

TO THE USE OF LAND, SPECIALISTS:

RE: Bradley(?) gully properties - 1700 East & Kensington Ave.

I don't envy your job and the responsibility attached thereto. Too many competing interests

Where the land was once open, now it is controlled. Where does a road go, who can build what, where? More people, more restrictions. Land use planning, restricted use, zoning, condemnation, they are all used to further someone's interest.

Let me bend your ear and mind about mine.

I was raised at the end of Kensington Ave. where it abutted the gully made by Emigration Creek. In the late 30s that gully area was fairly open to all. To my childhood eyes it was a door to imagination and knowledge. I followed the trails earlier people made, walked the lone dirt road, explored the old mine shafts, splashed in it's clear waters and springs. I learned to pan for gold flecks and wondered of earlier people as I found Indian pot shards everywhere. Yes, there really were mine shafts near the springs, and there are still many pot shards above and around the springs. It was and is an amazing place!

I watched up close the habits of deer, squirrels, pheasants, filx, porcupines, quail, rabbits, wild bees, tarantulas, and most other animals and birds (and insects), now to often only seen in zoos. I earned part of my Nature merit badge by identifying thirty-six different birds in that gully in one afternoon. I still wander in its wild, wonderful wonders, in my mind AND every chance I get when I come to Salt Lake.

Yes I've watched the changes over the years. The diminished access; fence encroachment; fear of strangers on "my land", the desire of those to enjoy the open space taken away by others. The desire of still more to have a home in the gully to enjoy the all too quickly diminishing natural habitat. What will another few lots with homes make in the here and now? That's the question you face.

I don't know what you will decide, but my vote is that some of our more natural areas ought to be preserved and in such a way that the natural animals will enjoy them. If there is no interest for the plants and animals to take up residence, what's man's interest? The beauty is lost.

I've traveled many places in many different lands. Each place has had to decide what they want to preserve or destroy. In my opinion, the better places are those who keep a fair amount of natural habitat as close to them as they can. I respectfully request you do all within your power to do likewise.

I currently live in the city of Chisinau, the capital of Moldova. It is a city of nearly two million people. They are a poor country with an expanding population. They are wise in their use of land in the city having practiced its' art for five hundred years. There are large swaths of land left in gentle woods; lake parks larger than "liberty park", and connecting green routes between them. I will return to Salt Lake in the near future, owning various properties near the U of U, the Avenues, and in Riverton. Area change is constant, but some areas are worth preserving. The gully is one of them!

Sincerely,

Richard N. Cannon