

HIDDEN WATER: Salt Lake County, UT Drainages, a Part of the Western Waters Digital Library

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Paper 142-8

J. Willard Marriott Library
University of Utah
Salt Lake City, UT



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Hidden Water

A Survey of Salt Lake Valley Surface Water

<http://www.hiddenwater.org/index.html>



Craig Denton



Peter Goss

Hidden Water is the collaboration of University of Utah documentarians Craig Denton, professor of communication, and Peter Goss, professor emeritus of architecture + planning. Environmental Humanities graduate student Carrol Firmage provided research support.



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Collaborative Alliances

- Faculty Enterprise—
Craig Denton & Peter Goss
- GeoSpatial Initiatives Committee—
GIS Day 2009
- Digital Ventures/Digital Initiatives—Anne Morrow
- Special Collections/Multimedia Archives—
Historic Photo Collection: Roy Webb
- Utah State Historical Society



[1895 Stairs Hydroelectric
Power Station]



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HIDDEN WATER

HOME

ABOUT

SEARCH

DRAINAGES

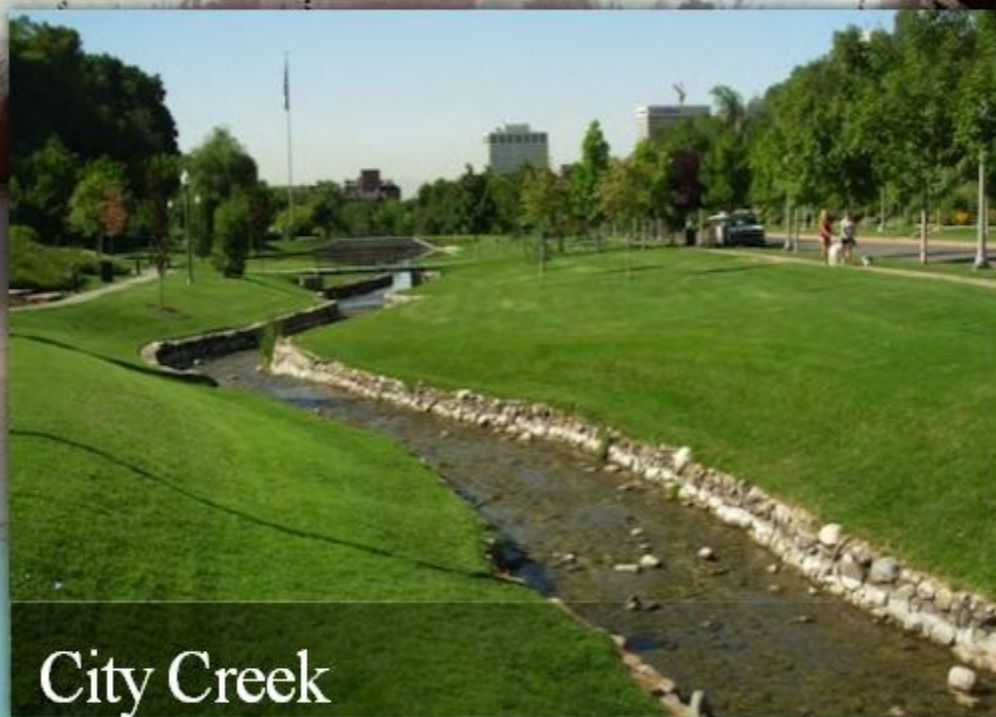
IRRIGATION

LINKS

FAQ

CONTACT

A Survey of Salt Lake Valley Surface Water



City Creek

Drainages in Utah



Navigate this Site

This web site can be navigated three ways. You can use keywords to pull up images. Or you can move your mouse across the map of the Wasatch Front

Collaboration

Hidden Water is the collaboration of University of Utah documentarians Craig Denton, professor of communication, and Peter Goss,

Hidden Water

A variety of people and institutions have provided invaluable support, both technical and financial:

J. Willard Marriott Library

Western Waters Digital Library

University of Utah Research Committee

Environmental Humanities Program, College of Humanities

The DigitLab, Department of Geography

Water Wise Utah

Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

Jeff Niermeyer, Director, Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities



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Wasatch Front Drainages

From snow melt in the Wasatch Mountains
to the Jordan River to the Great Salt
Lake...

