

Tom Owens Park



Spring 2025 Conference

May 7, 2025



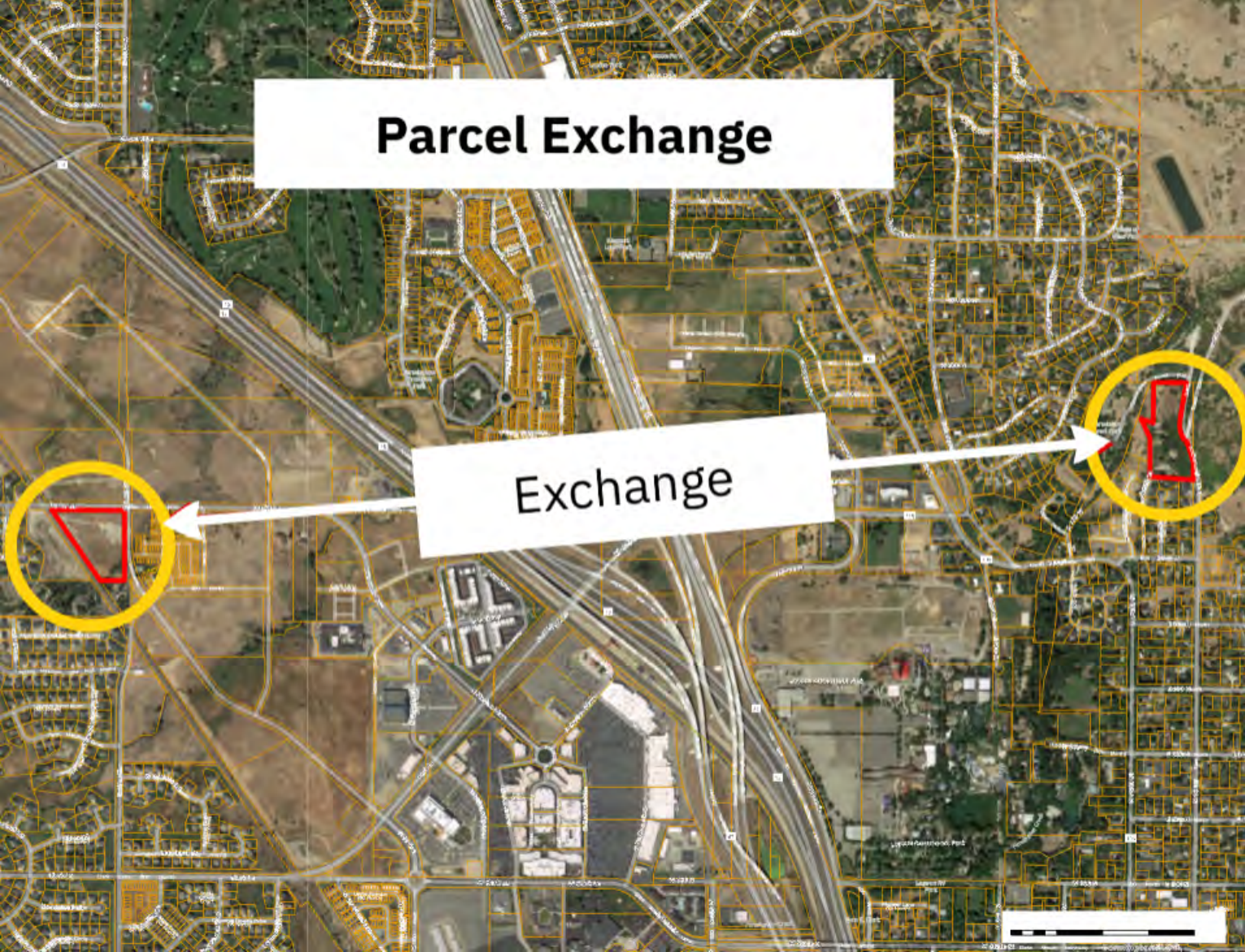
01

Introduction and Background



Parcel Exchange

Exchange



How the Land Became Tom Owens Park

- Tom Owens purchased the property in 1992 to prevent vandalism and development, investing over \$1M in restoration
- Resisted developer offers, sought to preserve its history
- Farmington began negotiations in 2022 and secured City Council approval for a \$4.75M sale.
- This was the city's largest real estate purchase ever
- The city will name the property Tom Owens Park to honor Owens' care for the land.

Project Purpose & Goals

Trace the property's origins from the 1850s as a milling site, later becoming the Heidelberg restaurant.

Photo Credit: Salt Lake Tribune

Focus on preserving the park's character while restoring its historical significance.

Reimagine the park for future public use, creating a space for generations to come.

Highlight the property's potential as a vibrant public space.

