

News Release

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Salt Lake County and Rio Tinto Partner to Provide Improved Outdoor Recreation Options in Butterfield Canyon

The new partnership will expand trail and recreation options for equestrians, hikers, and mountain bikers in the southwest region of Salt Lake Valley

Salt Lake County, UT – Today, the Salt Lake County Council approved a lease agreement between the county and Rio Tinto Kennecott for 17 acres of land in southwest Salt Lake County. This unique partnership will continue efforts by Salt Lake County to build a network of multi-user trails to improve access to Rose, Yellow Fork, and Butterfield canyons.

In partnership with Rio Tinto and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Salt Lake County will build 12 miles of new trails in areas where public access has previously been unavailable. This lease agreement follows [last week's purchase](#) of 94 other acres of open space in Butterfield Canyon and complements a recent acquisition of 50 acres that will serve as a trailhead to this system of trails. Together, these acquisitions are a critical part of [Salt Lake County Parks & Recreation's master plans](#) to increase accessible, equitable, sustainable, and quality open space for everyone in the county.

“We are moving quickly and deliberately with many partners to make hiking, biking, and other recreation on our west bench trails a reality,” **said Salt Lake County Mayor Jenny Wilson**. “We are grateful for the partnership with Rio Tinto Kennecott, Bureau of Land Management, Spencer Millerberg, and the stakeholder group. The collaborative efforts, a first of its kind for outdoor recreation, will provide residents and guests an enhanced outdoor experience in the southwest region of the county.”

“Providing 17 acres of land in Butterfield Canyon through our lease agreement with Salt Lake County will improve the recreational experience of community members for many years to come. Our hope is for more people to safely enjoy the outdoors and to appreciate them as much as we do,” **said Managing Director Gaby Poirier, Rio Tinto Kennecott**.

Now that the council approved the lease agreement with Rio Tinto, Salt Lake County Parks & Recreation has assumed stewardship of the acreage.

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