



SPRING CONFERENCE

26

RESILIENT BY DESIGN

APRIL 8-10, 2026
RUBY'S INN
BRYCE CANYON, UTAH



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Planners from across Utah and the broader region will gather in Bryce Canyon April 8-10 for the 2025 Spring Conference of the American Planning Association Utah Chapter. Set against the striking landscape of Bryce Canyon National Park, the three-day conference agenda features a wide range of sessions designed to serve professional planners, citizen planners, and elected officials alike. Presentations will explore both urban and rural planning challenges, with topics spanning planning ethics, historic preservation, transportation, housing, and inclusive community development.

AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2026

	EBENEZERS	MANZANITA / PINION	SAGE / BRISTLE CONE	COTTONWOOD
12:00-1:00	LUNCH ON YOUR OWN			
1:00-1:30	REGISTRATION			
1:30-1:45	LOCAL WELCOME			
1:45-2:45	WUI ZONES  JENNIFER MCBRIDE, DNR, VISION OF FORESTRY, FIRE & STATE LANDS			
2:45-3:00	BREAK			
3:00-4:00	WUI ZONES PANEL JENNIFER MCBRIDE JENNIFER HEAPS J. BRADLEY WASHA	I'D LIVE THERE! CHRISTY DAHLBERG	THAT'S ONE SMALL STEP FOR THE UTAH TRAIL NETWORK, AND ONE GIANT LEAP FOR COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION KAITLIN MAROUSIS, PTP	BASIC LAND USE LAW WILF SOMMERKORN JORDAN CULLIMORE
	BREAK			
4:15-5:30	LET'S TALK OUTDOOR REC: PLANS, FUNDS, TRAILS AND MORE! EMILY MEADOWS	INSITE UTAH - LEARN TO USE THE POWERFUL NEW GROWTH IMPACT MODEL TIM WATKINS, AICP JAKE YOUNG, AICP, PLA	BALANCING PLAY, PLACE, AND PRESERVATION JEN GARDNER SOPHIE FRANKENBURG, AICP ELIZABETH SODJA, AICP	

Agenda subject to change.



KEYNOTE



LEGAL



EQUITY



ETHICS



CITIZEN PLANNER



SUSTAINABILITY & RESILIENCE



TRANSPORTATION

THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2026

	MANZANITA	PONDEROSA	MANZANITA / PINION	SAGE / BRISTLE CONE [CITIZEN PLANNER]	COTTONWOOD
8:00	REGISTRATION				
8:30-9:00	WELCOME MESSAGE APA UT PRESIDENT JASON BOAL				
9:00-10:00	WILDFIRE PLANNING BEST PRACTICES- HEADWATERS RYAN HANDY, AICP				
10:00-10:15	BREAK				E-BIKE PATHWAY MANAGEMENT POLICY WORKSHOP ANNA MAKI HUGH VAN WAGENEN [SIGN UP IN ADVANCE]
10:15-11:15	HEADWATERS FOLLOW UP RYAN HANDY, AICP	HEADWATERS FOLLOW UP CORY SHURTLEFF	PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MANAGEMENT JOHN JANSON, AICP WILF SOMMERKORN		
11:15-11:30	BREAK				
11:30-12:30	WELL HEARD COMMUNITIES: TOOLS TO ENHANCE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT DIVYA CHANDRASEKHAR, PHD CHIMALLI HERNANDEZ ASHLEY CLEVELAND CLAUDIA LOAYZA	BETWEEN TOWN AND TERRAIN: PLANNING FOR PLACE AT THE EDGE OF PUBLIC LANDS MOLLY O'NEILL ROBINSON, AICP ANDREW DAWSON, ASLA, PLA	CODE ENFORCEMENT BEST PRACTICES FOR RURAL AND GATEWAY UTAH COMMUNITIES BRET HOWSER		
12:30-1:00	LUNCH				
1:00-2:00	LUNCH KEYNOTE: PLANNING FOR WATER RESILIENCE  CHELSEA BENJAMIN HAILEY KIRLIN MEGAN NICK MELINDA GREENWOOD				
2:00-2:15	BEAK				
2:15-3:15	ETHICS IN RURAL & SMALL-TOWN PLANNING (ETHICS) BRUCE PARKER	SMALL BUT MIGHTY: HOW COMMUNITIES CAN BUILD RESILIENCE BEFORE DISASTER STRIKES ELIZABETH SODJA, AICP	SITE PLAN AND SUBDIVISION REVIEWS LEVI ROBERTS, AICP MARCUS WAGER JOHN JANSON		
3:15-3:30	BEAK				
3:30-4:30	BEYOND CHATGPT: STRATEGIC AI USE FOR PLANNING PROFESSIONALS STEPHEN MCCUTCHAN	FROM SKI TOWNS TO SCENIC VALLEYS: TRENDS, TYPOLOGIES, AND EMERGING NEEDS IN GATEWAY COMMUNITIES LINDSEY ROMANIELLO, AICP	GRANT HELP FOR YOUR COMMUNITY! JOHN JANSON MCKENNA MARCHANT		
5:30-7:00	DINNER AT RUBY'S PAVILION [ADVANCE REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED]				

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8:00-9:00	REGISTRATION			
9:00-10:00		BEYOND THE COMMUTE: TRANSIT SOLUTIONS FOR RECREATION-BASED ECONOMIES SYDNEY MAVES	LEGAL AND LAND USE ASPECTS OF BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS (BESS) JASON BOAL, AICP MICHAEL HUTCHINGS	STR MONITORING SOFTWARE KADEN FIGGINS DAVID WILLIAMS
10:00-10:15	BREAK			
10:15-10:45	THE RURAL ECONOMIC BLUEPRINT PROGRAM TERRAH ANDERSON			
10:25-11:45	APA UT LEGISLATIVE UPDATE  WILF SOMMERKORN FRANCIS LILLY ARI BRUENING			
11:45	CONFERENCE CONCLUDES			

MOBILE TOURS			
1:00-4:00	E-BIKE TOUR [ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED]	HORSEBACK TOUR [ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED]	GUIDED HIKE [ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED]

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REGISTRATION

EARLY-REGISTRATION DISCOUNTS NOW AVAILABLE

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION		EARLY (BEFORE FEB. 28)	STANDARD
FULL	PROFESSIONAL PLANNER (MEMBER, UTAH CHAPTER APA)	\$195.00	\$230.00
	PROFESSIONAL PLANNER (NON-MEMBER, UTAH CHAPTER APA)	\$245.00	\$280.00
	CITIZEN PLANNER / FULL-TIME STUDENT / FA- ICP / RETIRED / ELECTED / SUPPORT STAFF	\$65.00	\$85.00
GROUP	FULL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FOR THREE OR MORE FROM ONE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION: CITIZEN PLANNER / FULL-TIME STUDENT / FAICP / RETIRED / ELECTED / SUPPORT STAFF ONLY (LIMIT 10)	\$65.00 / PERSON	\$65.00 / PERSON

REGISTER TODAY AT APAUTAH.ORG

To pay your registration fee by check, please mail your payment and registration information (name, organization, title, contact information, APA membership status, and AICP status) to UT APA Chapter, P.O. Box 1264, American Fork, UT 84003.

Registration will not be accepted without payments. Refund requests must be made in writing at least two weeks prior to the conference. A \$10 processing fee will be deducted from all refunds. Questions may be sent to admin@apautah.org or call 801.450.2659. Receipts available upon request.



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