

BLUEPRINT JORDAN RIVER

● | REFRESH |



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GOVERNING BOARD LETTER

THE BLUEPRINT JORDAN RIVER IS OUR GUIDE

The original Blueprint Jordan River created a compelling vision for the future of the Jordan River and surrounding environment. Thanks to past and present leaders of the Jordan River Commission and its many partners and stakeholders, we have much to celebrate in what we have accomplished over nearly 15 years.

This refreshed Blueprint for the Jordan River Parkway and its extensive watershed reminds us that Utahns care deeply for this treasured natural resource, and want to see continued progress. Thousands of area residents participated in our renewed vision and strategic planning effort, and it reflects the growing support, recognition and appreciation of the Jordan River and the many community benefits it provides.

The Blueprint Jordan River balances improvements to natural wildlife habitat, water quality, enhanced in-stream flows and natural river functions, with expanded outdoor recreation opportunities, public safety, and responsible river oriented development. It recognizes the vital role of the Jordan River Trail in connecting Utah communities to important gathering places, and to transit and trail networks across the region.

Much like a blueprint for a building, this Blueprint ties the concepts of the vision to many details needed to make it happen. This strategic plan is the result of years of work with the Jordan River Commission's extensive partnerships. It will serve as a guide to coordinate and support ongoing investments and improvements as the population of the Wasatch Front continues to grow, and continues to love the Jordan River Parkway.

Please join us in implementing this vision!

Mayor Dirk Burton, West Jordan
Governing Board Chair

Councilwoman Silvia Catten, Millcreek
Governing Board Vice Chair

Councilwoman Tish Buroker, Riverton
Governing Board Past Chair

Soren Simonsen
Executive Director

GENEROUS FUNDING PROVIDED BY:





THANK YOU

Refreshing the Blueprint would not have been possible without support from the funding organizations, dozens of technical experts, thousands of people who shared their ideas and aspirations for the Jordan River Parkway, and countless Utahns who will “build the house” outlined in the Blueprint.

  **Envision Utah** How we grow matters.



INTRODUCTION

JORDAN RIVER OVERVIEW

The Jordan River flows over 50 miles through Utah's population and economic center—the Wasatch Front. The parkway is home to many species of native wildlife including deer, beaver, fox, migratory birds and waterfowl, and various other mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and fish. Together with the Great Salt Lake and Utah Lake, the Jordan River provides critical breeding, foraging, and resting areas for migratory birds.

THE RIVER

Sourced by Utah Lake, the River flows north through northern Utah Valley and across the entire Salt Lake Valley. The River is fed by 13 creeks from the Wasatch and Oquirrh Mountain Ranges, with additional infusions by several large water reclamation facilities and hundreds of stormwater discharges, and diminished in places through a web of canal diversions, before it empties into the vast wetlands on the south shore of the Great Salt Lake.

The future of the River is intimately linked to the land and tributaries throughout the 3,805 square mile Jordan River watershed basin through the policies governing water by dozens of public agencies—including local, state and federal governments—and the practices and stewardship of public and private land managers.

NATURAL HISTORY

Approximately 16,000 years ago, the Salt Lake Valley and much of Utah was covered by the ancient Lake Bonneville. As Lake Bonneville water levels receded, Utah Lake and the Great Salt Lake remained as remnants of the ancient lake. The Jordan River emerged by meandering through a broad floodplain of Lake Bonneville sediments, ultimately linking the two lakes.

The Jordan River Corridor once provided approximately 12,500 acres of wetland habitat for wildlife and fish, but was compromised through much of the 19th and 20th centuries by the demands of urbanization, beginning with the arrival of Mormon settlers in 1847. Previously, the Jordan River provided a source of food and materials for the Ute, Goshute, Paiute, Shoshone, and Navajo peoples. In more recent times, dredging and straightening have deepened and narrowed the river channel, reducing the historic floodplain.

Developments have encroached into areas that once provided prime and diverse habitats. Domestic, industrial, and agricultural discharges have polluted the water throughout the Jordan River watershed. Mountain streams that feed the river were funneled into underground pipes that flow under subdivisions and strip malls. These changes, inspired by a human desire for utility, ultimately disrupted the biodiversity, ecosystem services, and resilience of the Jordan River Corridor.

Today the Jordan River Parkway—composed of the river itself and the land on either side—is the focus of growing public attention and significant restoration and enhancement efforts that benefit quality of life and natural ecosystems.



Dredging the Surplus Canal on the Jordan River, June 1913. Used with permission, Utah State Historical Society.

THE BLUEPRINT JORDAN RIVER

In 2008, the “Blueprint Jordan River” was released. Recognizing the hidden potential of the river despite its degradation over the last century, Envision Utah, Salt Lake County, and numerous other community leaders came together to generate a unified vision and improve coordination between the three counties and 15 cities that the river traversed.



Red Butte, Emigration, and Parleys creeks spill into the Jordan River at the same location, 1300 South and 900 West in Salt Lake City. Sandwiched between an auto shop and half-burnt home, the site existed in a neglected condition. The area was paved over a dead-end segment of 1300 South and was full of weeds and garbage.



Over \$3 million was secured to uncover 200 feet of combined stream in a newly restored channel, construct a 120-foot bridge to connect the site to the Jordan River Trail, and add a public plaza.

IMPACTS OF THE 2008 BLUEPRINT

Thanks in part to the Blueprint Jordan River, the Jordan River Parkway is now an important regional asset, appreciated for its convenient access, natural beauty, and abundant recreational opportunities. 223,000 people live within a mile of the river, and over a million live within convenient driving or public transportation distance.

The Jordan River Commission was created by an interlocal agreement in August 2010, a keystone recommendation of the Blueprint. The Commission membership includes 17 cities, two counties, six regional special service districts, and two state agencies as of January 2021.

The Commission is a governmental entity with its base operations supported by its partners. All projects and efforts undertaken by the Commission are funded by grants or private donations. The Commission is a capacity-building organization that works to increase and improve member agencies' ability to implement the projects identified in Blueprint Jordan River, raise public awareness of the Jordan River Parkway and the issues it faces, provide technical assistance to its members, and help promote coordination and communication among Jordan River stakeholders.

The Jordan River Commission is the primary coordinating body for the Jordan River Parkway, but the progress made over the past decade would not have been possible without the sustained effort of many different organizations and individuals and their commitment to a shared vision. Jordan River Commission staff completed an inventory of current conditions, projects, and programs developed since 2008 to capture a detailed account of progress. [Reference Document 1](#) and [2](#) on the vision web page contain the complete Blueprint Jordan River 2020 inventory. While the 2008 Blueprint has been largely successful, old challenges endure and new challenges continue to emerge in the Jordan River Parkway.

PROGRESS TOWARDS BLUEPRINT VISION: 2008 - 2020



RECREATION

- Cities and counties completed building the lake-to-lake Jordan River Trail. Numerous connections, including integration with the Golden Spoke trail network, were also established with local and regional trails and public transportation stops.
- State and local governments expanded recreation opportunities by installing boat ramps, improving safety and paddling conditions in the River, developing new facilities, and adding to the regional trail network.
- Events like Get to the River, Golden Spoke, and the Range to River Relay helped elevate the awareness and status of the Jordan River Parkway.
- The Utah State legislature established ongoing funding for the Jordan River Recreation Area.



ENVIRONMENT

- State agencies, counties, and municipalities engaged in several restoration projects resulting in improved ecological conditions and biodiversity. Efforts ranged from the extensive Big Bend Restoration project to small-scale native tree planting programs.
- Volunteer efforts cleared tons of litter and weeds from the Parkway.
- Sewer districts invested in water quality upgrades for wastewater plants that feed into the River.
- Salt Lake City and Lehi adopted ordinances limiting development near the Jordan River.



SAFETY

- Cities and counties installed directional signage and mile markers to improve wayfinding and emergency response along the Jordan River Trail.
- Patrolling, public health and safety programs, and law enforcement access were expanded.

REFRESHING THE BLUEPRINT

From March through October 2020, extensive public engagement measured how Utahns' perceptions, concerns, ideas, and interests for the Jordan River Parkway have changed over the last 10+ years. Over 8,000 people contributed their thoughts and ideas to the refreshed vision for the Jordan River Parkway in focus groups, online meetings, and an online survey.

PHASE ONE: LISTENING

The Refresh project team created and convened expert working groups organized around seven topics — water quality and quantity, recreation, habitat and conservation, education and stewardship, access and transportation, river-oriented development, and public health and safety. In March 2020 the working groups reviewed the goals from the 2008 Blueprint Jordan River and identified successes, shortcomings, and updates to reflect the needs of the next decade. In May 2020, Envision Utah hosted a three-day virtual public focus group with 75 participants to explore public perceptions of and aspirations for the Jordan River Parkway in depth. Envision Utah also held two online public meetings following the focus groups which allowed those who missed registration for the three-day focus group to share their thoughts and ideas for the Jordan River Parkway in an open forum format.

PHASE TWO: SURVEY

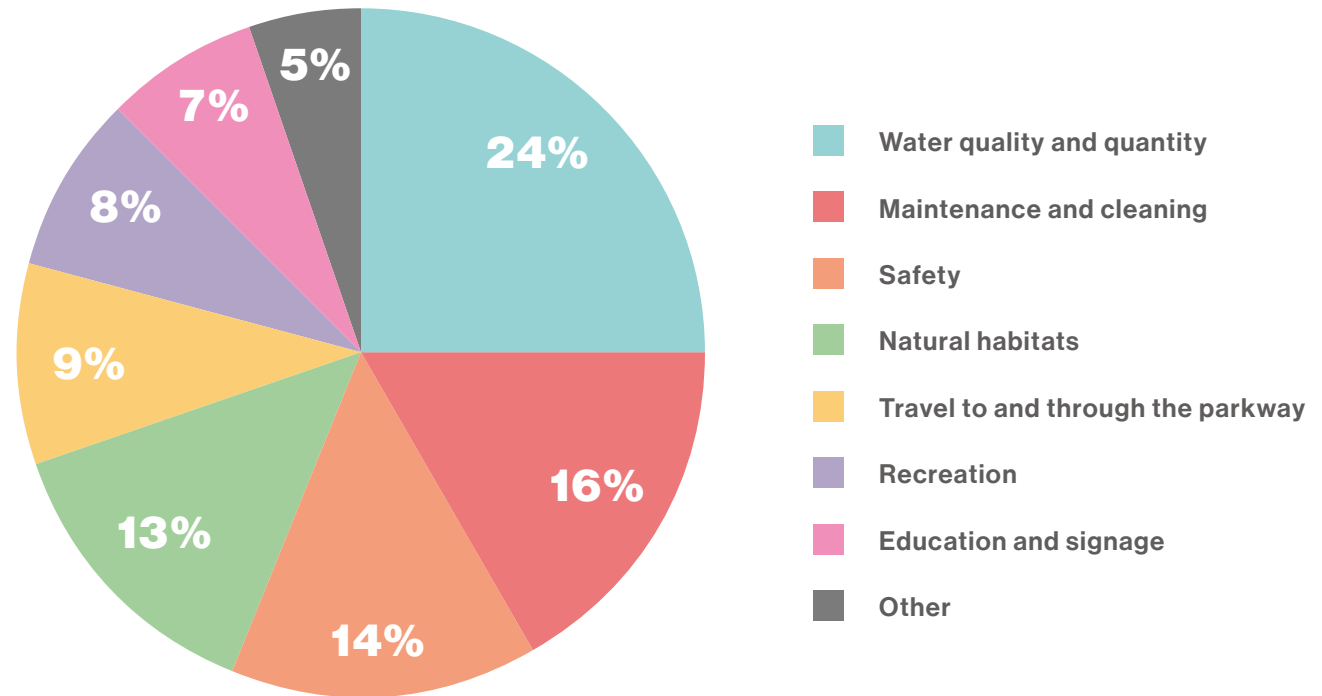
The topical working groups and public meetings informed the next stage of public engagement—the Blueprint Jordan River Refresh online survey. The survey explored public priorities at macro and micro levels for several topics. Promotional strategies including social media outreach, paid advertising, media stories, partner outreach, and lawn signs posted throughout the Parkway helped the survey to reach a broad and statistically significant sample of regional residents.

A gift card drawing incentivized people to complete the survey, which was offered in English and Spanish. The survey was broadly representative and statistically significant. However, people with lower incomes, less education, limited English language ability, and people who identify as Hispanic or Latinx participated in the survey at proportionally lower rates. Future efforts should commit additional time and effort to reaching lower income and multicultural communities. The complete survey results can be viewed in [Reference Document 3](#) on the vision webpage.

PHASE THREE: STRATEGIZING

Following the public survey, expert working groups reviewed survey results and developed implementation strategies that furthered public priorities via a virtual whiteboard brainstorming activity. The Refresh consultant team—Envision Utah, Environmental Planning Group, River Restoration, and Alta Planning + Design—translated the goals and strategies identified during the public and working groups engagement into the Blueprint Jordan River vision and action plan.

PRIORITIES FOR IMPROVING THE JORDAN RIVER PARKWAY



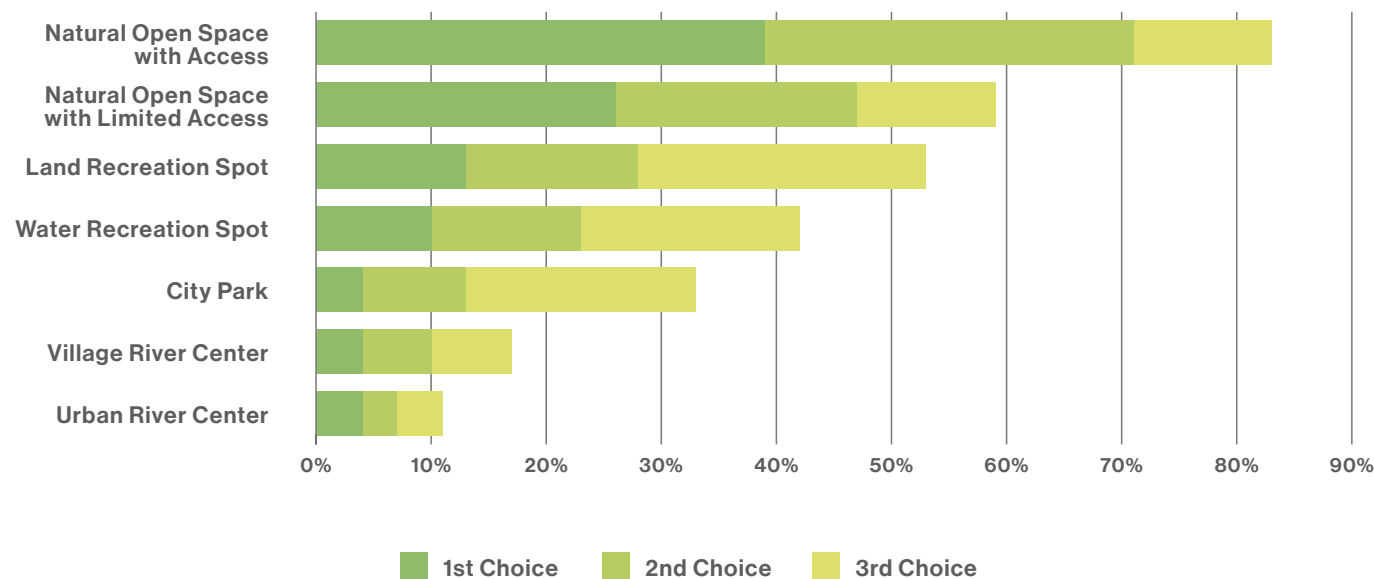
When respondents were asked to allocate an imagined budget for the Jordan River Parkway, they ranked water quality and quantity, maintenance and cleaning, safety, and natural habitats as their top public priorities.



TAKE THE BLUEPRINT JORDAN RIVER 2020 SURVEY TODAY!

Social media posts by project partners and paid social media advertising generated the most survey responses.

IMPORTANT PLACES TO CREATE AND PRESERVE IN THE JORDAN RIVER PARKWAY



The survey identified natural open spaces with or without public access as the most important places in the parkway, followed by recreational spaces.

PERCEPTIONS OF THE JORDAN RIVER PARKWAY



Survey respondents rated the Jordan River Parkway highly on importance, accessibility, beauty, and nature. Perceptions about recreation opportunities, safety, and cleanliness were mixed.



Lawn signs posted in English and Spanish throughout the parkway prompted people visiting or traveling through the Jordan River Parkway to take the survey.



THE VISION

THE EMERALD RIBBON OF THE WASATCH FRONT

Utahns envision a parkway that contains **pleasant natural areas** and **a healthily functioning river** that provides **quality habitat for wildlife**; is **safe, clean, and well-maintained**; and offers **great recreation, leisure, and educational opportunities** in natural and improved settings from lake to lake. Further, they see a parkway that **supports physical and mental health** and that makes **stewards and advocates** of its visitors.

ACTION PLAN

The following pages outline an action plan to achieve the vision for the Jordan River Parkway. The action plan encompasses community priorities and ideas for the Parkway while providing an implementation framework, or “blueprint,” for elected officials, community members, landowners, and local organizations.

The action plan is divided into seven topic sections containing broad goals, subgoals, and strategies that support the vision for the Jordan River Parkway. Overarching goals and subgoals help chart a course for improvements to the Parkway, while actionable strategies guide implementation. Since the Jordan River Parkway contains so many unique segments, not all goals, subgoals, and strategies are applicable to all 51 miles. Instead, the action plan serves as a flexible tool and a point of reference for coordinating voluntary efforts. Similarly, no one entity can implement all the strategies independently. All government, volunteer, business, and non-profit organizations with an interest in the Jordan River Parkway have a part to play in achieving the vision.

Throughout the Action Plan, topics, goals, sub-goals, and strategies are loosely organized in priority order as directed by topic experts and public input. Different goals and strategies are often complementary or even completely dependent on one another. Each goal must be addressed if the Blueprint Jordan River vision is to be fully realized.

OVERARCHING STRATEGIES

While specific strategies vary widely, there are a few overarching strategies that echo throughout the Action Plan.

The first is the need to foster a culture of collaboration among all those working to improve the Jordan River Parkway. Implementation partners should regularly communicate with other organizations and play an active role in the Jordan River Commission; local governments should nurture a two-way relationship with community members that includes engagement and volunteerism, in addition to developing education, programming, best practices, incentives, and regulations.

The second strategy is to approach the Jordan River Parkway as a complex system within a regional context. This perspective is not only important for watershed issues, but also for ecosystems, transportation, recreation, and development.

The third strategy is to use monitoring, reporting, and iteration to adapt to the ever-changing needs and conditions of the Parkway.

The fourth strategy found throughout the action plan is the need to use new and existing funding sources, including grants, state and local governmental budgets, federal funds, and private spending to enable implementation.



HABITAT AND NATURAL SYSTEMS

- Protect and preserve natural open spaces
- Manage habitats and natural ecosystems



WATER AND THE RIVER

- Use a coordinated watershed approach to improve water quality
- Manage river flows for natural river function
- Enhance the hydrological function of the river



COMFORT AND INCLUSIVITY

- Make the Parkway a welcoming place for visitors of all abilities, backgrounds, and circumstances
- Comprehensive maintenance, trash removal, and cleaning
- Mitigate homelessness



RECREATION

- Support, expand, and enhance opportunities for recreational uses and active transportation throughout the Parkway



SAFETY AND WELLBEING

- Improve safety and security while fostering a comfortable environment for recreation and leisure
- Add balanced lighting solutions and surveillance to improve visibility while minimizing impacts to wildlife
- Manage wildfire risk and prepare for response and recovery



DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION

- Improve access to the Parkway and enhance the Parkway's role as a regional transportation corridor
- Ensure that development highlights the Jordan River and enhances the Parkway
- Promote harmony between infrastructure and river functions



COMMUNICATIONS, EDUCATION, AND ART

- Improve visitor experience, wayfinding, point of interest identification, and education
- Provide experiential learning opportunities for visitors to the Parkway
- Support art, placemaking, and community engagement

HABITAT AND NATURAL SYSTEMS

Goal: Protect and preserve natural open spaces **L**

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

- Development planners
- Private landowners
- Conservation easement holders, including Utah Open Lands and The Nature Conservancy
- Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands
- Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
- Municipalities
- Counties

BEST PRACTICES FOR RIVERFRONT COMMUNITIES

The Best Practices for Riverfront Communities guide (*Reference Document 7*) provides additional context and direction on environment and conservation goals for a range of land use contexts in the Jordan River Parkway. The guide describes concepts such as river buffers, clustered development, site design, and species management, in addition to ecological best practices related to recreation and stormwater in more detail than in the Blueprint. Throughout the action plan, these icons are used to link goals to the corresponding section of the guide:

Land use **L** Environment **E** Recreation **R** Stormwater **S** Utilities **U**

Protecting and preserving natural open space benefits ecological health and recreation. The existing natural open spaces along the corridor are used by a wide variety of species ranging from plants and birds, to reptiles and amphibians, to land mammals (including humans). Protecting and preserving natural areas are a consistent public priority for the Parkway.

1. DEVELOP ACCESS RESTRICTIONS BASED ON SITE SENSITIVITY

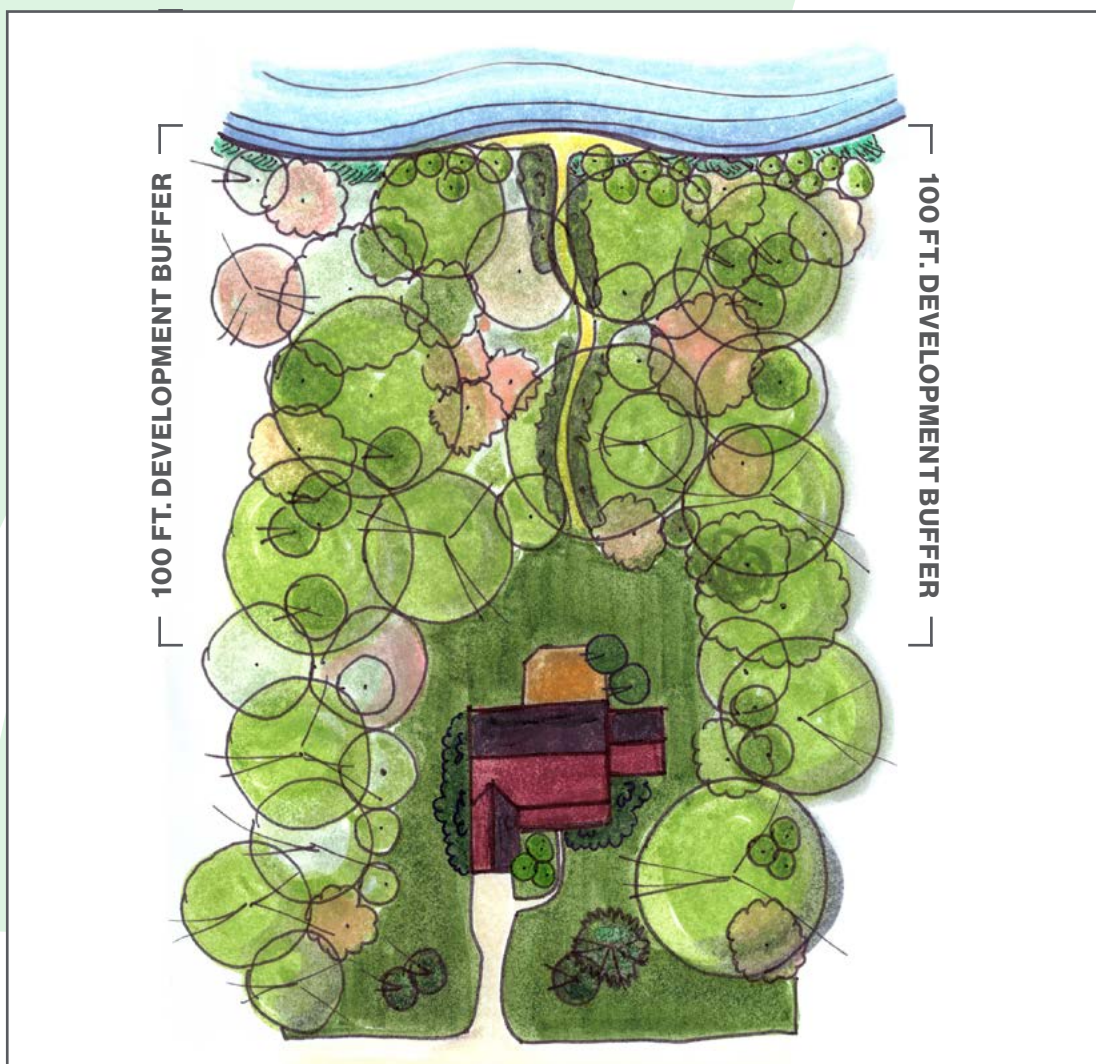
The geographic scale of the Jordan River Parkway enables it to accommodate both human use and ecological functions. Some areas are better suited to accommodate people and others are more important to wildlife. Providing areas with limits on access where appropriate can help balance the needs of both humans and natural ecosystems. Natural open space with open access and natural open space with limited access ranked as the first and second (respectively) most important types of places in the Parkway during the 2020 Blueprint Refresh Survey effort.

STRATEGIES:

- Contiguous wetlands and uplands adjacent to the River, along with critical habitat areas, should be closed to public access when possible to protect nesting birds and other wildlife.
- Provide limited, supervised access to sensitive areas with existing infrastructure.
- Provide open access in certain areas to allow people to learn, connect with, and love the natural resources in the Parkway. Open access should be mostly confined to areas that already contain significant infrastructure and amenities.



A 200 foot buffer (containing the Jordan River Trail) separates the Riverpark business park from the Jordan River.



Establishing and enforcing development and landscaping buffers can improve habitat and water quality and reduce property damage from flooding. Image provided by Salt Lake County Watershed Planning & Restoration, from the Stream Care Guide: A Handbook for Salt Lake County Residents.

2. CREATE AND ENFORCE DEVELOPMENT LIMITS IN NATURAL OPEN SPACES

Limiting new development in sensitive areas is central to preservation goals in the Parkway. Acquiring land or development rights and regulatory tools can be used to limit development where it's not appropriate due to habitat or flooding concerns.

STRATEGIES:

- Explore opportunities to purchase land or development rights for land adjacent to the River.
 - i. Obtain funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund or LeRay McAllister Critical Lands Conservation Fund.
 - ii. Work with local and regional conservation organizations to identify willing land owners.
 - iii. Identify critical lands for preservation and protection.
- Explore opportunities to develop transfer of development rights programs.
- Develop more conservation easements on critical sensitive lands.
- Identify where development buffers are currently in use.
- Increase development buffer widths where possible. Support the preservation and enhancement of buffers through voluntary review by the Jordan River Commission Technical Advisory Committee or staff.

3. USE REGULATORY TOOLS TO LIMIT THE IMPACTS OF DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE CORRIDOR

Local, state, and federal regulatory tools can help limit the impacts of development and redevelopment in the Parkway.

