

APRIL 9, 2019

## Latter-day Saints to build temple in Tooele

April General Conference ends with temple announcement; location is unknown but speculators look to Erda and Tooele ♦

Tooele Valley is getting a temple.

President Russell M. Nelson of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, announced during the closing session of the church's April Conference on Sunday that the church will build eight more temples.

One of them will be in Tooele Valley, he said.

Shortly after the announcement on Sunday, Tooele County residents were speculating on social media about possible locations.

Some mentioned property owned by the church in Erda. Others made reference to property on Tooele City's east bench, previously owned by the late Maxine Grimm.

Grimm, a Tooele resident, was instrumental in establishing the church in the Philippines. She maintained a relationship with the church's leadership until she passed away in 2017 at the age of 102.

Grimm told the Transcript Bulletin during an interview in 2010 that she told Church President Gordon B. Hinckley that she would donate land in Tooele for a temple.

Irrespective of speculation, no location or other details of the future Tooele Valley Temple have been announced by the church.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has grown in Tooele County over the last two decades.

Twenty years ago there were five Latter-day Saint stakes in Tooele County; today there are 11. Six stakes are centered in Tooele City, two in Grantsville, two in Stansbury Park, and one in Erda. A stake is a regional organization composed of several wards, or local congregations.

Also in Tooele County, Wendover and Irapah, along with West Wendover, Nevada, are part of a mission district, an organization similar to a stake.

For Latter-day Saints, temples are not regular places of Sunday worship. They are quite different from regular chapels or meetinghouses, according to [mormonnewsroom.org](http://mormonnewsroom.org), an official website of the church.

Latter-day Saint temples are considered houses of God, a place of holiness and peace separate from the preoccupations of the world. They provide a place where church members make formal promises and commitments to God. They are also the place where the highest sacraments of the faith occur — the marriage of couples and the sealing of families for eternity, according to the church's website.

The Tooele Valley Temple will be the 21st temple in Utah for the church. There are 17 operating temples in the state, including Bountiful, Brigham City, Cedar City, Draper, Logan, Jordan River, Manti, Monticello, Mount Timpanogos, Ogden, Oquirrh Mountain, Payson, Provo City Center, Provo, St. George, Salt Lake, and Vernal. Three more temples in Saratoga Springs, Layton and Washington County have been announced.

Worldwide the church has 151 temples in operation, 12 under construction, 11 in the process of renovation, and 35 that have been announced, including the eight announced on Sunday.



Tim Gillie

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# Location of Tooele Valley temple announced

By [Liesl Nielsen, KSL.com](#) | Updated - Sept. 25, 2019 at 9:12 p.m. | Posted - Sept. 25, 2019 at 9:28 a.m.

ERDA, Tooele County — The Tooele Valley Utah Temple will be built at the intersection of Erda Way and Highway 36 in the town of Erda, according to a [news release](#) from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The three-story temple will be about 70,000 square feet, and a 20,000-square-foot meetinghouse will be built nearby. Detailed designs for the temple are still under development and will be made public later, as will a groundbreaking date.

"Project leaders will begin working with city officials on preliminary plans for the temple, and they will start filing public documents in the coming months," the news release reads.

The Tooele Valley temple was first announced by President Russell M. Nelson during the church's general conference in April.

For Latter-day Saint faithful, the temple is a sacred house of God where members can make holy promises with their Heavenly Father.

Utah currently has 17 operating temples. In addition to the Tooele Valley temple, other temples have also been announced in [Layton](#), [Saratoga Springs](#) and [Washington County](#).

# Renderings of the interior of the Tooele Valley Temple released

Apr 28, 2020, 9:44 AM | Updated: 9:58 am

**BY COLBY WALKER**

KSLNewsRadio

TOOELE, Utah — The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has [released renderings](#) of what the interior of the Tooele Valley Temple will look like after it is completed.

The Temple to be built in Erda was announced by church President Russell M. Nelson in April, 2019, and is expected to be three stories tall and 70,000 square feet.

The church says that the design of the temple will feature a cast stone exterior with copper shingles that will be done in a pioneer-style as well as including cliff rose and silvery lupine flowers in the interior design.

Director of temple design Bill Williams says he and other architects drew from the details of other nearby historic tabernacles as they planned for this temple

“These beautiful renderings depict the care and attention to detail that will go into the construction of this house of the Lord,” said Brent Roberts, managing director of the Church’s Special Projects Department. “The temple is our holiest place of worship. We believe this will be a place where Latter-day Saints in the Tooele Valley and beyond can go to obtain peace and divine direction in their lives.”