<http://www.hiddenwater.org/drainages.html>

Water management in the Salt Lake Valley



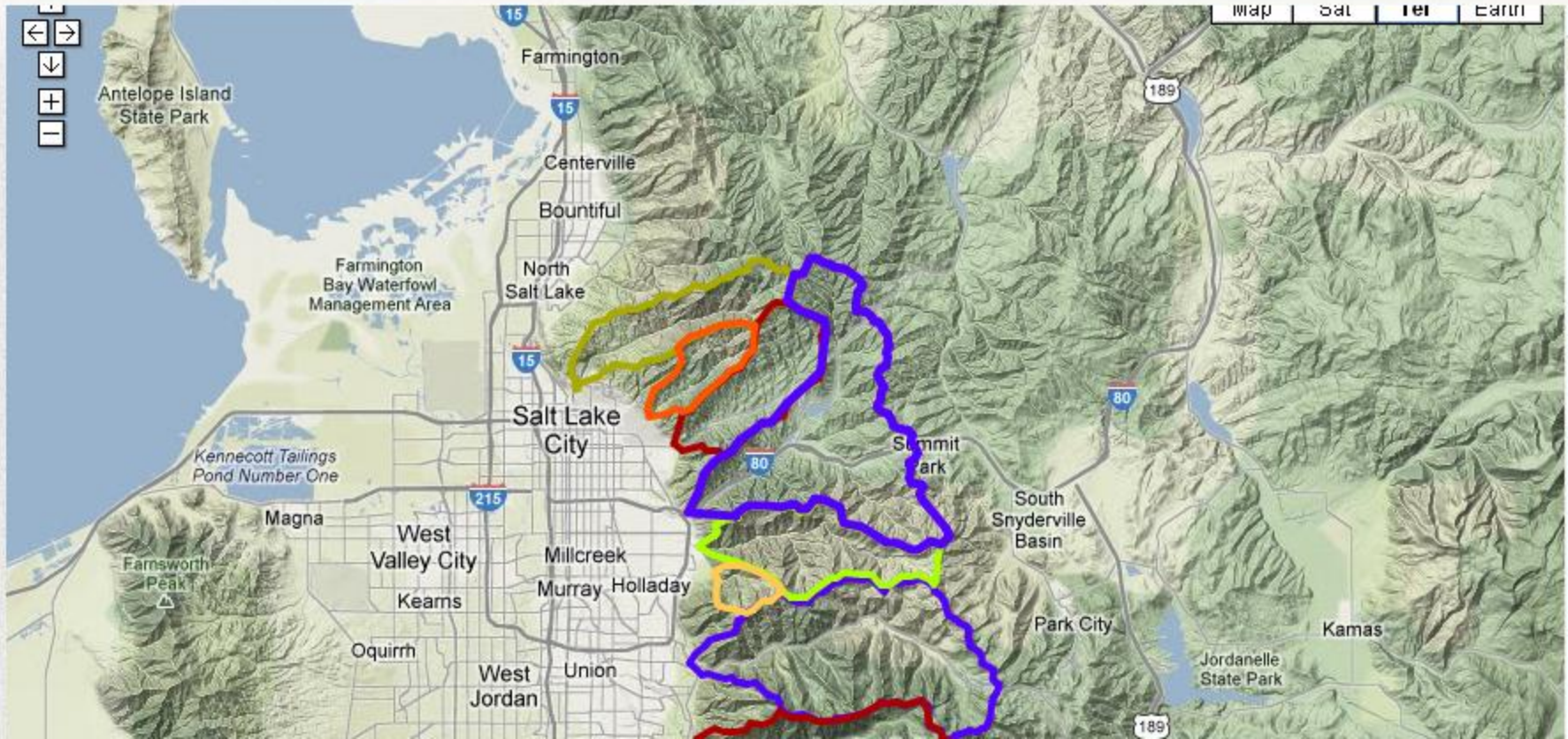
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HIDDEN WATER