STRATEGIES:

- Develop and implement community riparian ordinances. Encourage municipalities to incorporate elements of the model ordinance from the Best Practices Guide for Riverfront Communities ([Reference Document 7](#)) into their city code.
- Work with the Utah Division of Water Rights to develop easier and more accessible processes for input on Stream Alteration Permits and provide comments on new permits.
- Work with municipalities on land use policy and zoning to limit new development near the River and mitigate potential impacts.



Goal: Optimize habitats and natural ecosystems E

Managing habitats and natural ecosystems is a key goal to maintain the ecological integrity of natural areas and to increase the function of these areas along the river corridor. In order to effectively manage these areas, property owners need to understand the benefits of intact ecosystems in the provision of ecological services such as recreation, spiritual opportunities, regulation of flooding, and sustaining nutrient and water cycles.

Natural areas increase people's quality of life and help to maintain beneficial processes in the face of changes in climate and weather. While many people believe that natural ecosystems maintain themselves, some management of these resources is essential in urban contexts to ensure areas are not overtaken by weeds and other undesirable impacts.

1. SUPPORT DESIRABLE, NATIVE, AND BIODIVERSE ECOSYSTEMS

The presence of desirable and native plants in the Parkway is central to wildlife viability, ecosystem services, and human enjoyment.

STRATEGIES:

- Restore and enhance existing wetlands.
- Develop no-irrigation restoration practices.
- Retain genetic representation for locally adapted plant species.
- Consider pollinators in site planning and planting.
- Develop adaptive strategies to balance ecosystem health.
- Promote diversification of the use of native and desirable plants.
- Improve soil health through use of regenerative practices.
- Remove unwanted species from the Parkway to make way for desirable, native, and diverse species.

2. DEVELOP MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLANS

Enhanced monitoring and evaluation are needed to understand current ecological conditions in the Parkway and to develop goals and targeted strategies for improvement.

STRATEGIES:

- Create an overarching monitoring framework for water, vegetation, and birds.
- Develop site specific monitoring if funding is available.
- Coordinate with community organizations to integrate community science programs into data collection efforts.
- Engage local schools in site stewardship.
- Provide better community access to data and use data to tell stories about the Parkway.

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Utah Conservation Corps | managers, and open space departments |
| • Local schools | |
| • Community stewards | • Local and County weed control departments |
| • Private landowners | • Adopt-a-spot groups and organizations |
| • Landscaping companies | |
| • Municipal and County park departments, golf course | • Local Rotary Groups and other volunteer organizations |



3. RESTORE QUALITY HABITAT FOR WILDLIFE

In addition to their intrinsic value, wildlife that visit the Jordan River Parkway or make it their home provide ecosystem services and viewing opportunities. Spotting a beaver or great blue heron can be one of the most inspiring experiences in the Parkway.

STRATEGIES:

- Remove and reduce exotic & invasive plant species.
- Design habitat restoration/planting efforts to provide quality habitat, with birds being a focal point because quality avian habitat is crucial for many other species. Restoration designs should focus on:
 - i. Large patches of vegetation rather than small islands.
 - ii. Plantings linked to hydrology: planting cottonwoods in areas where they can reach groundwater.
 - iii. Canopy diversity- a range of vegetation heights from ground-cover to shrubs to mid-canopy trees (10-20 feet) and upper canopy trees (30-80 feet).
 - iv. Vegetative diversity- multiple species in each layer of the canopy. This provides a variety of food sources at different times of the year and supports pollinators and other insect species.
- Develop stewardship plans to maintain restored hydrology and habitat areas that include:
 - i. Monitoring to detect erosion, stream, wetland and riverbank blow-outs, beaver issues, weed species establishment, and other issues.
 - ii. Mapping to aid understanding and communication.
 - iii. Cooperation with volunteer groups and management agencies to prioritize and implement response actions.
 - iv. Revenue sources such as fund raising through Jordan River Foundation and community land management/maintenance budgets.





Landscaping including native and desirable plants at Tracy Aviary's Jordan River Nature Center. The center was established in 2020 to inspire curiosity and caring for birds and nature along the Jordan River on the west side of Salt Lake City.

4. DEVELOP AN EDUCATION OUTREACH PROGRAM FOR LAND MANAGERS

Land managers and landscaping companies can make a big difference on the health and connectivity of Jordan River ecosystems.

STRATEGIES:

- Reach out to landscaping companies to educate them on best practices regarding using the correct amount of chemical applications (use sparingly), avoiding fertilizer runoff (clean up fertilizer from sidewalks and impermeable surfaces), and being aware of bird nests and other wildlife presence when removing vegetation (try to trim trees in seasons when birds are less likely to be nesting).
- Encourage the use of urban forestry best practices, including guidance and resources about urban and community forestry from the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands.
- Work with counties and municipalities on educating users about best practices.

5. PROVIDE RESOURCES TO LANDOWNERS

Most of the land surrounding the Jordan River is private property. Landowners may be able and willing to manage their landscapes in a way that benefits river ecosystems if provided with guidance, incentives, and/or information.

STRATEGIES:

- Utilize education and incentives to support expanded biodiversity on private lands.
 - i. Provide native and desirable plant lists to land owners, including the [Salt Lake County Stream Care Guide](#), which contains lists of native and invasive plants and information about creating a backyard riparian wildscape.
- Explore landscaping overlays up to ½ mile from the River.
- Institute a native tree and shrub planting campaign.

6. DEVELOP ROBUST ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Adaptive management is a system of interactive co-learning and knowledge co-production by resource managers, stakeholders, and scientists. Driven by a strategic focus on a desired future state (such as those identified in the Blueprint), monitoring and evaluation of outcomes are used to refine projects and programs or replace them with more promising interventions.

STRATEGIES:

- Conduct an inventory of current habitat and open space conditions.
- Create management alternatives and tools.
- Develop an action plan for each large preserved area.
- Develop and promote general best practices for natural areas.
 - i. [The Big Bend Restoration Project](#) may serve as a future example of adaptive management practices.
- Work with stakeholders and surrounding land owners to implement adaptive management strategies.
- Follow up on restoration actions to ensure success.

7. ENHANCE COORDINATION BETWEEN ENTITIES ALONG THE RIVER

It is important to foster coordination between all of the entities involved in the Parkway to promote consistency and limit habitat fragmentation.

STRATEGIES:

- Include local organizations such as the Tracy Aviary, Hogle Zoo, TreeUtah, and Rotary Clubs in habitat management along with landowners.
- Further develop the Jordan River Foundation Friends Program.
- Coordinate efforts between public and private landowners.
- Develop a cooperative weed management area (CWMA) to coordinate efforts across political boundaries. Visit utahweed.org to learn more about CWMA's.

8. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF AVAILABLE FUNDING SOURCES TO SUPPORT HABITAT AND ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES






















Apply for available resources including those provided by the Utah Watershed Restoration Initiative, Utah Forestry, Fire and State Lands Habitat Restoration Grants, and Utah Department of Agriculture and Food Invasive Species Management Grants to aid in the implementation of local and regional projects.



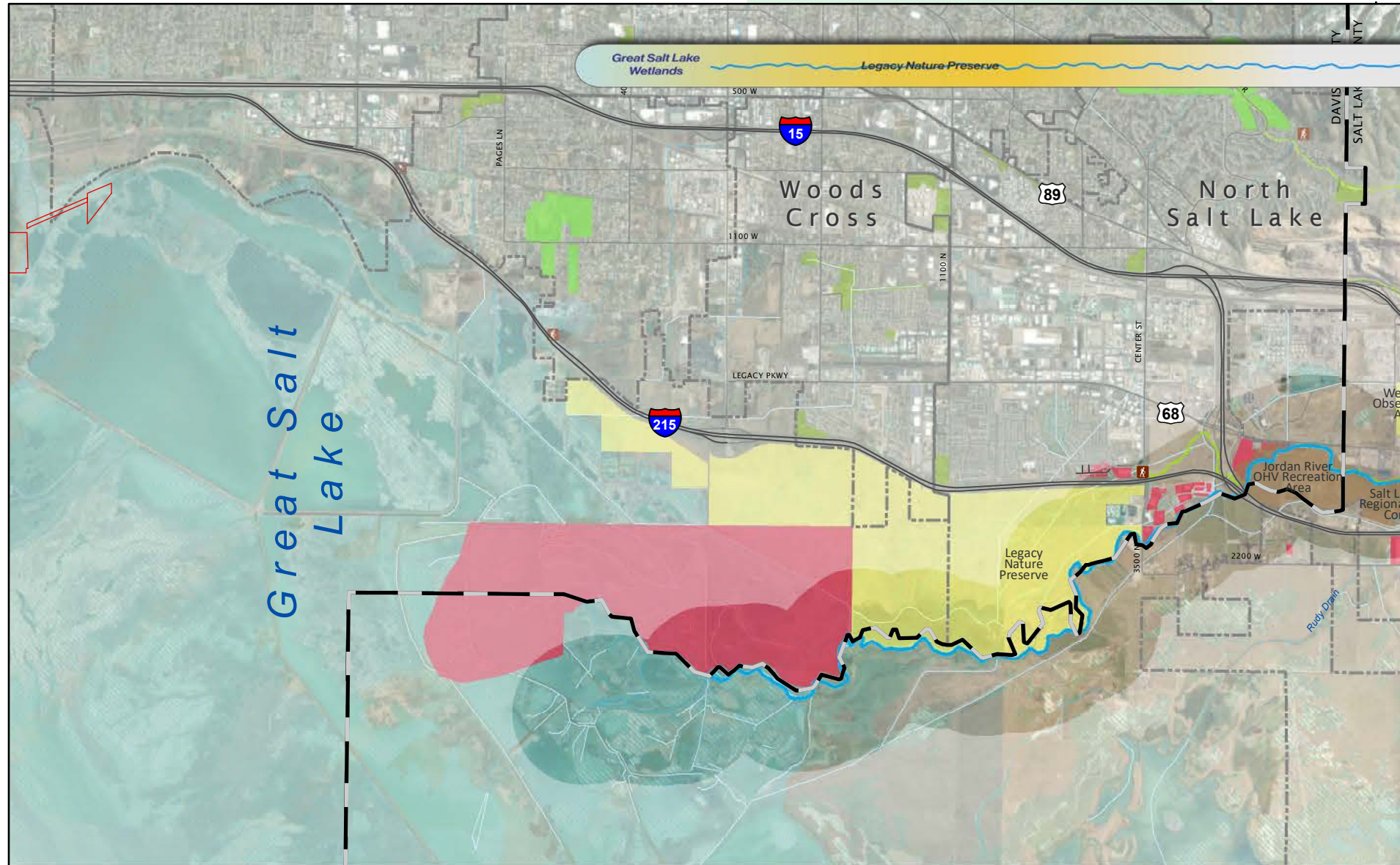


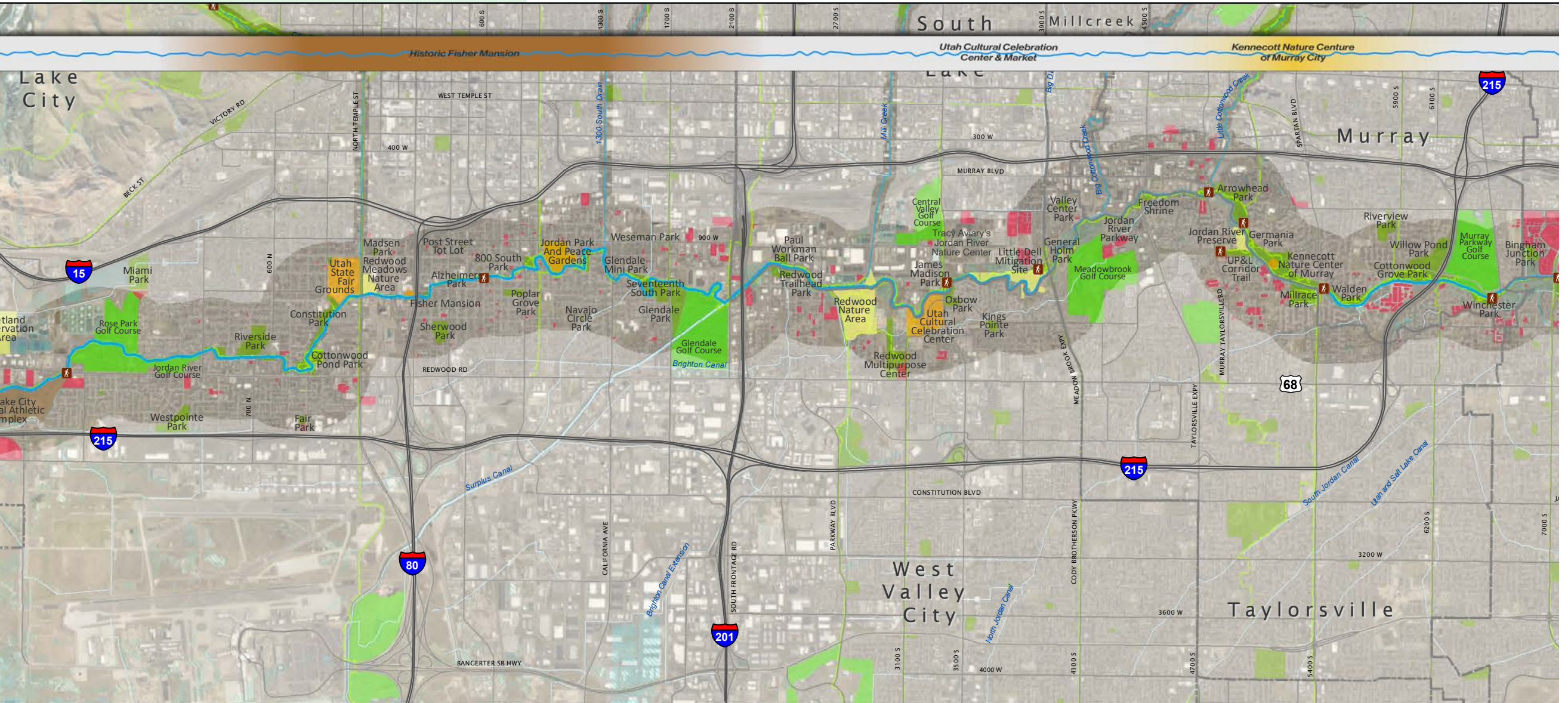
HABITAT AND NATURAL SYSTEMS MAP

Legend






















-  Jordan River
-  Existing Trails
-  Trailhead
-  Conservation Easement
-  Upland Habitat
-  Emergent Marsh
-  Park
-  Golf Course
-  Recreation Area
-  Natural Area/Preserve
-  Destination Area
-  New parcels developed 2008 - 2019
-  Wetland
-  Lake/Pond
-  Major Stream
-  Minor Stream
-  Canal/Ditch
-  Municipal Boundary
-  County Boundary
-  Street/Highway
-  Interstate

1 inch = 1 mile

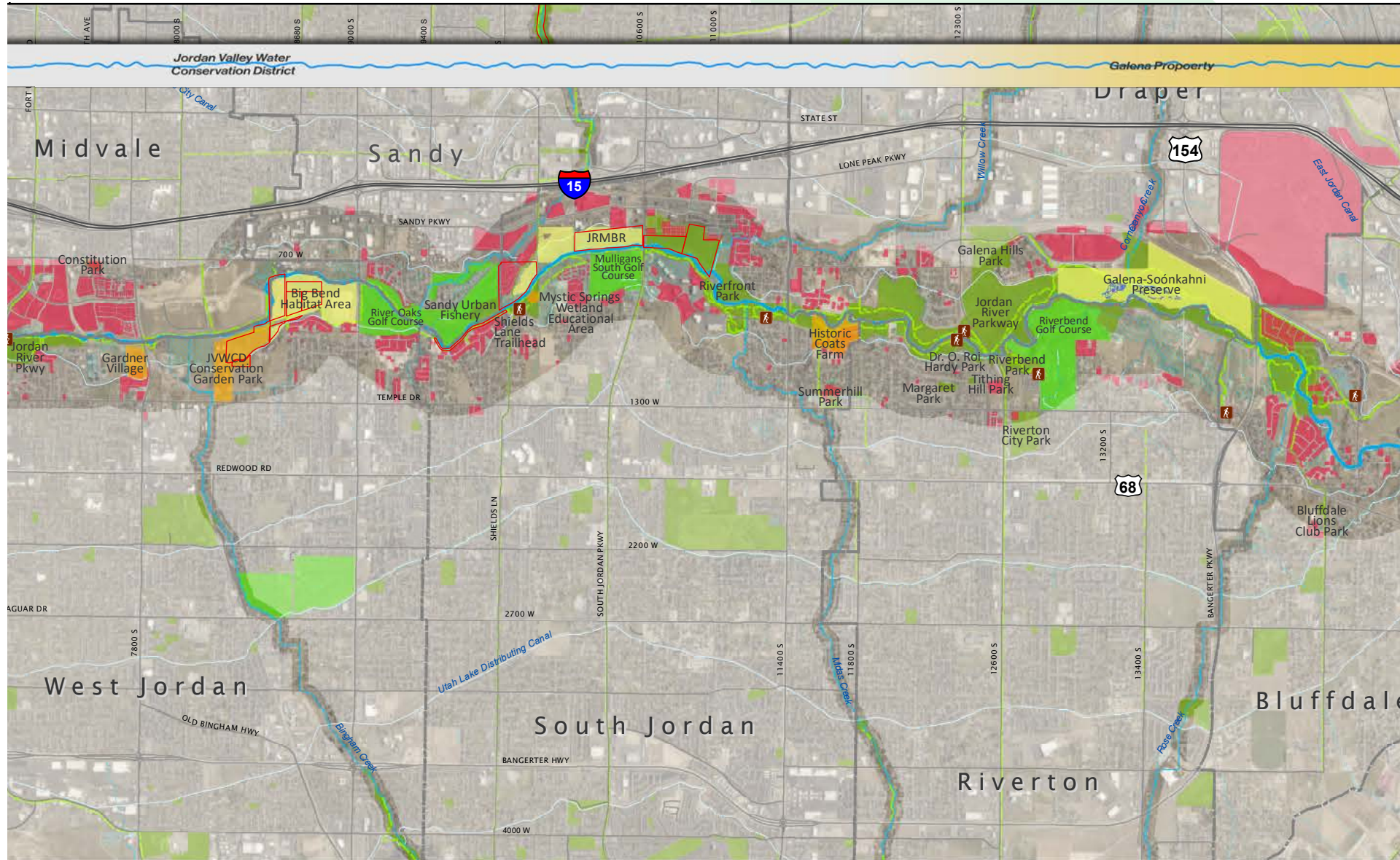


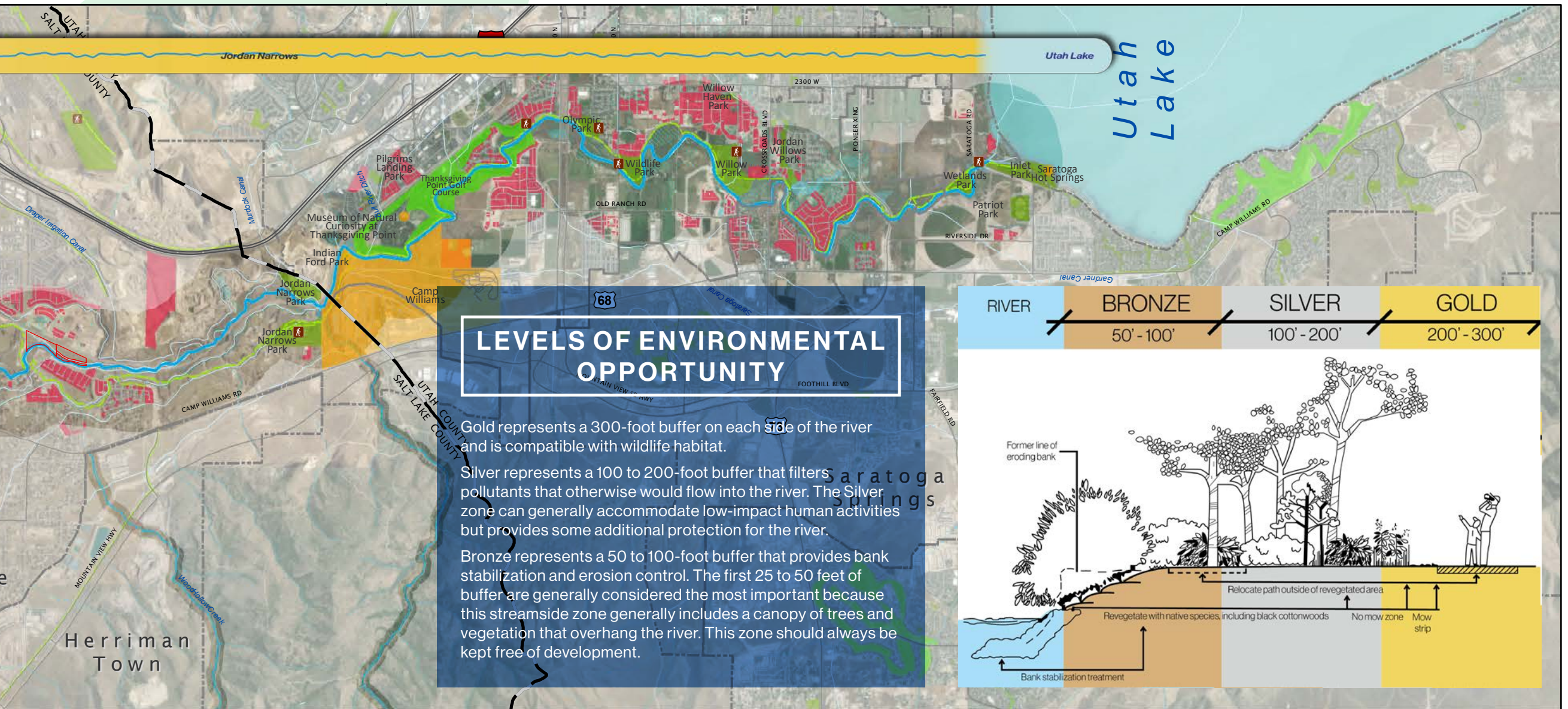


Legend

-  Jordan River
-  Existing Trails
-  Trailhead
-  Conservation Easement
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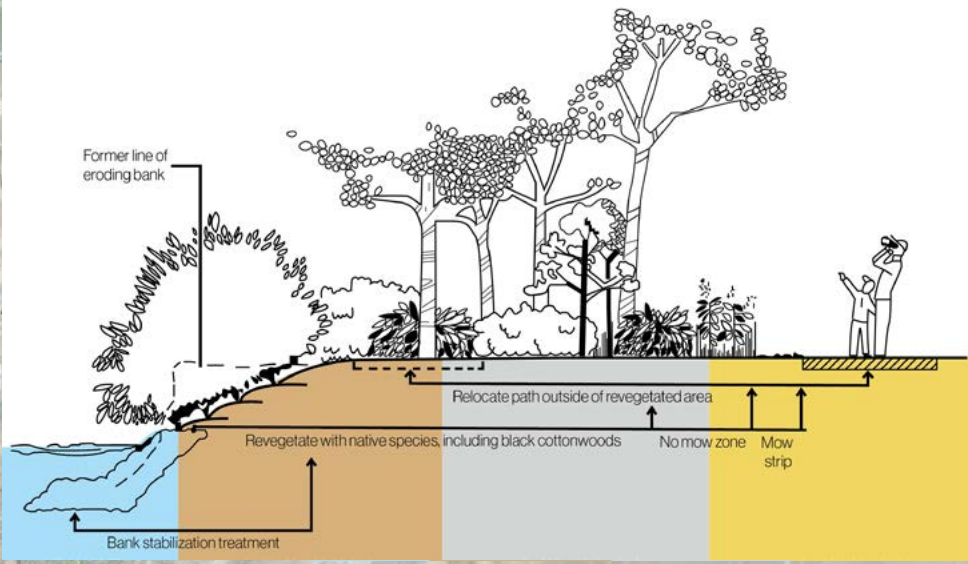


LEVELS OF ENVIRONMENTAL OPPORTUNITY

Gold represents a 300-foot buffer on each side of the river and is compatible with wildlife habitat.

Silver represents a 100 to 200-foot buffer that filters pollutants that otherwise would flow into the river. The Silver zone can generally accommodate low-impact human activities but provides some additional protection for the river.

Bronze represents a 50 to 100-foot buffer that provides bank stabilization and erosion control. The first 25 to 50 feet of buffer are generally considered the most important because this streamside zone generally includes a canopy of trees and vegetation that overhang the river. This zone should always be kept free of development.



Herriman Town



WATER AND THE RIVER

Goal: Use a coordinated watershed approach to improve water quality 5

Poor water quality not only degrades ecological health but is also a major deterrent to Parkway visitors and can impair water uses. The most effective way to improve water quality in the Jordan River and its tributaries is to use a coordinated watershed approach, which involves working with partners across the entire watershed. Many of the pollution sources and contaminants in the river come from areas outside the Jordan River Parkway, so the success of efforts focusing only on the main stem of the river will be limited.

For instance, rain falling on the top of the mountains makes its way through natural areas and eventually meets human influenced areas and higher levels of pollution as it travels down toward the river. Thus, working from the top of the watershed to the bottom is an effective strategy for improving water quality in the Jordan River.



IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

- Utah Division of Water Quality
- Local and County Stormwater Coalitions
- Jordan River Watershed Council
- Sewer Improvement Districts
- Parks and Public Land Management Agencies
- Local businesses and residents
- Counties





1. BETTER UNDERSTAND THE WATER QUALITY CONDITIONS OF THE RIVER

Having a sound understanding of the sources of pollution in the Jordan River will pave the way for developing prioritized strategies.

STRATEGIES:

- Work with Salt Lake County, Utah County, and Davis County to characterize current water quality conditions.
- Integrate the total maximum daily load (TMDL) [research compendium](#) into planning efforts. The dissolved oxygen TMDL Watershed Management Program for the Jordan River is managed by the Watershed Protection section of the Utah Division of Water Quality.
- Participate with partners who are researching the benefits, detriments, and appropriate concentrations of cyanotoxins and algae.
- Continue to enhance the water quality model.
- Develop better understanding of groundwater inputs into the river.

2. SUPPORT SEWER IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY IN THE RIVER

The quality of sewage treatment can have significant impacts on the water quality and smell of the Jordan River. Water quality upgrades to sewage treatment facilities ranked as the third most important project completed between 2008 and 2020 in the Blueprint Refresh public survey.

STRATEGIES:

- Explore funding options for water treatment improvements with Sewer Improvement Districts.
- Consider tertiary treatment options.
- As the condition of water released from sewage treatment plants improves, balance water reuse plans with the need for environmental and recreational flows in the river.

3. FOCUS ON UTAH LAKE WATER INPUTS TO THE RIVER

Utah Lake is the largest input into the Jordan River and can significantly impact water quality in the river. Pollution sources from Utah Lake, including toxic algae blooms, present some of the largest threats to water quality in the river.

STRATEGIES:

- Work closely with the Utah Lake Commission on water quality issues.
- Evaluate a state legislative amendment to enable the Jordan River Commission to participate formally in the Utah Lake Commission.
- Coordinate with Utah County municipalities that discharge into Utah Lake.

