



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

JORDAN RIVER
COMMISSION
OUR RIVER. OUR FUTURE.



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LETTER

FROM THE 2021 GOVERNING BOARD CHAIR & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 2021

This past year has been a time of re-emerging from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and re-inventing ways of safely and strategically working, conserving, recreating and celebrating across the Jordan River Parkway.

Volunteer activities expanded throughout the year, as safe and effective vaccines became available and we learned how to safely work together outdoors while managing COVID risks. We had a record year with our growing “Puncturevine Bounty” program now in its third year, with participants from 15 organizations removing nearly 4,500 pounds of the noxious weeds that produce the pesky “goat head” thorns. We planted hundreds of “tall pot” trees, and hosted many enthusiastic youth and adult volunteers for litter cleanups and conservation activities. The 20th Anniversary of September 11, brought thousands of organized volunteers to the Jordan River Parkway and other locations to support conservation efforts and our #LoveYourWatershed campaign.

Major efforts by Salt Lake County, Salt Lake City and Saratoga Springs brought about substantial progress in the development of the Jordan River Water Trail. This included the completion of several boat ramps and portages, opening up many new outdoor recreation opportunities in new locations. And design, engineering and permitting is underway to complete many additional water trail improvements across Salt Lake County in 2022.

We engaged in numerous efforts to help address the substantial impacts of homelessness. These included endorsing the establishment of a new statewide Utah Homeless Coordinating Council and management team, advocating for and supporting innovative outreach efforts like the “Kayak Court” and permanent supportive housing like “The Other Side Village,” and



participating actively with the Salt Lake Valley Coalition to End Homelessness on efforts to address crisis response, mitigate environmental risks from heat, cold, wildfires and flooding, and engage individuals experiencing homelessness in stewardship opportunities.

The Governing Board continued to meet mostly virtually, and found that not having to travel to board meetings made it easier for some to attend regularly. Participation was at an all-time high among our Interlocal and Ex-Officio business and nonprofit partners. We held a paddling field trip in Salt Lake City and North Salt Lake in the April to try out new Water Trail improvements, and visited the Big Bend nature park and preserve in West Jordan in September to see major restoration and adaptive management efforts in progress.

In the fall of 2021, the Commission officially organized its Events Advisory Committee to guide the development of signature Commission events such as the Get to the River Festival, and to facilitate work with partners on other events like the City Nature Challenge, Golden Spoke, Range to River Relay, Latino Conservation Week, and others. We held limited organized activities over the year as we responded to COVID surges, and look forward to returning to more organized events directed by this new Committee in 2022.

At the end of 2021, the consulting team led by Envision Utah released the draft Blueprint Jordan River “Refresh” document. This update reflects the input of thousands of residents across the Greater Wasatch Region and hundreds of technical experts and focus group participants, and sets the stage for continued strategic focus and expanded partnerships to improve what we do and how we do it.

With heartfelt thanks to all our partners,


Councilmember Ray deWolfe
2021 Governing Board Chair


Soren Simonsen
Executive Director



THE COMMISSION

2021 GOVERNING BOARD OFFICERS

Chair: Councilmember Ray deWolfe, South Salt Lake

Vice Chair: Mayor Dirk Burton, West Jordan

Past Chair: Councilmember Tish Buroker, Riverton

Treasurer: Ken Leetham, City Manager, North Salt Lake, and Travis Kartchner, CPA, Salt Lake Community College

CITY REPRESENTATIVES

Councilmember Wendy Aston, Bluffdale

Councilmember Fred Lowry, Draper

Councilmember Page Albrecht, Lehi

Councilmember Dustin Gettel, Midvale

Councilmember Silvia Catten, Millcreek

Mayor Blair Camp, Murray

Councilmember Stan Porter, North Salt Lake

Councilmember Tish Buroker, Riverton

Mayor Erin Mendenhall, Salt Lake City

Councilmember Kris Nicholl, Sandy

Councilmember Stephen Willden, Saratoga Springs

Mayor Dawn Ramsay, South Jordan

Councilmember Ray deWolfe, South Salt Lake

Mayor Kristie Overson, Taylorsville

Mayor Dirk Burton, West Jordan

Mayor Ron Bigelow, West Valley City

COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Commissioner Randy Elliot, Davis County

Mayor Jenny Wilson, Salt Lake County

Councilmember Richard Snelgrove, Salt Lake County

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

Laura Hanson, Utah Governor's Office

Cheryl Acton, Utah Legislature

Jamie Phillips-Barnes, Utah Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands

