.541  
Same with in your setting.

0:25:12.541,0:25:16.708  
If you're in an environment and  
in a situation that is polluted or toxic,

0:25:17.000,0:25:20.791  
it's going to take a ton of investment,  
energy and money to get to deal with that.

0:25:21.625,0:25:25.791  
But if you work with others around you  
to improve your environment,

0:25:26.708,0:25:29.541  
right before, you know,  
upstream and downstream around you.

0:25:30.541,0:25:32.791  
It, it frees up the

0:25:32.791,0:25:36.000  
burdens that might otherwise be on you,  
that you could then invest in yourselves.

0:25:36.875,0:25:40.375

So in this case invest in the nature center, invest in the

0:25:40.666,0:25:43.541  
in the water quality. Invest in

0:25:43.541,0:25:46.333  
reintroducing native fish into that

0:25:46.333,0:25:49.333  
or creating a community fishery with that clean water.

0:25:49.750,0:25:53.541  
You have to rely on the impact of others around you on that environment.

0:25:53.791,0:25:57.875  
The same goes for in the way we talk about creating environment for success.

0:25:58.833,0:26:00.708  
Having access to opportunities.

0:26:00.708,0:26:03.458  
It's the same thing if you, if we create an environment

0:26:03.458,0:26:06.458  
that's vibrant and safe and healthy

0:26:06.541,0:26:09.000  
and that we are  
we act as connectors for people

0:26:09.000,0:26:12.000  
to take advantage of the opportunities we're creating in this community.

0:26:12.458,0:26:15.458  
It creates a much better environment and then they can put a lot more energy.

0:26:15.541,0:26:17.375  
Like we're all limited in how much energy we have,

0:26:18.333,0:26:18.625  
how much

0:26:18.625,0:26:21.625  
resource we have, an investment in, time, talent or treasury.

0:26:22.416,0:26:24.875  
And you can put it in yourself

0:26:24.875,0:26:27.875  
to upskill and upearn, you know what I mean,

0:26:27.916,0:26:30.916  
and then you put it into each other instead of having to focus on overcoming

0:26:31.500,0:26:34.083  
those deleterious environmental factors.

0:26:34.083,0:26:35.291  
Right. Right.

0:26:35.291,0:26:38.708  
Yeah, I agree, and I mean a big push

0:26:38.708,0:26:41.708  
for why we want to improve water quality at the nature centers.

0:26:42.166,0:26:44.708  
Ultimately,  
our water goes to the Great Salt Lake.

0:26:44.708,0:26:49.458  
And we're seeing a lot of, impacts of  
of drought at the Great Salt Lake.

0:26:49.458,0:26:50.708  
So, you know, it's important

0:26:50.708,0:26:53.916  
and it's a huge wildlife habitat  
that we want to protect.

0:26:55.041,0:26:56.958  
So even though we're just a small

0:26:56.958,0:26:59.958  
little parcel of, of Utah

0:26:59.958,0:27:02.958  
that we, you know, we know we influence  
the Great Salt Lake so we want to.

0:27:03.250,0:27:04.000  
Every one of us does.

0:27:04.000,0:27:06.875  
Yeah. Again, we all play a role.

0:27:06.875,0:27:07.958  
We're all in this together.

0:27:07.958,0:27:10.291  
So you can't really can't  
think about yourself

0:27:10.291,0:27:12.125  
without thinking about everyone  
else around us? Right.

0:27:13.125,0:27:13.708  
Yeah.

0:27:13.708,0:27:16.750  
We need everybody to have that mindset,  
including at the nature center

0:27:16.750,0:27:19.750  
because the Great Salt Lake  
is a globally important.

0:27:20.125,0:27:21.666  
Yeah, absolutely.

0:27:21.666,0:27:26.208  
What major conservation issues  
do you see in Ogden or in northern Utah?

0:27:26.458,0:27:28.125  
Yeah.

0:27:28.125,0:27:29.750  
Anything of concern to you?

0:27:29.750,0:27:32.291  
So certainly the Great Salt Lake. Yeah.

