



2003

The Wallin Farm is purchased, adding 107 acres to the Preserve. It is now known as the Swaner Farm.

2005

The name Swaner Memorial Park Foundation formally changes to Swaner Nature Preserve. Field trips begin.

2008

The Swaner EcoCenter opens.

2009

The Swaner EcoCenter is certified as Utah's first LEED Platinum building.



2010

The Swaner Nature Preserve is gifted to Utah State University and becomes the Swaner Preserve and EcoCenter.

Today

The 1,200-acre Preserve and EcoCenter hosts field trips, summer camps, environmental lectures, workshops, tours, and exhibits.



The Swaner Preserve and EcoCenter is a refuge for an abundance of nature. Over 10 miles of trails on the 1,200-acre Preserve offer recreational opportunities for all. Fostering the delicate relationship between people and nature is central to managing this community treasure. Celebrating that relationship is at the heart of the Swaner EcoCenter. It is a place for reflection, enlightenment, and celebration.

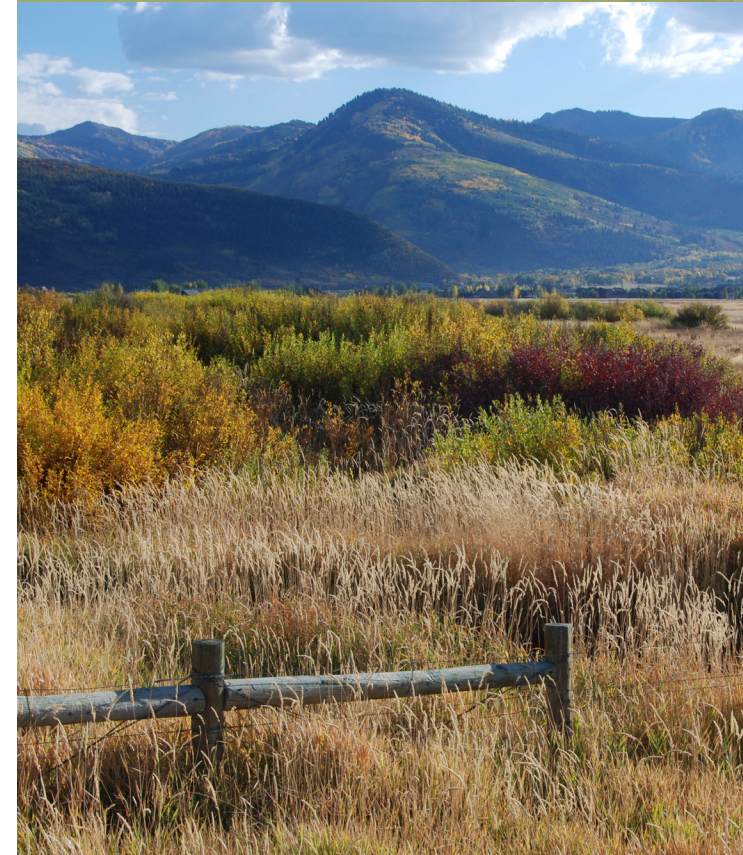


photo credit: Rick Braveheart

We recognize that the Swaner Preserve and EcoCenter resides on the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary lands of the Northwestern Band of the Shoshone and the Ute Indian Tribe. In offering this land acknowledgment, we affirm Indigenous sovereignty, history, and experiences.

History

of Swaner Preserve



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Swaner Preserve & EcoCenter
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Pre- and post-European contact

High alpine wetlands like the Swaner Preserve were visited by the Noohchew (Ute) and Eastern Shoshone Tribes during warmer months for resources like waterfowl, plants, large game, and other supplies.

Early 1800s

Clashes between European settlers and indigenous peoples increase in frequency as forcible removal proliferates across the American West.

1850s

The Snyder family owns and operates a sawmill in the Snyderville Basin.

1860

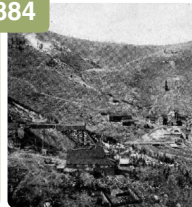
A Pony Express route, diverted due to heavy snow, passes through the north side of the Preserve.

1868

Ore is found in Park City; the mining industry begins.

1884

City of Park City is incorporated.



1854 – 1890s

Kimball Brothers stage line operates between Park City and Salt Lake City through the heart of the Preserve, establishing Kimball Junction.

1889

Utah Central Railway connects Park City to Salt Lake City through the Preserve (now the location of the Wetland Discovery Trail).



1890s



A small stone house is constructed on what is now the Swaner Farm.

1896

Utah becomes the 45th state.

1910s

Miners have excavated millions of dollars of ore containing silver, lead, zinc, gold, and other metals, making Park City known internationally.

1950s

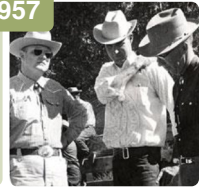
Most Park City mines close, and the population dwindles dramatically.

1963

Treasure Mountain ski area opens—now part of Park City Mountain Resort.

1957

Leland S. Swaner purchases Spring Creek Ranch, which he operates for the next 35 years.



1969–1973



Interstate 80 is constructed through Kimball Junction.

1993



Spring Creek Angus Ranch Partnership donates 190 acres in memory of Leland Swaner, establishing the nonprofit organization then known as the Swaner Memorial Park Foundation.

1996–1999

The Preserve grows to more than 1,000 acres from seven additional land parcels.

2001



A federal Wetland Reserve Easement is established to protect 533 acres of critical wetland habitat on the south side of the Preserve. Major habitat restoration begins and continues today.