Utah currently has 17 operating temples. In addition to Tooele Valley, temples have also been announced in Layton, Orem, Syracuse, Taylorsville, and Washington County. A temple in Saratoga Springs is currently under construction.

A groundbreaking date for the temple has not yet been released.



# Possible referendum could delay or alter plan for Tooele Valley Temple, adjacent residential community

'The development goes way beyond the high-density housing that some people are pointing to. This has got very high-end development around it with a park and trail systems and water features that are very desirable,' said Tooele County Commissioner Tom Tripp

By [Tad Walch](#)

Aug 14, 2020, 1:03pm MDT



The site for the Tooele Valley Utah Temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Erda, Tooele County, is pictured on Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2019.

Spenser Heaps, Deseret News

ERDA, Tooele County — A petition opposing the approved [residential community](#) planned by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints around its proposed [Tooele Valley Temple](#) could lead to long delays in the construction of a much-anticipated temple the church had hoped to build quickly.

It could also change the church's plans for the temple, said Richard Droubay, a longtime Tooele resident authorized to speak on behalf of the church as chairman of the temple groundbreaking committee.

The temple absolutely must have the proposed walkable, sustainable community around it, he said, because it would enhance and protect the land around the temple site and makes it more efficient to bring essential utility infrastructure to what has been a crop field.

“This is a unique and special opportunity,” Tooele County Commissioner Tom Tripp said. “The development goes way beyond the high-density housing that some people are pointing to. This has got very high-end development around it with a park and trail systems and water features that are very desirable. I don't look at this as a domino, that if we do this one development this way, that we'll just open the floodgates for everybody else that comes in that won't have the same kind of amenities the temple is bringing with it.”

The county updated its general plan in 2016. The update anticipated growth and increased density in the area where the temple development is planned. The general plan calls for density in those areas of [up to 10 to 15 homes per acre](#).

The church's plan calls for fewer than 3.0 homes per acre, according to documents filed by its tax-paying real estate investment affiliate, Suburban Land Reserve Inc. That number represents a compromise worked out between the church's representatives and the County Commission and staff after Suburban Land Reserve initially proposed greater density last year.

The Tooele County Commission [approved plans for both the proposed temple and surrounding residential community](#) by a 2-1 vote on June 2, but opponents of the new subdivision are gathering signatures on a petition that could trigger a countywide referendum. They want residents to vote to overturn the plan to build 446 new homes because they believe the proposed housing density is too much for a rural valley where growth has become a major issue.

The petition calls for the referendum to be held as part of the general election on Nov. 3, which is legally impossible, or for an expensive special election next year, said Tooele County Clerk Marilyn K. Gillette.

A referendum on a law or ordinance passed after April 15 cannot be held until the following year, according to Utah law. The soonest the referendum on the subdivision could be held is in a June 2021 special election, which would cost \$2 per ballot. It could also be postponed until November 2021's municipal election, Gillette said.

More than 93% of residents expressed overwhelming support in emails to the planning commission, which recommended that the County Commission rezone the land to allow the temple and development. Of the supportive emails, more than half mentioned support for both the temple and neighborhood, while the rest of the other positive messages did not mention the subdivision, according to county planner Jeff Miller.

The church originally planned to hold a groundbreaking for the temple last March, Tooele County Commissioner Shawn Milne said, but church representatives spent nearly a year working on a compromise to reduce the density of housing in the proposed subdivision.

The church now is poised to hold a temple groundbreaking later this month or early in September, said Colleen Johnson, who is part of a local church communications council, but that might depend on whether the petition triggers a referendum that puts the subdivision on hold.

The temple and subdivision are inseparable, said Droubray, the church's representative.

"Since the temple and surrounding community complement and support each other in essential ways, a referendum to oppose the neighborhood development may ultimately delay or alter construction of the temple," Droubay said. "The proposed residential community will provide essential utility infrastructure for the temple and help protect this sacred structure."

That message has led some people who signed the petition to remove their names from it, said Gillette, the county clerk.



Monday is the deadline for gathering or removing signatures. To trigger a referendum, more than 9.5% of registered voters in four of the county's five council districts must sign the petition.