0:27:32.291,0:27:35.791  
So when I was at the Division  
of Wildlife, I, the last jobs I had,

0:27:35.791,0:27:38.083  
I supervised operations  
in all of northern Utah.

0:27:38.083,0:27:41.083

And that included the Great Salt Lake Ecosystem program.

0:27:41.458,0:27:44.416  
And that's a project that has a lot of,

0:27:44.416,0:27:49.208  
ecologists and limnologists  
and, just resource experts

0:27:49.208,0:27:52.666  
that are focused on the management  
of a globally significant,

0:27:55.208,0:27:56.625  
resource and stopover.

0:27:56.625,0:28:00.083  
We have millions of shorebirds  
that visit there.

0:28:00.958,0:28:03.958  
Globally important migration  
route for waterfowl.

0:28:04.500,0:28:06.750  
As they move  
north to south and south to north.

0:28:06.750,0:28:10.833  
So a huge food resource for eared grebes,  
millions of eared grebes.

0:28:11.666,0:28:14.083  
One of the biggest collections  
of eared grebes in the world.

0:28:15.583,0:28:18.125  
So while that

0:28:18.125,0:28:21.125  
lake is not in Ogden proper,

0:28:21.166,0:28:24.000  
it's absolutely impacted by Ogden.

0:28:24.000,0:28:26.958  
And so we need to be like  
we're, we're, we're

0:28:26.958,0:28:30.041  
venturing on the biggest infrastructure  
project in the history of our city.

0:28:30.583,0:28:33.000  
That's already been done  
once, we're going to do it again

0:28:33.000,0:28:35.791  
where we're replacing our water line  
that's been leaking millions

0:28:35.791,0:28:38.791  
of gallons of water  
per day into the groundwater,

0:28:39.583,0:28:40.958  
never making it to the lake.

0:28:40.958,0:28:44.958  
Right, ending up in playas, in people's  
backyards and basements eventually.

0:28:44.958,0:28:47.375  
Right. Yeah. Right. Yeah.

0:28:47.375,0:28:50.541  
But we are we are committing

0:28:50.541,0:28:54.541  
to fix that water line and the state  
committed to help us financially.

0:28:55.125,0:28:59.833  
And in return, we're committed to put the  
savings in water into the lake directly.

0:29:00.708,0:29:04.041  
And so that was something I negotiated in  
my first few weeks, a couple months,

0:29:04.125,0:29:07.916  
my job was to make that kind  
of a partnership at the state level,

0:29:07.958,0:29:11.416  
to make sure that we are not just  
accounting for the infrastructure project.

0:29:12.125,0:29:14.625  
We're also accounting for the savings  
and conservation of water,

0:29:14.625,0:29:17.625  
and then putting that water  
to direct beneficial use at the lake.

0:29:18.708,0:29:20.541  
In return for help doing the project.

0:29:20.541,0:29:23.791  
And frankly, that that's  
something that I learned in my career

0:29:24.666,0:29:27.666  
is don't just come asking for a handout.

0:29:28.625,0:29:31.166  
And I remember the speaker of the House  
telling me,

0:29:31.166,0:29:32.500  
???mayor, you're not coming here  
asking for a handout.

0:29:32.500,0:29:34.458  
You're here offering a partnership

0:29:34.458,0:29:35.541  
and you're offering something

0:29:35.541,0:29:37.750  
for the people of Utah.???

And he really appreciated that.

0:29:37.750,0:29:39.375  
And that is frankly, the Utah way.

0:29:39.375,0:29:42.041  
And that's  
why I'm talking a lot about the Ogden Way

0:29:42.041,0:29:43.625  
because that's where I learned it.

0:29:43.625,0:29:45.625  
That's Utah???s secret sauce.

0:29:45.625,0:29:47.916  
And we're trying to make it Ogden???s secret  
sauce right.

0:29:47.916,0:29:50.916  
It always has been  
and it can be even more so.

0:29:52.000,0:29:55.000  
So the Great Salt Lake is a huge concern.