Create a community hub, blending history with modern-day activities such as farmer's markets, event space, reflection space, and possibly space for restaurant or café concessionaire.



Prezi

Photo Credit: Salt Lake Tribune

02

Existing Conditions



Project Location

Logan

FARMINGTON

Salt Lake City



Prezi



Bonneville
Shoreline Trail

THE SITE

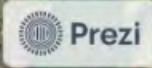
Lagoon

Farmington
Creek Trail

Station Park

D&RG Rail Trail

Legacy Parkway
Trail



Farmington Canyon & Forest Service Lands

Bonneville Shoreline Trail

THE SITE

Farmington Creek Trail

Lagoon

Downtown Farmington



Prezi

Good Earth

www.goodearth.org

Site History

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Pre-1847:
Indigenous
use
(Northwestern
Shoshone and
Northern Ute)

1847–1860:
Early
Settlement &
Grist Mill
Origins

1860–1902:
Richards Grist
Mill operations

#2

1902–1960:
Mixed-Use/
Storage/
Residential

1960–1989:
Heidelberg
Restaurant &
Cultural Hub

#1

1992–2023:
Tom Owens'
Restoration &
Stewardship

1

2

3

4

5

6

Photo Credit: Kirk Huffaker



Prezi

5B

03

Community & Stakeholder Engagement



First Engagement

Programming



Event Space/
Venue Rental



Community
Attractions



Recreational
Activities



Culture & Art
Exhibits



Educational
Programs &
Demonstrations



Heritage &
Cultural
Opportunities

Precedents

Red Butte
Garden



Second Engagement



Event Space/Venue Rentals

Weddings

Corporate Events

Reunions



Botanical Gardens

Farmer's Market

Holiday Market

Creek Access

Community Gardens



Fitness & Wellness
Classes

Summer Camps

Mountain Biking Connections

Regional Trail Links



Cultural Arts & Exhibits

Music Venue

Art Exhibits & Museums

Cultural Foods



Lectures &
Demonstrations

Guided Tours

Youth Education
Opportunities

Interpretive Signage

Workshops