As of the end of day on Thursday, the petition had enough signatures in two of the five council districts, according to data provided by Gillette. The other three districts needed 136, 48 and 38 more signatures.



This is an artist's rendering of a portion of the proposed residential community near the site of the Tooele Valley Utah Temple.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

"The referendum is a way for me to say I didn't like how our commissioners voted," said Monica Kennedy, a Latter-day Saint who lives near the proposed neighborhood. "I didn't think they had the best interests of Erda in mind. This is my way to tell them I didn't like that."

President Russell M. Nelson announced plans for a Tooele Valley Temple in April 2019. In [September 2019](#), he announced the proposed location northwest of the intersection at Erda Way and state Route 36, an unincorporated part of Tooele County.

Published reports said the church intended to fast-track the temple's construction, possibly completing it by the end of 2021, because of the closure of the Salt Lake Temple for renovation until 2024.

The process slowed last winter when the original proposal for the residential community by Suburban Land Reserve Inc. landed in the middle of a land-use firestorm in Tooele County.

Opponents of density are using the referendum law to challenge other commission decisions. In fact, county residents are scheduled to vote on two land use referendums on Nov. 3, Gillette said.

Arguments over growth, development and density played a major role in Milne, a two-term commissioner, losing his bid for a position in the county's new form of government, the Tooele County Council.

The temple and neighborhood would cover 167.3 acres in the middle of an area where, today, homes sit on 1-acre and 5-acre lots.

The County Commission's vote rezoned the temple development's land. It authorized Suburban Land Reserve to build an average of 2.66 units per acre around the temple on a variety of smaller lots. The lots would range in size from half an acre to less than 1/10th of an acre.

About 17% of the development would be alley lots, with about 10 homes per acre buffered by the temple and 32 acres of open space, trails and parks.

Suburban Land Reserve initially requested higher density in discussions with county staff, but Milne said he and the other two commissioners, elected during the fervor over land use, recoiled because they knew some residents would oppose it.



Site plan of the proposed residential community around the Tooele Valley Utah Temple.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

“This particular proposal is a compromise where the land developer played by the general plan rules,” Milne said. “They were met with some resistance, there were ongoing negotiations, and what we have today is what I believe to be the best compromise from a variety of different perspectives that includes the developer, those that are the ‘resistance’ and those that are in between. And I can tell you that this process took over a year with the church.”

Suburban Land Reserve settled with county leaders on the compromise of 2.66 units per acre. Then the proposed project went public.

The church’s First Presidency then released [interior renderings](#) of the temple on April 28. On May 5, Suburban Land Reserve released the proposal for the new residential community.

Opposition to the neighborhood development grew after the commission’s vote on June 2.

“I think people as a whole would like to see Erda stay more rural with larger lots,” said Kennedy, the Erda resident who lives near the proposed neighborhood and who has concerns about its impact on schools and roads.

She said that those seeking the referendum want to see additional compromise on the density of the development without impacting the temple.

“I’m sad that the temple is getting tied up in this,” she said. “I’m sad it’s caused a lot of divide in our community.”

Suburban Land Reserve is planning a variety of lot sizes to make living by the temple possible for more people. The development would include specific housing for people 55 and older and the smaller lots for those who can’t afford a half-acre, a full acre or 5 acres.

“It’s real simple,” said Kendall Thomas, the lone county commissioner to vote against the development. “There’s overwhelming support for the temple. I just disagreed with the high-density around the temple. I don’t know what the church’s plans are, but I hope they’ll move forward with the temple. That’s a great location for the temple.”

The other two commissioners stand by their votes for the subdivision, though they said they understand why some residents oppose it.

If the temple were delayed or not built or moved because of a referendum, Tripp said, “I think that would be a disappointment for the people in our county.”

Milne, the outgoing commissioner, is frustrated that residents repeatedly get involved after the fact — he said some landowners will have waited two years for the decisions that will be decided by referendum in November — though he said he appreciates residents’ rights under the referendum process “to redress their grievances with government.”

Milne was on the commission when it spent \$100,000 and 18 months to update the general plan in 2016. The plan envisioned greater density in the corridor where the temple and neighborhood would be built.

“This proposed density sits on the low end of the greater density the general plan just four years ago said the community would tolerate,” he said. “We went through a lengthy process, we spent real taxpayer dollars to come up with this plan and (Suburban Land Reserve is) playing by those rules.”