0:29:55.875,0:29:59.083  
I think every city needs  
to be really serious about the,

0:29:59.291,0:29:59.916  
the work that we're doing.

0:29:59.916,0:30:01.666  
I know that we're doing a lot,  
but there's more we can do.

0:30:03.791,0:30:04.791  
We'll be we'll be continuing to

0:30:04.791,0:30:08.291  
look at our ordinances around landscaping,  
particularly around new development.

0:30:08.666,0:30:12.000  
Making sure that we're having as,

0:30:13.041,0:30:15.041  
as much of a conservation

0:30:15.041,0:30:18.041  
impact as possible for the new development  
we do.

0:30:18.291,0:30:21.875  
So, yeah, I'd say those are the probably  
the big ones,

0:30:22.416,0:30:26.000  
with the lake always being the benefit,  
benefactor of the work we do.

0:30:28.125,0:30:31.125  
Try not to be a detractor for the lake  
either.

0:30:31.208,0:30:32.666  
Yeah.

0:30:32.666,0:30:34.208  
What about.

0:30:34.208,0:30:39.416  
I know one issue that I is  
it's very evident in Utah is air quality.

0:30:39.583,0:30:44.500  
We've seen some of the worst air quality  
and in days in the whole world, even.

0:30:44.833,0:30:47.833  
So, any thoughts on that?

0:30:48.000,0:30:49.666  
So in terms of air quality,

0:30:49.666,0:30:52.166  
this is something we talked a lot  
about in the campaign because it has

0:30:53.291,0:30:56.291  
it's it's  
really directly related to tailpipes.

0:30:56.666,0:30:58.541  
In our in our air shed.

0:30:58.541,0:31:01.791  
It really comes down to the number  
of tailpipes and the quality or non

0:31:01.791,0:31:04.791  
quality of the air  
coming out of those tailpipes. So

0:31:05.625,0:31:08.625  
the best thing that we can do as a city  
to reduce

0:31:08.833,0:31:12.125  
tailpipes on the road  
or the miles put in in vehicles

0:31:12.125,0:31:16.750  
that that produce all those emissions is  
to create a walkable connected community.

0:31:17.875,0:31:21.250  
To make sure that we've got access  
to economic opportunities near home.

0:31:22.125,0:31:24.750  
To make sure that for access  
to those opportunities

0:31:24.750,0:31:28.458  
that they have access for transportation,  
that is mass transit or,

0:31:28.875,0:31:32.875  
you know, renewable or whatever  
to make sure that there's

0:31:32.875,0:31:35.458  
active transportation  
opportunities and infrastructure.

0:31:35.458,0:31:38.458  
That's the role  
that the city plays in terms of,

0:31:38.583,0:31:41.333  
reducing the impact of our,

0:31:41.333,0:31:44.083  
of our emissions  
on our, on each other and on our health.

0:31:45.958,0:31:48.791  
We don't have a regular, strong  
regulatory role at all.

0:31:48.791,0:31:49.375  
Right.

0:31:49.375,0:31:51.291  
That's that's at the county  
or at the state level.

0:31:51.291,0:31:53.583  
And so,

0:31:53.583,0:31:55.625  
in terms of our community planning,

0:31:55.625,0:31:58.541  
we're going through a general plan process  
that is

0:31:58.541,0:32:00.375  
actively designing the built out  
environment

0:32:00.375,0:32:02.791  
that we are creating for ourselves  
for a number of years.

0:32:02.791,0:32:06.250  
Making sure that,

one of the words that continues

0:32:06.250,0:32:09.250  
to come up throughout  
that discussion is sustainability

0:32:09.583,0:32:12.291  
and air quality in

0:32:12.291,0:32:15.291  
minimizing our impact on the natural world  
around us. It's

0:32:15.291,0:32:18.583  
all part and parcel to the sustainability  
of our community in the future.

0:32:19.333,0:32:21.791  
And so it's critical  
that we plan our city in a way

0:32:21.791,0:32:24.791  
that invites active transportation.

