

America's Great Outdoors:

A Promise for Future Generations

City of West Jordan: Jordan River "Big Bend" Habitat Restoration Project



Aerial view of restored habitat on the Jordan River near 10600 South, south of the Big Bend Project Area. Side-channel wetlands surrounded by native vegetation provide habitat for migratory birds, and provide open space and opportunities for wildlife viewing.

Photo: Great Salt Lake Audubon

Background

The restoration project was originally proposed to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by the City of West Jordan in 1997. Seed money for the restoration is being provided through the Sharon Steel Natural Resource Damage Assessment Fund to restore migratory birds and their supporting habitat that were injured by contaminant releases from site operations. Settlement funds have been supporting restoration on the Jordan River since 1991. The Big Bend project is the final and most ambitious restoration effort to be supported with settlement funding.

Jordan River Trail

The restoration project is adjacent to the soon to be completed section of the Jordan River Trail (JRT) in the City of West Jordan. The regional trail is 45 miles long connecting two counties along the Wasatch Front providing recreation access to over one million people. When complete the JRT will be a major intermodal network connected with mass-transit hubs and east-west connector trails, providing opportunities for alternative transportation and recreation.

In 2010, the JRT was nominated by the Utah Governor's Office to the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI)'s "America's Great Outdoors" Initiative (AGO). This was one of two projects selected in Utah with the goal of connecting American's to the outdoors.

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Big Bend Habitat Restoration Project

The Big Bend Habitat Restoration Project is located in the City of West Jordan, Utah, north of 90th South, adjacent to the Jordan River Trail. The goal of the project is to restore 70 acres of habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife by constructing a new meandering channel and wetlands that will reconnect the floodplain with the river. When completed, the project will provide one mile of restored river channel, wetland habitat, riparian habitat, and upland habitat, and urban fisheries.

Restoration of the Jordan River channel and floodplain will significantly reduce sediment and organic matter currently being eroded into the river. This will protect surface and drinking water quality, and provide a retention basin during high runoff and floods. The project will also increase recreation opportunities for the public. Amenities such as boardwalks and interpretive signage on the adjacent Jordan River Trail will allow people to see and learn about the wildlife, culture and history of the area. Once completed, the Big Bend Restoration will become one of the "gems" of the Jordan River Parkway trail system.



Partners - Connecting People with Nature

The restoration project lead is the City of West Jordan with assistance from diverse partners including: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission, and the National Park Service, Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program.



The Jordan River Trail will run along the west side of the project area, providing trail users with a natural open-space and opportunities to view wildlife.
Photo: Jim Olsen, www.utahhikes.net

The City is actively seeking partners and funding to implement the project including the construction of the new meander channel and additional trail amenities such as viewing platforms, boardwalks, interpretive signage, and possibly an urban fishery feature.

Produced by the National Park Service.
Lead partners of this cooperative project:



West Jordan: Jordan River "Big Bend" Restoration Map



Wetlands on the site provide wildlife habitat and viewing opportunities, improve water quality, and can provide a flood retention basin that protects downstream properties.



Features such as boardwalks, viewing platforms, and signage will connect people with nature along the Jordan River Trail.