Droubay said the church can’t develop with 1-acre lots because the temple site doesn’t have an existing water or sewer system, and constructing those utilities would be significantly more complex and expensive with 1-acre lots.

He also said the planned community would help protect the temple and improve the vacant land around it.

Meanwhile, the future of Erda and the Tooele Valley is being written in other ways, too. There is a movement underway to incorporate Erda, while others are petitioning for unincorporated county land to be annexed by cities.

For example, a petition has been filed to annex 1,100 acres of unincorporated Erda into Tooele City. Those acres including the 167-acre temple and neighborhood property.

Brent Bateman, an attorney for Durham Jones and Pinegar, said he filed the petition for annexation on behalf of his clients. The church is not involved in any effort to annex the land.

# Church of Jesus Christ withdraws Tooele Valley Temple residential community plans

By [Tad Walch](#)

Aug 18, 2020, 4:39pm MDT

SALT LAKE CITY — Latter-day Saint leaders are withdrawing their [plan to build a residential community](#) around the proposed [Tooele Valley Utah Temple](#), according to a statement issued Tuesday.

“We acknowledge the efforts of those who have raised questions and sincere concerns about the Tooele Valley temple project, including the residential development surrounding the temple. There is a sincere desire on the part of the church to avoid discord in the community,” the First Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints said in a statement.

“Therefore, regardless of the outcome of a pending signature-gathering effort, we have determined to withdraw our rezoning request for the residential portion of the temple project.”

The Tooele County Commission voted 2-1 to rezone the land for the temple and the church’s proposed residential community around it. However, some residents raised concerns about the density of the housing in the proposal. They launched a petition that would require the issue to be decided by a referendum which could not be held before next June.

Monday was the deadline for signatures to be added or withdrawn from the petition. The Tooele County clerk has not certified the results, but her unofficial count on Tuesday morning showed the petition had enough support to trigger the referendum if all the signatures were legitimate.





The First Presidency's statement did not specify whether the church would try to resubmit a new plan for the residential community in the future.

"We look forward to working with local officials and community members to determine next steps to move forward with the construction of the temple," the First Presidency's statement said. "We hope those from all viewpoints on this matter will treat one another with kindness, civility and Christlike love."

The church wants to build the temple on a church farm northwest of the intersection at Erda Way and state Route 36, an unincorporated part of Tooele County.

The farm sits on the valley floor in a rural area where the minimum lot size for a home is 1 acre and many are on 5 acres. The church proposed building a community of 446 homes on 167 acres. That density of 2.66 homes per acre was lower than the growth anticipated in the area by the county's general plan but higher than wanted by some residents who want to maintain the area's rural feel.



The petition needed signatures from 9.5% of voters in four of the county's five council districts to trigger a referendum.

As of Tuesday morning, after Tooele County Clerk Marilyn Gillette counted the signature removal requests received Monday, outcome was close, pending certification. It appeared the referendum would be triggered by 13 votes, barring the possibility that some signatures might be disqualified during certification.

The petition movement easily had enough signatures in Districts 2, 3 and 4 but was short by 29 signatures in District 1. It appeared the matter would come down to District 5.

Early Tuesday morning, Gillette reported that District 5 had reached the referendum threshold by 50 votes without counting signature removal forms received on Monday.

Later, she reported those forms showed that 37 people had removed their signatures in District 5, meaning the referendum would be triggered by 13 votes, pending certification.

In all, 72 residents removed their names from the petition on Monday.

# How moving the Tooele temple halted a recount battle

By [Tad Walch](#)

Jan 21, 2021, 2:30pm MDT



An artistic rendering of the Deseret Peak Utah Temple, previously known as the Tooele Valley Utah Temple.&nbsp;

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

The backstory about the abandoned plans to build a Latter-day Saint temple in the Tooele Valley of Utah is about a decision by senior church leaders to avoid contention and division.

On Tuesday, the First Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints announced it would not build the Tooele Valley Utah Temple in Erda, Utah. The decision stalled a year's worth of work on the temple design and halted a housing development process.

Instead, the church will take the same exact building design and [construct the Deseret Peak Temple](#) a seven-minute drive away in Tooele. The new temple is named for the highest peak in the area.

The rest of the story includes a recount, a court case and a legal decision that provided opportunities to fight for the original project.

That project included [more than a temple](#). The church said it needed to build a development of homes and park area around the temple on the valley floor in Erda to provide infrastructure and secure the future of the temple's surroundings. With widespread support, the County Commission approved the church's plan to build the temple and housing development by a 2-1 June 2020 vote.