0:32:25.000,0:32:28.500  
Shorter jaunts to economic opportunity.

0:32:28.541,0:32:30.041  
Right.

0:32:30.041,0:32:34.916  
And were there are, there is a commute  
required, to have opportunities

0:32:34.916,0:32:37.916  
for active transportation  
and also mass transit.

0:32:37.958,0:32:43.041  
So that we can consolidate our trips and  
have less and less impact on our air shed.

0:32:46.125,0:32:49.625  
And the role that  
we're playing to put water in the lake

0:32:50.625,0:32:53.916  
also helps to make sure  
that we are arresting fugitive dust.

0:32:54.250,0:32:54.583  
Right.

0:32:54.583,0:32:57.583  
That can be laced with carcinogens  
and various toxins.

0:32:58.208,0:33:01.000  
So that come summertime  
when there's wind and etc.,

0:33:01.000,0:33:04.708  
you know we're not putting Great Salt  
Lake dust in the air.

0:33:05.375,0:33:08.375  
We're we're doing our part as well to put

0:33:08.500,0:33:11.750  
a lot of water in the lake, certainly it???s  
not going to fill it all in one shot.

0:33:11.750,0:33:14.541  
But we are definitely doing our part  
more than any other city

0:33:14.541,0:33:17.083  
that I'm aware of, to

to put water in the lake.

0:33:17.083,0:33:18.833

Yeah, definitely.

0:33:18.833,0:33:23.375

And I feel like we had talked  
about the great access to the mountains.

0:33:23.708,0:33:26.625

And that's partly why  
we have such poor air quality is just the,

0:33:27.583,0:33:29.500

the geography of, of the state

0:33:29.500,0:33:33.458

where these mountains kind of trap  
some of the air pollution.

0:33:33.833,0:33:37.250

And often you hear people that  
just accept that is what it is.

0:33:37.250,0:33:41.875

But in my in my position in conservation,  
I feel like.

0:33:41.875,0:33:46.041

Okay, well, that might be the way it is,  
but there's no need for us to pump

0:33:46.041,0:33:50.291

more pollutants into the air  
than just because we have this barrier.

0:33:50.750,0:33:53.750

You know, we can't just accept it and.

0:33:53.916,0:33:55.875

And both things are right. Right.

0:33:55.875,0:33:58.875

Our our mountains are our mountains. Yes.

0:34:00.375,0:34:02.708

But getting back to all the things  
I already mentioned,

0:34:02.708,0:34:05.291

those are the things that we can do  
as a city. Right.

0:34:05.291,0:34:08.291

To minimize our our pollutants in the air.

0:34:08.583,0:34:09.416

Right.

0:34:09.416,0:34:09.791

Yeah.

0:34:09.791,0:34:13.541

And we need, we need a,  
regular cycle of weather events as well

0:34:14.291,0:34:15.250

to shake things up.

0:34:15.250,0:34:15.666

Yeah.

0:34:15.666,0:34:18.291

When we go through long periods  
without it again

0:34:18.291,0:34:20.958

something we don't have direct control

over. Yeah.

0:34:20.958,0:34:23.458

But I feel like I do hear

0:34:23.458,0:34:26.791

a lot of people say things  
like, oh, that's beyond our,

0:34:27.833,0:34:29.083

scope.

0:34:29.083,0:34:31.000

And therefore we do nothing.

0:34:31.000,0:34:32.708

That's not the answer either. Right.

0:34:32.708,0:34:33.958

And so everybody,

0:34:33.958,0:34:37.708

every community, every person, if we're  
all doing things that we can do to help

0:34:38.083,0:34:41.083

and there's always things more  
that I could be doing personally.

0:34:42.458,0:34:45.458

But if we're not taking that mindset  
that we all have a role to play, then

0:34:45.958,0:34:49.625

that gets us in the mindset of none of us  
have a role to play and nothing happens.

0:34:49.625,0:34:52.083

And then we end up in a terrible spot,  
right?

0:34:52.083,0:34:52.833

Yeah.