4. INTEGRATE CREEKS AND CANALS INTO WATER MANAGEMENT PLANNING

Tributaries such as creeks and canals should not be overlooked when addressing water quality issues in the Jordan River.

STRATEGIES:

- Build watershed partnerships with water managers in the Jordan River tributaries.
- Build off concepts identified in the [Wasatch Mountain Accord](#) and coordinate with the Central Wasatch Commission on watershed issues in the Wasatch Mountains.
- Evaluate changes in water quality resulting from shifting canal use from irrigation to stormwater management.
- Evaluate areas around the Great Salt Lake, Farmington Bay, and the duck clubs in Davis County for impacts related to Jordan River water flows and pollutants.
- Work with Seven Canyons Greenway Vision process and Seven Canyons Trust for water quality management in the creeks flowing from the Wasatch Mountains.

5. MANAGE AGRICULTURE AND LANDSCAPING RUNOFF

Agriculture and landscaping runoff are a significant source of nutrient pollution in the river. Targeting these sources is central to improving water quality.

STRATEGIES:

- Implement recommended best management practices for golf courses, parks, and other publicly owned manicured green spaces along the corridor.
- Implement Low Impact Development (LID) best management practices into planning the parkway.
- Coordinate with partners in discussions of LID practices and how to best implement them.
- Work with the Utah Division of Water Quality on best management practice tracking.
- Control nonpoint source runoff from specific actions such as off highway vehicle use, illegal dumping, and fertilizer use.



Algal bloom at Utah Lake State Park, September 10, 2020: Utah Department of Environmental Quality.

6. MANAGE URBAN RUNOFF AND STORMWATER

In urban areas, impermeable surfaces, such as streets and parking lots, and “grey” infrastructure, such as concrete gutters, contribute to rapid runoff carrying synthetic chemicals and organic matter into the river.

STRATEGIES:

- Promote stormwater best management practices.
- Ensure that infrastructure and facilities developed in the Parkway meet best practices for runoff management. Tools such as green streets, vegetated swales, bioretention, permeable paving, constructed wetlands, infiltration underdrains, and green roofs may be used.
- Seek opportunities to innovate and advance local capacity in stormwater management by engaging with researchers who are developing new techniques and approaches.
- Integrate stormwater treatment into natural open spaces where applicable.
- Establish multi-jurisdictional stormwater districts.
- Facilitate research on organic matter inputs and dissolved oxygen.
- Educate private contractors and land managers on best management practices.
- Investigate industrial stormwater inputs.
- Leverage the Jordan River Watershed Council to facilitate discussions between groups working on stormwater management. Integrate water quantity into the conversation.

WATERSHED COUNCILS

The Watershed Councils Act, adopted by the Utah legislature in 2020, was designed to “develop diverse and balanced stakeholder forums for discussion of water policy and resource issues at watershed and state levels that are not vested with regulatory, infrastructure financing, or enforcement powers or responsibilities” and to use local expertise and institutional resources to inform watershed management.

The Jordan River Commission will take on the role of Watershed Council for the Jordan River Watershed, one of twelve watersheds identified in the bill.





Goal: Manage river flows for natural river function

One of the main drivers of water quality and ecosystem function are the flows of water in the river. The timing, duration, and extent of water flows control many of the processes that occur in the water and along the river edges. For example, when there is little water in the river, pollutants can build up and concentrate at their origin site. When abundant water is flowing, pollutants are diluted. Additionally, riparian ecosystems in the Intermountain West have historically been dominated by spring floods, which typically fall off in early summer.

These floods are essential in the life cycle of riparian plants, providing seasonal changes that encourage natural ecosystems to develop and maintain themselves. Without spring flooding in some form, many of the native and desirable plant species will not persist and be overtaken by less diverse and less resilient ecosystems. Upstream and downstream water managers and users play a large role in controlling flows in the Jordan River, and better coordinating flows with management goals can help sustain the riparian habitats as well as recreational uses.

1. MAINTAIN SUITABLE WATER LEVELS TO SUPPORT AQUATIC AND RIPARIAN HABITATS

Flow management strategies can support sufficient water availability that riverine ecosystems and recreational uses depend on.

STRATEGIES:

- Build partnerships with water managers across the watershed.
- Refine flow management strategies for Utah Lake outflows.
- Look at recreation flows for boat passage.
- Focus on critical low flow conditions, typically in late summer and fall.
- Advocate for naturalized river flows.
- Use water banking agreements to maintain instream flows in accordance with [the Utah Water Banking Strategy](#).

2. MINIMIZE DISRUPTIVE FLOOD FLOWS AND RAPID CHANGES IN FLOW RATES OUT OF UTAH LAKE

Large, sudden releases from Utah Lake can cause flooding conditions in the Jordan River that can wash away vegetation and create hazardous recreational conditions.

STRATEGIES:

- Refine flow management strategies with Utah Lake Commission and Utah Lake water users.
- Improve communication between Utah Lake water users and the Jordan River Commission to provide better information to habitat managers and recreational users of the river.
- Manage for more natural small flooding cycles to develop more diverse ecosystems.



IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

- Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands
- Utah Reclamation, Mitigation, & Conservation Commission
- Central Utah Water Conservancy District
- Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District
- Wastewater Treatment Plants
- Utah Lake Water Managers
- Utah Lake Commission
- Jordan River Water Users (Irrigators, Municipalities, Industry)

3. IMPROVE FLOOD CONVEYANCE CAPACITY

Flood conveyance capacity in tributaries, infrastructure design, and floodplain management all influence conditions in the river during flooding events.

STRATEGIES:

- Conduct a feasibility study on canal management to benefit the river.
- Use floodplain reconnection and green infrastructure in the Parkway and throughout the watershed.



Jordan River, 1954. Prior to the channelization of the river and development in the floodplain, a natural cycle of flooding shaped the “meander corridor.” Used with permission, Utah State Historical Society.

Goal: Enhance the hydrological function of the river **E**

Enhancing the movement and distribution of water in the River is essential to the long-term sustainability of riparian ecosystems and can help reduce the negative impacts of pollution in the River.

Prior to channelization, the Jordan River used to meander across a wide flood plain, changing course somewhat regularly. Altering the course and extent of the Jordan River and its floodplain during the 19th and 20th century opened land up for human use, but inhibited many of the River's natural functions, and further channelization and dredging for flood control continues to impact these functions. Where the River is constrained due to infrastructure, flooding can create significant damage to areas adjacent to the river. Allowing enough space for the river to function in a more natural way can increase the resilience of the river to natural and human caused changes.

1. DEVELOP BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE HYDROLOGICAL FUNCTIONS OF THE RIVER

A sound understanding of current hydrological conditions is needed to effectively plan to enhance the functions of the river.

STRATEGIES:

- Conduct a geomorphic assessment of the river.
- Develop a hydrologic model for the movement of water through the Jordan River.
- Develop an inventory and functional analysis of river reaches that are disconnected from the floodplain.
- Develop a basin-wide plan for keeping rivers and creeks functional.

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

- Utah Lake and Jordan River Water Managers
- Irrigators
- Municipalities
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands





The Big Bend Project restored 70 acres of habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife by stabilizing riverbanks and constructing a new meandering channel and wetlands that will reconnect the floodplain with the river.

2. RESTORE THE RIVER’S “MEANDER CORRIDOR” OR “FLOODPLAIN CORRIDOR” WHERE POSSIBLE

Restoring floodplains and meander corridors can improve wildlife habitat and hydrology.

STRATEGIES:

- Develop a “meander corridor” to mitigate flood related risks.
 - i. Improve and protect wetlands in the floodplain and adjacent to the River.
 - ii. Restore natural riparian ecosystems.
 - iii. Explore opportunities to move infrastructure when it is a barrier to enacting strategies to restore the River.
- Manage hydrology to support native species by providing a natural spring flooding pattern and sufficient summer base flows.
- Increase connectivity between the River and surrounding floodplains by re-grading vertical banks, removing piles of dredge spoils, etc.
 - i. Look to tributaries for opportunities to improve floodplain connectivity.

3. STABILIZE RIVERBANKS WHERE NEEDED

Current land uses are incompatible with natural/historic river conditions in some locations. Maintaining riverbanks to prevent erosion is needed in these areas.































STRATEGIES:

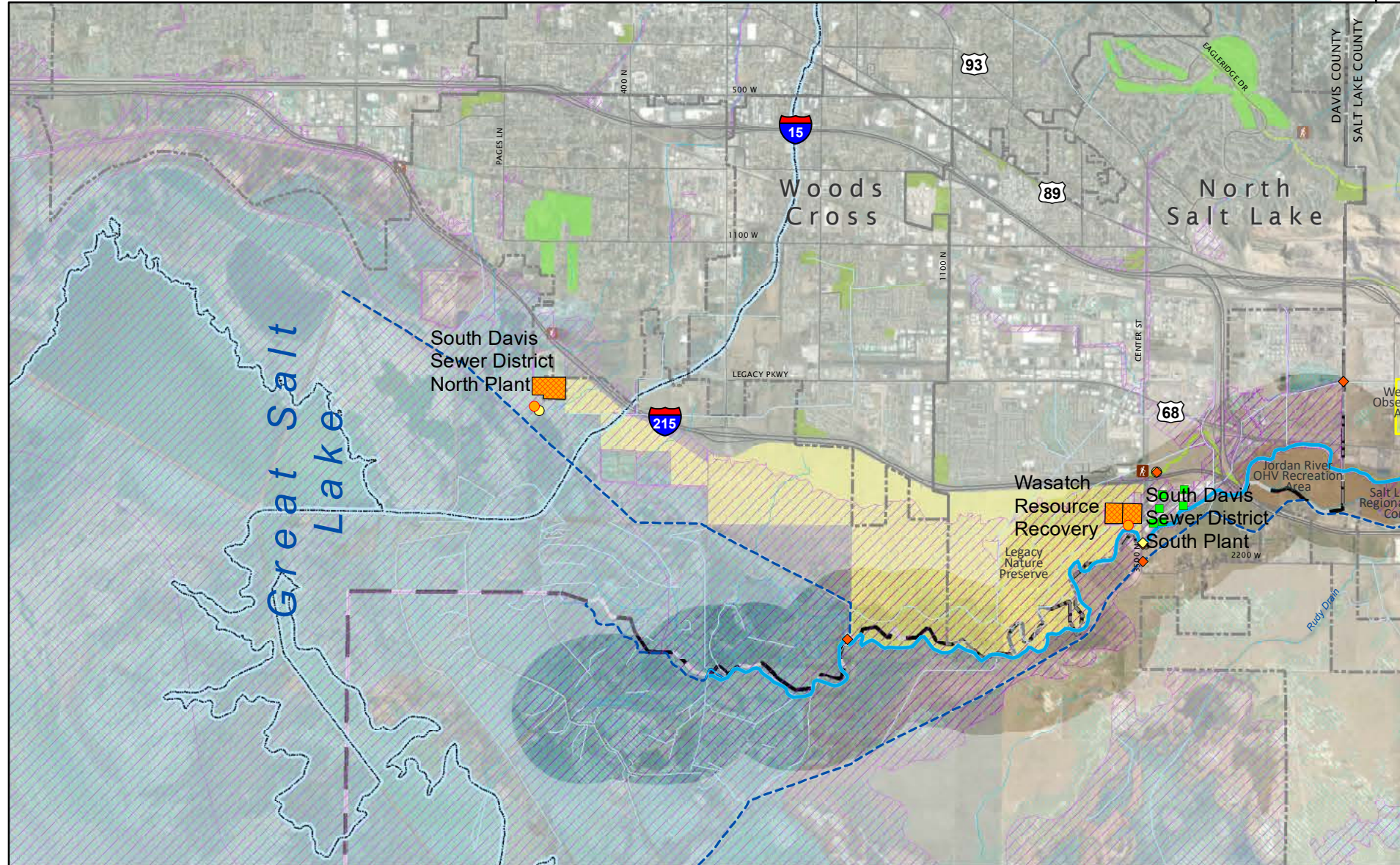
- Identify areas where restoring the “meander corridor” or “floodplain corridor” is not feasible.
- Develop protocols to maintain or stabilize riverbanks in areas where reinforced banks are needed.
- Incorporate natural channel design into projects affecting the hydrology of the River.



WATER AND THE RIVER MAP

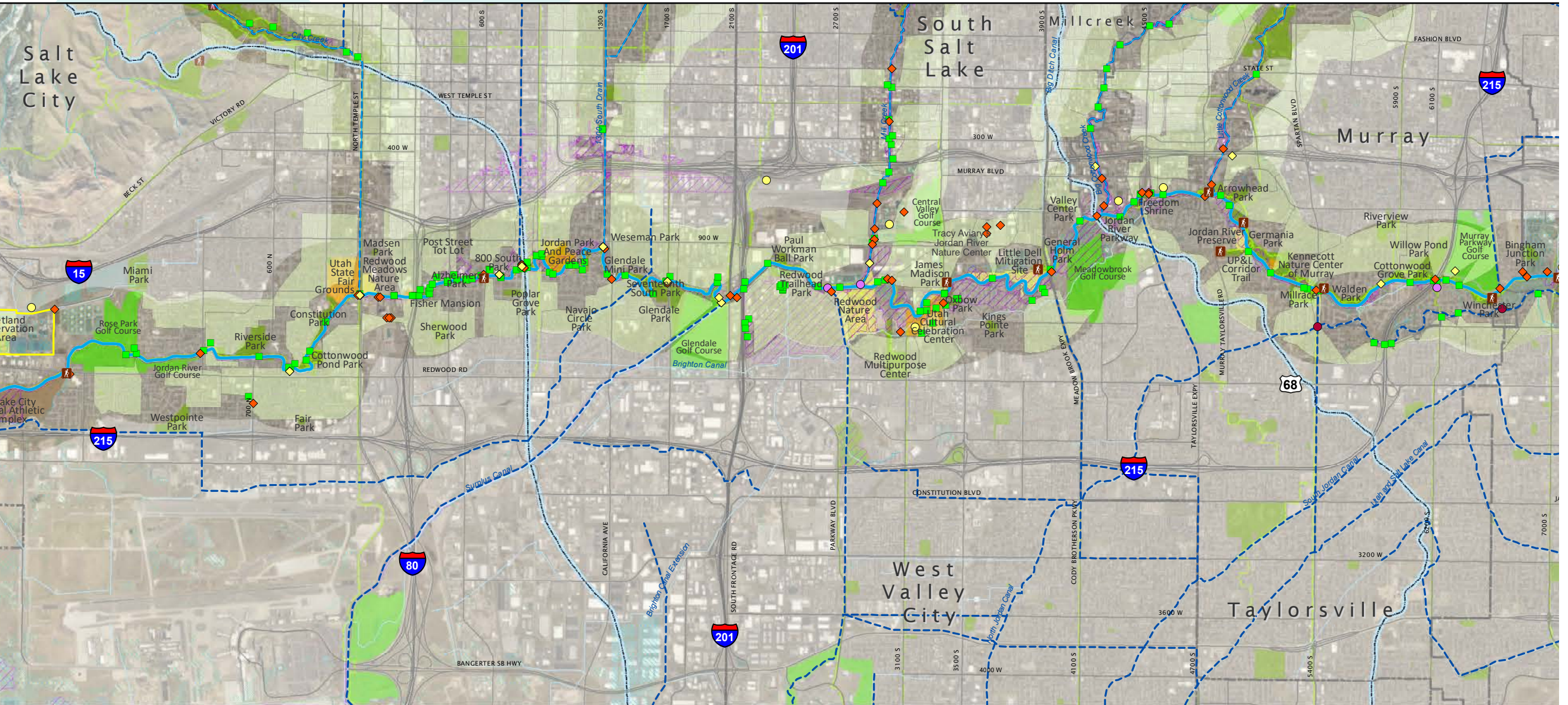
Legend

-  Jordan River
-  Existing Trails
-  Trailhead
-  Park
-  Golf Course
-  Recreation Area
-  Natural Area/Preserve
-  Destination Area
-  Wetland
-  Lake/Pond
-  Major Stream
-  Minor Stream
-  Canal/Ditch
-  Municipal Boundary
-  County Boundary
-  Street/Highway
-  Interstate
-  USGS Gage Station
-  Stream Monitor Site
-  Canal Overflow
-  Irrigation Return
-  Sewer Outfall
-  Sewer Facility
-  Storm Water Outfall
-  Storm Water Detention Basin
-  Waste Water Treatment Site
-  Waste Water Treatment Plant
-  Flood Control Channel
-  100 Year Flood Zone
-  Watershed Boundary HUC 10

































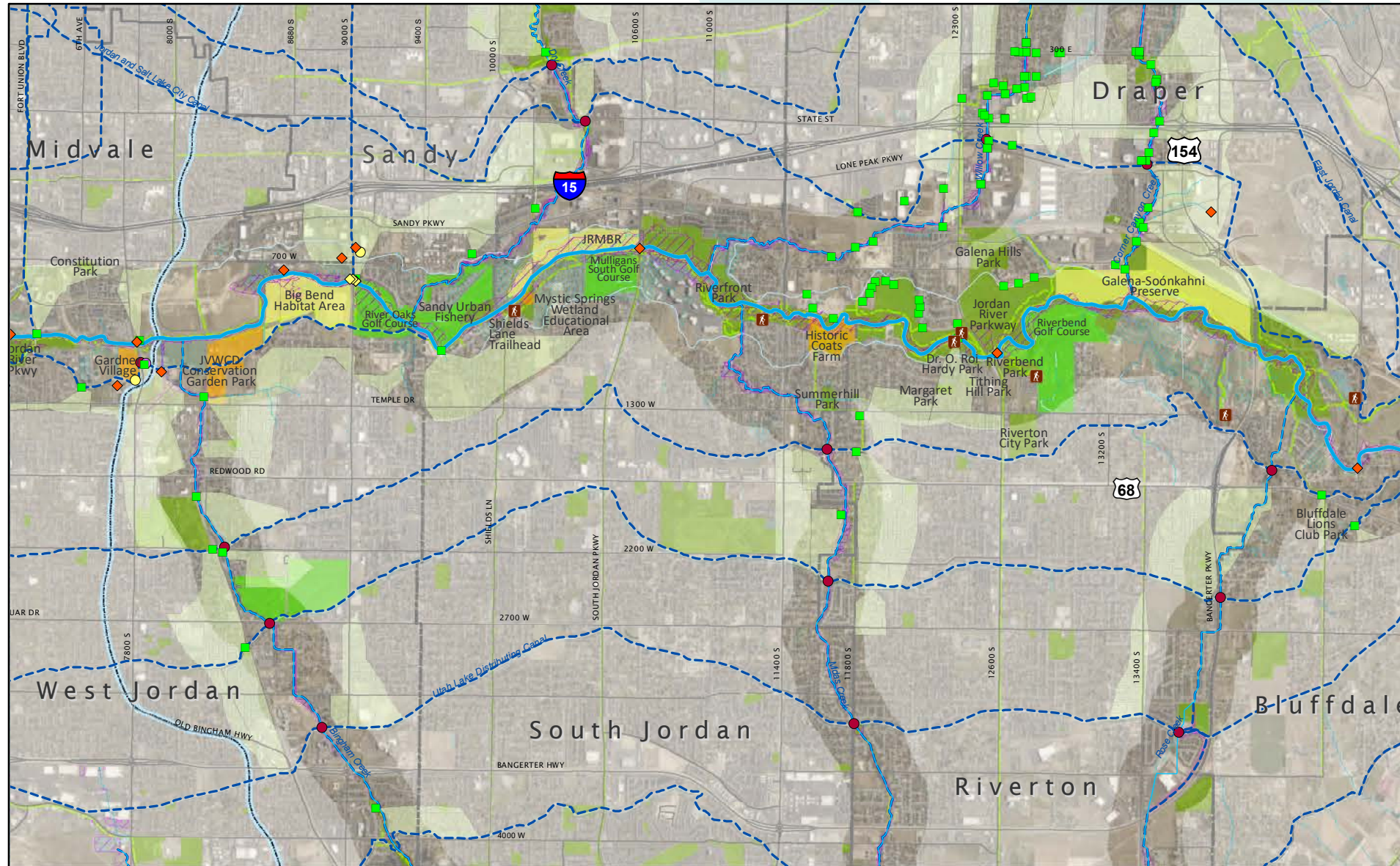
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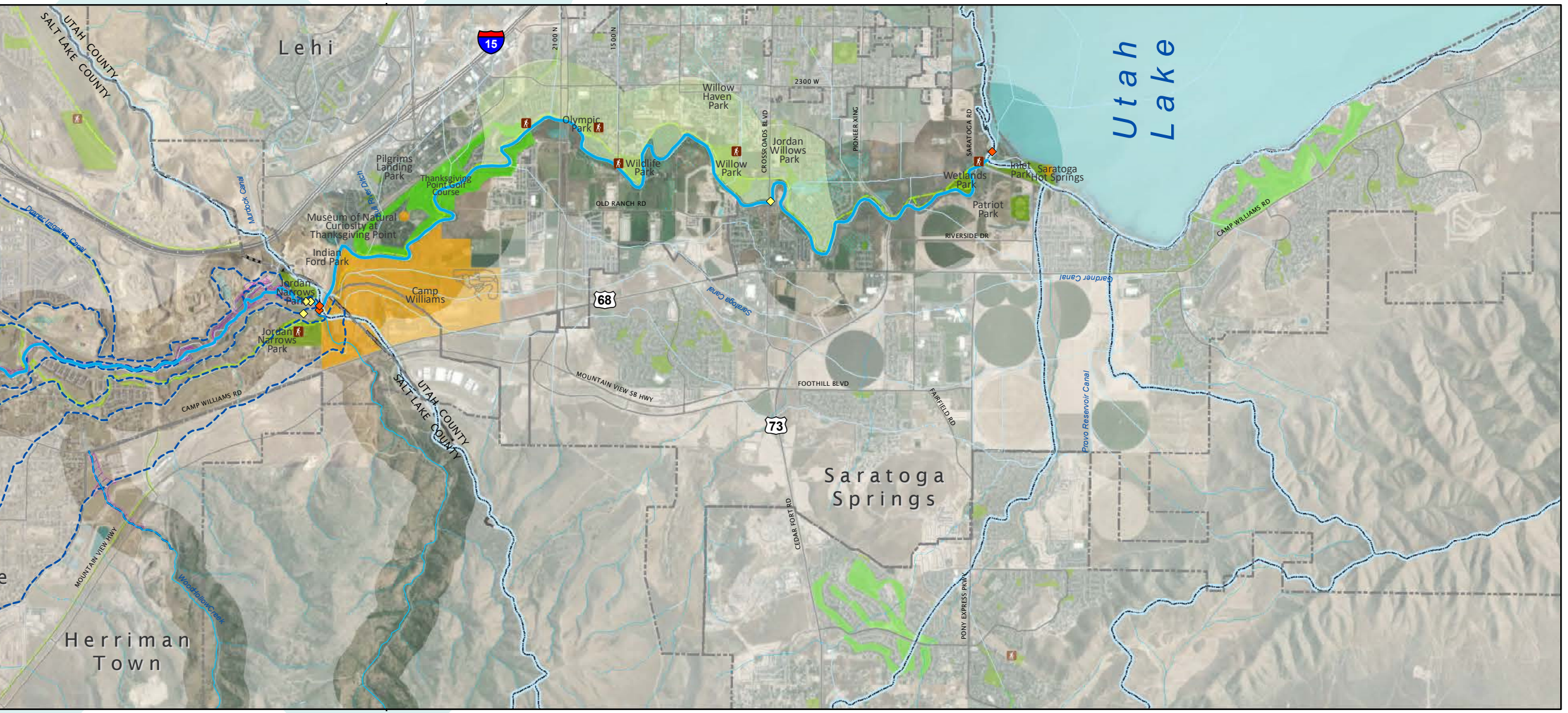
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-  Watershed Boundary HUC 10



1 inch = 1 miles







COMFORT AND INCLUSIVITY

Goal: Make the Parkway a welcoming place for visitors of all abilities, backgrounds, and circumstances

The communities along the Jordan River Parkway are some of the most diverse in the state of Utah. Although the Parkway is a cherished and well used recreational destination— especially for people living nearby— language barriers and limited cultural representation may lead some people to question whether the Parkway is a space for them. Additionally, growth in adaptive sports and an aging population necessitate the expansion of opportunities in the Parkway that people of all abilities can enjoy. Expanding ADA access and collaborating with people of different backgrounds and circumstances will help ensure that the Jordan River Parkway is a welcoming place for all Utahns.

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

- Municipalities
- Counties
- Educational and non-profit organizations facilities in the parkway (Tracy Aviary, Hutchings Museum, etc.)
- Wasatch Adaptive Sports
- Utah Transit Authority
- Cultural organizations
- Community members



1. PROVIDE CLEAN AND FUNCTIONAL FACILITIES IN APPROPRIATE LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE PARKWAY

The limited availability of drinking fountains, bathrooms, trashcans, and ADA compliant facilities is one of the top factors keeping people from visiting the Jordan River Parkway or visiting more frequently. In addition to helping visitors feel comfortable and safe, providing facilities like restrooms, drinking fountains, and trash cans can help encourage proper etiquette and reduce the accumulation of litter and other waste along the River. Keeping loose waste out of the parkway has numerous benefits to ecosystems and improves recreational experiences.