A temple groundbreaking appeared imminent.

But within days, residents who lived near the proposed site and felt it would alter the rural nature of the area launched a petition drive to put the issue on a future county ballot in the form of a [referendum](#).

To trigger a referendum, county leaders said 9.5% of voters needed to sign the petition, a total of 2,445. That threshold also needed to be met in four of five districts in the county.

As the deadline neared for collecting the signatures, the county attorney determined on Aug. 13 that Utah law actually required 16% or 4,119 signatures. County leaders, however, decided that with eight days left to the deadline, there was too little time to force that higher threshold on the petitioners.

County leaders informed the church of their decision, but the church chose not to object. Five days later, with the petition drive still underway and the outcome still in doubt, the church announced it was withdrawing its plan to build the residential development in Erda.

"We acknowledge the efforts of those who have raised questions and sincere concerns about the Tooele Valley temple project, including the residential development surrounding the temple. There is a sincere desire on the part of the church to avoid discord in the community," the First Presidency said in a statement. "Therefore, regardless of the outcome of a pending signature-gathering effort, we have determined to withdraw our rezoning request for the residential portion of the temple project."

The drama continued.

On Aug. 26, the county clerk declared that the petition had failed, though it had exceeded the 2,445 total signatures. The petition had met the 9.5% threshold in only three of the five districts, not four.

The county clerk disqualified a number of signatures, most because the signees were not registered to vote in Tooele County or had bad addresses, or signatures did not match voting records or were duplicates.

The petition's sponsors sued and a recount was held. An election judge and the attorney reversed some of those decisions and certified the petition.

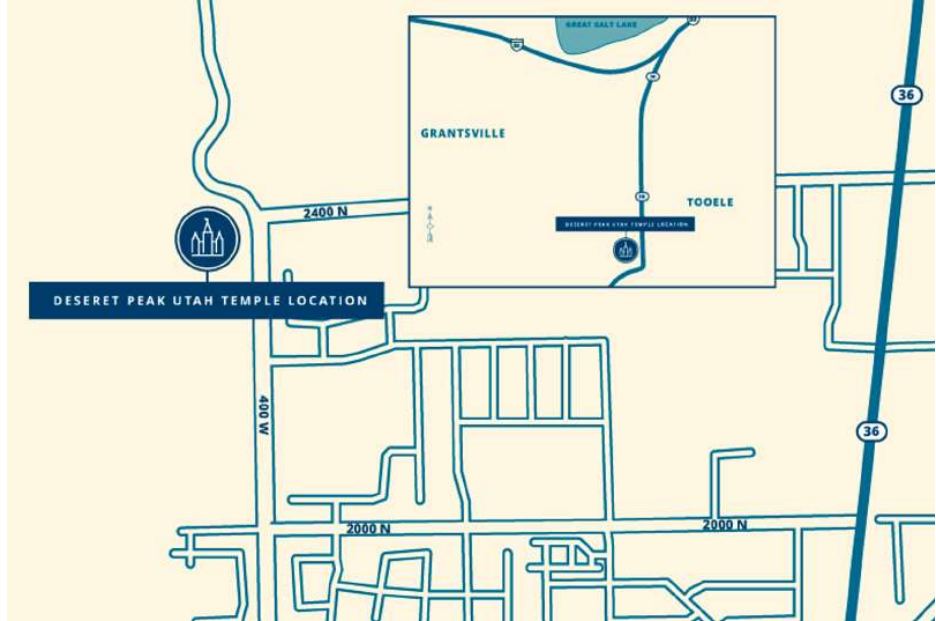
Again the church was offered the opportunity to object. Twice the church declined, the county attorney [said](#), according to reporting by the Tooele Transcript Bulletin. County leaders then decided to put the referendum on the ballot for the next countywide election in 2022.

That is now moot, and not only because the church withdrew its plans. On Dec. 15, 2020, the county commission reversed its June decision. It voted to reapply a farmland designation to the church's property in Erda. The housing development won't be built and the church does not have plans to develop that land.