0:34:52.833,0:34:56.833

And I think that as a community, we value  
our outdoor spaces more than that.

0:34:58.000,0:35:02.583

And we're going to make sure that we do  
as much as we can within economic reason.

0:35:03.125,0:35:06.625

I mean, if we if we do things  
that don't have a big return on benefit

0:35:07.958,0:35:08.375

and they're really

0:35:08.375,0:35:10.625

expensive, that's not something  
that I want to support

0:35:10.625,0:35:12.625

because our people can't afford that.

0:35:12.625,0:35:13.750

Right. Right.

0:35:13.750,0:35:16.750

So I look really closely at the impact  
financially on families

0:35:17.708,0:35:20.000

versus the impact

0:35:20.000,0:35:23.000

ecologically

or environmentally on families.

0:35:23.208,0:35:23.791

Right.

0:35:23.791,0:35:26.166

And if we're going to spend a lot  
it has to come with a lot.

0:35:26.166,0:35:29.166

Yeah. Yeah.

And it's hard to put that value.

0:35:29.375,0:35:32.958

I mean putting a value on  
natural resources is is tough.

0:35:33.125,0:35:34.416

It is. Yeah.

0:35:34.416,0:35:37.000

Sometimes,

a lot of the time you just can't.

0:35:37.000,0:35:39.250

So you had to put value on.

0:35:39.250,0:35:40.416

There is no value.

0:35:40.416,0:35:42.458

It is completely

0:35:42.458,0:35:44.333

like priceless.

0:35:44.333,0:35:46.083

Our our lives. Yeah.

0:35:46.083,0:35:46.875

Yeah. Yeah.

0:35:46.875,0:35:47.375

Yeah.

0:35:47.375,0:35:47.916

And yeah

0:35:47.916,0:35:50.125

I mean you can look at all  
the economic values,

0:35:50.125,0:35:52.000

recreational values, spiritual values.

0:35:52.000,0:35:53.916

How are you supposed to quantify that.

0:35:53.916,0:35:58.666

Or just personal,  
you know, value of a natural space.

0:35:58.875,0:36:00.125

You can't quantify it.

0:36:00.125,0:36:03.250

And that's why it's all included  
under the framework of the Ogden Way.

0:36:03.916,0:36:06.916

It's because it's all of those things  
that create quality of life.

0:36:07.000,0:36:12.125

And really wherever we are plugging  
into each one of those, if for example,

0:36:14.291,0:36:14.541

stable

0:36:14.541,0:36:17.541  
neighborhoods  
is one of the pillars of the Ogden Way.

0:36:17.625,0:36:19.208  
Well that means something different  
for everybody.

0:36:19.208,0:36:20.291  
And it also is different

0:36:20.291,0:36:23.291  
for everybody depending on where they are  
on their socio economic journey.

0:36:23.416,0:36:23.916  
Absolutely.

0:36:23.916,0:36:26.916  
That could just be having a roof  
over your head period.

0:36:26.916,0:36:30.458  
All the way to having your dream home  
right in your dream neighborhood.

0:36:31.208,0:36:36.375  
But those sort of things sometimes  
don't come with the, a dollar value.

0:36:36.375,0:36:38.375  
But it doesn't mean they don't have value.

0:36:38.375,0:36:42.041  
And you really can't put a dollar value  
on my spiritual happiness.

0:36:42.041,0:36:45.041  
And mental health. Right.

0:36:45.791,0:36:48.791  
But what's more important  
than our well-being?

0:36:48.958,0:36:50.291  
Right. Right.

0:36:50.291,0:36:53.291  
And so all of those things are captured  
into the framework of the Ogden Way,

0:36:53.625,0:36:56.083  
because they all contribute part  
and parcel

0:36:56.083,0:36:59.083  
to a quality of life

0:36:59.083,0:37:03.041  
and an environment that people enjoy  
and have access to opportunities.

0:37:03.083,0:37:04.416  
Any more questions?

0:37:04.416,0:37:06.875  
No. Make it through your list? Yep.