STRATEGIES:

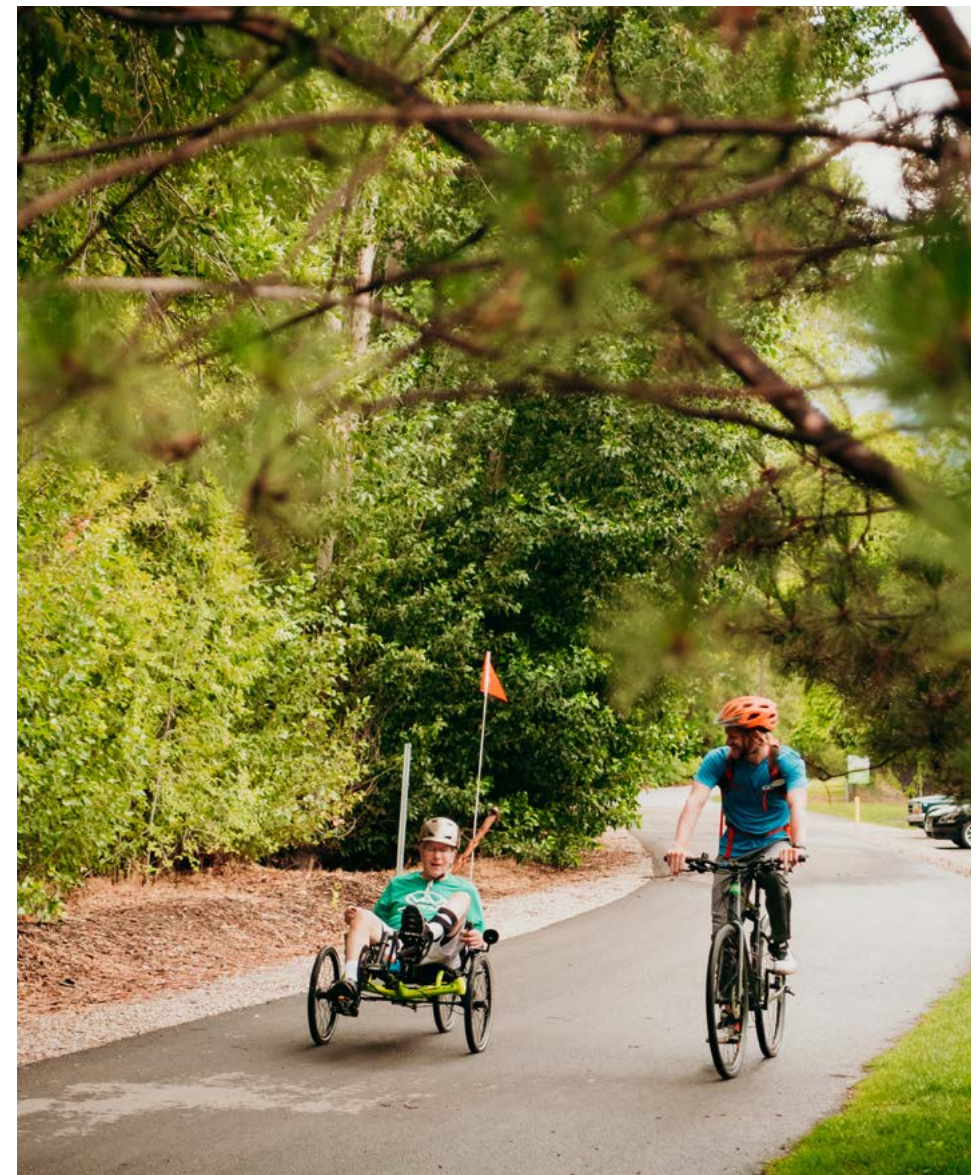
- Provide additional drinking fountains and restrooms to meet visitors' basic needs.
 - Explore opportunities for commercial businesses to support Parkway visitors by providing drinking fountains and basic amenities. For example, Radius Engineering ran a water line out to the Jordan River Trail and installed a drinking fountain and dog bowl during renovations.
 - Incorporate facility provision into municipal and regional planning, capital improvement programs, and budgets.
 - Reference the map to identify areas of the parkway that may be underserved. Drinking fountains and restrooms are most readily available in larger parks and popular trailheads in the Parkway.
 - Prioritize adding individual restrooms with locks. These are preferred for comfort and safety.
- Provide one or more trash receptacles that are easily accessible from the trail at each park and trailhead along the Jordan River Trail.
 - Use secure trash cans and lids to prevent trash from being blown out or otherwise removed. Develop and refer to trash can design standards for the Jordan River Parkway.
- Provide areas where people can comfortably rest and linger. The availability of passive infrastructure—including, but not limited to benches, picnic tables, pull outs, permanent hammocks or hanging furniture, hammock parks, and covered structures protected from precipitation and sun— can encourage visitors to extend their stay and develop a deeper connection with the Jordan River.
 - Explore opportunities to use Utah Office of Outdoor Recreation mini-grants, other grant sources, and business sponsorships to help fund the installation and maintenance of passive recreation infrastructure.
- Provide flexible amenities and venues for cultural activities.
- Combine facility provision with public art and placemaking.

2. DESIGN INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES FOR VISITORS OF ALL ABILITIES

People with physical disabilities, short-term injuries, and the elderly may have a more difficult time using infrastructure and facilities that weren't designed with their needs in mind. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), nearly 14 percent of American adults have a mobility-related disability. Ensuring that all facilities and infrastructure in the Jordan River Parkway meet the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards and incorporating universal design principles when possible is the best way to guarantee that people with mobility limitations can enjoy the Jordan River Parkway. Some of the most common accessibility issues identified during the 2020 Jordan River Parkway Inventory ([Reference Document 2](#)) include damaged or uneven surfaces and transitions on trail surfaces, trail and bridge widths, and sharp turns.

STRATEGIES:

- Refer to ADA standards and best practices when developing new infrastructure and facilities and explore opportunities to rebuild or retrofit non-compliant infrastructure and facilities.
 - i. Coordinate with Wasatch Adaptive Sports and other partners to identify opportunities to improve accessibility.
 - ii. Refer to the [U.S. Access Board](#) and the [Accessibility Guidebook for Outdoor Recreation and Trails](#) for details about ADA guidelines and best practices.
 - Ensure all trails, bridges, and smooth surface boardwalks that are open to pedestrian traffic are at least 36 inches wide.
 - Explore opportunities to remove or modify tight and confined turns, like the one at the 5400 South underpass.
 - Maintain cross-slopes less than 15% across the trail. Consider lining portions of the trail with cross-slopes greater than 15% with rocks/boulders, wood, or other borders to reduce cross-slope percentage.
 - iii. Provide ADA access in parking lots and trailheads.
 - In trailhead signage, provide as much information about the section of trail as possible including, but not limited to overall slope, cross-slope (with minimum and maximum data), width of bridges, width of trail, noteworthy obstacles (blind corners, bollard barriers, etc.), etc.
 - iv. Ensure that new interpretive signage and other educational infrastructure is designed to meet ADA standards.
 - v. Provide ADA accessible pull-outs along the Jordan River Trail network.
 - vi. Use ADA best practices in bathrooms, drinking fountains, and passive use areas in the Parkway.
 - vii. Improve access to water-based activities by using ADA best practices at boat ramps and fishing areas.
- Work with the Utah Transit Authority (UTA) to make transit more family and ability friendly for visitors to the Jordan River Parkway. Consider expanding car seat, stroller, and wheelchair areas on busses and trains.



3. FOSTER AN INCLUSIVE CULTURE WITHIN THE JORDAN RIVER PARKWAY

The Wasatch Front is becoming increasingly diverse in terms of the race and cultural background of its residents. While people from many different backgrounds enjoy the Jordan River Parkway every day, additional cultural representation in the Jordan River Parkway can help the Parkway feel more welcoming to everyone.

STRATEGIES:

- Provide signage and other communications in multiple languages. According to a 2016 report by the Utah Department of Health, at least 36% of the population of Salt Lake County speak English less than “very well.” The top languages spoken (following English) are Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Tongan, and Samoan.
- Use multiple avenues of communication to promote events, programming, and other opportunities in the Parkway. Online communication can be an affordable way to reach a large audience but exploring other ways to contact people with limited online access or literacy may help better engage the neighborhoods in and near the Parkway.
- Highlight the various ways people of all backgrounds use the Parkway
 - i. Highlight the stories of current users of the Jordan River Parkway using physical signage or kiosks on the trail, relevant websites, and/or social media. Consider rotating profiles of the many ways people spend their time in the Parkway and what they like about it. Provide these profiles in the most common languages of nearby communities.
 - ii. Install signs and monuments throughout the Parkway sharing information about the indigenous peoples who lived and still live along the Jordan River. Additionally, identify opportunities to develop programming or events to highlight the history and culture of indigenous people living along the Jordan.
- Partner with community and cultural groups on events, engagement, and volunteering opportunities.



“San Lorenzo #8” Olmec Head Replica at the Cultural Celebration Center was a gift from West Valley City’s sister city Veracruz, Mexico.



The Galena Soo’nkahni Sundial Monument in Draper was created in a partnership between the state’s eight Native American tribes, the Utah Division of Indian Affairs, and Utah Transit Authority. Photo credit: Deseret News.

Goal: Provide consistent and comprehensive maintenance, trash removal, and cleaning

As visitation to the Jordan River Parkway has grown, so too has the need to provide a clean and comfortable experience for all visitors. Clean up efforts and community stewardship have grown in recent decades, but Utahns still feel that cleanliness is a significant issue and rank it as a top priority to address in the Parkway. In fact, the 2020 Blueprint Jordan River Refresh Survey found maintenance and cleaning to be the second overall budget priority, trailing water quality only slightly.

1. REMOVE TRASH, DOG WASTE, AND OTHER DEBRIS FROM THE PARKWAY

The presence of trash, feces, and other debris in the Parkway not only detracts from recreational experiences, but also poses a threat to the health of the river ecosystem. Keeping the Parkway clean and free of waste has many benefits, including those to water quality, wildlife, and safety. During the 2020 Jordan River Parkway Inventory ([Reference Document 2](#)), trash was most consistently an issue on the trail north of 3900 South/Meadowbrook expressway, with the highest concentrations of litter found in northern Salt Lake City. Concentrations of litter in the central and southern portions of the trail were generally isolated to specific hotspots.

STRATEGIES:

- Understand the sources of trash and other waste to help professional and volunteer stewards target their efforts.
 - i. Explore opportunities to identify sources by coordinating with land managers and public works departments.
 - ii. Provide convenient avenues for visitors to report trash and maintenance-related issues. MyJordanRiver.org provides “report an issue” functionality that can collect descriptions, photos, locations, and contact information. Install signage along the river to promote reporting and ensure comments provided reach the agencies and groups that can respond appropriately.
- Include maintenance and cleaning in public budgets for public services and parks.
- Consider developing a garbage management plan for the Jordan River watershed.
- Explore opportunities to use water quality funds including nonpoint source funding, oil spill mitigation funds, etc. to support garbage cleanup efforts. Trash can collect and deposit microparticles, plastics, and other pollutants into the Jordan River watershed.
- Support and expand volunteer stewardship programs.
 - i. Develop and expand “friends of the Jordan River Parkway” and volunteer “Corps” to perform natural resource stewardship activities — picking invasive/exotic weeds, trash pick-up, and interacting with and educating Parkway visitors.
 - ii. Develop and expand “adopt a river” programs. These programs could be managed by municipalities, counties, and/or educational and other groups.
 - iii. Explore opportunities to incentivize volunteers, such as providing food or snacks, access to events, free or discounted equipment rentals, etc.
- Explore opportunities to provide a platform or organizational structure volunteers can use to collaborate with each other and coordinate efforts. Volunteer groups can find it frustrating to plan, prepare, and arrive at a location to perform a cleanup activity only to find the area recently cleaned by another group. Improving coordination among volunteer groups will make the most out of cleanup efforts in the Parkway.
 - i. Consider providing information about each organized cleanup effort on the Jordan River Master Calendar or developing a shared map of recent cleanup efforts and upcoming volunteer opportunities. While adding information about cleanup activities could be primarily crowdsourced, it would require some occasional maintenance and curation by a knowledgeable organization or individual.
- Collaborate with appropriate agencies to have biowaste and drug paraphernalia cleaned up properly and safely along the Jordan River.
 - i. Discourage volunteer cleanup efforts from cleaning biowaste and associated items and direct them to the appropriate agencies for response.

ADOPT A RIVER PROGRAM

The Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) runs a successful “Adopt a Highway” Program. They keep state roads clean with the help of group volunteer efforts. UDOT, in turn, provides the supplies needed and erects signage on the section of adopted highway to recognize the group.

Developing a similar program in the Jordan River Parkway could have a significant impact on the amount of litter buildup and provide opportunities to highlight volunteers. [Click here](#) for more info.

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

- Municipalities
- Counties
- Volunteer groups
- Utah Department of Transportation
- Utah Department of Environmental Quality



2. CLEAN AND MAINTAIN PUBLIC FACILITIES

Facilities like bathrooms, drinking fountains, boat ramps, educational infrastructure, lighting, and more can become less effective or even unusable if they are not properly maintained and cleaned. Dirty or damaged facilities can also contribute to a sense of decline or danger. Closed or unusable facilities can be frustrating and contribute to negative experiences for visitors. It is essential for all existing facilities and those installed in the future to have a plan in place for their ongoing maintenance and cleaning.

STRATEGIES:

- Support the establishment of maintenance and cleaning plans and protocols to keep facilities safe, open, and enjoyable.
 - i. Explore opportunities to regularly monitor restrooms and other facilities with professional staff, as budgets allow.
 - ii. Coordinate with volunteer efforts and user groups throughout the Parkway to help.
- When installing facilities, consider design options that are easy to clean and maintain. Facilities should be solidly constructed, easy to replace, and/or convenient to refinish.
- Provide up-to-date information about the status of facilities, including seasonal closures, on signage, the Jordan River Commission website, and other recreation websites.

Goal: Mitigate homelessness in the Jordan River Parkway

The Jordan River has been a place of refuge and sustenance for humans since pre-colonial times. People, especially those who are otherwise unsheltered, still look to the River as a place to fulfill their physical needs. Uses including unpermitted camping can sometimes threaten water quality and conservation goals within scarce riparian ecosystems if steps are not taken to mitigate impacts. Since the conditions leading to homelessness are a statewide challenge, supporting efforts to prevent Utahns from falling into homelessness and to uplift those currently experiencing homelessness may reduce their need to camp along the Jordan River. Cross-agency collaboration and response to unpermitted camping can help connect people experiencing homelessness with services and shelters.

STRATEGIES:

- Advocate for and support regional and statewide efforts to make homelessness in Utah rare, brief, and non-recurring. According to the State of Utah Strategic Plan on Homelessness, the availability of affordable housing, supportive housing, emergency beds, mental health services, substance use disorder treatment, and case management are areas of unmet community needs.
 - i. Coordinate with the Utah Homelessness Council and state homeless coordinator to develop more effective models for helping those experiencing homelessness get back on their feet. As of 2021, local governments including Salt Lake County, Salt Lake City, South Salt Lake, and Midvale are members of the Homelessness Council as well as the Jordan River Commission and can represent the needs of the Jordan River Parkway in statewide discussions about homelessness.
 - ii. Participate in and support initiatives like the Salt Lake Valley Coalition to End Homelessness.
- Connect people experiencing homelessness with shelters and services to reduce their need to camp in the Parkway.
 - i. Develop outreach teams with expertise in homeless response, mental health, and substance abuse to operate throughout the Parkway.
 - ii. Provide signage and online information on which social service providers to contact regarding unsheltered individuals in different locations. Combining the functionality of the homeless reporting maintained by the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands with the MyJordanRiver.org site is a potential opportunity for universal reporting.
 - iii. Explore opportunities to establish or identify appropriate areas for people experiencing homelessness to stay if they are unwilling to stay in homeless resource shelters.
- Identify opportunities to partner with the unsheltered community on stewardship through education, incentives, and resource provision. Encourage service providers to incorporate waste removal and clean-ups into their outreach plans so that discarded items don't accumulate in the Parkway.





























Undeveloped pockets of land in urban areas like the Jordan River Parkway are desirable locations for people to camp if they don't have access to safe and affordable housing or shelter nearby. The "kayak court" effort helps people in encampments clear their court cases — and cleans up the River along the way.

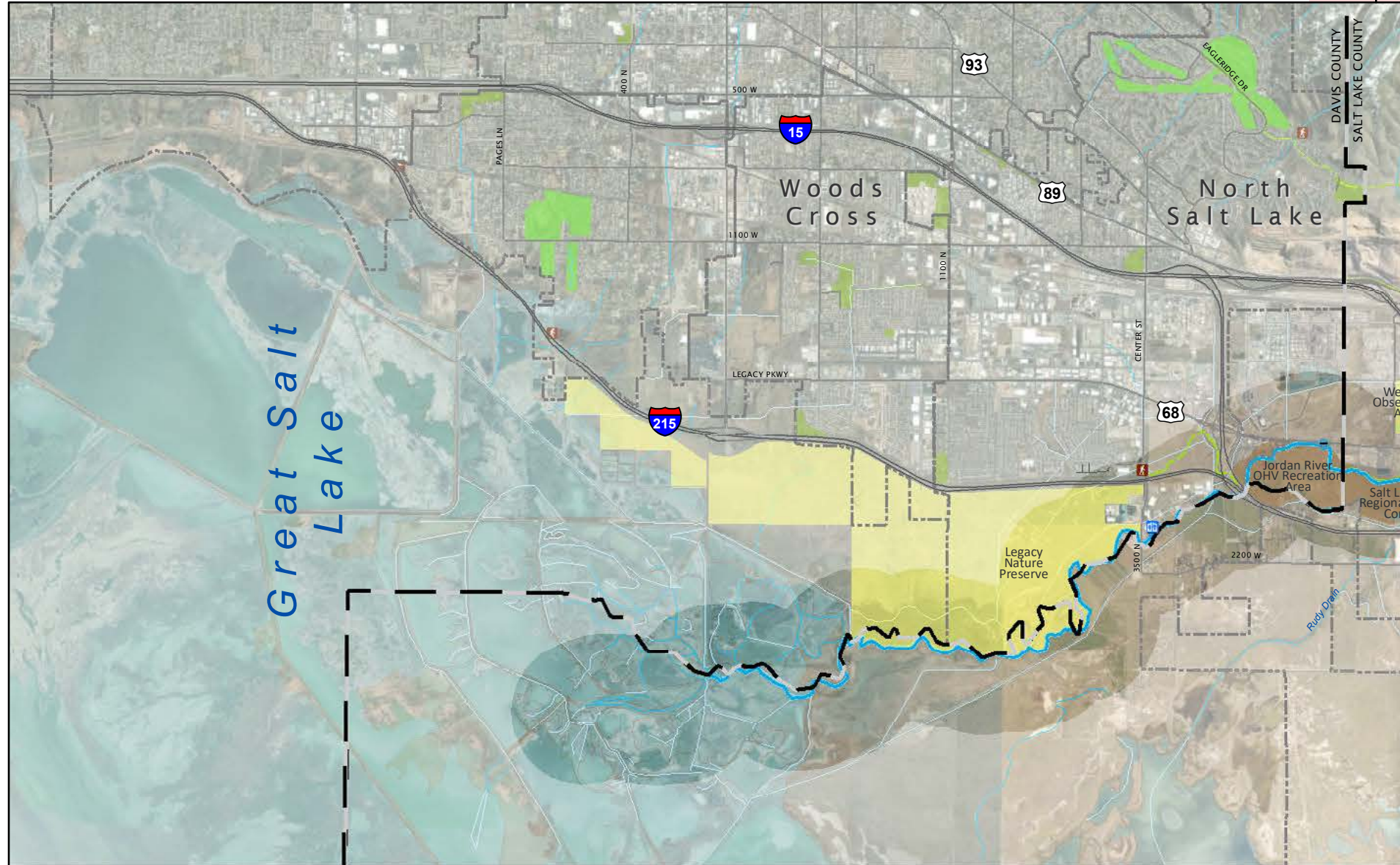
IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

- Homeless service providers
- Outreach organizations
- Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands
- Utah Department of Transportation
- Habitat restoration organizations
- Public safety departments

COMFORT AND INCLUSIVITY MAP

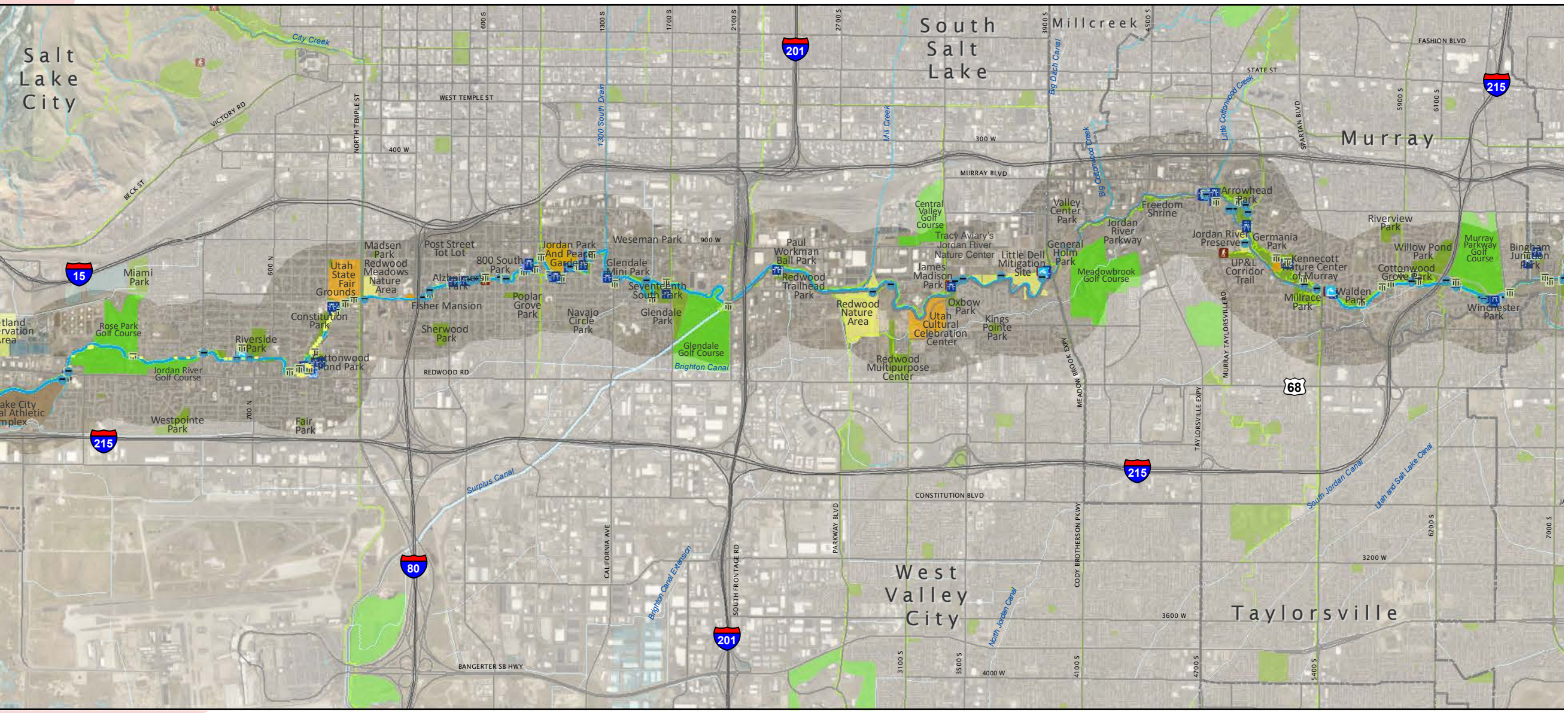
Legend

- | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|---|--------------------|
|  | Jordan River |  | Bench |
|  | Existing Trails |  | Drinking Fountain |
|  | Trailhead |  | Garbage Receptical |
|  | Conservation Easement |  | Street Lighting |
|  | Upland Habitat |  | Picnic Facility |
|  | Emergent Marsh |  | Restroom |
|  | Park | | |
|  | Golf Course | | |
|  | Recreation Area | | |
|  | Natural Area/Preserve | | |
|  | Destination Area | | |
|  | Wetland | | |
|  | Lake/Pond | | |
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|  | County Boundary | | |
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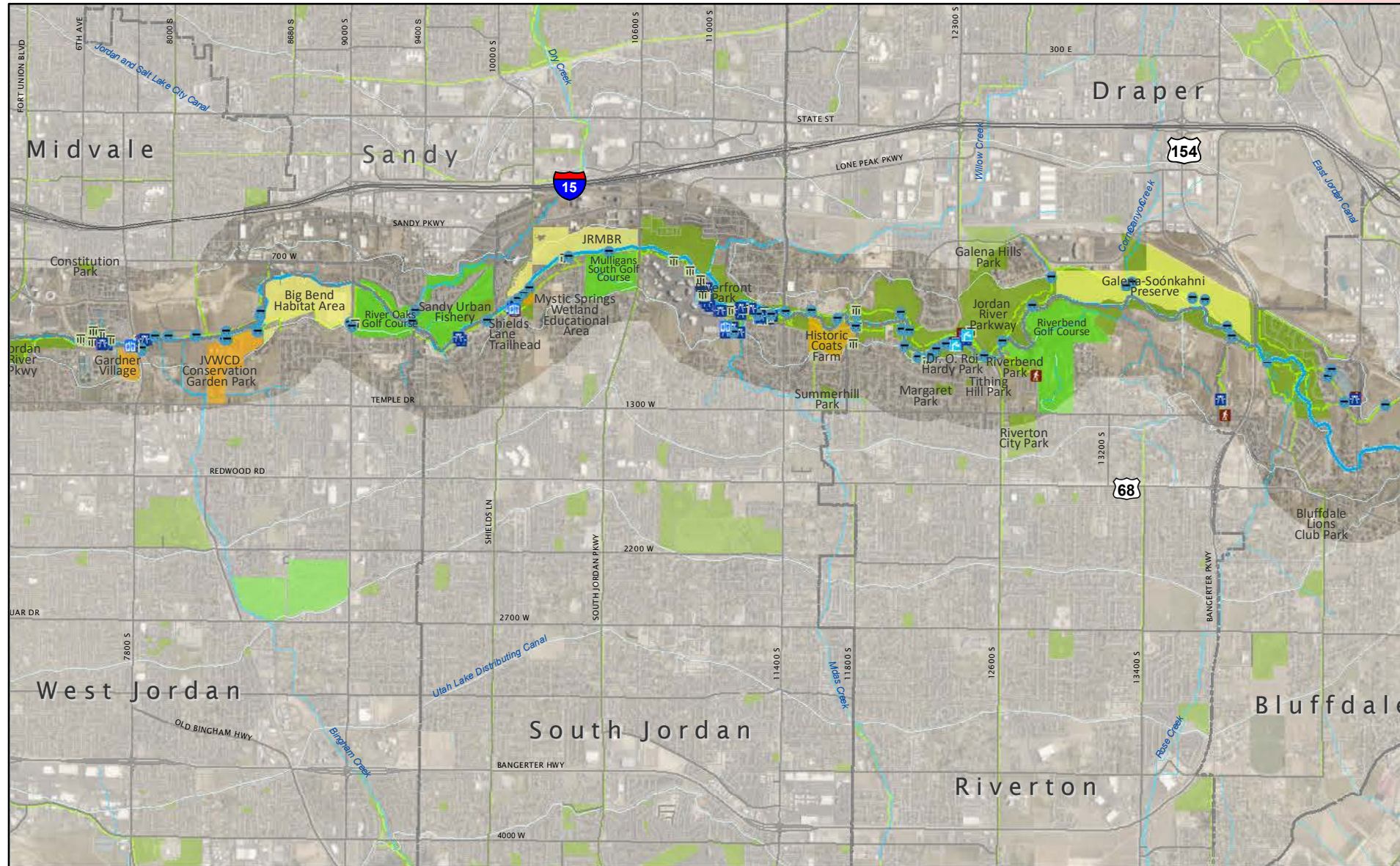






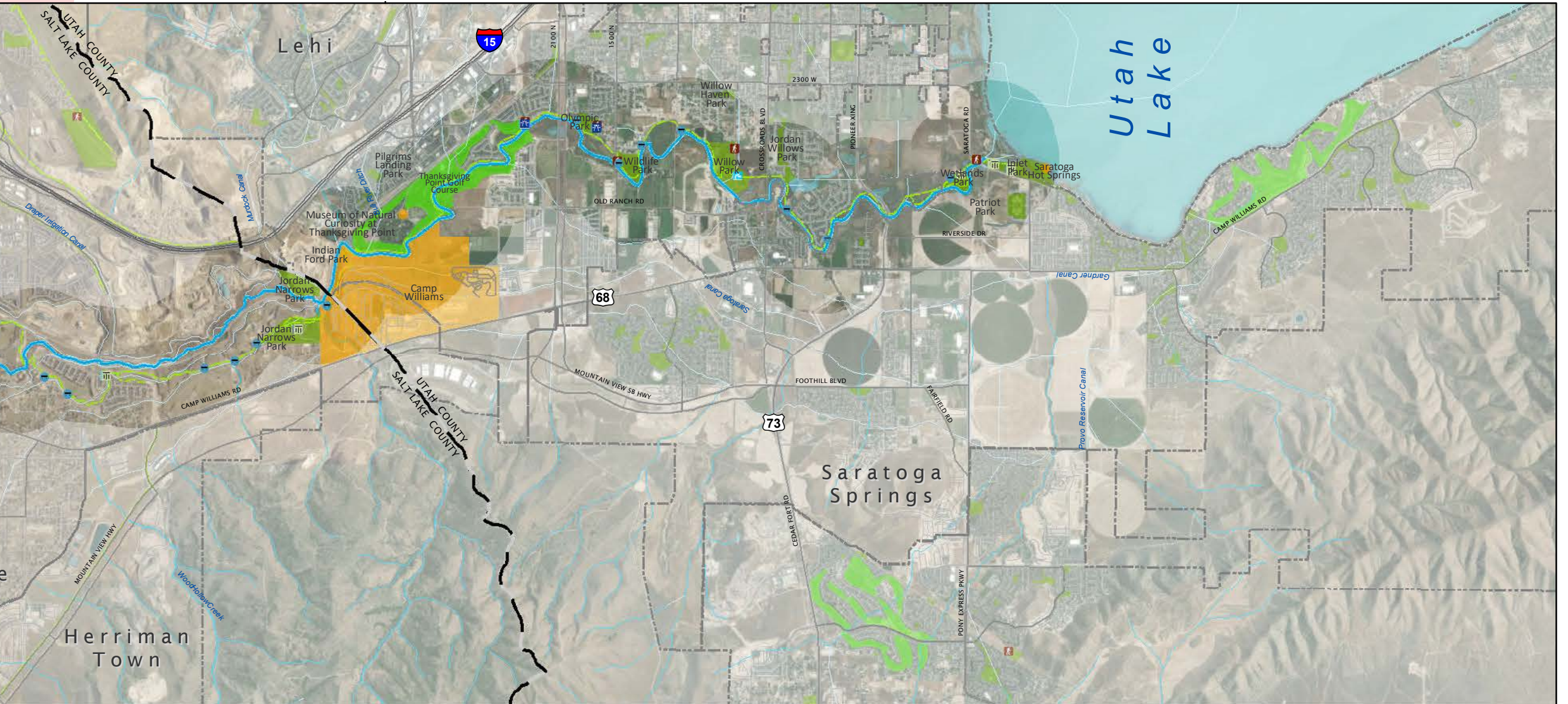
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- Garbage Receptical
- Street Lighting
- Picnic Facility
- Restroom



1 inch = 1 mile





RECREATION

Goal: Enhance opportunities for recreational uses and active transportation throughout the Parkway R

The Jordan River Parkway is a unique asset for the Wasatch Front region because it provides incredible recreation opportunities in a rapidly urbanizing region. Preserving and enhancing recreational opportunities and amenities along the entire length of the Parkway will be key to ensuring its long-term success. The following goals and strategies aim to enhance recreation along the Jordan River Trail by improving existing trail conditions, developing more and diverse opportunities for various forms of recreation, creating targeted programs that increase the public's awareness of the Jordan River Trail and other recreational opportunities in the Parkway, and enhancing connections to the trail from areas that are currently underserved.