Erica Gaddis, Director, Utah Division of Water Quality

SPECIAL DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

Phil Heck, Central Valley Water Reclamation Facility

Bart Forsyth, Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District

Dal Wayment, South Davis Sewer District

Lee Rawlings, South Valley Water Reclamation Facility

John Hays, South Valley Sewer District

Marty DeLoretto, Utah Transit Authority

EX-OFFICIO PARTNER REPRESENTATIVES

Denise Winslow, At-Large Community Member

Daniela Larsen, Hutchings Museum & Institute

Craig Walker, Jordan River Foundation

Brad Knoles, Rocky Mountain Power

Tim Brown, Tracy Aviary

Eric Ellis, Utah Lake Commission

Larry Mullenax, Utah State Fairpark

Liz Larson, Utah's Hogle Zoo

Michael Horrocks, Wasatch Rowing Foundation

Jill Christensen, WCF Insurance

Steven Earley, Zions Bank

COMMISSION STAFF

Soren Simonsen, Executive Director
Aimee Horman, Outreach & Education
Manager
Moriah Jackson Ivory, Project & Program
Manager
Meadow Wilkinson, Intern
Emily Ostler, Intern
Isabel Fuller, Intern
Chay Mosqueda, Intern

2021 TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE OFFICERS

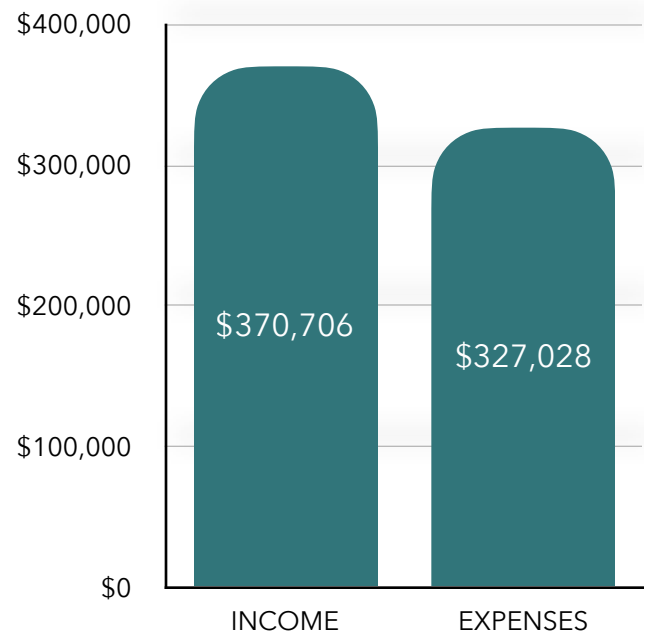
CHAIR: Eric McCulley, River Restoration
VICE CHAIR: Chris Cline, U.S. Fish & Wildlife
Service

2021 FISCAL YEAR SUMMARY

INCOME

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Interlocal Member Contributions | \$196,300 |
| Ex-Officio Partner Contributions | \$28,300 |
| Interest Income | \$36 |
| Grant Revenue | \$92,830 |
| Donations Received | \$20,478 |
| Miscellaneous Income | \$25 |
| Prior Year Net Income (carryover) | \$32,737 |

TOTAL \$370,706



2021 FISCAL YEAR SUMMARY (CONT.)

EXPENSES

| | | | |
|----------------------------|----------|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Publications & Memberships | \$1,996 | Professional Services | \$5,730 |
| Outreach & Public Notices | \$2,054 | Insurance | \$5,500 |
| Mileage & Auto | \$3,189 | Office Space & Storage Rental | \$11,925 |
| Supplies | \$202 | Seasonal & Contract Services | \$7,254 |
| Postage & Mail | \$269 | Grant Expenses | \$24,968 |
| Purchase of Donated Trees | \$19,503 | Education Programs | \$0 |
| Food & Meals | \$544 | JRC Small Grant Awards | \$12,500 |
| Event Contributions | \$4,500 | Staff Wages & Benefits | \$221,729 |
| Printing | \$0 | Total Expenses | \$327,028 |
| Phone, Computer & Internet | \$5,165 | | |
| | | Net Operating Income (Loss) | \$43,678 |

GRANTS

GRANTS AWARDED BY THE COMMISSION AND PARTNERS

Jordan River Assistance Fund Small Grants

| | |
|---------|--|
| \$2,500 | Tracy Aviary - Beaver Damage Monitoring |
| \$5,000 | Wasatch Rowing - Riversports Center |
| \$5,000 | Hutchings Museum - Jordan River Virtual Tour |

Jordan River Recreation Area Grants (from Legislative Appropriation)

Jordan River Recreation Zone Projects & Programs

| | |
|-----------|--|
| \$125,000 | Millcreek City - Trail Extension |
| \$15,150 | Tracy Aviary - Vegetation Project, |
| \$20,000 | Tracy Aviary - Programing funds for Jordan River Nature Center |
| | Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA Programs) |
| \$10,000 | "Puncturevine Bounty" Program |
| \$9,920 | Salt Lake City 2100 South Oxbow Restoration |
| \$15,350 | Big Bend Nature Park & Preserve Bank Restoration |
| \$10,000 | University of Utah - Unsheltered Homeless Population Research |

GRANTS RECEIVED BY THE COMMISSION

| | |
|----------|---|
| \$95,000 | Jordan River Recreation Area Grant (from Legislative Appropriation) |
|----------|---|

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHT: TRACY AVIARY

With funds awarded from our small Grants Program and the Jordan River Recreation Zone Legislative Appropriation, our partner Tracy Aviary was able to support additional programming and vegetation projects at their Jordan River Nature Center. We would like to thank Tracy Aviary for everything they do to make the Jordan River Parkway a better place!