Native American Heritage

Pioneer Heritage

Veteran's Remembrance



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Second Engagement

Feedback on Configuration

Concept 1



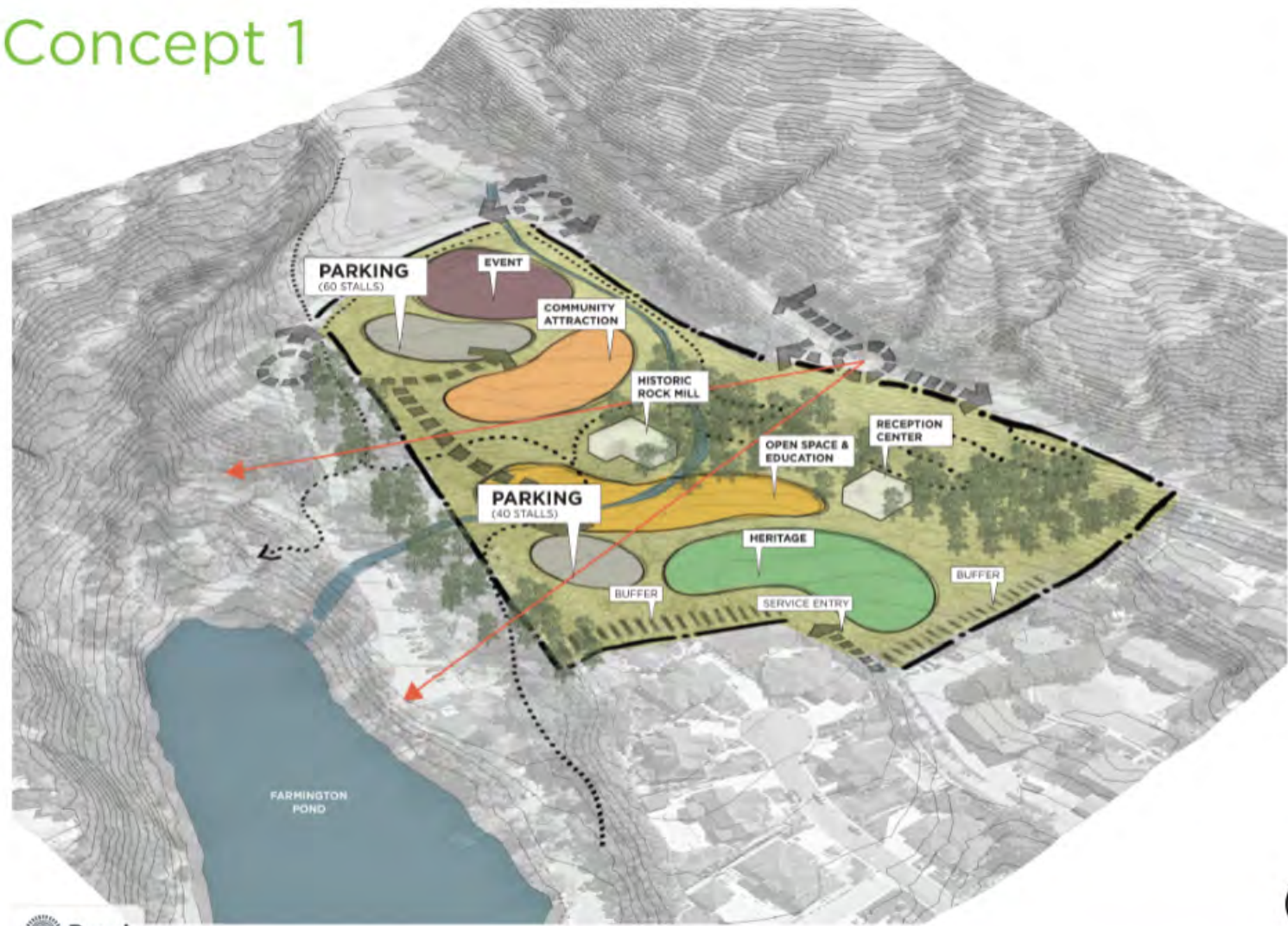
Concept 2



Concept 3



Concept 1



LEGEND

- HERITAGE
- OPEN SPACE/EDUCATION
- COMMUNITY ATTRACTION
- EVENT
- PARKING
- FARMINGTON CREEK/
FARMINGTON POND
- TRAIL
- VEHICULAR CIRCULATION
- VIEW CORRIDOR

Conce



Prezi



FARMINGTON
MORE TIME FOR LIVING

Concept 2



LEGEND

- HERITAGE
- OPEN SPACE/EDUCATION
- COMMUNITY ATTRACTION
- EVENT
- PARKING
- RUDD CREEK/
FARMINGTON POND
- TRAIL
- VEHICULAR CIRCULATION
- VIEW CORRIDOR



Concept 3



LEGEND

- HERITAGE
- OPEN SPACE/EDUCATION
- COMMUNITY ATTRACTION
- EVENT
- PARKING
- FARMINGTON CREEK/
RUDD CREEK/
FARMINGTON POND
- TRAIL
- VEHICULAR CIRCULATION
- VIEW CORRIDOR

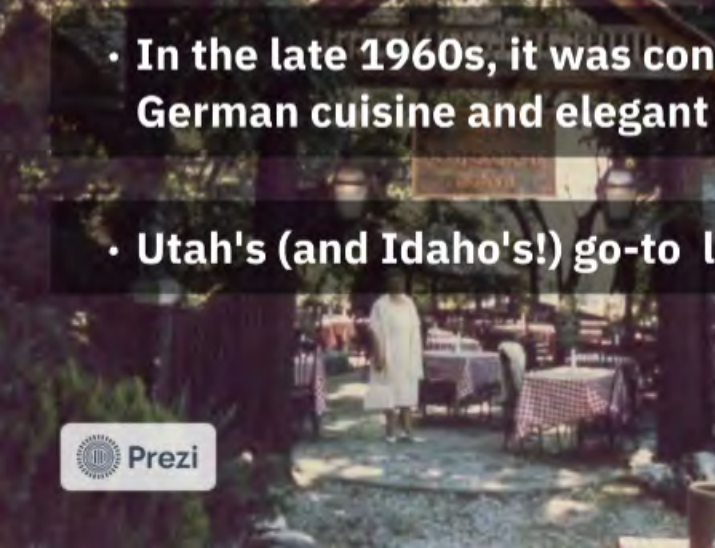


Story Corps





- The Heidelberg restaurant was located in the historic Rock Mill
- In the late 1960s, it was considered one of Utah's finest dining establishments, known for its German cuisine and elegant three-story setting.
- Utah's (and Idaho's!) go-to location for engagements, anniversaries, and prom dates.



Garth Naylor

"the creative behind the
Heidelberg..."



Prezi

Photo Credit: Preston Naylor

04

Opportunities



- 
- **Preserve history, allow modern use**
 - **Adaptive reuse of beautiful old buildings that define community character**
 - **Enhance natural features**
 - **Engage community in design**
 - **Think about how future generations can develop their own experiences with the past—
and create stories of their own**



05

The Plan



Prezi



Concept 1



Concept 2



Concept 3







Key Takeaways

- Hear the stories
- Let stories guide design & planning
- Think about the stories to be told



Tom Owens Park



Thank you!