1. DEFINE AND IMPLEMENT CONSISTENT TRAIL AND PATHWAY STANDARDS THAT EMPHASIZE SAFETY, COMFORT, AND FUNCTION

Trail-based activities such as walking, running, and biking are the most popular activities in the Jordan River Parkway. Developing a trail that is consistent, seamless, and safe is key to creating a successful trail. Currently, many sections of the Jordan River Trail do not meet standards due to its fragmented and incremental development. Developing a uniform design guide for the entire trail is key to ensuring that older sections of trail are retrofitted, and newer sections of trails are built to standard.

STRATEGIES:

- Create a design guide for the Jordan River Trail that defines design standards that meet or exceed industry standards such as the [AASHTO Guide for Development of Bicycle Facilities](#) or [International Mountain Biking Association Guidelines](#) for natural surface trails and ensure that all trails meet these standards.
- Create a list of trail sections that do not meet current standards and develop a prioritization schedule for improvements. The recreation map at the end of this section shows 2020 conditions.
- Improve sections of the Jordan River Trail that currently flood during high water events to allow more consistent, reliable use of the trail. In instances where preventing flooding across the trail is infeasible, designate suitable detours.
- Identify high use stretches of trail by conducting counts near transit stations and other popular destinations. Use [the Path Level of Service Calculator](#) from the Federal Highway Administration to determine whether strategies including widening, striping, separating modes, and developing a parallel trail should be pursued.
- Conduct a Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) audit to identify and mitigate issues related to vegetation, lighting, visibility, etc.
- Develop safety and use guidelines for battery powered or assisted e-bikes and other mobility devices, and provide access to electrical outlets for e-bike charging in convenient locations such as trailheads, pavilions and rest areas.
- Expand the availability of electric vehicle charging at all trailheads and parking lots where possible (and electric power is available) to support EV infrastructure development, reduce vehicle emissions, and address broader air quality, climate change and public health goals.



IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

- Municipalities
- Counties
- Local community groups
- Salt Lake Valley Trails Society
- Bike Utah
- Green Bike
- Utah Transit Authority
- Utah Division of Wildlife Resources



2. ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT A CONSISTENT MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE FOR THE JORDAN RIVER TRAIL THAT PROTECTS TRAIL INVESTMENT AND EXTENDS ITS LONGEVITY

Regular annual maintenance including drainage and tread repair, inspections, pruning and vegetation removal, sign repair or replacement, winter plowing, and structure maintenance is a critical component of a high-quality trail. Without proper and timely maintenance, the Jordan River Trail is at risk of erosion, overgrowth, and degradation, which can have a negative impact on both safety and the user experience and may result in the trail needing to be rebuilt. Trail maintenance is also crucial for minimizing impact to the natural environment, wildlife, and aesthetic beauty of the landscape.

STRATEGIES:

- Prioritize Jordan River Trail improvements to meet maintenance standards.
- Actively engage with citizen groups, partner agencies, private developers, and related organizations on an ongoing basis to assess trail needs and coordinate implementation of projects.
- Expand the puncturevine bounty program and develop a best practices toolkit for eradicating puncturevine.
 - i. Salt Lake City's [Puncturevine Free SLC resources](#) provide information about identifying, removing, and reporting puncturevine.
- Develop best practices manual for maintenance, including guidance on mowing, crack sealing, chip sealing, pavement surfacing, winter maintenance, and bank/trail stabilization. Work with managing agencies and jurisdictions to promote consistent maintenance practices.
- Seek out additional funding opportunities for the Jordan River Commission and municipalities to maintain the trail.

3. PROVIDE ADEQUATE RECREATIONAL AMENITIES IN A VARIETY OF SETTINGS, INCLUDING BOTH PASSIVE AND ACTIVE RECREATIONAL USES

The Jordan River Parkway offers numerous recreational activities, including passive options (such as birding, painting, and sitting) and active options (such as biking, walking, and fishing). Developing additional amenities will support this diverse mix of users.

STRATEGIES:

- Develop ADA accessible pull-outs and boardwalks in key habitat areas to encourage passive recreation, such as bird-viewing, painting, meditating, and observing.
- Work with local community groups to identify key locations that provide superior nature observation.
- Design and implement interpretative signage that educates users on their surroundings. This includes signage identifying native flora and fauna, ecological processes, and cultural history.
- Develop connections to the Jordan River Trail in areas that don't currently have access. Coordinate with local Parks, Open Space, and Trail Plans to identify opportunities.
- Explore opportunities to create natural surface trail networks within the Jordan River Parkway including researching and identifying key areas for developing designated single-use trails and bicycle skills parks. This could involve working with municipalities, conducting surveys, noting areas of high demand, and working with local community organizations such as the Salt Lake Valley Trails Society.
- Improve knowledge of the fisheries in the Parkway through population monitoring, habitat inventories, etc. Prioritize improvements to fisheries based on location and impact.
- Evaluate options for supplemental fish stocking in target fisheries.
- Develop a prioritized list of areas to add fishing piers, platforms, contoured bank slopes, etc. to facilitate angling from the shore. Prioritization could be based on fish populations and habitat, proximity to other improved fishing opportunities, and the availability of infrastructure that could be enhanced to provide fishing opportunities.
- Educate anglers about the safety of consuming fish from the river based on current concentrations of mercury and PCB levels and harmful algae blooms.

4. COORDINATE EVENTS AND PROGRAMS TO HIGHLIGHT AND ENCOURAGE RECREATION AND STEWARDSHIP

Organized events and programs such as the “Get to the River” festival are some of the best ways to build interest in and support for the Parkway.

STRATEGIES:

- Collaborate with municipalities to promote trailheads along popular transportation routes.
- Partner with local organizations, like NeighborWorks Salt Lake and others to raise awareness and bring attention to the Jordan River Trail.
- Expand opportunities for bike and equipment rentals and loans, including providing Green Bike stations near high ridership transit stops and key high-density areas near the Jordan River Trail where feasible. Other rental equipment needs include kayaks, canoes, and fishing gear.





- Partner with Bike Utah on youth learn-to-ride programs using the JRT as a safe route, including listing potential schools that would benefit from this opportunity.
 - i. The Youth Bicycle Education and Safety Training (BEST) Program teaches more than 3,000 Utah kids every year how to experience their communities safely and confidently by bicycle. The Program is a 4-hour, in-class and on-bike program taught over four consecutive days at schools around Utah, targeting students in the 4th to 7th grades. Bike Utah provides trained instructors, bicycles, helmets, and all other equipment for the duration of the program at no cost.
- Host events such as the “Golden Spoke” and “Get to the River,” as well as group paddles, land and rowing races and relays, and fishing events.
 - i. Develop a streamlined process for hosting multi-jurisdictional events, such as running, walking, and biking races, along the Jordan River. Coordinating with multiple municipalities and counties is a current barrier to event planning.
- Create a campaign that highlights the different recreational and cultural opportunities available throughout the Jordan River corridor.
- Collaborate with UTA to advertise river recreation trips.
- Communicate and work collaboratively with public health providers and transportation organizations to ensure that trails and pathways data, policies, plans, and systems are monitored, shared, and optimized to promote community health.

5. DEVELOP A WATER TRAIL SYSTEM DESIGNED TO SERVE SMALL NON-MOTORIZED WATERCRAFT, SUCH AS CANOES, KAYAKS, STAND-UP PADDLEBOARDS (SUPS) AND ROWING SCULLS

Developing a water trail system that is designed to serve small and non-motorized watercraft users will enhance the overall visibility of the river and support its designation as one of the Salt Lake Valley’s premier outdoor attractions.

STRATEGIES:

- Map water hazards and barriers in the river. Identify and develop portage options and prioritize barrier removal/mitigation strategies.
 - i. Inventory existing river access points and associated facilities and develop a replacement schedule.
- In coordination with municipalities and counties, design, construct, and jointly manage a water trail system and supporting facilities, such as restrooms, parking areas, water features, seating, etc.
- Develop a prioritized list of desired water trail infrastructure and access improvements for annual review by the Jordan River Commission, Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, and Utah Division of Parks and [Recreation Boating Advisory Council](#) for funding consideration and coordination.
- Monitor paddle craft use in the River to better understand the popularity of river trips and trends over time.
- Develop a Water Sports Center along the riverbank to support a growing and educated community of recreational users.
- Further develop the Surplus Canal in Salt Lake City as a rowing destination.
 - i. Move the Weir near 2100 South further north in the canal to improve safety and rowing conditions.
- Maintain the river bottom for recreational and ecological benefits through activities like dredging.
- Balance watercraft access with ecological needs in sensitive areas such as the Legacy Nature Preserve and north of I-80 in the Surplus Canal.

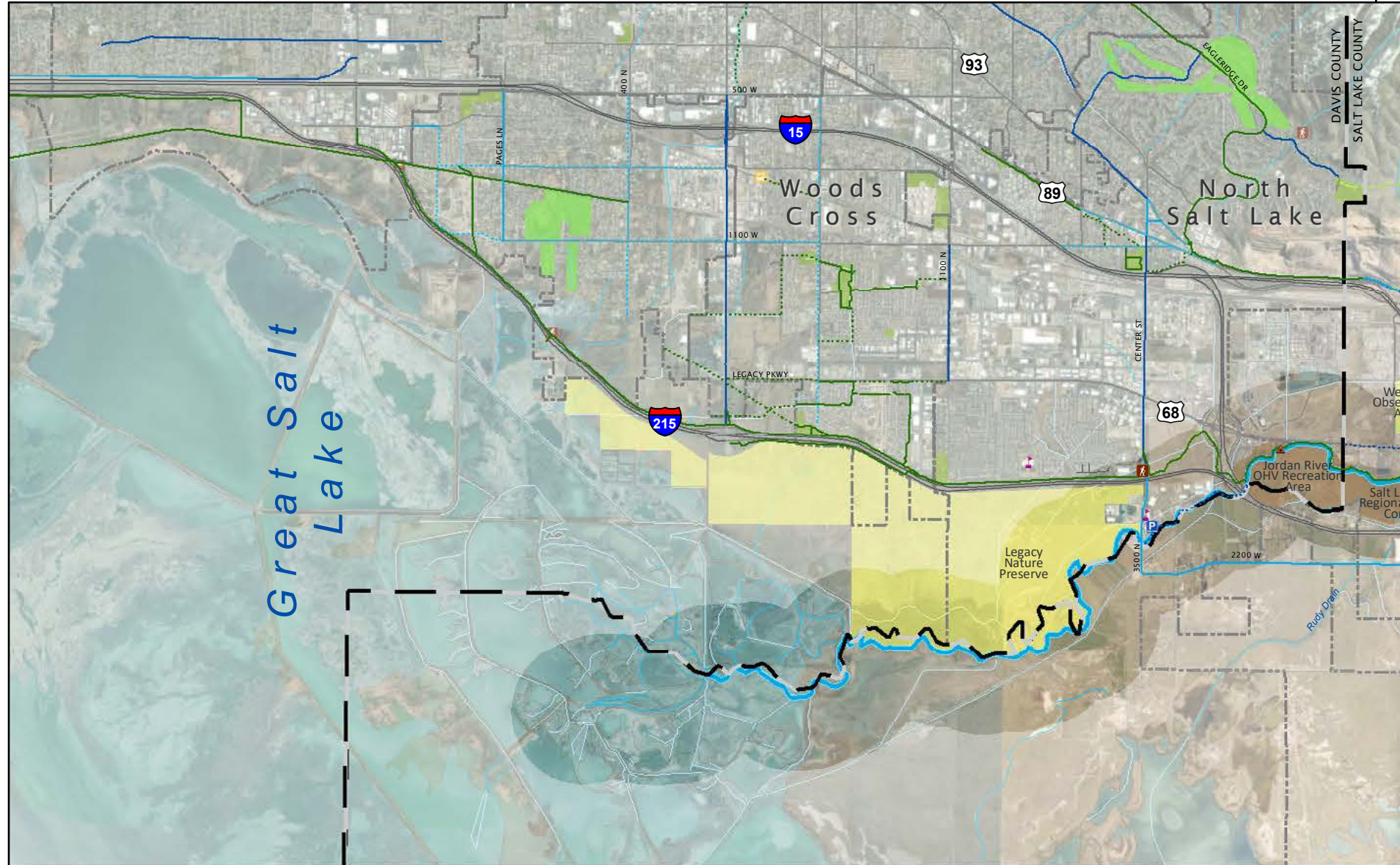


RECREATION MAP

Legend

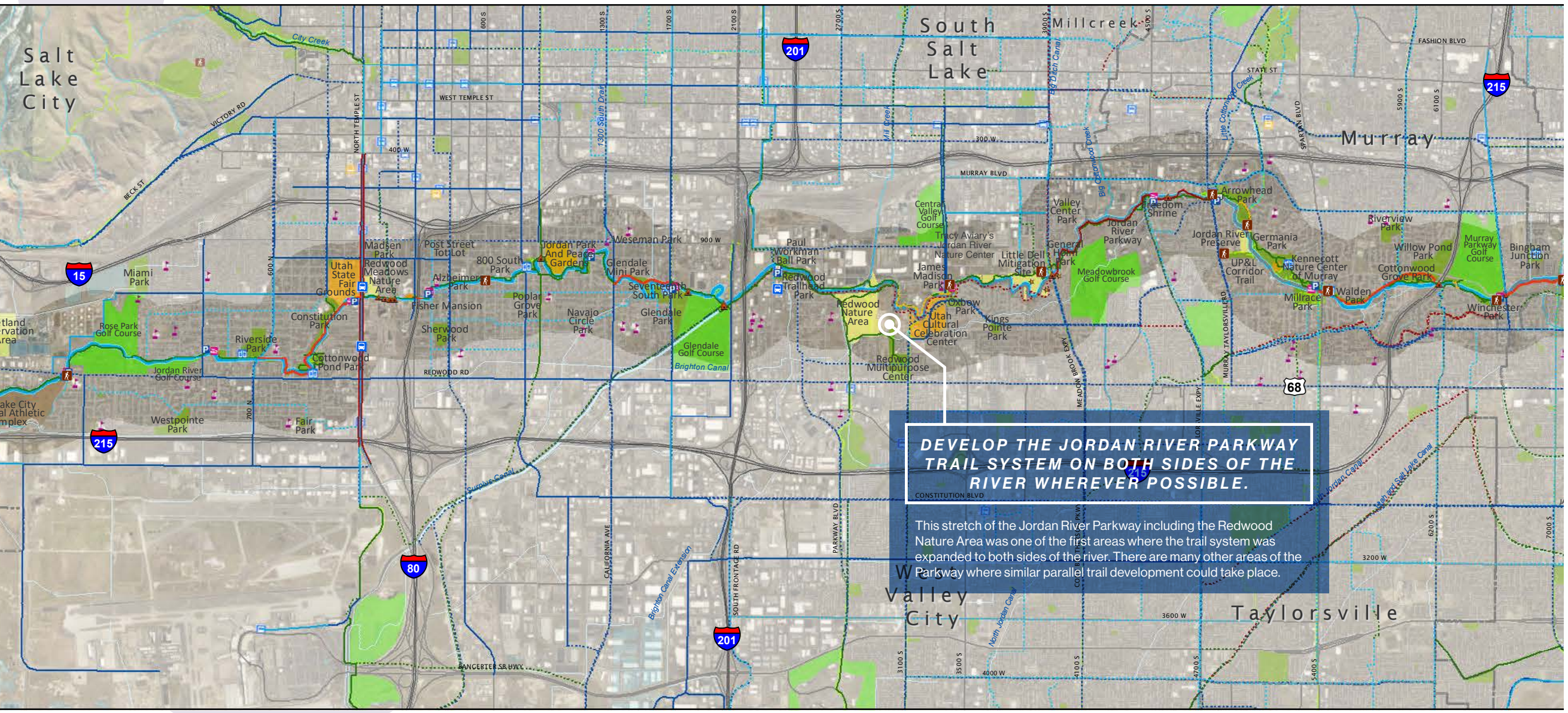
- Jordan River
- Existing Trails
- Trailhead
- Front Runner Station
- Transit Station
- Park
- Golf Course
- Recreation Area
- Natural Area/Preserve
- Destination Area
- Municipal Boundary
- County Boundary
- Lake/Pond
- Major Stream
- Minor Stream
- Canal/Ditch
- Street/Highway
- Interstate
- Potential Single Use Areas
- Jordan River Trailhead
- Restroom
- School within 1 mile
- Trail Does Not Meet Standard
- Trail Hazard
- Boat Access
- Water Hazard
- Mandatory Take-Out
- Parking
- Existing Bikeways**
 - Least protected / bike lane
 - Mid protected / buffered bike lane
 - Most protected / separated bike lane
 - Multiuse
- Proposed Bikeway**
 - Least protected / bike lane
 - Mid protected / buff bike lane
 - Most protected / separated bike lane
 - Multiuse

1 inch = 1 mile





Salt Lake City



DEVELOP THE JORDAN RIVER PARKWAY TRAIL SYSTEM ON BOTH SIDES OF THE RIVER WHEREVER POSSIBLE.

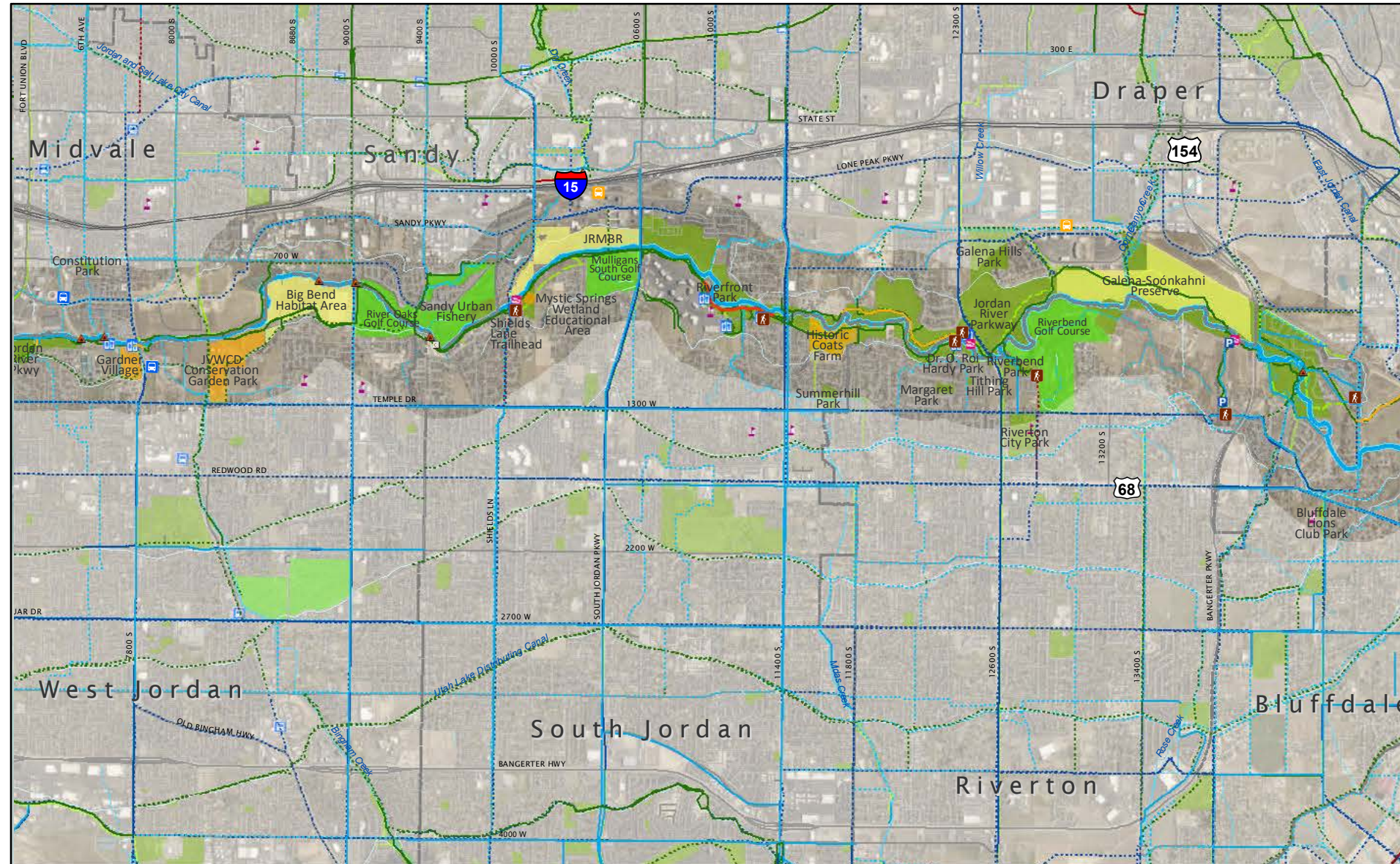
This stretch of the Jordan River Parkway including the Redwood Nature Area was one of the first areas where the trail system was expanded to both sides of the river. There are many other areas of the Parkway where similar parallel trail development could take place.

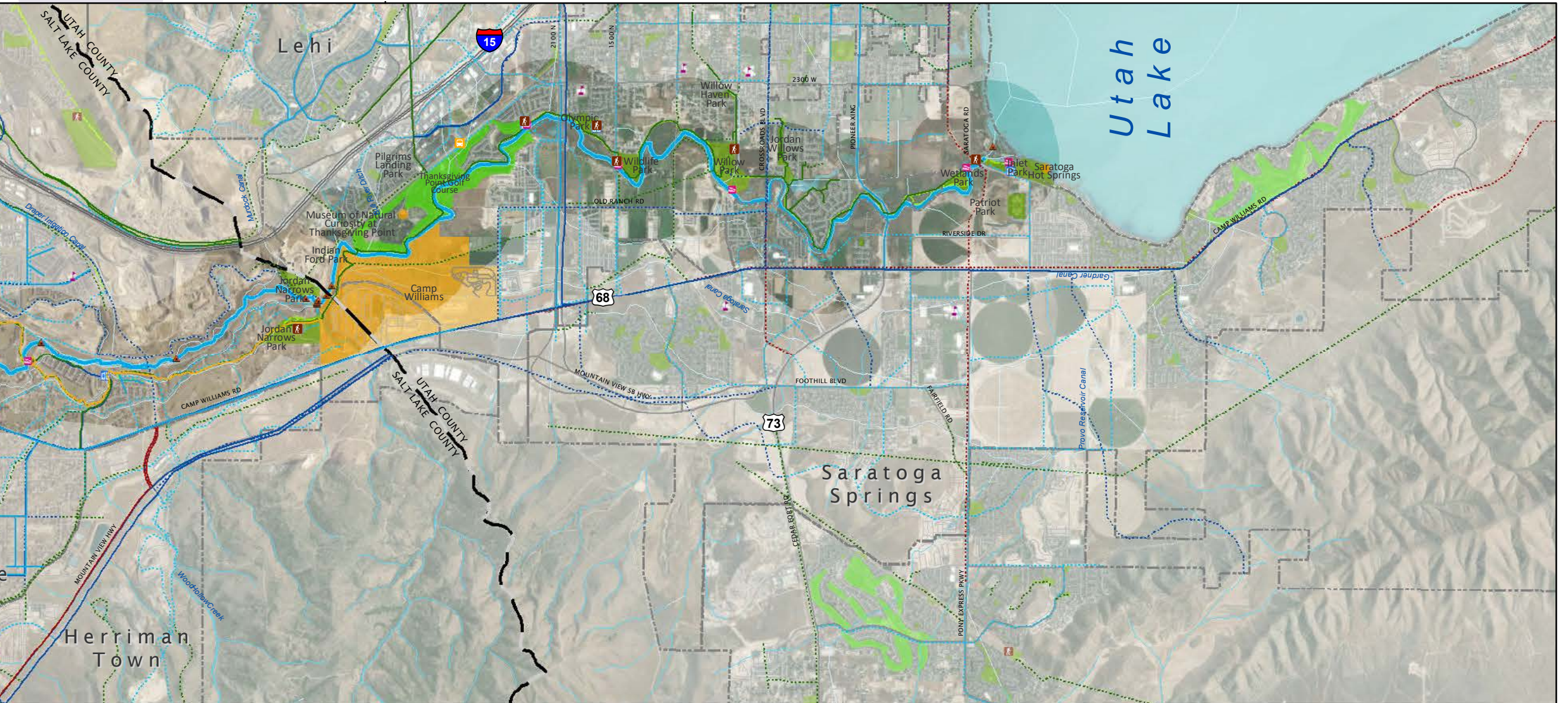


Legend

- Jordan River
- Existing Trails
- Trailhead
- Front Runner Station
- Transit Station
- Park
- Golf Course
- Recreation Area
- Natural Area/Preserve
- Destination Area
- Municipal Boundary
- County Boundary
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- Proposed Bikeway**
 - Least protected / bike lane
 - Mid protected / buff bike lane
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 - Multiuse

1 inch = 1 mile





SAFETY AND WELLBEING

Goal: Improve safety and security while fostering a comfortable environment for recreation and leisure

The accessibility, continuity, and natural habitat of the Jordan River make it a great destination for recreational visits but can also contribute to conditions that may make visitors feel unsafe. 24 percent of people who responded to the 2020 Blueprint Jordan River Refresh survey indicated that feeling unsafe prevented them from visiting the Parkway, or from visiting more often. Women were especially likely to express safety concerns related to visiting the Parkway alone or after dark. Being alone on the trail between access points, traveling below underpasses, or passing areas of dense vegetation can leave some visitors feeling vulnerable.

