

## What is a Watershed?

A watershed is a geographical or geological area of land that catches the rain and snow drained by a single river system. If a drop of rain lands near a ridgeline, it will eventually flow to the stream at the bottom of the canyon. All surface and ground water that contributes to a stream is a part of that watershed system.

## Protected Watershed Areas

Various canyons along the Wasatch Front are an important source of our drinking water, and are designated "Protected Watershed Areas". Our activities and actions, both on the hillsides and around water sources, impact the quality of our drinking water. Regulations govern our activity in these areas so this vital source of drinking water will be kept clean.

Our Protected Watershed Areas include:

- City Creek Canyon
- Parleys, Dell, and Lambs Canyon (north and east of Mt. Dell Reservoir)
- Big Cottonwood Canyon
- Little Cottonwood Canyon

Remember, what you leave in these watersheds today, you may drink tomorrow!



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## Hiking Tips

**CAUTION!** Be prepared and watch your children. Dangers can exist in the watershed at any time, including cougars, snakes, lightning, avalanches/ landslides and rapid changing stream-flow from dams or runoff.

- Stay on the trail, don't make or take short cuts.
- Carry a jacket, first aid kit, and sufficient water.
- Tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return.

**Watershed regulations  
are enforced by:**

**Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities  
Salt Lake County Sheriff  
Salt Lake Valley Health Dept.  
Salt Lake City Police Dept.  
US Forest Service.**

**THE  
WASATCH  
FRONT  
WATERSHED**

**Your Drinking  
Water Source**



## Protect Your Watershed

With millions of visitors, human activity can have far reaching impacts to our drinking water quality. While some watersheds in America have had to be closed, stewardship of the Wasatch Watershed has maintained it as a pristine water supply. You can make a positive contribution to our water quality by following these simple watershed regulations.



Camping is allowed in developed campgrounds. Backcountry camping is allowed in most areas unless posted as closed but must be 1/2 mile from any road and 200 feet from water and trails.



Please keep your drinking water supply clean by using restrooms. In the backcountry users must bury their waste at least 6" deep and 200 feet from any water and trails.



Take pride in your watershed. Practice "Leave No Trace" skills. Pack out what you pack in. We will all enjoy a more pristine, healthy environment.



Dogs, horses, and domestic animals are prohibited in protected watersheds because their waste can end up in your drinking water. Search/Rescue dogs, etc. allowed by permit only.



Swimming, wading, and motorized boating are prohibited in drinking water sources as studies show these activities have water quality and public health impacts. Windsurfing with dry suits is allowed on Little Dell Reservoir. Waders are required when fishing in lakes and streams.



Please help us prevent forest fires. Campfires are allowed in developed facilities with fire rings. Backcountry campfires are allowed in most areas unless posted as closed but must be 1/2 mile from any road. Use of backpacking stoves instead of campfires in the backcountry is suggested. Seasonal restrictions on fire use may apply. Fireworks are prohibited.



Prevent erosion impacts. Motorized vehicles are allowed only on roads or trails that are designated as open for that use. Off-road, cross-country travel is prohibited.

