



Jordan River Commission 2024 Annual Report

Our River - Our Future



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Year in Review

From the addition of new Interlocal Members and staff, to the receipt of large grant awards to fund several key projects and initiatives, 2024 was a year of growth and development for the Jordan River Commission.

We have been pleased to welcome Utah Lake Authority and Larry H. Miller Company to our Governing Board this year. Utah Lake Authority is a new state agency that replaced the Utah Lake Commission, and we are grateful for the unanimous support of their governing board to become a full Interlocal Member.

Larry H. Miller Company revealed their vision for the Power District in early 2024, which will lead to the redevelopment of the Rocky Mountain Power Gadsby Power Plant near the Jordan River and North Temple in Salt Lake City. Seeing the important place of the Jordan River in their vision, we are pleased to have them recently join the Commission as a new partner and stakeholder.

The Commission added a new, full time Administrative, Grant & Research Specialist position, and filled our Event & Volunteer Manager, and Restoration & Vegetation Coordinator position vacancies. We expanded internships and seasonal staff for the Get to the River Festival, and volunteer and outreach programs. Each member of our staff shares a passion and commitment to the Commission work and partnerships.

Several large federal grants, more than \$6 million in total, were awarded to the Commission and our partners for several key projects: major riparian and flood plain restoration, expanded community connections, and creating a new Jordan River Watershed mobile app that will expand watershed and recreation education and digital map resources. Ongoing legislative appropriations, Utah Trails Network active transportation funds, and Division of Outdoor Recreation Grants continue to fund riparian restoration, trail development and maintenance, and a variety of outdoor recreation improvements to the Jordan River Trail, Parkway and Water Trail.

In January, the Utah Watersheds Council fully certified the Jordan River Commission as the Jordan River Watershed Council, under the authority of the Watershed Councils Act passed by the Utah Legislature in 2020. Members of the Governing Board will now also serve as Members and Advisors of the Watershed Council. This brings greater focus and new partners to our watershed wide approach to water policy issues, from water conservation, to water quality, to the connectivity with Utah Lake and Great Salt Lake ecological systems.

We are grateful for all those supporting the mission and work of the Jordan River Commission in so many ways, and the great momentum and partnerships that make it all possible.

Gratefully,



Silvia Catten

Silvia Catten
Governing Board Chair



Soren Simonsen

Soren Simonsen
Executive Director

The Commission

2024 Governing Board Officers

Chair - Councilmember Silvia Catten, Millcreek

Vice Chair - Councilmember Don Shelton, South Jordan

Past Chair - Mayor Dirk Burton, West Jordan

Treasurer - Travis Kartchner, CPA, Salt Lake City Community College

City Representatives

Councilmember Wendy Aston, Bluffdale

Councilmember Bryn Johnson, Draper

Councilmember Page Albrecht, Lehi

Mayor Dustin Gettel, Midvale

Councilmember Silvia Catten, Millcreek

Mayor Brett Hales, Murray

Councilmember Stan Porter, North Salt Lake

Councilmember Andy Pierucci, Riverton

Mayor Erin Mendenhall, Salt Lake City

Councilmember Ryan Mecham, Sandy

Councilmember Stephen Willden, Saratoga Springs

Councilmember Don Shelton, South Jordan

Councilmember Clarissa Williams, South Salt Lake

Mayor Kristie Overson, Taylorsville

Mayor Dirk Burton, West Jordan Mayor

Mayor Karen Lang, West Valley City

County Representatives

Commissioner Randy Elliot, Davis County

County Mayor Jenny Wilson, Salt Lake County

Councilmember Suzanne Harrison, Salt Lake County

State Representatives

Laura Hanson, Utah Governor's Office

Representative Jeff Stenquist, Utah Legislature

Ben Stireman, Utah Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands

John Mackey, Utah Division of Water Quality

Nathan Lee, Utah Department of Transportation

Special Districts Representatives

Phil Heck, Central Valley Water Reclamation Facility

Ken Brand, Jordan Basin Improvement District

Alan Packard, Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District

Matt Myers, South Davis Sewer District

Lee Rawlings, South Valley Water Reclamation Facility

Luke Peterson, Utah Lake Authority

Russell Fox, Utah Transit Authority

Ex-Officio Partner Representatives

Betty Naylor, Gardner Heritage Farm

Craig Walker, Jordan River Foundation

Kelsey Berg, Larry H. Miller Company

Heidi Hoven, National Audubon Society

Councilmember Brad Parry, Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation

Brad Knoles, Rocky Mountain Power

Laura Briefer, Salt Lake City Public Utilities

Tim Brown, Tracy Aviary

Eric McCulley, Utah Reclamation Mitigation & Conservation Commission

Larry Mullenax, Utah State Fairpark

Liz Larsen, Utah's Hogle Zoo

Michael Horrocks, Wasatch Rowing Foundation

Jordan River Watershed Council

Chair - Eric McCulley
Vice Chair - Laura Briefer
Utah Watersheds Council Rep - Laura Briefer
GSL Watershed Council Rep - Heidi Hoven