Many organizations can play a role in improving safety as well as the experience of visitors in the Jordan River Parkway. Goals and strategies listed elsewhere in the Blueprint such as widening trails, educating visitors about appropriate etiquette, and managing vegetation along the trail also have significant potential to improve people's sense of safety. Because the Parkway is a place of recreation and leisure, it is important to balance safety improvement efforts with maintaining a welcoming environment for all. Increasing patrols ranked as the top safety strategy listed in the 2020 Blueprint Jordan River Refresh Survey. However, some individuals shared that they feel threatened or uneasy in the presence of armed police officers.

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

- Public safety departments
- Community members
- Recreational and other visitors to the Parkway
- Social service providers
- Volunteer groups



STRATEGIES:

- Collaborate across agencies and organizations to ensure that the most appropriate people are responding to issues and emergencies. When collaborating, understand how funding impacts different agencies' responses to problems along the Jordan River. Consider the responsibility of different agencies when making decisions about who will respond to different incident types.
 - i. Depending on the situation, different agencies may provide the most effective response to address issues along the Jordan River. Police may be the best response to some situations, while at other times social workers or other social service agencies like Volunteer of America (VOA) or Catholic Community Services may provide the best response. Other times, multiple agencies/organizations may respond to events together. Collaborating across agencies before issues arise will allow a strategic response when issues are reported. Providing signage throughout the Parkway about the appropriate entities to contact about different issues can help support this strategy.
- Utilize bicycle or foot patrols, rather than vehicle patrols, to monitor the Parkway. The Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State lands purchased electric bicycles to use for patrols in the Parkway to avoid using larger vehicles that can disrupt recreational activities and damage habitats.
- Coordinate with safety and social service agencies and organizations working in the Jordan River Parkway to engage nearby residents and visitors to ensure incident response reflects the needs of the community. Consider convening a cross-agency listening session once a year to discuss safety concerns and challenges with the public.
- Develop and expand volunteer ranger programs that allow community members to participate in safety patrols.
 - i. Explore opportunities to procure funding for volunteer ranger programs or to partner with community organizations to sustain these efforts.
 - ii. In 2015, the University of Utah's Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism developed an Urban Rangers program in partnership with the National Park Service to serve parts of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail and Jordan River Trail. U students acted as volunteer rangers to become stewards of the area, but the program ended due to funding limitations after a couple of years. Factors that may contribute to the success of this and future programs include leveraging institutional partnerships and resources (such as universities) to recruit, organize, and mobilize volunteers with limited funding sources; developing champions to sustain the effort; and procuring funding that can be used throughout the year to meet the needs of the program.
- Use crime reporting data to identify crime hotspots and key access points along the river. Consider completing a system-wide safety audit and using this data to inform public safety responses.
- Share crime and safety data with users by developing a public dashboard or app with mapping capabilities where users can report issues and see other user-generated and law enforcement reports of crime based on location.
 - i. Consider adding this functionality to MyJordanRiver.org or posting on public safety or police department websites.
- Ensure that emergency responders are familiar with the north and south coordinates along the Parkway and their relations to wayfinding signs and landmarks.



Goal: Add balanced lighting solutions and surveillance where appropriate to improve visibility while minimizing impacts to wildlife

Lighting in the Jordan River Parkway can make people feel safer when recreating or traveling in the dark, and public support is high for adding more lighting along the Jordan River Trail. Increasing lighting was the top safety goal selected by respondents who identified as Hispanic, Latinx, or Spanish in the 2020 Blueprint survey. While lighting benefits human use of the parkway, wildlife can be negatively impacted. Safety needs and wildlife impacts can be balanced through the strategic design and location of lighting. Increasing security by placing cameras near trailheads and isolated areas along the River Trail can also improve safety.

STRATEGIES:

- Provide lighting in high-use locations in the Parkway to increase visibility for visitors.
 - i. Use trail use and observational data to compare use to lighting availability. Trail counts and app data (such as Strava) may be used to identify relative use. The Parkway near 3300 South and South Salt Lake Homeless Resource Center was identified as an area in need of additional lighting by the Blueprint Jordan River Refresh working groups.
 - ii. Limit lighting installations to popular trailheads, parking lots, underpasses, and other high use areas to preserve dark skies near more natural spaces along the Jordan River.
- Use the International Dark Sky Association's [Dark Sky Friendly Database](#) to select lighting fixtures for the Jordan River Parkway that minimize impacts on wildlife, particularly migratory birds. Use shielded lights that direct light towards the ground and dimmable light bulbs that produce a warm color. Reference the International Dark Sky Association's [Outdoor Lighting Basics](#) for more information.
- Collaborate with the [IDA Utah Chapter](#) and the Dark Skies Studies program at the University of Utah on any major lighting projects
- In areas where lighting is desired, consider installing motion-sensor lighting to further reduce impacts to wildlife. Motion-sensor lighting installed in Sunnyvale Park in Millcreek was part of a series of upgrades that enhanced the safety and conditions in the park.
- Add cameras in parking lots and along the trail to deter crime.
 - i. Ensure that surveillance cameras are accompanied by a protocol for who will review footage and how often.
 - ii. Locate cameras near underpasses, parking lots, and other crime hotspots or spaces where people feel vulnerable.
 - iii. Add signage about cameras in parking lots and periodically along the trail.

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

- Municipalities
- Counties
- Wildlife and conservation groups
- International Dark Sky Association-Utah Chapter
- University of Utah Dark Skies Studies



The streetlights of downtown Salt Lake City have old-time character but spill light in all directions and up into the sky. With no shielding, the exposed globes cause glare, making it difficult to see and disrupting wildlife.

Goal: Manage wildfire risk and prepare for response and recovery

Wildfire is a natural part of ecosystems throughout the Intermountain West and has shaped many of the ecosystems along the Jordan River, but wildfire along the Jordan River Corridor needs to be considered in management planning to ensure risks are managed and mitigated where possible. Fire risk is a concern in natural spaces throughout the Jordan River Parkway and several fires happen in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) along the River every year.

Wildfire in natural areas along the River Corridor not only threatens habitat and open space, but also poses a risk to nearby communities and infrastructure. Reducing fire risk through preventative mitigation efforts such as through the creation of defensible space can help to prevent the ignition and spread of fires. Preparing natural areas to reduce the risk of wildfire can benefit people and ecosystems in the short- and long-term because these sensitive areas can be easily damaged through fire suppression efforts.

In the case of a fire, an effective response is critical to reduce damage and safety concerns, and response to fires in these areas requires special consideration due to the natural and human resources that are threatened by fire. Specialized training for groups that respond to fires and developing an understanding of how fires affect natural areas are needed. Following a fire, recovery efforts including replanting and erosion control restore the ecological and recreational value of a burned area.



IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

- Local Fire Departments
- Northern Utah Interagency Fire Center
- Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands
- Greater Salt Lake Unified Fire Authority
- Municipalities
- Counties

1. MITIGATE WILDFIRE RISK

Most wildfires in Utah are caused by humans, therefore preventing fires from sparking is the best strategy to maintain integrity of ecosystems and recreation areas along the Jordan River Parkway. Long-term land management strategies and cross-agency collaboration are a critical component to planning and mitigation. Educating the public about fire risk and reducing illegal camping can also help reduce fire risk in the Jordan River Parkway.

STRATEGIES:

- Integrate fire mitigation into vegetation and land management practices on public and private land throughout the Parkway.
 - i. Add preventative fire management strategies into long-term land management efforts and plans.
 - ii. Create defensible space around mature riparian forests and reduce “ladder fuels” to reduce the ability of ground fires to spread to tree canopies.
 - iii. Partner with the Greater Salt Lake Unified Fire Authority Wildland Division and other fire agencies to conduct project work to reduce fire-prone vegetation in at-risk areas.
 - iv. Consider prescribed burns in overgrown areas along the river, followed by appropriate restoration and revegetation efforts.
- Work to reduce human-caused fire risk
 - i. Educate visitors about the fire risk along the Jordan River Parkway and encourage safe behaviors and practices.
 - ii. Discourage open burning and smoking in the Parkway.
 - iii. Watch for catastrophic wildfire during critically dry periods with red flag weather conditions and prepare for response.



Vegetation management can help to prevent the ignition and spread of wildfire.



Defensible space can reduce the spread of wildfire to homes, buildings, and mature trees. Courtesy Colorado Forest Service.



Reseeding burnt areas supports the recovery of desirable ecosystems.

2. QUICKLY AND EFFECTIVELY RESPOND TO WILDFIRES

In the event of a wildfire in the Jordan River Parkway, having a plan of action is key to reducing damage and protecting neighboring communities. Identifying access points for firefighting vehicles aids in quick and effective response in an emergency event. It is also helpful to know where sources of water are located.

STRATEGIES:

- On a local fire agency basis, create actionable response plans for the stretches of the Jordan River the agency is responsible for, incorporating the best practices highlighted in the accompanying strategies. These plans should also include recovery efforts or be closely linked to recovery plans.
- Prioritize the protection of mature riparian forests in addition to adjacent structures in firefighting efforts.
- Strive to minimize the impact of fire response on wetlands and riparian areas. For example, avoid driving heavy vehicles into sensitive areas when possible and don't remove more vegetation than necessary.
- Identify areas that need expanded access for heavy vehicles from first responder agencies to improve access during emergencies.
 - i. Coordinate across municipalities and at the county level to identify areas that need vehicle access. Seek to minimize habitat and forested area disruption caused by the installation and maintenance of access roads.
 - ii. Improve access to gated areas. This may include developing a universal gate key for emergency responders along the Parkway.
- Ensure that emergency responders are familiar with the north and south coordinates along the Parkway and their relations to wayfinding signs and landmarks.

3. SUPPORT RAPID RECOVERY FROM FIRES

Following a fire event, recovery of the area will require revegetation. Fire recovery may be an opportunity to improve conditions for wildlife habitat, enhance scenic and recreation values, and limit erosion impacts.

STRATEGIES:

- Revegetate burned areas with beneficial riparian and upland species.
- Seed burned areas shortly after fires to limit erosion and prevent invasive species from becoming established.
 - i. Coordinate with community members, volunteers, and local organizations to assist with planting trees and shrubs after areas have been stabilized.
 - ii. Develop medium- and long-term follow up strategies for ensuring that seeding and planting efforts have been successful and invasive species are kept to a minimum.



DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION

GOAL: Improve access to the Parkway and enhance the Parkway’s role as a regional transportation corridor R

The Jordan River Trail is a key regional transportation route connecting communities along the Wasatch Front. Enhancing its role as a transportation corridor will be critical to reducing traffic congestion, improving air quality, promoting public health, and increasing quality of life. Improving access to the Jordan River Parkway in general is also important because it is a popular destination. The following goals and strategies aim to increase access to the Jordan River Trail and Parkway by improving east-west active transportation connections, enhancing UTA transit stops, ensuring access to the Parkway from all areas of the region, increasing trailhead visibility, and creating targeted programs that raise the public’s awareness of the Jordan River Trail.

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

- Municipalities
- Counties
- Utah Department of Transportation
- Army Corps of Engineers
- Wasatch Front Regional Council
- Mountainland Association of Governments
- Utah Department of Natural Resources
- Utah Transit Authority
- Canal operators
- Mapping software companies
- Bike Utah
- Local community groups

1. INTEGRATE THE JORDAN RIVER TRAIL SYSTEM INTO THE REGIONAL ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

While the Jordan River Trail plays a large role in the regional active transportation system, there are several areas of opportunity to increase connections and some significant barriers to circulation that should be addressed. Adding connections to regional trails was one of the most popular transportation improvements identified by the 2020 Blueprint Jordan River Refresh Survey. Developing more east-west connections from neighboring communities and regional transportation nodes, such as TRAX stations, will support the use of active and public transportation and enhance accessibility for all.

STRATEGIES:

- Work with municipalities to identify, develop, improve, and implement bicycle facilities along major east-west roads to key trail access points.
- Coordinate with municipalities as they develop or update Active Transportation Plans.
- Collaborate with municipalities to develop and implement connectivity standards to enhance transportation networks to and from the Jordan River Trail. This could include requiring the implementation of bike lanes and pathways through developments, developing pedestrian connections through the end of cul-de-sacs or roads that back to the Jordan River, or providing easements to the trail in new developments.
 - i. Use the Utah Street Connectivity Guide to inform transportation connectivity standards.
- Develop the Jordan River Parkway Trail System on both sides of the river wherever possible.
- Improve at-grade intersections to ensure efficiency and safety for Pathway users, including adding crosswalks and high visibility signage where needed.
- Monitor emerging recreation and transportation trends and devices including e-bikes, e-scooters, and other micro-mobility devices to assess their impact and suitability for use on the Jordan River Trail. Refer to the National Association of City Transportation Officials’ [Shared Active Transportation Guidelines](#) as a starting point for discussions.
- Conduct a gap analysis of existing active transportation facilities within a one-mile radius of the Jordan River Trail to determine where new or improved bicycle and walking facilities are needed.
- Work with the County, municipalities, and various canal owners to develop connections along major intersecting canals, such as the Surplus Canal.

2. INCREASE TRAILHEAD VISIBILITY TO PROMOTE ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION FOR EVERYDAY ACTIVITIES

Many of the Jordan River's trailheads are not well advertised or lack signage, making it difficult for those wishing to use the trail find key access points. Developing online communications, via apps and maps, and on-the-ground signage can help users find trail access points.

STRATEGIES:

- Design and implement additional trailhead amenities that will improve the active transportation users' comfort, including maintaining year-around restrooms, lighting, parking, maps, and wayfinding signage to nearby destinations and trails.
- Provide trailheads near key hubs for active transportation.
- Ensure that trailheads are labeled correctly on map apps, such as Google Maps and Apple Maps, as well as on Parkway maps. Include trailhead information that is correct and easy to find, such as hours and bathroom facilities.
- Provide adequate parking for commuters at major trailheads and incorporate additional small parking lots in areas with high user volumes.
- Expand the availability of AC Level 2 electric vehicle charging at all trailheads and parking lots, and provide signage and online information to promote the convenience of charging while enjoying Jordan River Parkway activities.
- Install rapid charging such as DC Fast Charging at popular parks and destinations, and consider charging facilities for e-bikes and other electric assistive mobility devices.

3. PROMOTE NON-AUTOMOBILE COMMUTES THROUGH THE JORDAN RIVER PARKWAY

In 2020, driving was the most common way that visitors accessed the Jordan River Parkway but biking and walking followed close behind. Increasing commuters' awareness of the Jordan River Trail and the transportation options available to them through organized events and programs throughout the corridor, online visibility of the trail in apps and maps, and planning and coordination with community organizations can promote the Jordan River Trail as a regional commuting route.

STRATEGIES:

- Use "Golden Spoke" language and branding in marketing campaigns and wayfinding.
- Plan and host an annual bike to work day that focuses on the Jordan River Trail in coordination with transportation partners like the Wasatch Front Regional Council, Mountainland Association of Governments, and Utah Department of Transportation.
 - Example: Once a year, the Denver Regional Council of Governments organizes a Bike to Work Day to encourage commuters in the Denver region to bike to work, helping them save money on their commutes, improve their health, lower stress levels, reduce traffic congestion, and improve air quality.
- Continue to improve and provide safe bicycle and pedestrian crossings that are at-grade and grade separated to meet national and local standards.



4. INTEGRATE THE TRANSIT NETWORK AND THE JORDAN RIVER TRAIL SYSTEM NETWORK TO ENHANCE TRANSIT ACCESS TO THE RIVER

Collaborating with UTA to design seamless first-last mile connections to transit stations near the trail will promote the Jordan River Trail as a transportation asset and make it easier for those wishing to travel using multiple modes. Improvements to public transportation access is particularly important to lower-income individuals and families, according to the 2020 Blueprint Refresh Survey.

STRATEGIES:

- Work with UTA to provide additional and improved transit amenities near or within the Jordan River Parkway. Improvements could include amenities such as equipment lockers, bike storage, and parking. Incorporate these improvements into plans to expand non-motorized access to transit stops.
- Work with UTA to incorporate Jordan River Trail connectivity into UTA Apps and Plans.
- Develop comfortable and convenient active transportation connections to high-capacity transit stations including Frontrunner, TRAX, and BRT.
 - i. Refer to the National Association of City Transportation Officials [Urban Street Design Guide](#) for best practices.

5. ENSURE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO TRAILS AND PATHWAYS

Providing equitable access to the Jordan River Trail ensures that all community members — regardless of their demographic characteristics, place of residency, income level, or physical and mental abilities — can use and enjoy the trail. As the Salt Lake valley continues to develop and grow, it is important to ensure that connections to the Jordan River Trail grow as well.

STRATEGIES:

- Use trails and pathways to link neighborhoods to community amenities and activity centers, such as schools, parks, public facilities, retail, and downtown.
- Create connections to the Jordan River Trail in lower income neighborhoods that may be more reliant on walking, biking, or transit to meet their daily transportation needs.
- Evaluate opportunities to correct sections of trail that do not meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.



FUNDING OPPORTUNITY: TRANSPORTATION AND LAND USE CONNECTION

The Transportation and Land Use Connection (TLC) program is a partnership between the Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC), Salt Lake County, Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT), and Utah Transit Authority (UTA).

The TLC program provides technical assistance to local communities to help them achieve their goals and plan for growth. The program helps communities implement changes to the built environment that reduce traffic on roads and enable more people to easily walk, bike, and use transit. TLC funds projects ranging from small area and transit station area plans to ordinance updates to regional visions (including the Blueprint Jordan River).

TLC projects must support the program goals to maximize the value of investment in public infrastructure; enhance access to opportunities; increase travel options to optimize mobility; and create communities with opportunities to live, work, and play. TLC projects can be used to advance many of the goals and strategies identified in the Blueprint.



6. DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN COUNTING METHODOLOGY TO TRACK PROGRESS AND QUANTIFY BENEFITS

Adequately measuring active transportation is an essential element in creating a broader culture of bicycling and walking. Tracking active transportation criteria including pedestrian/bicycling demand, commute to work mode share, funds invested in facilities and programs, number of miles of facilities constructed, and collision and health data can help to track the benefits of bicycling and walking within a community while leveraging additional investment in the system.

STRATEGIES:

- Develop a comprehensive trail count program that utilizes permanent counters and other external data sources, such as Strava and Streetlight, to better understand trail usage through the corridor.
 - i. Incorporate promising elements from trail count programs such as the [Automatic Count Program](#) in Arlington County, Virginia; [Trail Count Strategies](#) used by the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition; and the Federal Highway Administration [Bicycle-Pedestrian Count Technology Pilot Project](#).
- Develop an annual report that highlights economic benefits, number of trips, public health benefits, and progress of regional active transportation efforts along the Jordan River Trail.
- Conduct an annual or bi-annual citizen survey to collect input on trail needs, priority, and cities' performance on trail maintenance.
- Develop a robust geographic information systems database to ensure essential pathway and trail management information is up-to-date and easily accessible to the public.

GOAL: Ensure that development highlights the Jordan River and enhances the Parkway L

New development should be carefully planned, designed, and built to provide a net-positive impact on the Jordan River Parkway. Existing structures and landscapes should be evaluated for improvements that could be made during redevelopment or expansion. Clustering buildings and infrastructure and focusing on the River in site design, orientation, and branding decisions will contribute to a deeply rooted identity throughout the Parkway and encourage visitors and neighbors to delight in all the Parkway has to offer. Other sections in the action plan highlight how development can positively or negatively impact water quality, ecosystem function, and more. The Best Practices for Riverfront Communities guide provides additional considerations for land use decisions.

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

- Community development departments
- Land use developers
- Homebuilders
- Public utilities
- Property owners
- Property managers



WEAVE, winner of the On the River's Edge Ideas Competition, proposes "weaving the community together and balancing nature and development through creation of a multi-use connectivity system, active programming, and redefining the river's edge."

1. CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT IN THE PARKWAY INTO RIVER VILLAGE CENTERS TO REDUCE IMPACTS ON THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND CREATE SYNERGISTIC COMMERCIAL BENEFITS

Clustering development involves allowing higher-intensity development in some areas while preserving or protecting other areas as natural or recreational open space and river buffers. Exploring opportunities for river-oriented development along transportation nodes will create river and transit-oriented development opportunities, encourage alternate forms of transportation, and activate the Parkway. Higher density development concentrated in clusters can help with housing and commercial affordability, environmental impacts, and utility and maintenance costs compared to more dispersed alternatives.

Clustering is best achieved if it is incorporated into the planning process early on so that landowners, developers, and community interests can collaborate and explore a variety of options. However, a single property owner can also decide to site a building further from the River while conserving or restoring the rest of their land.

STRATEGIES:

- Require or encourage clustered development in local government land use codes.
- Coordinate with cities and developers about development in or near the Parkway.
- Explore opportunities for river-oriented development in aging commercial areas, brownfields, and superfund sites.
 - i. Public mapping completed in the 2020 Blueprint Jordan River Survey ([Reference Document 3](#)) highlights potential locations for river centers that were identified by members of the public during the 2020 Blueprint Jordan River Refresh survey.
 - ii. Significant redevelopment opportunities may be available at the Rocky Mountain Power Campus and Utah State Fairgrounds in Salt Lake City.
- Encourage mixed-use and flexible-use development in river centers.
- Identify additional incentives and regulations such as Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) programs to promote clustering.
- Provide employment, population, and tax base in developed areas to help maintain the Parkway and keep taxes low for each municipality.

2. FOSTER VILLAGE CENTER IDENTITY AND BRANDING THAT HIGHLIGHTS THE RIVER AND COMPATIBLE USES

Cities and businesses along the Parkway have a unique opportunity to brand village centers and create places that will be enjoyed and remembered. Building on unique local identities while providing amenities will enhance village centers in the Parkway and provide additional opportunities for people to stay and play. Branded village centers from the north shore of Utah Lake, Thanksgiving Point, Bluffdale, Riverton, Sandy, South Jordan, Midvale, Taylorsville, and into Salt Lake City provide great opportunities to add value and recognition to the river corridor.

STRATEGIES:

- Brand and clearly define river centers and facilitate appropriate uses. Branded villages should represent the unique differences in each city or district as well as the Jordan River Parkway as a whole.
- Promote recreation-oriented businesses which cater to uses like biking, jogging, hiking, wildlife viewing, paddling, roller skating, and horseback riding.
- Encourage planners and developers in the Point of the Mountain region, including the state prison site redevelopment area, to consider the River as an amenity as they shape the future of the area.
- Promote dining, lodging, and other supporting businesses that promote pedestrian activity.



Three Creeks Confluence Park in Salt Lake City was designed to highlight the Jordan River in an area that had previously disregarded it.

3. ORIENT WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT TOWARDS THE RIVER

Some older developments disregard the Jordan River by placing impenetrable fences and the windowless backsides of warehouse or commercial buildings abutting the river. If the River is to be recognized and cherished, all new waterfront development and redevelopment should be oriented towards the river. The benefits of river-oriented development include improved quality of life for residents; better experiences for visitors, customers, and employees; and a safer and more engaging waterfront.

STRATEGIES:

- Orient active uses toward the river.
 - i. Housing should face the river or provide active spaces such as porches and yard areas that overlook the river.
 - ii. Provide river access, boardwalks, seating, shading and other outdoor amenities in mixed-use and commercial developments on both sides of the river. Providing basic facilities creates opportunities to draw customers in from the Parkway and strengthens a civic-oriented reputation.
 - iii. Provide public amenities and gathering places for the entire valley and communities to use and enjoy.
- Maintain visibility and access to the River from the property or street where possible. Visibility should also be maintained indoors.
- Encourage architectural styles that are consistent and highlight unique elements of the region and landscapes within the Parkway.
- Respect existing residential neighborhoods and communities while improving access and visibility to the river.
- Emphasize walkability to minimize parking demand in village centers along the river.
- Avoid and remove expansive walls, chain link fences, and razor wire near the River. Ensure proper physical and visual buffers and visually pleasing mitigation strategies are used to minimize the impact of industrial uses and stored material, equipment, and trailers.
- Where parking and vehicular circulation fronts the River, incorporate trees, green infrastructure, and active transportation into the design.



Businesses use river-themed branding and face a river plaza at the Reno Riverwalk District along the Truckee River.

GOAL: Promote harmony between infrastructure and river functions **U**

Hundreds of bridges, powerlines, and pipelines pass through the Jordan River Parkway as it bisects the Wasatch Front. The design and placement of infrastructure can significantly reduce its visual and ecological impacts. River crossings also present an opportunity to highlight the Jordan River and the ecological and recreational services it provides.

1. IMPROVE THE VISIBILITY AND RECOGNITION OF THE JORDAN RIVER AT TRANSPORTATION CROSSINGS

Thousands of Utahns cross over the Jordan River every day, but many may not think about or even recognize the presence of the River. Over the years several different styles of signs and monuments have been provided along the River corridor and at access points, but they are not consistent and don't consistently brand the River corridor in a meaningful and memorable way. Ensuring that the River is recognized with uniform markings and signage at each roadway crossing has the potential to draw attention to the River and encourage access and stewardship.

STRATEGIES:

- Provide uniform iconic branded monuments and other design elements such as fences and barriers at all crossings and access points.
- Use art, interpretive signage, and other educational materials to activate River crossings and adjacent areas, when appropriate.
- Consider recognition of the River early in the planning and design process for new bridges and rebuilds.
- Enhance roadway crossings using branded paving material, pedestrian sidewalks with colored concrete, stamped logos, decorative bridge railings, and lighting to bring attention to the River and pedestrian access points.
- Explore state and regional funding sources for River crossing signage. Consider reviving the bill to install consistent, attractive signs, fences, and barriers along the Jordan River in the Utah State Legislature.