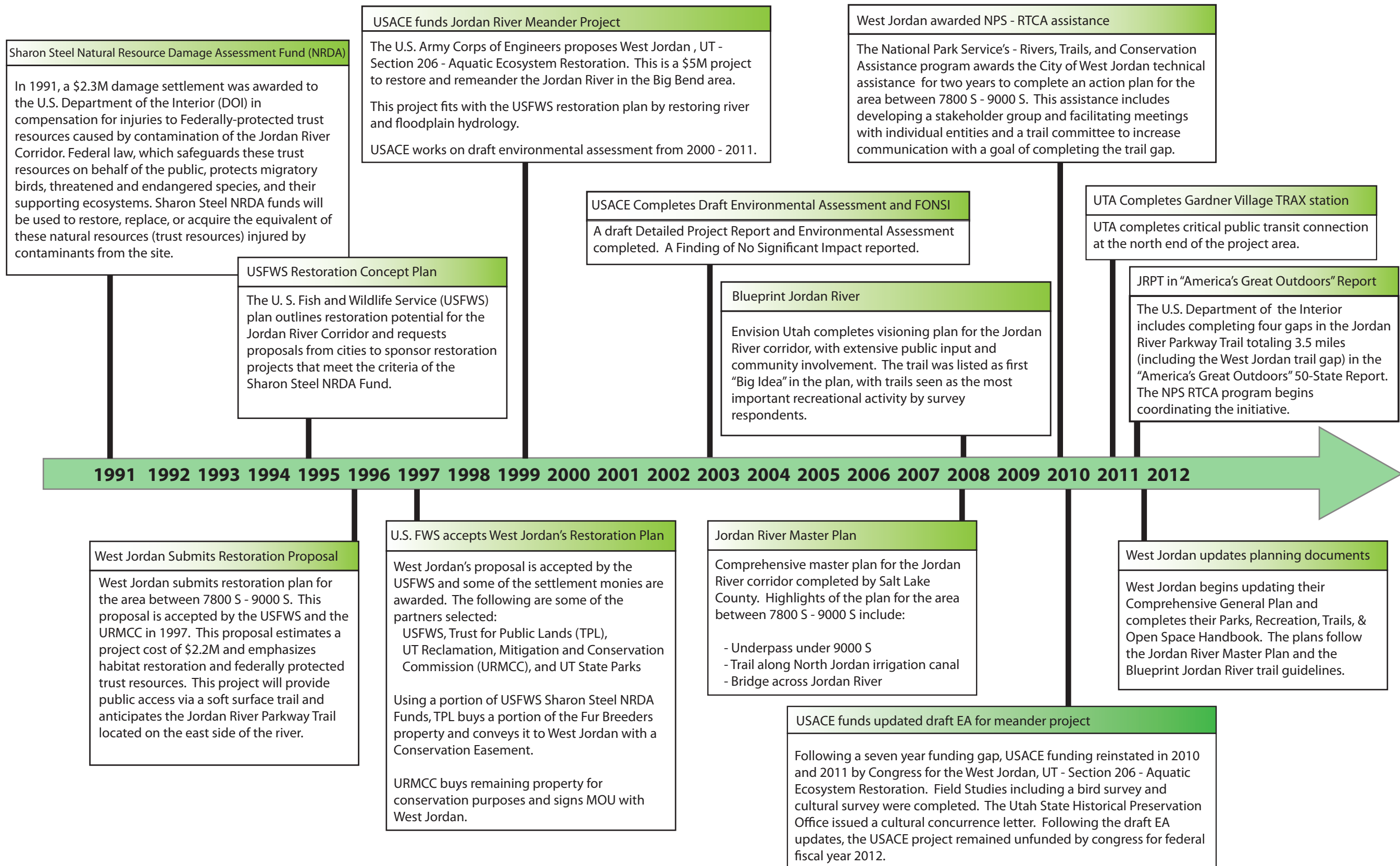


Urban fisheries can help to focus recreation, minimizing human impacts on the remainder of the site while still providing recreation opportunities.

Trail alignments are shown in approximate locations and do not represent actual ROWs. Ownership labels are shown for descriptive purposes only and may be shortened from actual legal descriptions. Produced by National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program

0 0.06 0.12 Miles





Prior Planning for Project Area

The timeline illustrates prior planning efforts. These plans illustrate the complex nature of the project area. Currently less than \$750k of the Sharon Steel Natural Resource Damage Assessment Fund (NRDA) monies are left and available for restoration. The USACE project remains unfunded and no further involvement is anticipated. The City of West Jordan, USFWS, and URMCC, with NPS planning assistance will develop a project partnership to address restoration for the area between 7800 S and 9000 S.