# TOOELE VALLEY TEMPLE RENAMED AND LOCATION CHANGED

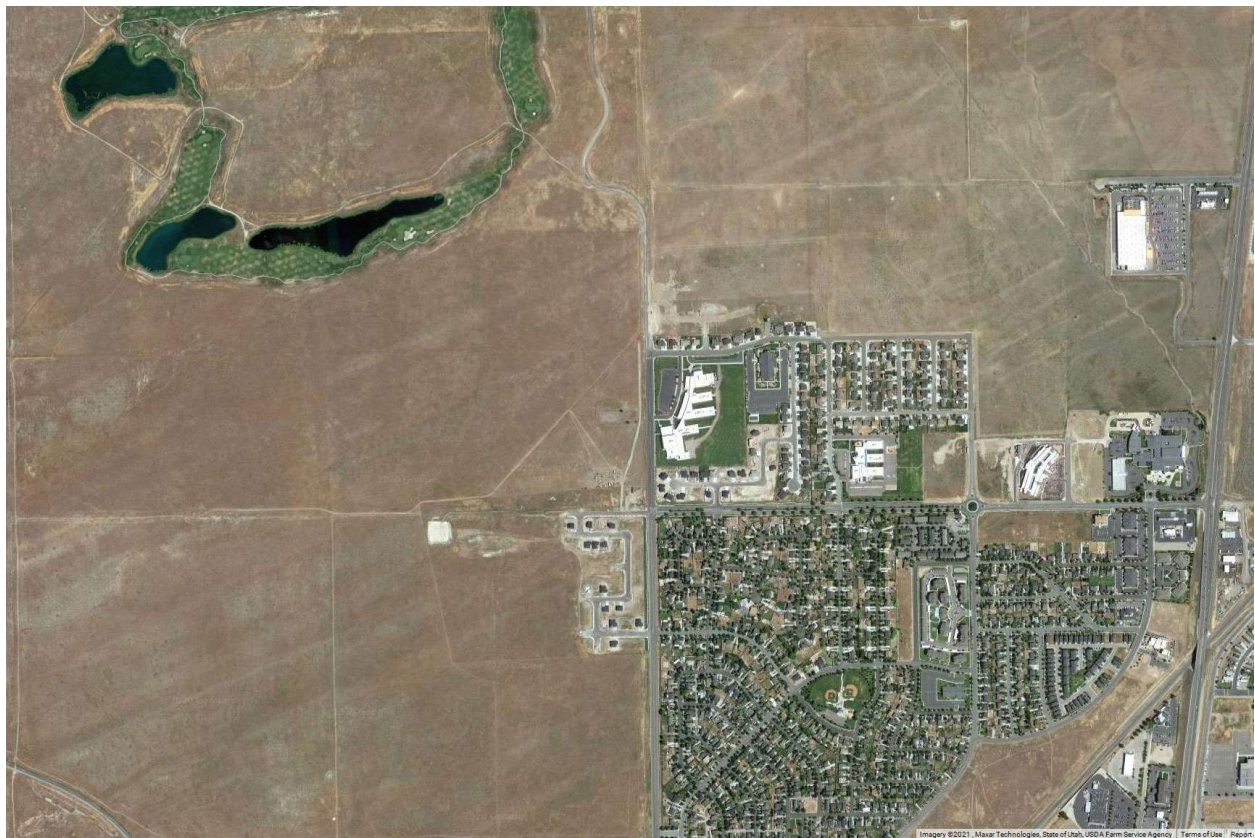
Posted January 19, 2021 at 4:16 PM in [Announcement](#), [General News](#)



In a very interesting turn of events, the location of the Tooele Valley Utah Temple has been moved. It will now be located west of the intersection of 2400 North 400 West in Tooele. And as part of the announcement, the temple is also being renamed to the Deseret Peak Utah Temple. The exterior (seen above) and interior designs will remain the same as [we showed in previously released renderings](#). The Deseret Peak Temple will be a three-story structure with approximately 70,000 square feet. A new 20,000-square-foot meetinghouse will also be built on the site. An official reason for these changes was not given, but the First Presidency encourages everyone to treat one another with kindness and Christlike love.

Project leaders will now start again to work with city officials to coordinate further planning for the future temple, including a groundbreaking date, which we will announce here as soon as more information becomes available.

The Deseret Peak Temple was announced during the April 2019 General Conference.