2. IMPROVE THE INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR AND OVER THE RIVER TO BE MORE RIVER-FRIENDLY

Roadways, rail lines, utilities, and other infrastructure networks pass through the Jordan River Parkway. Prioritizing the natural and recreational functions of the River in the design, construction, and maintenance of infrastructure will improve conditions for wildlife, visitors, and nearby residents.

STRATEGIES:

- Encourage visually pleasing bridge design.
- Consider aquatic organisms, ecological functions, and flooding impacts in the site selection and design of infrastructure and utility crossings. All utility easements should be evaluated for future access and visibility to the River.
- Share rights of way between utilities, roadways, rail lines, and other infrastructure.
- Space pylons at least 25 feet apart to allow for rowing in areas where River widths are compatible with rowing. Identify opportunities to replace older bridges to meet this standard.
- Minimize the impacts of infrastructure construction and maintenance on ecosystems and communities.

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS


























- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| • Electric power providers | • Transportation |
| • Natural gas providers | • Wasatch Front Regional Council |
| • Water conservation districts | • Mountainland Association of Governments |
| • Local transportation planners | • Environmental stewards |
| • Utah Department of | |



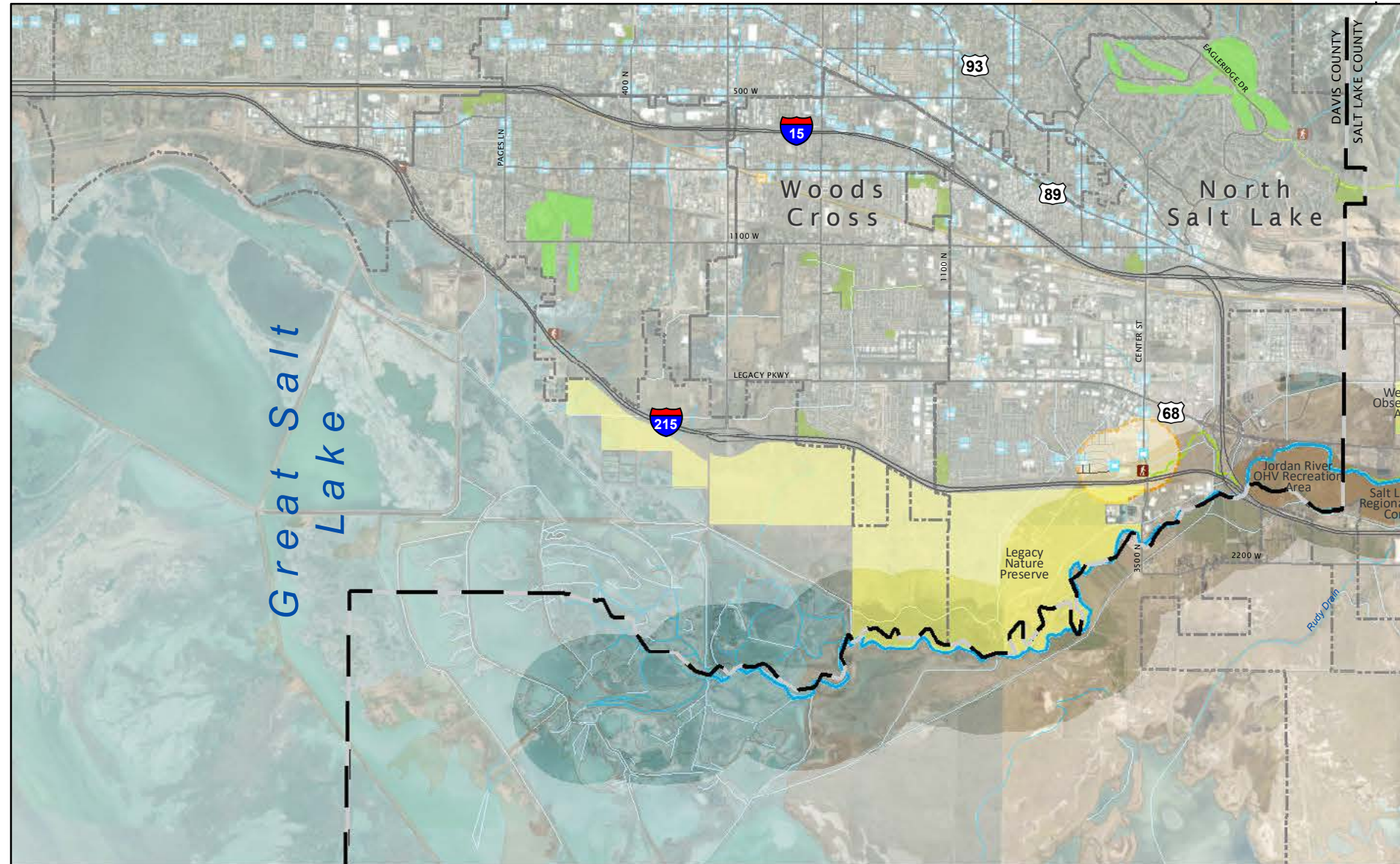


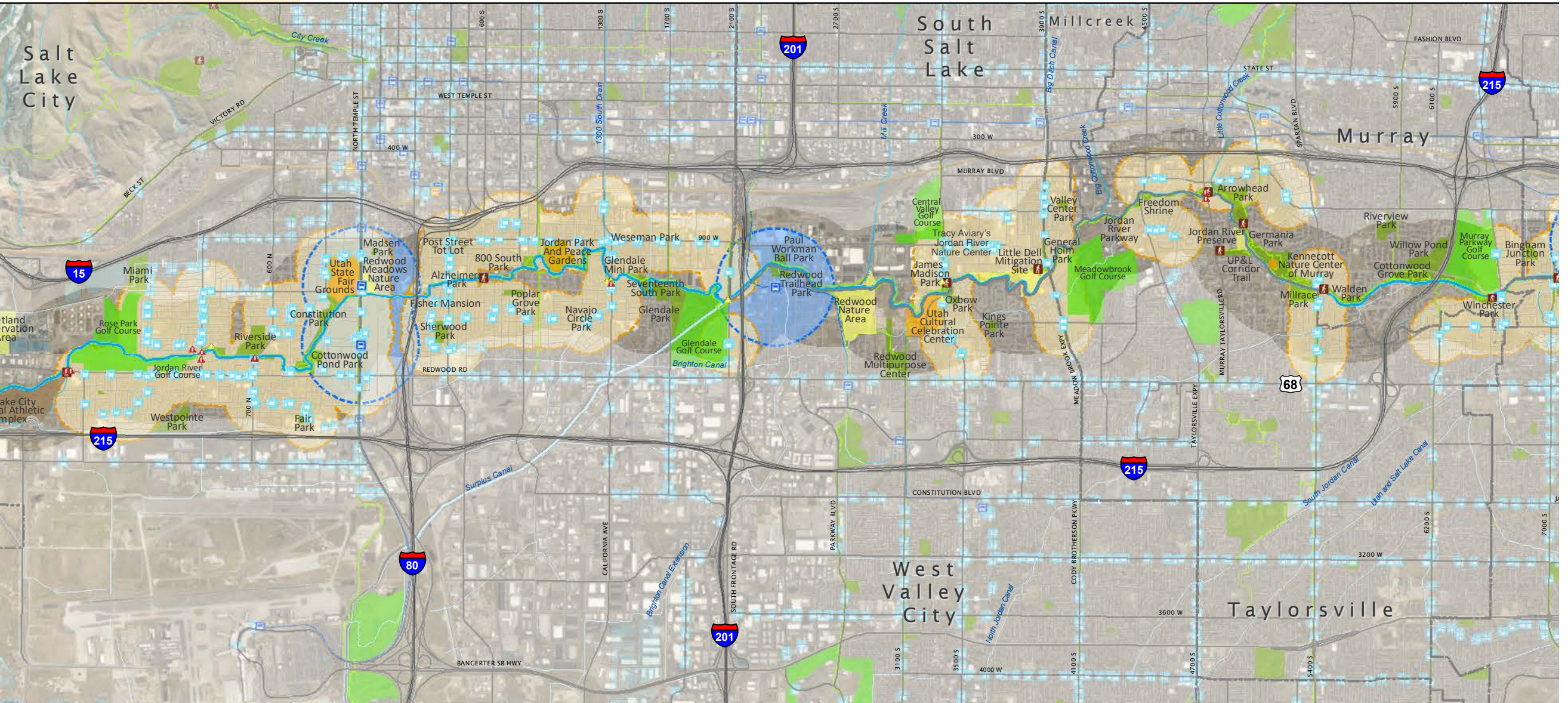
DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION MAP

Legend


























-  Jordan River
-  Existing Trails
-  Trailhead
-  Bike Crash
-  Pedestrian Crash
-  Front Runner Station
-  Commuter Rail Route
-  Trax Station
-  Light Rail Route
-  Bus Station
-  Bus Walkshed 0.25 miles
-  Rail Walkshed 0.5 miles
-  Park
-  Golf Course
-  Recreation Area
-  Natural Area/Preserve
-  Destination Area
-  Municipal Boundary
-  County Boundary
-  Lake/Pond
-  Major Stream
-  Minor Stream
-  Canal/Ditch
-  Street/Highway
-  Interstate

1 inch = 1 mile

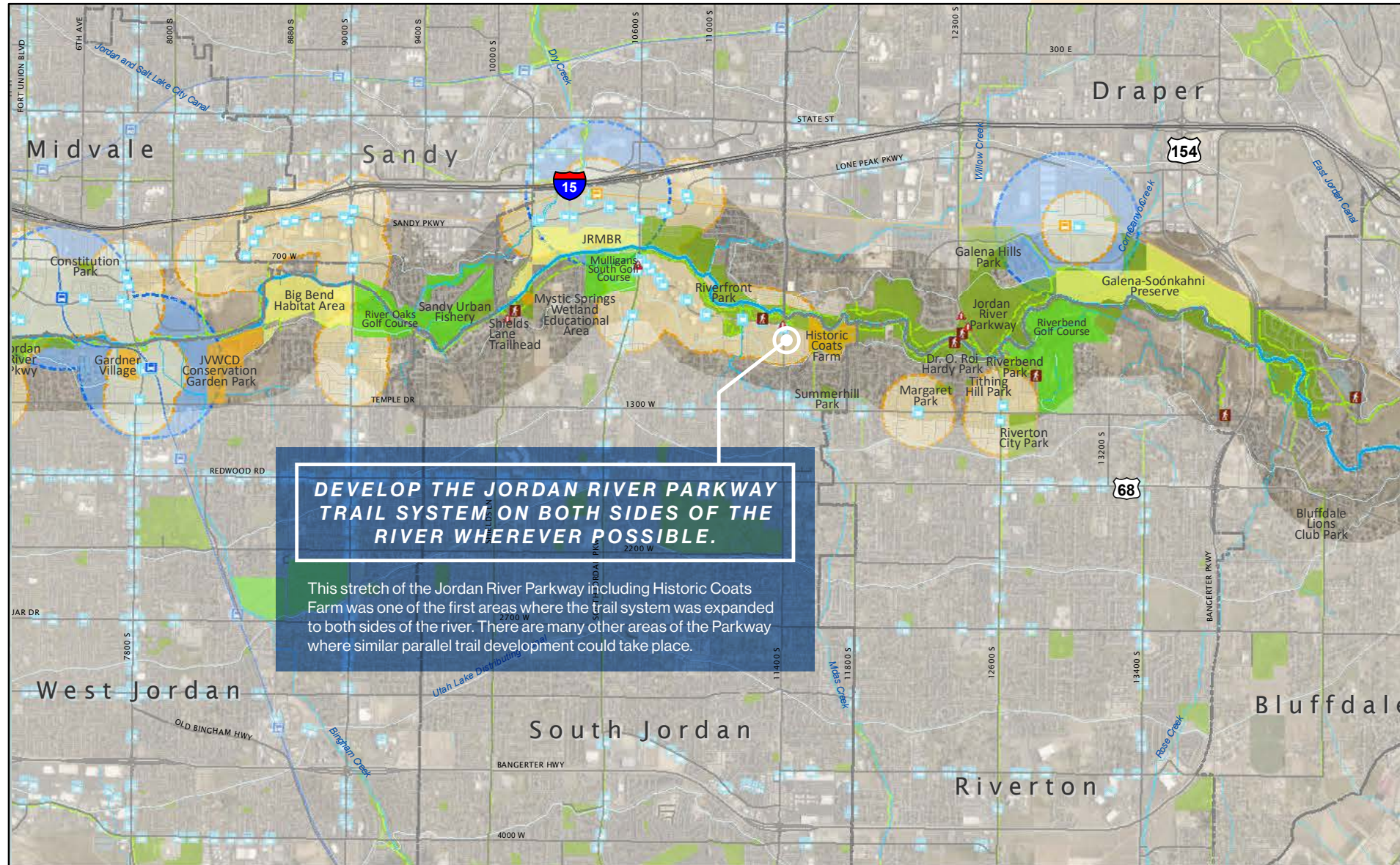


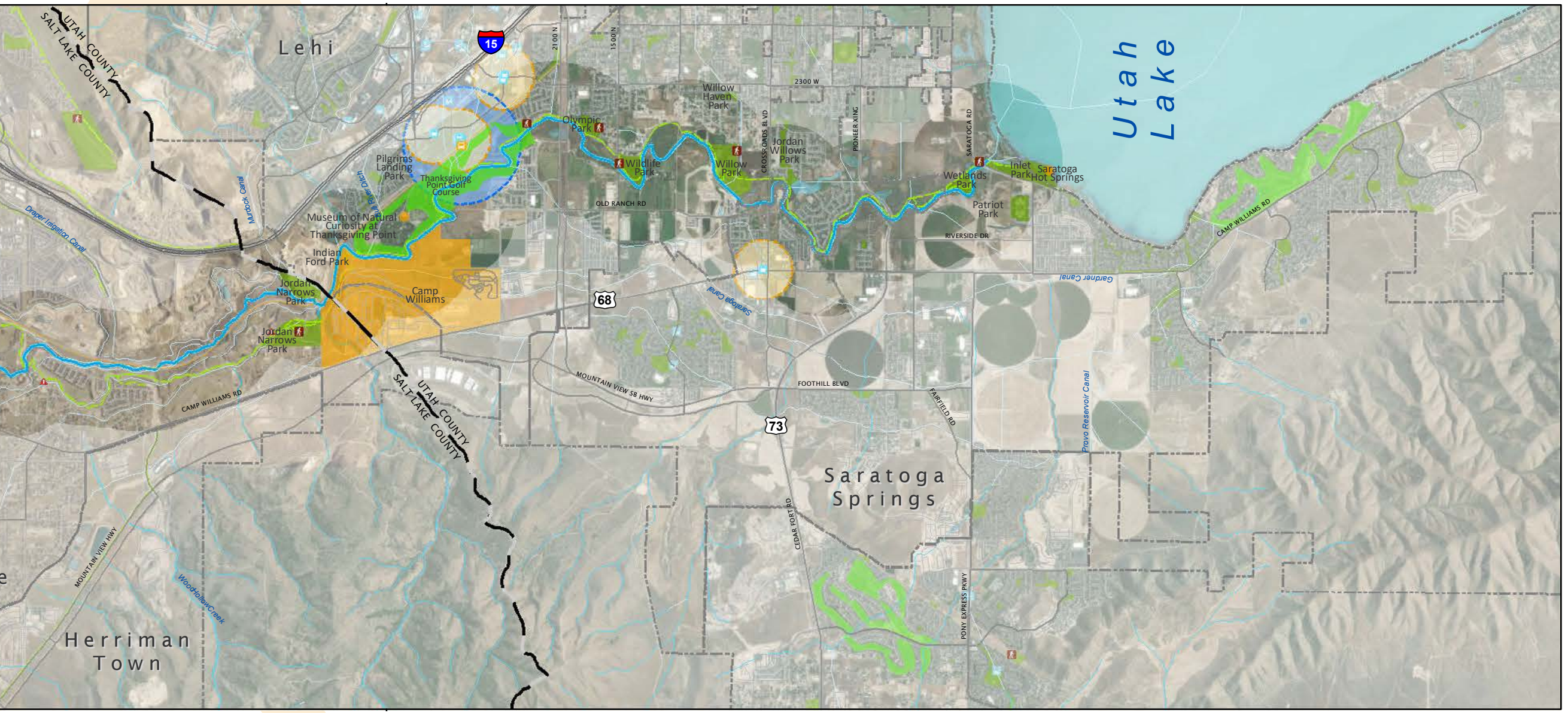


Legend

-  Jordan River
-  Existing Trails
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1 inch = 1 mile





COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, AND ART

Goal: Use communications and messaging to improve visitor experience, wayfinding, point of interest identification, and education

Effective communication between the entities operating in and around the Jordan River Parkway and the public contribute to many of the other goals highlighted in this document. Signs, maps, and electronic communications can be used to encourage safe, orderly, and fun use of the Parkway and can also be used as powerful educational tools to foster a deeper understanding and stewardship of the Jordan River Parkway.

1. ENCOURAGE UNIFORM SIGN DESIGN THROUGHOUT THE PARKWAY

While the Jordan River Trail plays a large role in the regional active transportation system, there are several areas of opportunity to increase connections and some significant barriers to circulation that should be addressed. Adding connections to regional trails was one of the most popular transportation improvements identified by the 2020 Blueprint Jordan River Refresh Survey. Developing more east-west connections from neighboring communities and regional transportation nodes, such as TRAX stations, will support the use of active and public transportation and enhance accessibility for all.

STRATEGIES:

- Work with neighboring communities throughout the Parkway to develop consistent sign standards.
 - i. Consider using the Jordan River Parkway Wayfinding Signage Plan as a template for sign design and placement throughout the Parkway.
- Balance consistent design across the Parkway with highlighting the identity and unique assets of local communities.
 - ii. Provide some flexibility in sign design standards or encourage communities to develop unique local signage to accompany Jordan River signs.
- Maintain a list of vendors that are familiar with sign design used in the Parkway and any relevant standards or guidelines.

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| • Municipalities | • Educational partners |
| • Counties | • Tracy Aviary |
| • Wasatch Front Regional Council | • Hogle Zoo |
| • Mountainland Association of Governments | • Hutchings Museum and Institute |
| • Utah Department of Transportation | • Utah Division of Water Quality |
| • Bike Utah | • Local water quality managers |
| • Public safety departments | |



2. IMPROVE DIRECTIONAL AND WAYFINDING SIGNAGE

People traveling and recreating in the Jordan River Parkway depend on reliable directional and wayfinding signs. In addition to aiding in navigation, wayfinding signs and location markers can improve emergency response by providing more precise information about the location of incidents.

STRATEGIES:

- Design and install wayfinding and informational signage on all trails and pathways that efficiently allows users to navigate the trail system. Include signage highlighting connections to regional trails.
- Install additional wayfinding elements identified in the Jordan River Wayfinding Master Plan.
- Provide additional pavement markings or signs to delineate the main trail from connecting and side trails. Markings can highlight the Jordan River Trail and the Golden Spoke trail network.
- In coordination with municipalities and counties, provide signage directing people to the Parkway (specifically trailheads) in nearby communities and transportation routes.
 - i. Install signs with north/south coordinates along the trail to improve wayfinding and public safety response
 - ii. Install ½ mile interval pavement markings in between mile markers throughout the Parkway, as described in the Jordan River Parkway Wayfinding Signage Plan.
 - iii. Install uniform mile markers in Utah County and Davis County.
 - iv. Coordinate with public safety agencies to use location markers to improve response. Example: In 2019, Salt Lake City installed mini markers on existing light posts along the trail, with the aim to provide a marker within eyesight of every spot along the Jordan River Trail. The markers are named starting with the mile, followed by a sequential letter of the alphabet until the next mile (ex: 49.A, 49.B, 49.C). Public safety has a database of the exact location of each marker to use during response.
 - v. Explore opportunities to use mile markers or similar signs to encourage health challenges. Color coding or other design features, along with programming, could help attract users to health challenge activities.
- Increase signage to identify boat portage zones for river trips.



3. MAKE WATER QUALITY DATA MORE ACCESSIBLE TO RIVER USERS

In the 2020 Blueprint Jordan River Refresh Survey, 86 percent of respondents indicated that if up-to-date water quality conditions were publicly available and expressed in terms of their impacts to human health, it would significantly influence their decision to participate in water-based recreation activities. People may be interested in information about current water quality even if they are not planning to enter the River itself, since it is one of the top factors that deters people from visiting the Parkway or from visiting more often.

STRATEGIES:

- Explore opportunities and partnerships to create an online dashboard and living information stations along the River with current water quality and suggestions related to appropriate use and health impacts. Content should be targeted to recreational users, but there is also an opportunity to use this information to educate about the factors that influence water quality, how water quality affects ecosystem function, and build support for investing in water quality improvements.
 - i. Changes in water quality are largely seasonal so a data lag of a couple of days may not be an issue in most circumstances. Forecasting or more frequent monitoring may be needed to provide useful information regarding changes in water quality related to algae blooms and runoff events.
 - ii. Include monitoring and alerts for anglers regarding the safety of consuming fish from the river based on mercury and PCB levels and harmful algae blooms.
- Websites and apps providing current information and recommendations about air quality, such as AirNow and air.utah.gov have been largely successful. Consider providing similar information as these sites including current conditions, relevant standards, behavioral recommendations, and forecasts.



Swimmers enjoying the Jordan River in the 1940s. Since then, swimming has become less popular due to water quality concerns. Used with permission, Utah State Historical Society.



4. PROVIDE REGULATORY SIGNAGE AND MESSAGING FOR SOCIAL GUIDELINES, LOCAL REGULATIONS, AND SAFETY

Regulatory signage and messaging can help prevent user conflicts, injury, habitat degradation, and more. Placement and visibility are key to ensure that the information is noticed by visitors to the Parkway.

STRATEGIES:

- Install signs highlighting appropriate visitor etiquette and discouraging disruptive or destructive behavior
 - i. Post advanced warning signage and speed limits before sharp curves, underpasses, and other potentially hazardous locations.
 - ii. Provide signage and messaging about rights-of-way, yielding, and clearly identify separated portions of trail for pedestrians, cyclists, and horses, where available. Bikes (and other wheeled vehicles) should yield to pedestrians on all sections of the Jordan River Trail.
 - iii. Post reminders that the Parkway is patrolled for safety issues.
 - iv. Consider additional dos and don'ts messaging informed by issues observed or reported in the Parkway.
 - v. Provide general information for social and safety guidelines on the Jordan River Commission and other recreation websites.
 - vi. Consult with Bike Utah on regulatory messaging related to cycling and user conflicts.
- Consistently post contact information for law enforcement, maintenance entities, homeless service providers, and other important contacts. Place signage near location markers to improve location reporting and response.
- Provide signage and messaging about permanent and seasonal river hazards.
 - i. Collaborate with city and county emergency management departments to boost messaging for seasonal hazards related to high flows in spring.
 - ii. Provide links to emergency management departments on the Jordan River Commission website.
- Explore opportunities to collaborate with UDOT for assistance with sign installations along the river through the Region 2 Maintenance Engineer and Region 2 Stormwater Program Coordinator, especially between plow season and July 1.
- Provide signs in parking lots discouraging visitors from keeping valuables in their cars.
- Organize and host anti-littering campaigns.
- Educate visitors about the risks of releasing pets or wildlife from other areas into the Parkway, including messaging from the Utah Division of Wildlife Services [“Don't Ditch a Fish” campaign](#).



5. PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE, FACILITIES, AND ONLINE CONTENT TO PROMOTE EDUCATION AND STEWARDSHIP

Interpretive signs use images and language to help people understand and connect with natural, historical, cultural, or other features in the Parkway. Interpretive signs in various conditions are available throughout the Jordan River Parkway. Potential topics for new content should be the Jordan River ecosystems; native and invasive plants; the connections between the Jordan River, its tributaries, and the Great Salt Lake; the two-way relationship between human activity and the river; and information on indigenous peoples and historical uses of the Parkway. Updating and replacing out of date or faded signs and adding new interpretive signs can continue to advance the educational and stewardship goals of the Parkway.

STRATEGIES:

- Coordinate with the Jordan River Foundation and municipalities to find new locations for interpretive signs.
- Collaborate with education partners such as the Tracy Aviary, Hogle Zoo, and Hutchings Museum on generating interpretive content.
- Use signs to direct people to electronic communications, interpretive materials, wildlife field guides, and virtual tours. Online information is available on the websites of the Jordan River Commission and Jordan River Foundation, as well as some educational and public partners. “Fauna of the Jordan River Corridor” published by the Salt Lake Fish and Game Foundation lists the common vertebrates found along the river.
- Keep viewsheds, legibility, and maintenance in mind when planning and installing interpretive signs.
- Consider opportunities to create art and education stations along the River that have interpretive signage and art installations related to the content of the signs.
 - i. Explore opportunities to use the Utah Outdoor Classroom Grant, administered by the Utah office of Outdoor Recreation, to support the development of permanent infrastructure such as amphitheaters, pergolas, and pollinator gardens.
- Provide interpretive materials in multiple languages. Focus on the most common languages used in nearby communities.
- Encourage visitors to participate in community science projects, where available.
- Remove or replace older signs that are damaged or unreadable.