SPECIAL HIGHLIGHT: MILLCREEK TRAIL EXTENSION

We are excited that a new trailhead and trail extension is in the works for Millcreek! Millcreek was able to utilize funds awarded from the Jordan River Recreation Zone Legislative Appropriation to assist in paving a new section of trail just south of 4000 S on the east side of the Jordan River. A new trailhead and bridge to complete this project is planned for 2022.



Before - looking west along future trail corridor



After - looking west along nearly finished trail



Before - looking south along future trail corridor



After - looking south along nearly finished trail

PROJECTS & PROGRAMS

TALL POT TREE PLANTINGS

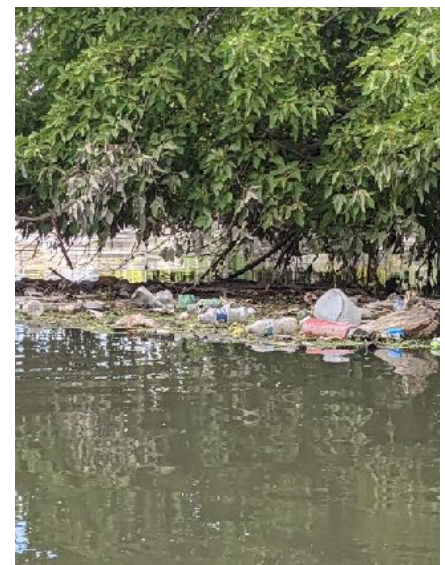
In 2021, we had our third round of tall pot tree plantings! Over the course of the year, we planted a total of 1666 trees, which were a mix of Fremont cottonwood and peachleaf willow. With the help of the Jordan River Foundation, we will be continuing our restoration efforts with additional understory plantings at our tall pot sites, coming in 2022.



#LOVEYOURWATERSHED

2021 marked the second year of our #LoveYourWatershed initiative. Leaves, litter, sediment, and chemicals wash into the river from our storm drains. In order to mitigate the negative impact this has on water quality, we encouraged others to clean up their gutters and stormdrains on the first Friday of every month, posted on social media with the hashtags #LoveYourWatershed, #FirstFridays, and #LeavesAndLitter.

In addition to this response, we are currently developing #SecondSaturdays in order to host monthly cleanup events near the Jordan River.



WEED MANAGEMENT

We were awarded \$24,973 through the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food's Invasive Species Mitigation (ISM) grant, for the 2022 Fiscal Year. With the help of this funding, volunteer groups pulled 4473 pounds of "puncturevine" noxious weeds that produce pesky "goat head" thorns. Through our "Puncturevine Bounty" program, sponsoring organizations were awarded \$2 per pound of puncturevine pulled. Several generous groups donated their "bounty" to the Jordan River Friends, raising a total of \$4,524.00.

We also provided ISM funding for a weed management project in Draper, just north of Jordan River Rotary Park. Additional weed management and restoration projects will be completed in the first part of 2022 with this funding.

Additionally, we are excited for an upcoming weed management collaboration through our Cooperative Weed Management Area program between Draper and Riverton, and Millcreek and Taylorsville in 2022.



EDUCATION & OUTREACH

BY THE NUMBERS

VOLUNTEER IMPACT

- 1,337 volunteers (not including September 11 Day of Service, which included many thousand more)
- 2,946 volunteer hours
- 27 canoes-full of trash collected from the river
- 38 full dumpsters of trash collected
- 4,824 Pounds of weeds pulled
- 1,666 trees planted
- 1 pollinator garden planted
- 2.3 acres seeded

NUMBER OF EVENTS & PROJECT LOCATIONS

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 - Saratoga Springs | 4 - Murray |
| 4 - Lehi | 3 - Millcreek |
| 1 - Bluffdale | 3 - South Salt Lake |
| 1 - Draper | 3 - West Valley City |
| 2 - West Jordan | 15 - Salt Lake City |
| 2 - Midvale | 3 - North Salt Lake |