A Survey of Salt Lake Valley Surface Water

Drainages



About

Hidden Water unveils surface water systems on the east side of Salt Lake Valley, both culinary and irrigation. The web site follows the seven major streams of the Wasatch Front, plus minor ones, and tracks that water from headwaters to the Jordan River and then Great Salt Lake. It intermixes contemporary photographs with historical photographs from several archives showing earlier uses and diversions of water. The web site documents how stakeholders utilize the water with treatment plants, hydropower plants and irrigation ditches. In turn, these public, recreational and commercial uses flow from water rights dating back to territorial days. The term "hidden water" refers to our tendency to take our water system for granted. We turn a tap and expect the water to flow. Where water comes from and how it's delivered is "hidden" to us. Somehow, it crosses a jumble of political divisions and property lines and arrives at our taps. The intention of this Hidden Water web site is to make that system visible and transparent.

Surface flow supplies 60% of the water we consume in Salt Lake City. It's a finite supply and it's precious. Moreover, climate change will put a strain on the supply.

Ultimately, surface water in Salt Lake Valley is a closed system. Our mountains collect moisture that falls from the sky, and over geologic deep time, gravity has pulled that water, cutting drainages that eventually empty onto and meander through the valley floor. After multiple uses, the water that's left flows into the Great Salt Lake, where winter storm "lake effect" picks up surface water and deposits it back onto the Wasatch Front, some years providing approximately 20% of our snowpack. That closed system tells us we must live within the cyclical boundaries of our water. Once we see that water and know where it comes from, we will be able to assess the delicate balance between using water for in-stream uses that benefit the environment or in-house uses that serve our lifestyles and economy. Hopefully, when our water is no longer hidden, we will begin to better appreciate and conserve it.

Potential Web Site Users

Besides people generally interested in Salt Lake Valley surface water, the following groups will find this web site especially useful:

Potential Web Site Users

Besides people generally interested in Salt Lake Valley surface water, the following groups will find this web site especially useful:

- Citizen activists
- Water policy planners
- Civil engineers
- Historians of water development K-12 teachers
- Landscape photographers



[Big Cottonwood Canyon]

[Historic City Creek Rock Crushers]



Digital Image © 2001 Utah State Historical Society. All rights reserved.



How to Navigate the Web Site

This web site can be navigated three ways:

- Use keywords/tags to pull up images
- Mouseover the Wasatch Front drainages on the map, select and magnify
- Select a drainage or irrigation system from the pull down menu, zoom in to reveal hot spots connected to photographs.



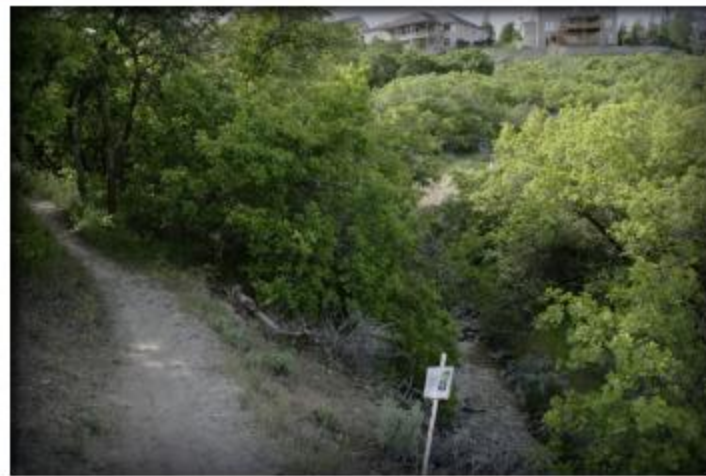
[Lamb's Canyon Creek]



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Corner Canyon Creek



Corner Canyon Creek is the southernmost stream in Salt Lake Valley, running through Draper and emptying into the Jordan River after it crosses the Jordan River Parkway. A jewel in Draper's recreational development efforts, Corner Canyon has a well-developed and managed system of trails that provide opportunities for hikers, mountain bikers, birders and horseback riders.