6. UPDATE AND IMPROVE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE MAPS OF THE PARKWAY

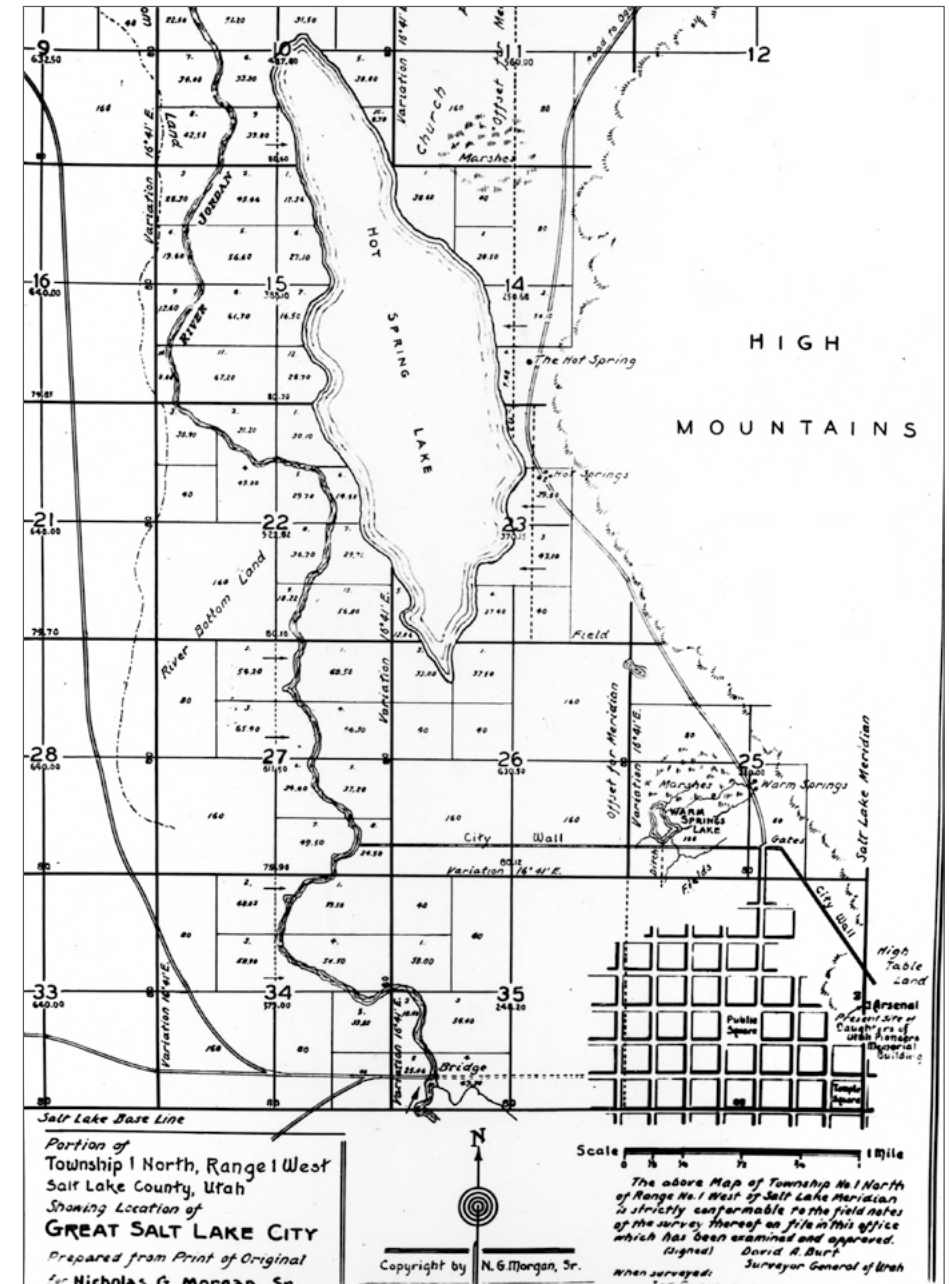
In addition to their utility for navigating the Jordan River Parkway, maps can also educate and inspire visitors.

STRATEGIES:

- Provide current printed and interactive online maps with trails, educational opportunities, ecosystems and natural features, facilities, and safety information.
 - i. Work with educational partners such as the Tracey Aviary to create an “ecosystem map” (online and/or hardcopy) of the river highlighting significant ecological features, including bird/migration areas, water sources, vegetation, animals, etc.
 - ii. Create a recreation map that highlights trails, facilities, educational signage, parks, community fisheries, etc.
 - iii. Provide an artwork map to encourage artwork tours of the Jordan River Parkway.
 - iv. Update and promote the digital water trail map.
- Encourage collaboration between map making entities. Share and promote existing maps and new maps as they are developed.
 - i. Maps, such as those developed for the Salt Lake County Jordan River Water Trail Master Plan, may be relevant to a wider audience than the detailed plan itself.
- Provide each map in multiple languages
- Accompany maps with related information about recreation opportunities and popular activities, getting to the Parkway, safety, etc. Also use maps to direct people to online sources of information, such as the Jordan River Commission website.



MyJordanRiver.org provides interactive content and allows users to upload photos and stories.



The sulphur-rich waters of Hot Springs Lake and Warm Springs Lake (which was the home of a hot springs resort in the late 1800s and early 1900s) can still be smelled near the boundary between Salt Lake County and Davis County. Used with permission, Utah State Historical Society.

Goal: Provide experiential learning opportunities

The Jordan River Parkway has enormous potential to be used for experiential learning. For many residents of the Wasatch Front, the Parkway provides the most convenient access to natural ecosystems and open space. Nearby schools may use the Jordan River Parkway and associated resources as a valuable tool for educational enrichment. Additional educational programming can be used to educate and engage people of all ages.

1. ENCOURAGE SCHOOLS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE JORDAN RIVER AS AN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE

Integrating the Jordan River into water education can help students develop a connection with the Jordan River, and real-world, observational learning may help students better understand and retain information.

STRATEGIES:

- Promote the use of science curricula that meet state and federal standards and incorporate the Jordan River into lesson plans and experiential learning.
 - i. General water education curricula that meet these standards are available from [Project Learning Tree](#) and [Project Wet](#) and could be easily adopted to use the Jordan River as a real world example. The Utah Society for Environmental Education may be able to offer curriculum and other materials at a discounted rate to Utah educators.
 - ii. Utah and Jordan River specific curricula and resources are available from a variety of local educational groups, and more may be developed in the future. The Jordan River Commission has developed teaching toolkits for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade. The Salt Lake County Stormwater Coalition developed the 2020 Stormwater Curriculum Guide and provides links to other resources and curricula.
 - iii. Identify schools within walking distance of the Jordan River and prioritize these schools first.
- Explore opportunities to develop and use Jordan River-focused curricula that incorporate topics other than physical science, including social studies, health, language arts, and math.
- Work with community partners to train educators to use related curricula and resources. The Utah Society for Environmental Education may be able to offer training at a discounted rate to Utah educators.
- Coordinate educational efforts between local organizations and educators.
 - i. Consider creating a comprehensive online interface where classes—across all school districts— can share resources. Features could potentially include a dashboard where students and teachers can share data and other information they've collected through class projects and activities, as well as a platform for sharing virtual teaching content and lesson plans.
- Encourage local universities and colleges to engage in student and faculty projects focused on the Jordan River Parkway.
 - i. Master's students in the City & Metropolitan Planning Program at the University of Utah complete a year-long professional project and can help with research or furthering and implementing strategies highlighted in the Blueprint. There are typically more than 30 projects per year and students benefit from doing applied work.

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

- Public school districts
- Private schools
- Charter schools
- Community educators
- Utah Society for Environmental Education
- Tracy Aviary
- National History Museum of Utah
- Hutchings Museum and Institute
- Wasatch Mountain Institute
- Hogle Zoo
- Living Planet Aquarium
- Salt Lake County Stormwater Coalition



2. SUPPORT AND DEVELOP PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING IN COORDINATION WITH PARTNERS

Learning opportunities in the Jordan River Parkway aren't limited to students. Educational programming for visitors of all ages can help people to better understand and care for the River.

STRATEGIES:

- Work with partners to develop a “science speakers bureau” where biologists, restoration practitioners, and other scientists could speak to students and assist with field activities.
- Explore opportunities to enable youth to be drivers of educational programming.
 - i. The Natural History Museum of Utah (NHMU) provides a model for youth-led educational programs that can be applied to the Jordan River Parkway. Middle school and high school students are given resources and training by the NHMU to teach younger students about natural science topics. The students develop leadership skills, build friendships, and develop a passion for science.
- Ensure educational experiences are equitable across economic and demographic lines, and that all students have access to quality Jordan River resources, content, sampling/data gathering tools, and recreational gear. Provide all educational curriculum, programs, and field experiences in additional languages beyond English commonly spoken in communities along the Parkway.
- Expand and promote educational resources on MyJordanRiver.org.



Goal: Support art, placemaking, and community engagement

Installing art and aesthetic design elements in the Jordan River Parkway can help to highlight the ecological, recreational, and historic relevance of the Jordan River and provide for the enjoyment of its visitors. Public art, infrastructure design, and art programming should be developed with natural, cultural, and historic contexts in mind.

1. ENCOURAGE PUBLIC AND PROFESSIONAL ART THROUGHOUT THE PARKWAY TO IMPROVE STEWARDSHIP AND COMMUNITY PRIDE

STRATEGIES:

- Identify opportunity areas for art installations, such as bridges and tunnels. Focus art in developed and boundary areas; natural areas may be a less appropriate home for art. An exception to the development of art in natural areas may be the use of art to cover up manmade structures with art that embodies the natural setting.
- Provide opportunities for unrestricted or minimally restricted artistic expression while encouraging new artwork to enhance the identity of the Jordan River Parkway and surrounding communities.
- Grant widely available RFPs to both mainstream, alternative, and community art groups that specify the goals for art contributions on the Jordan River Parkway.
- Partner with local writers, such as Utah's Poet Laureate or university/college faculty, to create a poetry and/or story telling trail along the river. Consider etching words into stone or otherwise highlighting them in the parkway, as well as in online and other communications.
- Pursue grant funding for art projects through sources such as the Utah Department of Transportation and the National Endowment for the Arts.
- Create opportunities for community led and educational public art with local students and other community groups.
 - i. Encourage seasonal and/or annual school participation by holding nature art contests to contribute to the art installations along the river. Rotate installations periodically.
- Expand artwork offerings outside of Salt Lake City by connecting with local arts councils.
- Allow graffiti art on certain walls, whether permanent or at events.

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

- Cities
- Counties
- Community art groups
- Local arts councils
- Utah Society for Environmental Education
- Local universities



Photo credit: Deseret News

2. ENGAGE THE COMMUNITIES ALONG THE PARKWAY TO INFLUENCE ART, PLACEMAKING, LAND USE, AND OTHER FUTURE CHANGES IN THE PARKWAY

STRATEGIES:

- Utilize community engagement best practices to ensure local identity is highlighted along the Jordan River Parkway.
- Use the North American Association for Environmental Education's [Community Engagement: Guidelines for Excellence](#) as a reference when engaging local communities.
- Promote attendance to [community engagement trainings](#) from the Utah Society of Environmental Education (USEE).
- Focus on culturally relevant practices when planning and facilitating community engagement. Extra effort may be needed to connect with people with lower incomes or black and indigenous people of color.

SALT LAKE CITY PUBLIC ART RFP

















In the spring of 2021, Salt Lake City released a public art RFP for four new boat ramps on the Jordan River. Artwork was to be completed shortly after or during the construction of the boat ramps. The stated goals are to create artwork that:

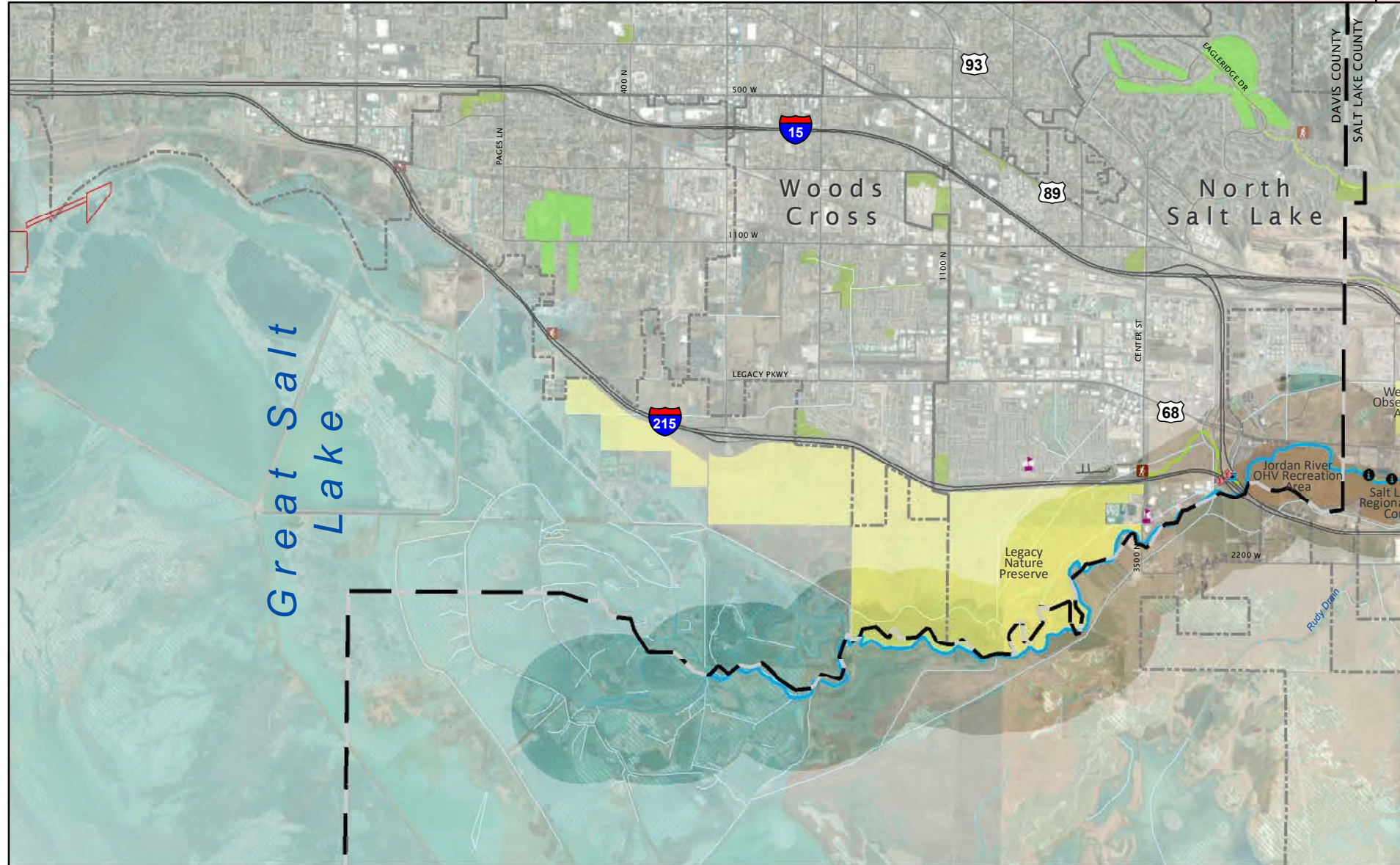
- Can be engaged with as both individual installations and as a collective whole.
- Reflects input gathered through a meaningful community engagement process.
- Raises awareness of the river's educational, ecological, and cultural importance to the community.
- Visually links the boat ramps along the Jordan River Water Trail, functioning as a wayfinding element and marking each ramp.
- Is of the highest quality - creatively and technically - and exemplifies strong, imaginative design and storytelling that contributes to community and connection.
- Considers and incorporates sustainable concepts and materials.
- Resists general wear, vandalism, or theft; offers easy, minimal, and low-cost maintenance; and is suitable for a dynamic, bankside location.
- Meets all public safety, structural, and maintenance standards and complies with the Americans for Disabilities Act (ADA), Salt Lake City requirements, and all other applicable laws, codes, and regulations.
- Considers site-specificity with "site" defined to include sensitivity to the history and current context at the neighborhood level in addition to the regional level.



COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, AND ART MAP

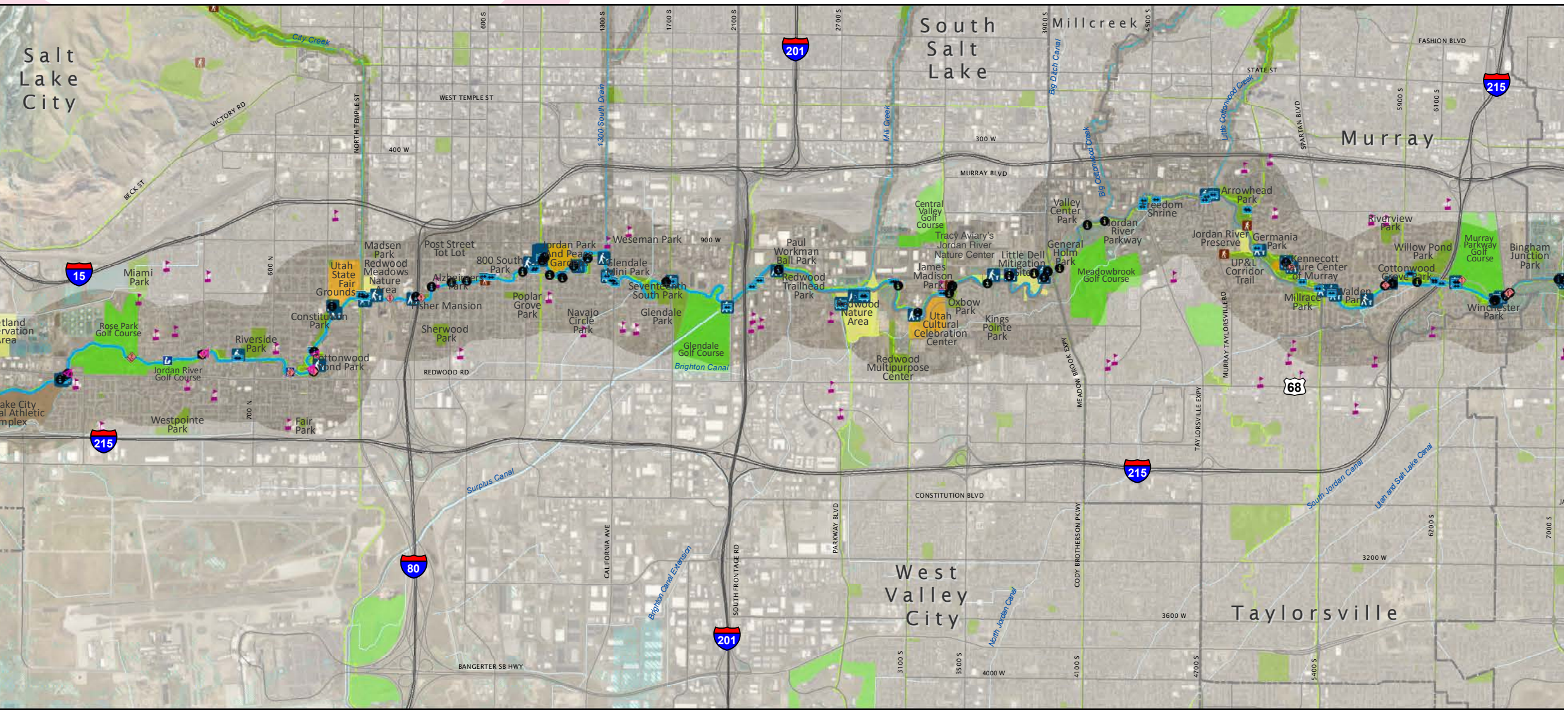
Legend

- | | |
|--|--|
|  Jordan River |  Interpretive Signs |
|  Existing Trails |  Art Installations/Murals |
|  Trailhead |  Wayfinding Sign |
|  Conservation Easement |  Safety Sign |
|  Upland Habitat |  Information Sign |
|  Emergent Marsh |  Library |
|  Park |  Schools within 1 mile |
|  Golf Course | |
|  Recreation Area | |
|  Natural Area/Preserve | |
|  Destination Area | |
|  Wetland | |
|  Lake/Pond | |
|  Major Stream | |
|  Minor Stream | |
|  Canal/Ditch | |
|  Municipal Boundary | |
|  County Boundary | |
|  Street/Highway | |
|  Interstate | |



1 inch = 1 mile

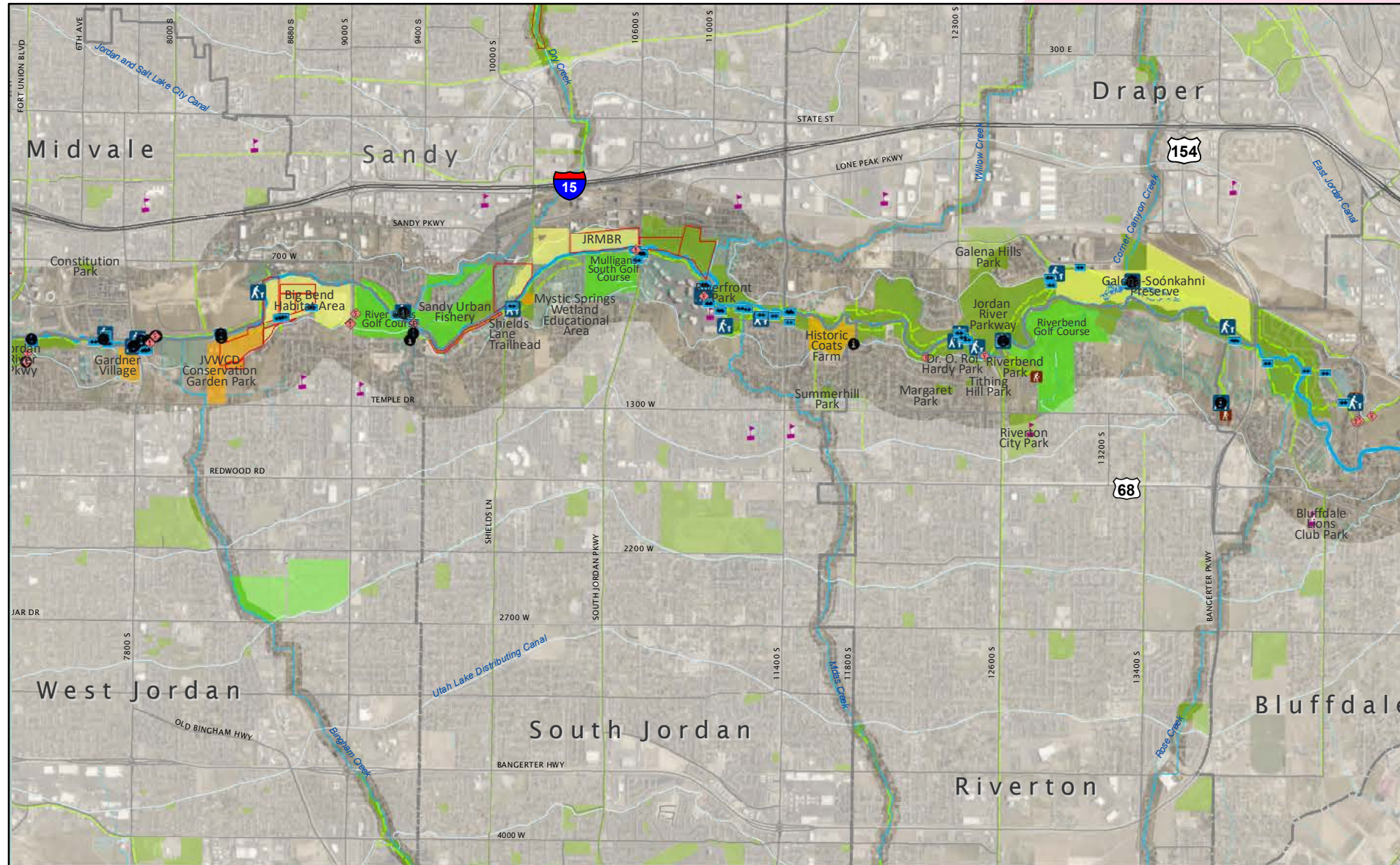






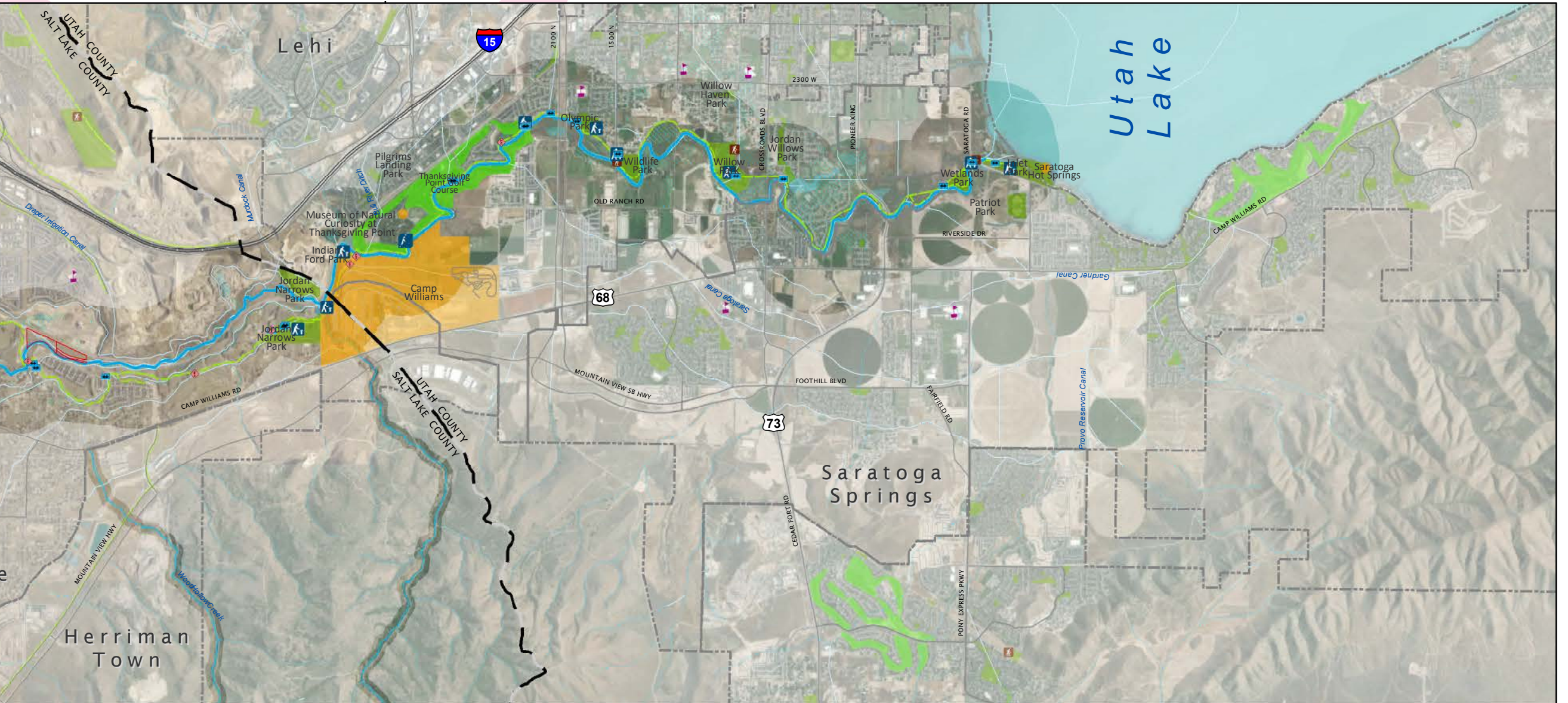
Legend

- Jordan River
- Existing Trails
- Trailhead
- Conservation Easement
- Upland Habitat
- Emergent Marsh
- Park
- Golf Course
- Recreation Area
- Natural Area/Preserve
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- Street/Highway
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- Interpretive Signs
- Art Installations/Murals
- Wayfinding Sign
- Safety Sign
- Information Sign
- Library
- Schools within 1 mile



1 inch = 1 mile





REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Digital versions of the Blueprint Jordan River, Reference Documents and other resources can be found online at BlueprintJordanRiver.org.

1 BLUEPRINT INVENTORY AND SURVEY RESULTS

2 JORDAN RIVER PARKWAY: PHYSICAL INVENTORY

3 BLUEPRINT JORDAN RIVER REFRESH SURVEY FINDINGS

4 BLUEPRINT JORDAN RIVER REFRESH SURVEY MAPPING RESULTS

5 BLUEPRINT JORDAN RIVER REFRESH WORKING GROUPS

6 BLUEPRINT JORDAN RIVER 2008

7 BEST PRACTICES FOR RIVERFRONT COMMUNITIES

8 FINAL JORDAN RIVER COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND RECORD OF DECISION