Technical Advisory Committee Officers

Chair - Marian Rice
Vice Chair - Gina Grandpre
Past Chair - Chris Cline

Event Advisory Committee Officers

Chair - Jon Glenn
Vice Chair - Tori Bird

Commission Staff

Soren Simonsen, Executive Director
Julie Williams, Events & Volunteer Manager
(joined our team in May)
Rachel Turk, Communications & Outreach Manager
Rae Robinson, Vegetation Project Coordinator
(left our team in June)
Jens Ammon, Restoration & Vegetation Manager
(joined our team in December)

Gillian Chapman, Communications Intern
Caroline Johnston, Volunteer Intern
Madelyn Bossarte, Festival & Events Intern
Shelby Strickler, Seasonal Staff
(for Get to the River Festival)



Jordan River Watershed Council

On January 18, 2024, the Jordan River Commission was certified as the Jordan River Watershed Council, after previously being conditionally certified in April 2023. As a new watershed council, we worked together to identify some specific objectives and timelines to make progress based upon the Blueprint Jordan River Refresh, which provided plenty of priority tasks and actions for us to work on as a group.

We had a great year getting started in this new configuration. Salt Lake County had a watershed council for more than a decade with a focus on water quality in the county. The Utah Watershed Council Act expanded participation by adding more stakeholders and water interests. There were other grassroots groups working on watershed issues, but this year the entire watershed – ridge to ridge across Utah, Salt Lake and Davis counties – came under one umbrella.

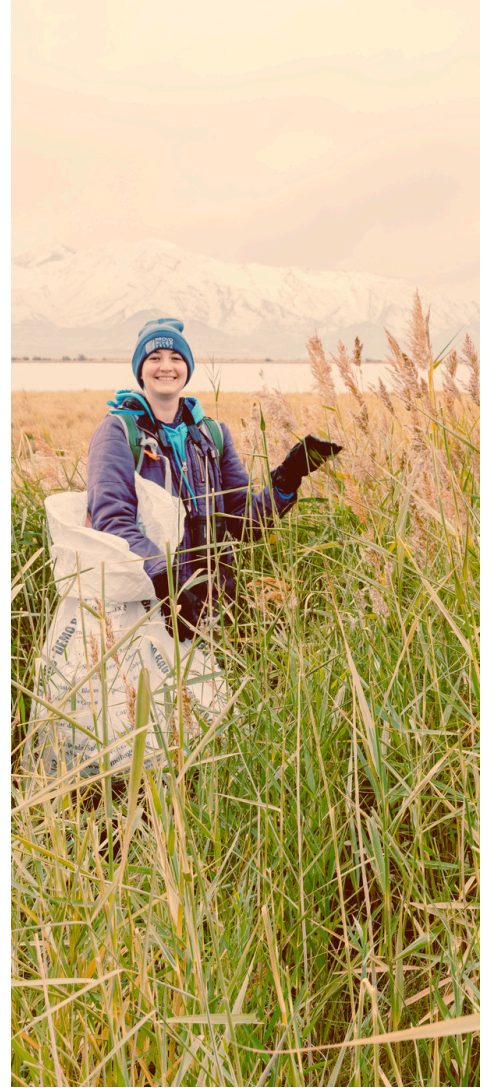
We have worked together to improve our collective understanding of the watershed, including sharing data and knowledge of water distribution and canals, water quality and development, conservation and reuse, recreation access and public safety. We are looking forward to sharing knowledge across disciplines in our regular meetings and as part of future workshops on specific topics.

Local watershed councils encourage and facilitate discussion and collaboration on water-related issues and concerns among the stakeholders within the watershed. As feasible, the watershed council will facilitate communication and coordination among the following interests:

- Agriculture
- Industry
- Utah tribal nations
- Public water suppliers
- Water planning and research institutions
- Water quality
- Fish and wildlife
- Water dependent habitat and environments
- Watershed management
- Mutual irrigation companies
- Local sponsors of reclamation projects



Each local watershed council designates a representative to serve on the [Utah Watersheds Council](#), which is a forum for discussion of water where issues of concern can be brought to the attention of the Legislature and Governor.



Grants

Grants and Contributions Received by the Commission

\$114,035	Legislative Appropriations (from FFSL)
\$1,200	Utah's Hogle Zoo, purchase plants for volunteer event
\$13,500	Jordan River Foundation, understory planting
\$2,500	Swire Coca Cola, Volunteer Program support
\$2,941	Jordan River Foundation, volunteer support for cleanups

Grants Awarded by the Commission

Jordan River Assistance Fund Small Grants

\$3,000	Seven Canyons Trust	Range 2 River Relay
\$2,200	Friends of Fisher Mansion	Fisher Mansion Restoration & Activation Plan
\$500	Fish for Garbage	Food and support for Jordan River Cleanup Event
\$500	Friends of Great Salt Lake	Great Salt Lake Issues Forum support
\$500	Millcreek	Millcreek Earth Day Youth & Community Art Project
\$500	GREENbike	Spring Technical Advisory Committee Field Trip support