0:37:08.375,0:37:09.958  
Well I hope I wouldn't let you down.

0:37:09.958,0:37:12.625  
No not at all.

0:37:12.625,0:37:13.000  
Yeah.

0:37:13.000,0:37:14.916  
See I told you  
that was more than an email.

0:37:14.916,0:37:17.916  
Right. Right. Yeah.

0:37:18.166,0:37:20.125  
But I think it's important

0:37:20.125,0:37:23.250  
that we talk to each other,  
that we don't just talk at each other.

0:37:23.791,0:37:26.666  
And I felt like  
if I was going to send you an email

0:37:26.666,0:37:29.666  
with a long explanation.

0:37:29.875,0:37:31.666  
I guess it's better than no response.

0:37:31.666,0:37:32.000  
Yeah.

0:37:32.000,0:37:35.000  
But we have a policy that we respond to  
everybody.

0:37:35.041,0:37:38.166  
And so, I'm glad we responded this way.

0:37:38.166,0:37:39.208  
So thanks for being here.

0:37:39.208,0:37:40.625  
Absolutely. Yeah.

0:37:40.625,0:37:43.416  
So for everybody watching.

0:37:43.416,0:37:44.333  
Thanks for joining us today.

0:37:44.333,0:37:45.625  
Thanks for learning more about,

0:37:45.625,0:37:48.625  
the Ogden Way, but also about the Ogden  
Nature Center. Yep.

0:37:48.750,0:37:50.583  
And thanks for being here to interview me.

0:37:51.916,0:37:52.625  
Good job.

0:37:52.625,0:37:53.708  
Thanks.

0:37:53.708,0:37:55.750  
And, for a call to action.

0:37:55.750,0:37:58.750  
One, we do, we end every show  
with a call to action.

0:38:00.833,0:38:04.291  
I would encourage people  
to get to know each other

0:38:04.291,0:38:07.416  
and listen to each other  
and to not do it over text or email.

0:38:08.708,0:38:11.166  
If you have a chance to pick up the phone,  
do it.

0:38:11.166,0:38:14.166  
Phone calls are becoming more  
and more infrequent, right?

0:38:14.541,0:38:17.541  
Even better, if you can visit  
with your friends or your neighbors

0:38:17.833,0:38:18.958  
or people that you don't know

0:38:18.958,0:38:22.041  
and you need to get to know better,  
particularly someone that is

0:38:22.791,0:38:25.791  
opposed to your opinion  
or who shares a different opinion.

0:38:26.416,0:38:28.333  
That's something  
that's being lost in our nation.

0:38:28.333,0:38:28.708  
Right.

0:38:28.708,0:38:31.791  
And we it's important that we have  
that we make it a priority

0:38:31.791,0:38:33.666  
to talk to each other like this.

0:38:33.666,0:38:35.416  
Instead of talking past each other. Yeah.

0:38:35.416,0:38:36.833  
Invite them on to a podcast.

0:38:36.833,0:38:37.250  
There you go.

0:38:37.250,0:38:39.958  
That's what we do. We've got a long list

0:38:39.958,0:38:42.333  
of guests, and we're,  
we're happy to have you today with us.

0:38:43.750,0:38:44.375  
So if

0:38:44.375,0:38:48.375  
you are watching this episode, get out,  
get active, get involved.

0:38:48.416,0:38:50.666  
Get connected with your friends,  
with your neighbors.

0:38:50.666,0:38:52.916  
Find people  
that you don't necessarily agree with

0:38:52.916,0:38:54.583  
and actually have a conversation.

0:38:54.583,0:38:57.583  
And you might be surprised  
what you learn, right?

0:38:58.291,0:39:01.000  
You might actually find  
that you have a lot of commonalities

0:39:01.000,0:39:03.000  
in what you share as important.

0:39:03.000,0:39:03.583  
Yeah.

0:39:03.583,0:39:05.916  
So that's our call to action for today.

0:39:05.916,0:39:08.625  
And that's our episode.  
And it's a wrap. Thanks.