Gallery

[View Corner Canyon Creek Gallery](#)



Interactive Map



[View Corner Canyon Creek Interactive Map](#)

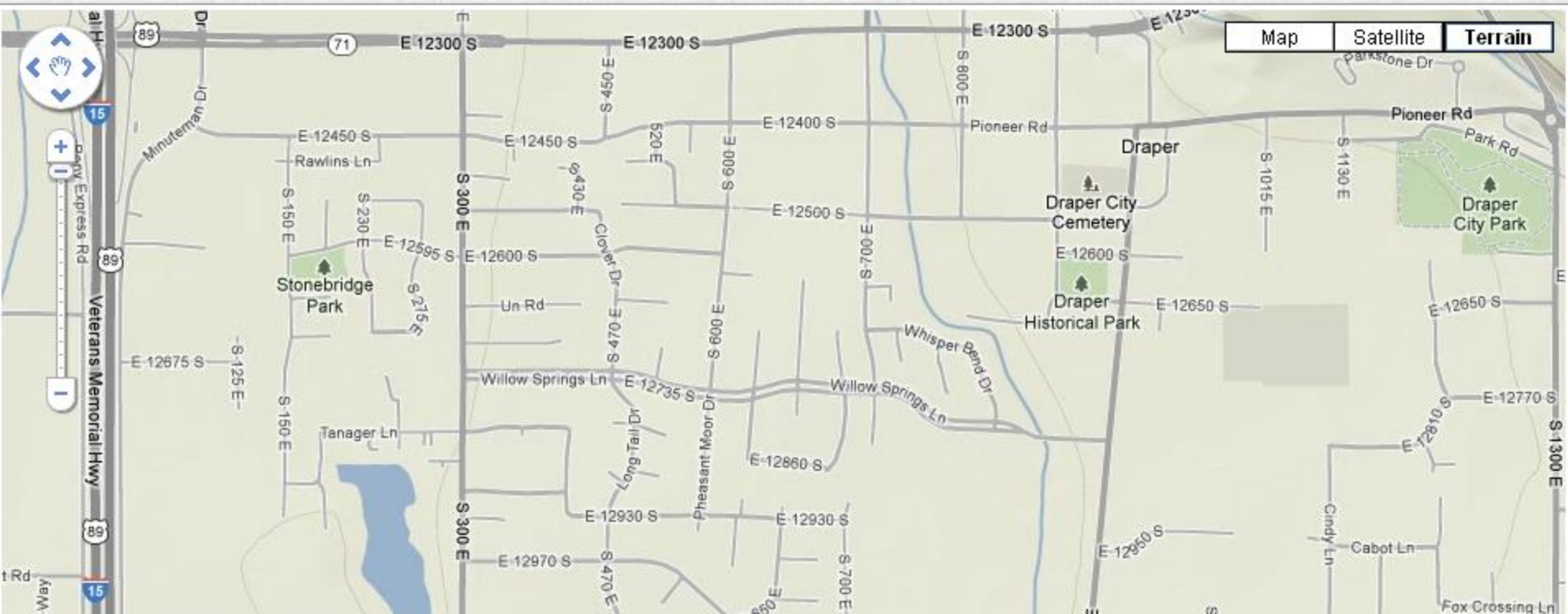
Historic Images

[View related historic images](#)



Corner Canyon Creek Interactive Map

Embedded KML Viewer



Keywords/Tags

- [Irrigation](#)
- [Residential landscaping](#)
- [Commercial landscaping](#)
- [Public landscaping](#)
- [Revetment](#)
- [Dam](#)
- [Bridge](#)
- [Reservoir](#)
- [Lake](#)
- [Pipe](#)
- [Recreational use](#)
- [Wildlife](#)
- [Environmental degradation](#)
- [Ditch](#)
- [Signage](#)
- [Retention basin](#)
- [Flood plain](#)
- [Headgate](#)
- [Canyon](#)
- [Valley](#)
- [Channelization](#)
- [Diversion](#)
- [Drop structure](#)
- [Architecture](#)
- [Gate](#)
- [Monument](#)
- [Pond](#)

[Alta: Headwaters of
Little Cottonwood Creek]



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Irrigation in the Salt Lake Valley

- Brown and Sanford Ditch [1874]
- East Jordan Canal
- Jordan and Salt Lake Canal
- Tanner Ditch
- Upper Canal

[Brown & Sanford Ditch]



[Convergence of Millcreek & Upper Canal]



[Upper Canal]

