



Section 4: Natural Resources

The best elements of Provo's natural resources, including Provo River, Utah Lake, high quality potable water, clean air and beautiful canyons, foothills, and mountains are preserved and protected from the adverse impacts of increased population and potential environmental pollution. Impairments to these natural resources have been remedied by a plan of action adopted by the leadership of Provo City.

In an effort to protect its natural resources, Provo responsibly provides electrical energy to its citizens. Provo enjoys very low energy rates and profits in many ways from its municipal power company. Provo also benefits from its association with the Utah Municipal Power Association (UMPA) where Provo is the largest consumer of energy among UMPA participants. Provo provides residents, businesses, educational institutions and industries with reliable, low-cost electrical energy with attractive or non-intrusive delivery systems and seeks the same qualities in heating, transportation and other energy needs.

Goal 4.1 - Work effectively as a city and with other governmental agencies and private organizations to protect, preserve, and restore its natural resources in the surrounding mountains, canyons, and foothills; in the wetlands, shorelines, and riverbanks; and in all city parks; and develop a city-wide culture of pro-active stewardship to preserve the ecological integrity of these resources.

Objective 4.1.1 Regularly assess the current ecological health of Provo City.

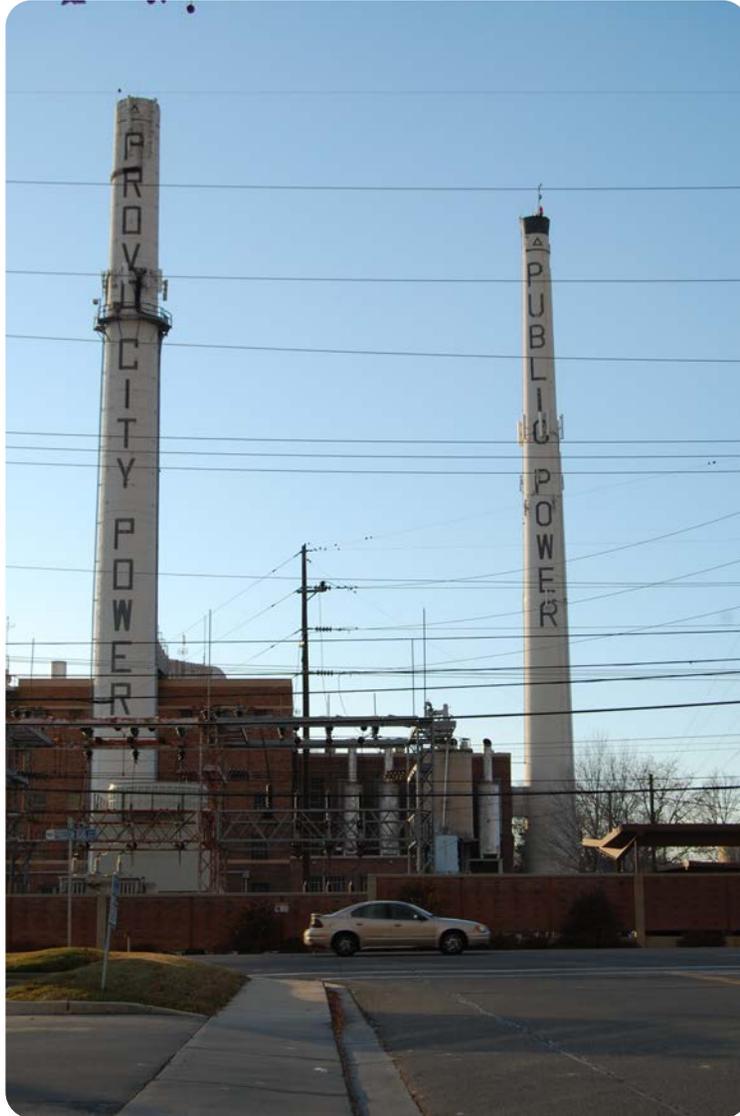
Objective 4.1.2 Increase public education and awareness of the city's natural resources.

Objective 4.1.3 Reduce the adverse impacts of growth, development and environmental pollution.

Objective 4.1.4 Encourage resource preservation through greater participation in recycling and energy conservation efforts.

