

SECTION 2 – BACKGROUND

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HISTORY OF SMITHFIELD CITY

Cache Valley was first visited by trappers in the early 1800s, who were attracted by its rich supply of wildlife and trapping game. In 1859, a man by the name of A. Langton, in the company of Robert Thornley, was advised by Brigham Young to settle in the Cache Valley. They and their families settled near the banks of Summit Creek, building the first cabins with wood from nearby cottonwood trees. In 1860, the city was surveyed and laid out in blocks, with each block consisting of four one-acre parcels. In July of 1860, a fort was constructed in which the people lived for several years and only left in groups to work. Summit Creek flowed through the fort to supply water for the people. In 1864, the fort was dismantled and people moved back into the city. At this time, the city was surveyed back into 10 one-acre blocks. One center block was reserved for public buildings. The site was one mile square. Beyond the town to the southwest was a tier of 1-1/2 acre lots. Beyond these was another tier of 10-acre plots, and beyond that another tier of 20-acre plots. Each settler received an allotment of land in each of the tiers. In 1860, the name Smithfield City was adopted in honor of the first Mormon Bishop, John G. Smith.

On February 6, 1868, Smithfield City received a charter and shortly thereafter held elections. In 1873, the Utah Northern Railway, a narrow gauge railroad, was constructed in Smithfield City. After operating at a loss for several years, it was sold to the Union Pacific Oregon Short Line Railroad. (Source: *A History of Cache Valley*, manuscript by M. R. Hovey, Special Collections, Logan Library, Logan, Utah)

By 1890, Smithfield City had a population of 1,500. Although Summit Creek was a critical source of water for Smithfield residents, a canal carrying water from the Logan River north to Richmond, built in 1896, became the primary source of water for agricultural purposes, which allowed the city to continue to grow.

The early years of Smithfield City are a history of a people overcoming harsh conditions and situations to build a community for the future. (Source: *Logan Journal*, 13 March 1897)

PROJECTED GROWTH FOR CACHE COUNTY AND SMITHFIELD CITY

Virtually every element of the city is affected by the increase or decrease of its population. Thus, accurate population projections are of utmost importance. A precise population forecast will assist the community in determining:

- Land required for future housing
- Increased demand for recreational amenities
- Need for public facilities such as schools and libraries and for police and fire protection
- Demand for commercial development

The growth in Smithfield City is attributed to several factors, parameters that will govern the future land-use designations for this city. The factors governing population growth are:

- Proximity of the city to Utah State University
- High quality of life in Smithfield City
- Growth of light industry, including ICON, NucorSteel, and Morton International
- Civic amenities such as:
 - ? City library
 - ? Parks
 - ? Quality schools (two elementary schools and one high school)
 - ? Recreational opportunities

Table 2-1. Population Projections

Year	Population
1990	5,566
1995	6,245
1996	6,381
1997	6,517
1998	6,653
1999	6,941
2000	7,261
2001	7,514
2002	7,823
2003	8,044
2004	8,273
2005	8,542
2006	8,889
2007	9,237
2008	9,485
2009	9,732
2010	9,980
2011	10,320
2012	10,660
2013	11,000
2014	11,340
2015	11,680
2016	12,020
2017	12,360
2018	12,700
2019	13,040
2020	13,380
2030	16,400

Source: City of Smithfield, Cache County; J-U-B ENGINEERS, Inc.

“Build-out” Population Analysis

Throughout the general plan and especially when referencing future city infrastructure plans, a build-out population analysis is typically used. A build-out study is an impact assessment when studying infrastructure demand. Future land uses, as specified on the general plan map (Figure 5-1), are applied to undeveloped and underdeveloped parcels within the 15-year annexation boundary of the city. The actual build-out of the city will take many years. The population projections in Table 2-1 are based on historic growth trends in the state, county, and locally. Factors of birth, death, and in- and out-migration rates are included.