Links

- **People interested in finding out more about local water issues might find the following web sites helpful:**
- **Water management agencies**
 - [Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District](#)
 - [Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake City and Sandy](#)
 - [Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities](#)
 - [Utah Division of Water Resources](#)
- **Regional planning agencies**
 - [Envision Utah](#)
- **Water resource information sources**
 - [Environmental Protection Agency/Water Sense](#)
 - [Red Butte Natural Area](#)
 - [Utah Museum of Natural History](#)
 - [Water Wise Utah](#)
- **Water research repositories**
 - [Western Waters Digital Library](#)
- **Water activist organizations**
 - [Friends of Great Salt Lake](#)
 - [Save Our Canyons](#)
 - [Utah Rivers Council](#)

[Red Butte Creek]



FAQs

- **Where do the place name spellings come from?**
Place names conform to spellings on USGS maps.
- **How are the drainages organized under the menus?**
The drainages are organized north to south, with City Creek being the northernmost drainage on the Wasatch Front in Salt Lake Valley and the Jordan River being the southernmost.
- **How are the irrigation systems organized under the menus?**
The irrigation systems are organized alphabetically.
- **How did the authors divide the photography?**
Peter Goss shot the photographs in the northern part of Salt Lake Valley — City Creek to Parleys Creek. Craig Denton shot the photographs from the middle to the southern part of Salt Lake Valley — Mill Creek to Corner Canyon Creek and the Jordan River.
- **How can I get permission to use the photographs?**
The Creative Commons license allows you to use a photograph for non-commercial instructional purposes as long as the photographer is credited in the same place that the photograph is used. Any commercial or derivative work use requires the permission of the photographer.



[Willow Creek]



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Geospatial Information Portal

A Secondary Outcome

- GSI Committee “Idea Parking Lot”—
Anne Morrow & Ken Rockwell
- Gateway to Projects completed
- Ideas for Future Projects
- <http://campusguides.lib.utah.edu/content.php?pid=371931&sid=3046603>

[Emigration Creek—first cleared
by the Donner Party in 1846]



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Geospatial Information Portal

Tags: geographic resources, geography, georeference

Geospatial Information Committee sponsored projects, products and related resources

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Green River: before and after Flaming Gorge Dam



Comments (0)

Salt Lake's historic downtown buildings then and now

View historic images of downtown Salt Lake City and access the **3D map** juxtaposing Salt Lake's historic downtown district of the past with that of today



Geospatial Information Portal

Tags: [geographic resources](#), [geography](#), [georeference](#)

Geospatial Information Committee sponsored projects, products and related resources

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- Sanborn Maps
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- Selected scanned maps
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Resources [Comments\(0\)](#) [Print Page](#) Search: This Guide

Resources for faculty and students

[Mountain West Digital Library Spatial Coverage Map](#)

[Utah Digital Map Library](#)

[Western Waters Digital Library](#)

[Map Collections in the Marriott Library](#)

[Introduction to the Digital Library](#)

[Utah Geographic Information Council](#)

[Utah Geological Survey](#)

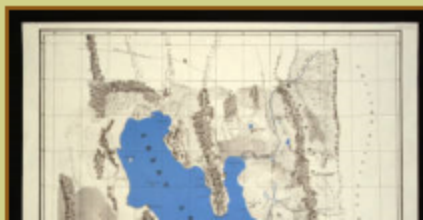
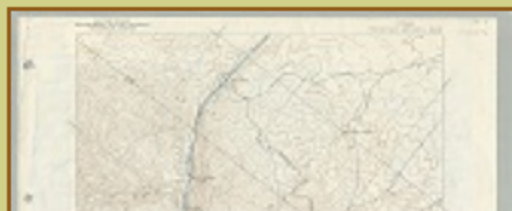
[Automated Geographic Resource Center](#)

[Marriott Library Geography Lib Guide](#)

Comments (0)

Selected scanned maps

Marriott Library houses approximately a quarter million maps. Below is a selection of maps that have been scanned. Click on the thumbnail images to view map.



Acknowledgements

Thanks to the following for their work and support for today's presentation—

- Craig Denton and Peter Goss, authors of the *Hidden Water* website
- Members of the GeoSpatial Initiatives Committee
- The J. Willard Marriott Library

[Parley's Creek goes underground at Hidden Hollow Park]



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