# Tooele residents thrilled about temple despite social media backlash

By

**Allie Richael**

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December 9, 2021



Here is an artistic rendering of the Deseret Peak Utah Temple, previously known as the Tooele Valley Utah Temple. Originally the Church announced a temple site near Highway 36 in rural Erda, along with plans to build a residential community around the temple lot. After facing opposition, the temple location was changed. (Church Newsroom)

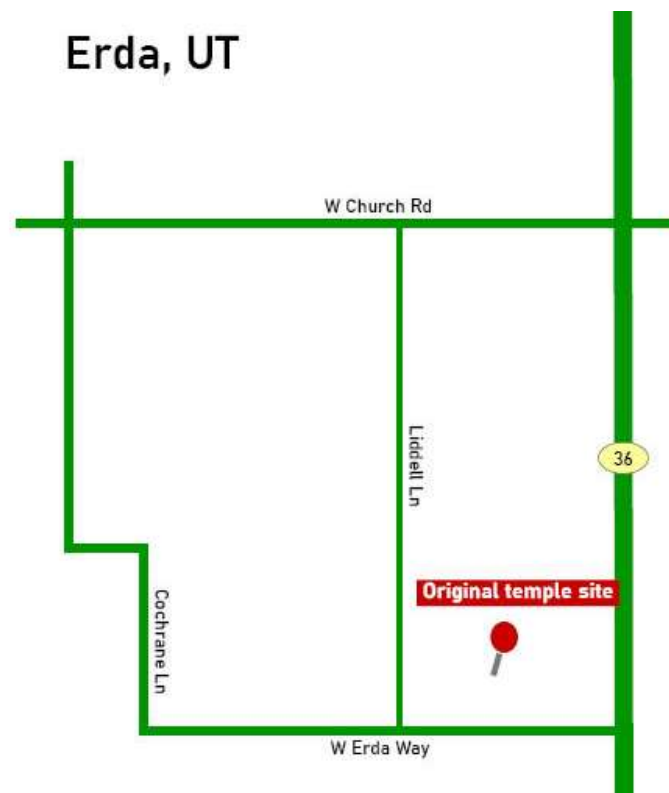
President Russell M. Nelson stood at the pulpit in the Conference Center in Salt Lake City. Thousands of people watched him speak through the worldwide broadcast of General Conference in April 2019, when he announced plans to build eight more temples across the world, including one in Tooele Valley.

An audible gasp was heard inside the massive auditorium, as members reacted to yet another temple to be built within a 25-mile radius of Salt Lake City.

In early 2020, all three Tooele County commissioners agreed; a temple for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints should be built in Erda, Utah. Tooele County commissioner Kendall Thomas said his constituents also supported the temple plans.

“The Church was wonderful being involved with us,” Thomas said. “They did a well-planned community with big parks and walking fields.”

Originally the Church announced a temple site near Highway 36 in rural Erda, along with plans to build a residential community around the temple lot. Thomas explained that the Church would purchase a five-acre lot and build a high-density area of condominiums.



The temple in Tooele was originally located in Erda, a rural town in Tooele County. The Church planned to build a residential community around the temple site. (Graphic by Allie Richael)

Just when everything seemed to be going smoothly, a bit of backlash on social media caused the Church to change its plans and relocate the temple. The Church posted its plans for a “walkable, sustainable, high-quality residential community” surrounding the temple site on Twitter on May 5, 2020.

Some social media users fought these plans. Comments on the Church’s post about the residential community included “WHY?” and a picture of a dragon



destroying the Salt Lake City Temple. A comment from @JennyZapta said "Single-family homes are not sustainable, nor are lawns."

The Tooele Transcript Bulletin shared an article on Facebook on March 27, 2020 describing the building plans. A comment from Deb Doubek saying "There goes Erda!" followed by two sad emoticons received four replies from people sharing her sentiment. Ryan Willden commented "I disagree with their housing plans. 4500 sq foot lots in Erda??? Wow..." Willden's comment received three more replies agreeing with him.

**Stockton resident Ruth Sagers** said she saw some backlash against the residential community on social media. While she felt excited about the temple site, Sagers also said, "I understand how residents of Erda might not want a densely-populated community in their area."

Michelle Barker has lived in Tooele for 35 years. She said the discussions over a residential community divided residents and Church members in the area. "I saw tons of things posted about the temple site from people who were members and who weren't," Barker said.

Barker said she was excited about the plans to build homes around the temple, although she never expressed her feelings publicly. "I never posted about it because I know posting on social media is never going to change anyone's mind," she said.