EDUCATION & CONSERVATION PADDLE EVENTS

MAY - JULY | 13 EVENTS | 318 PADDLERS

- Salt Lake City Trails and Natural Lands Department
- Nibley Park School 7th & 8th Graders
- Lehi City Council & Staff
- Backman Elementary 6th Grade
- Backman Elementary Staff
- Salt Lake City Paddle with the Mayor
- Natural History Museum of Utah Exhibits Team
- Hartland Community 4 Youth & Families
- Waterford Summer School
- Three Creeks Confluence Grand Opening
- Outdoor Afro
- Latino Outdoors





MONTHLY EVENTS

We host monthly volunteer opportunities with Hogle Zoo’s Conservation Action Team all year. In the summer of 2021, we worked to expand a pollinator garden in Riverton and hosted canoe cleanups with volunteers. Thanks to Salt Lake City’s Trails and Natural Lands department and the Lehi’s Hutchings Museum & Institute, we’re working on monthly and bimonthly volunteer opportunities and engagement events.



KAYAK COURT

We’ve been excited to support a new innovation to serve our unsheltered community on the river with “Kayak Court.” The Commission provided canoes, paddlers, and experience to our partners with the Third District Court, Outreach Organizations and public defenders to help people clear up legal matters and connect with other services to overcome a barriers to housing and employment.



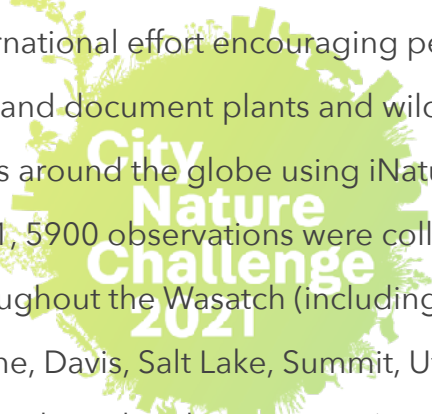
Photo courtesy of The Salt Lake Tribune

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

CITY NATURE CHALLENGE

APRIL 30 - MAY 9 2021

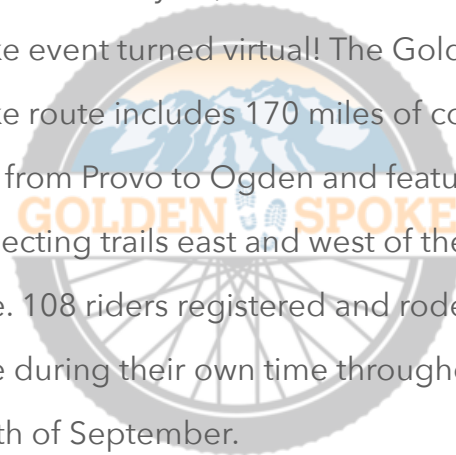
The City Nature Challenge is an annual international effort encouraging people to find and document plants and wildlife in cities around the globe using iNaturalist. In 2021, 5900 observations were collected throughout the Wasatch (including Box Elder, Cache, Davis, Salt Lake, Summit, Utah, Wasatch, and Weber Counties)



GOLDEN SPOKE

JUNE 2021

For the second year, the annual Golden Spoke event turned virtual! The Golden Spoke route includes 170 miles of connected trails from Provo to Ogden and featured connecting trails east and west of the main route. 108 riders registered and rode the route during their own time throughout the month of September.



SALT LAKE CITY WATER TRAIL GRAND OPENING

MAY 28, 2021

Between October 2020 and May 2021, Salt Lake City constructed three new boat ramps along the Jordan River! These are located at Fisher Mansion, Gadsby Trailhead, and Riverview Trailhead. We celebrated the grand opening with speakers and a river float.



GET TO THE RIVER FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 2021

Events Included:

- Murray Chalk Art Festival
- North Salt Lake City Trail & River Cleanup
- Float the river with South Salt Lake Mayor Cherie Wood
- Legacy of Lowell Day of Service
- Tracy Aviary's "Let's Go Birding Together" event
- Violin Virtuoso Hilary Hahn performed at the Kennecott Nature Center in Murray



THREE CREEKS CONFLUENCE GRAND OPENING

JULY 9, 2021

We celebrated the grand opening of Tree Creeks Confluence Park with live music, a beer garden, food trucks, and paddling. Through the innovation and hard work of Salt Lake City, with financial and staff support by the Jordan River Commission and Seven Canyons Trust over several years, one block of dead-end street and buried culvert were removed, daylighting a portion of Red Butte, Emigration, and Parleys Creeks where they converge with the Jordan River. The confluence area is now a beautifully and naturally landscaped park with a plaza, river access for fishing and boating, and bridges providing new connections to adjacent neighborhoods.



SPECIAL THANKS

TO OUR PARTNERS FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT



ZIONS BANK®

Hutchings Museum & Institute

Jordan River Foundation

Tracy Aviary

Wasatch Rowing Foundation

Utah's Hogle Zoo

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