



LeRay McAllister Critical Land Conservation Fund

Grafton Preservation Project



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Description: The Grafton Townsite accommodates several historic structures. Grafton is one of the most photographed ghost towns in the West. It stands as a testimony to the hard work, tenacity and determination of its early Mormon agriculturalists.

Location: The historic Grafton townsite and the agricultural open space surrounding it is located on the banks of the Virgin River, 12 miles from the west entrance to Zion National Park.

Acreage: 213 acres

Grant funding: \$250,000

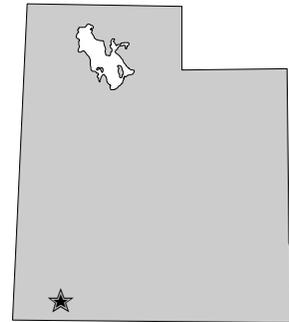
Total Project Cost: \$1,350,000

Grant Awarded: July 2000

Land Ownership:
Grafton Heritage Partnership Project

Conservation Easement Held by:
Town of Rockville

Local Support: Rep. Tom Hatch, Sen. Mike Dmitrich



Public Benefits

Historical significance: A number of historic structures including homes, outbuildings and irrigation ditches remain within the Historic Townsite including the Grafton church/schoolhouse, the Alonzo Russell adobe home, the John Wood home, the Alonzo Russell log home, the David Ballard home and the cemetery.

Viewshed/Scenic Quality: The property inspires visitors with its natural beauty, its buried prehistoric and historic features, its fertile green pastures, its location on the banks of the Virgin River, and its stunning views of dramatic geological features of Zion National Park.

Water Quality: The Virgin River forms the townsite's northern boundary. The sandy river-deposited soils support an impressive gallery of trees, plant and wildlife species, including one of only a handful of remaining stands of cottonwood trees anywhere along the Virgin River. The floodplain is to be managed for native plant communities.

Wildlife Habitat: The wildlife habitat along the Virgin River is of high quality and represents a relatively intact ecosystem.

Recreation: Visitor access to the historic townsite.

Agricultural Land: Cattle grazing, irrigation of pasture land, fence repair, and ditch maintenance are all activities that still occur in Grafton - a continuum of historic ranch in a rural historic landscape.

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