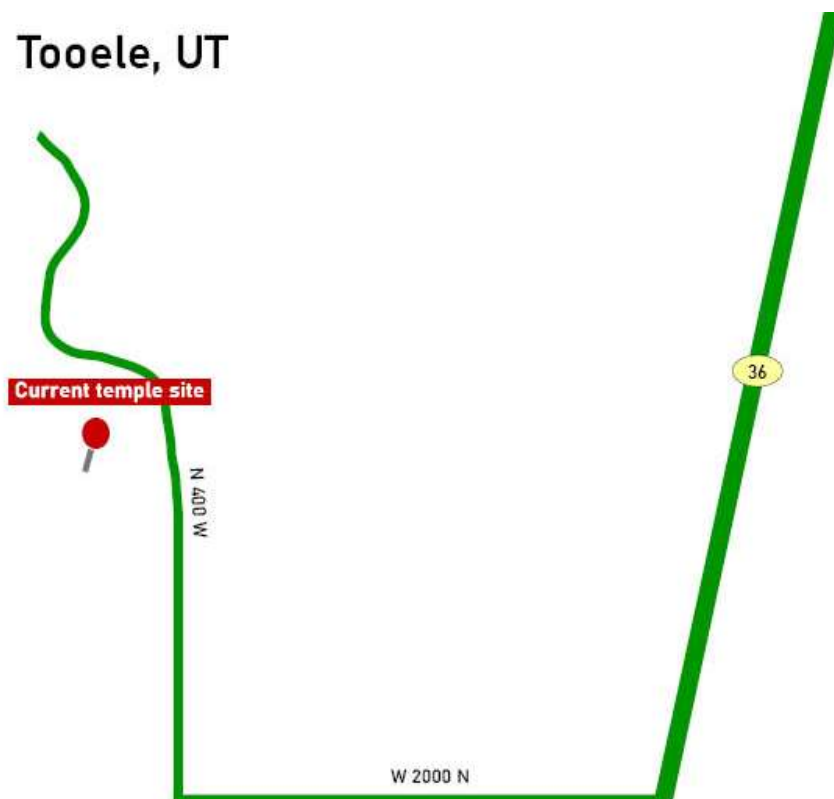
Citizens opposed a rezoning that would have allowed construction of the residential community around the temple. **A citizen referendum in 2020 aimed at prohibiting a rezone of the land was never voted on because the Church withdrew its plan first.** Thomas believes this referendum would have been voted down had it come to fruition.

The sponsors' argument against the rezone said "Higher density housing with as **many as 12 homes per acre** has no place in Erda. Currently, roads are too congested, schools are overcrowded, property taxes continue to rise, and the water table is not recharging fast enough."

The Church has faced opposition when building other temples in the past, but the kind of backlash that arose over the Tooele Valley temple plans hasn't been seen in Utah before. According to Roger Minert's article [Spires and Sycamores](#), temple construction plans received pushback in Tokyo, Boston and Denver. Minert said construction of the temple in Brigham City caused citizens to protest the removal of sycamore trees on the land.

Yet the Church changed its plans and the name of the Tooele temple. The now Deseret Peak Temple will be built in Tooele, just a few miles north of the previous location. Construction is underway after the groundbreaking on May 15, 2021. The Church has not stated any new plans for a residential community up to this point. According to the Church Newsroom press release, the three-story temple will be approximately 70,000 square feet. A new 20,000-square-foot meetinghouse will also be built on the site, located at 2400 N. 400 West.

No firm completion date has been announced.



The new Deseret Peak Temple will be built in Tooele, a few miles north of the original temple site.  
(Graphic by Allie Richael)

"I thought it was very understanding of Church authorities to change the temple site," Sagers said. "They saw that a large part of the community was upset, and they did not want to cause further contention."

"I think it's a better location, personally," Thomas said of the new temple site. "Wherever it's built, it will be beautiful."

According to Thomas, county commissioners were no longer involved in the temple construction once locations changed. Tooele City Mayor Debbie Winn said in a statement that the city "...will be working closely with the construction

team in the building of the temple. We will continue our work with permits, bonding and other building items until the temple is completed.”

Winn said she and other Tooele residents are, “thrilled with the site of the temple being moved to Tooele City.” The temple will be a beautiful asset to the city and increase the value of homes in the area, she said.

Sagers said she currently drives for one hour or more to reach the nearest temple. She is thrilled to have the Deseret Peak temple built near her home. “Having a temple in our valley will be a great asset to the community and I cannot wait for it to be finished.”