Goal 4.2 - Ensure that Provo River is a year-round stream with protected flows that provide both spawning and rearing habitat for native fish species (e.g., June Sucker) and seasonal sport species; support and sustain general fishing use; and develop trail access to the river, which will be free-flowing from Provo Canyon to a re-established delta area that enters Utah Lake.

Objective 4.2.1 Establish minimum flows in Provo River based on a natural hydrograph and user needs and



through cooperation with all user groups. Recognize the needs of all parties, including adjacent homeowners, water users, and the fishing and recreating public, and the need for maintenance of aquatic and riparian ecosystems.

Objective 4.2.2 Improve public access to and use of the Provo River.

Objective 4.2.3 Protect and enhance lands adjacent to Provo River.

Goal 4.3 - Maintain the current high quality of Provo's groundwater resources, both springs and aquifers, and protect them from contamination and reduction in quantity. Watersheds contributing to water sources will also be managed to protect both surface water quality and recharge of groundwater resources.

Objective 4.3.1 Protect both current and future drinking water sources for Provo City.

Objective 4.3.2 Manage watersheds for the protection of drinking water sources and to protect the water quality of surface waters.

Objective 4.3.3 Improve water use efficiency in Provo.



Goal 4.4 – Improve air quality to meet or exceed all national and state standards for PM2.5, PM10, ozone and carbon dioxide because clean air will improve the health of our residents, aid in recruiting new businesses, increase tourism, and reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

Objective 4.4.1 Clean our air with a sustained, energetic, multi-faceted approach.

Goal 4.5 - Recognize that Utah Lake is a focal point of local natural resources systems that contribute to the environmental health, economic prosperity, and quality of life of area residents and visitors. Through collaborative restoration, protection, and sustainable-use efforts, the lake and its multiple-use amenities are fully recognized, enjoyed, and protected for current and future generations.

Objective 4.5.1 Keep portions of the lakefront and wetland areas in a natural state. Identify and protect wildlife corridors, and encourage less impactful uses (trail use, hiking, birding, and photography) focused on ecological attributes and experiences.

Objective 4.5.2 Provide a range of educational opportunities that complement the recreational experience and showcase the lake’s physical characteristics, biological uniqueness, and cultural resources, as well as its socio-economic significance.

Objective 4.5.3 Control and effectively manage existing invasive species (e.g., carp and phragmites) to minimize their negative effects on Utah Lake natural resources.

Implement programs to prevent additional invasions.

Objective 4.5.4 Pursue site-specific enhancements and engineering solutions (e.g., re-created deltas, urban and riparian forests, mixed-use storm water detention areas, selective dredging and diking, re-vegetation) consistent with the Utah Lake Master Plan.

Objective 4.5.5 Attain high-quality water (chemically, biologically, and visually) free from deleterious contaminants and suitable for its beneficial uses.

Goal 4.6 - Maintain familiarity with the Energy Plans for the United States (currently to 2035) and the State of Utah (currently to 2020) and understand the impacts of these plans on Provo.

Goal 4.7 - Continue providing electricity through public power (Provo Energy Department) in association with the UMPA, working to maintain low electrical energy costs, including the sale of excess power on the market, and to develop plans to implement the following objectives in a timely manner.

Objective 4.7.1 Maintain the electrical energy delivery infrastructure at a high level to provide stable, reliable energy, while also working to improve the attractiveness of the city by making delivery systems less obtrusive (i.e., power poles, substations, service stations, etc.).

Objective 4.7.2 Implement new advances in electrical energy delivery and control systems (i.e., smart grid, smart houses) as they become practical and economically feasible.

Objective 4.7.3 Work with residential, commercial, educational and industrial customers to identify and implement energy savings through increases in consumption efficiency and reduction in use of energy in a cost-effective manner.

Objective 4.7.4 Cooperate with customers who privately generate renewable energy resources (i.e., wind, solar).

Goal 4.8 - Work with UMPA to continue to seek long-term electrical energy resources which provide for stable and generally lower cost of electricity.

Objective 4.8.1 Seek opportunities to diversify energy resources in a cost-effective manner, including increasing energy percentages from renewable and alternative sources.

Objective 4.8.2 Seek opportunities for consumer alternatives to purchase energy from renewable resources.

