

A topographic map of a residential area, overlaid with a street grid and zoning codes. The map shows contour lines with elevations such as 7400, 7500, 7600, 7700, 7800, and 7900. Key features include Selman Reservoir in the upper left, a Gravel Pit, and a Spring. Numerous streets are labeled, including Sands Dr, Sahara Dr, Lynne Ln, Terra Linda, Pandora, Doris Wy, Arcadia Ln, Albright Dr, Melodie, Ribbon Ln, Kayland Cir, Waldo Dr, Gresthill Dr, Kline Ave, Sycamore Dr, Delmont Dr, Holly Ln, Hugo Ave, and Sycamore Ln. Zoning codes are scattered throughout, including R-2-8, R-1-8, R-2-8, R-1-10, R-M, R-M, and R-2-10. The text 'Fork' is also visible in the center of the map.

# 21st Century Communities

program, participants, and  
Circuit Rider Planning

The challenge of the **21st Century Communities Program** is to:

- Prepare rural Utah for unprecedented population and visitor growth
- Create new jobs and reduce unemployment
- Diversify rural economies
- Protect quality of life

The **Circuit Rider Planner Grant Program** is a tool to provide planners and other planning assistance to groups – or consortiums – of rural communities and counties that would otherwise be unable to dedicate the resources necessary to obtain professional planning aid.

### 21st Century Communities Program

In 1998, Governor Leavitt and the Governor’s Rural Partnership Office extended an invitation and a challenge to rural cities, towns, counties, and Indian tribes to engage in the planning and development processes that will lead to designation as a 21st Century Community. This challenge includes a call for rural leaders to look to the future and begin to develop a game plan for community prosperity and success. It is a call to:

- evaluate the forces of change that are shaping the future,
- assess community needs and opportunities,
- improve leadership skills and knowledge, and
- develop strategies to resolve problems and achieve community goals.

The 21st Century Communities program is intended to assist rural leaders who accept this challenge.

To date, twenty-seven communities have achieved “21<sup>st</sup> Century” status, 13 communities are at the “Gold” level, 28 are “Silver”, and 33 are “Bronze”.

Following is a list of the communities or counties that have received 21st Century Community designation:

- Ballard
- Bear River
- Beaver
- Brigham City
- Coalville
- Corinne
- Filmore
- Honeyville
- LaVerkin
- Lindon
- Mt. Pleasant
- Myton
- Naples
- Newton
- Nibley
- North Logan
- Panguitch
- Payson
- Perry
- Piute County
- Salina
- Santaquin
- Smithfield
- Springdale
- Tremonton
- Uintah County
- Wasatch County



21ST CENTURY  
COMMUNITIES

“SKATING TO WHERE THE PUCK WILL BE”

#### Communities Achieving 21st Century Status

Year	Level	(cumulative)
1999	Gold	0
	Silver	16
	Bronze	36
2000	Gold	12
	Silver	26
	Bronze	39
2001	<b>21st Century</b>	<b>6</b>
	Gold	17
	Silver	28
	Bronze	34
2002	<b>21st Century</b>	<b>16</b>
	Gold	21
	Silver	25
	Bronze	30
2003	<b>21st Century</b>	<b>27</b>
	Gold	13
	Silver	28
	Bronze	33

#### Communities Achieving Affordable Housing Plan Designation

Year	(cumulative)
1999	22
2000	55
2001	61
2002	71
2003	82

### Circuit Rider Planning Program

In 1999, Circuit Rider Planners were hired in each region to help communities with the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Program and to achieve their local planning objectives.

Historically, the Legislature has provided funds to assist local governments to plan by providing a Circuit Rider Planner in five of the seven Association of Governments (AOG) Regions in Utah. In another region, Mountainlands AOG, funds were available to fund half of a position. Until this year, there has been no money available for Circuit riders in the Wasatch Front Region. However, in 2002, some funds were found to help the Wasatch Front establish a Circuit Rider program.

The Circuit Riders assist local governments that cannot afford to hire qualified planners. They travel around their regions, working with small cities and towns to help them update general plans and create new elements to respond to growth, economic development needs, and plan for hazard mitigation or other issues. Most communities that have taken advantage of the circuit riders could not do this planning if they did not exist.

Unfortunately, in the last round of budget cuts, state support for this program was cut, meaning that **currently, the circuit riders are in danger of being eliminated because there is no money to pay for them.** Rural communities and counties are concerned that their primary source of planning expertise and assistance will soon be gone. Staff of the Governor’s office is searching for short term grant money to fund this program until additional funding from the Legislature can be made available.

...as of September, 2003...

Number of communities participating in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Communities program (at all levels)  
**132**

Number of rural communities assisted by Circuit Rider Planners  
**195**

*Community planning activity in Fillmore earlier this year.*