Get to the River Festival Mini Grants and Seed Grants

\$250	Tracy Aviary	Seed Grant
\$1,000	Tracy Aviary	Something's Brewing Festival event.
\$250	West Valley City	Nature & Rhythm Drum Circle Festival event.
\$250	Riverton City	Jordan River Family Night Festival event.
\$250	South Jordan	Seed Grant
\$1,000	South Jordan	South Jordan Get to the River Festival events
\$250	North Salt Lake	Seed Grant
\$1,000	North Salt Lake	Jordan River Paddle with North Salt Lake
\$250	JRC (Provo Bike Collective)	Pedal the Parkway at Willow Park
\$250	JRC (GREENBike)	Pedal the Parkway at 17th South River Park
\$250	USARA	Recovery Day event at Jordan Park
\$250	Thanksgiving Point	Nature Walk
\$465	Thanksgiving Point	Nature Journaling Activity
\$250	Bluffdale City	River Rock Search
\$250	Bluffdale City	Scarecrow Walk
\$100	Bluffdale City	Walk with the Mayor
\$1,000	Bluffdale City	Scarecrow Walk
\$70	Loveland Living Planet Aquarium	Community Science on the Jordan River
\$800	South Salt Lake Arts Council	Arts Activities and Programs for Festival

Grants

Grants and Funding awarded by Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands

\$8,000	Lehi City	Phragmites Removal Project
\$40,000	Riverton City	Invasive Species Mitigation Project
\$4,590	Saratoga Springs	Phragmites Control Project
\$6,000	Tracy Aviary	CWMA Jordan River Revegetation Project
\$26,180	Oakwood Homes	Jordan River invasive species removal project
\$6,600	Thanksgiving Point	Jordan River Invasive Species Removal Project
\$44,641	Utah County	Weed Control Project
\$24,500	Volo	Jordan River Invasive Species Removal and Native Plant
\$18,636	CDEA	Educational Programming
\$100,000	Riverton City	Bank Stabilization Project
\$150,000	Salt Lake City	Debris and Hazard Removal Project
\$74,000	Salt Lake County	Recreation Features Installation Project
\$2,685	Salt Lake Fish & Game	Enhance Wildlife Potential Project
\$75,000	Tracy Aviary	Jordan River Education Center
\$100,000	Utah County	Bank Stabilization Project

Utah Trails Network - Active Transportation Investment Fund Projects (UDOT)

\$14 million	Salt Lake County	Bingham Creek Trail (Jordan River to Mountain View Corridor)
\$10 million	Salt Lake County	3900/4100 S. Shared Use Path (West Temple to Jordan River)
\$7 million	Salt Lake County	Welby Jacobs Canal Trail North
\$600,000	Salt Lake County	Jordan River Parkway Trail Connection at 1300 W. Bluffdale

Recreation Restoration Infrastructure Grant (RRI) - Office of Outdoor Recreation

\$75,000	SLCo Parks & Recreation	Jordan River Trail - Trail Restoration Project 3900 S - 4800 S
\$35,000	SLCo Parks & Recreation	Jordan River Trail - 2320 S Bridge Decking



Financial Summary

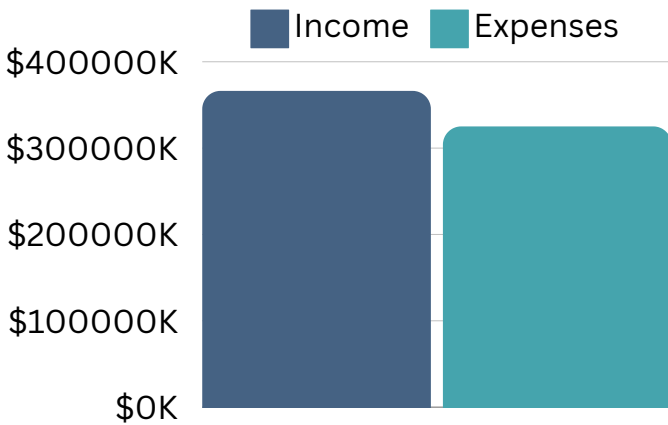
Note: the Financial Summary of General Funds is based on a fiscal year of July 2023 - June 2024

GENERAL FUND INCOME

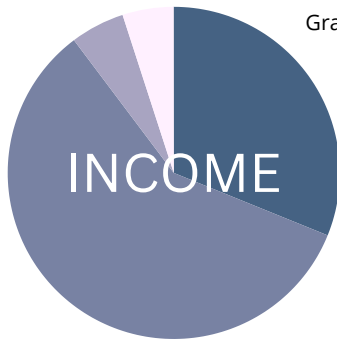
Interlocal Member Contributions	\$214,640
Ex-Officio Partner Contributions	\$19,300
Interest Income	\$28
Grant Revenue	\$114,035
Donations Received	\$18,141
Miscellaneous Income	\$116
TOTAL	\$366,260

GENERAL FUND EXPENSES

Publications & Memberships	\$2,532
Outreach & Public Notices	\$1,580
Mileage & Auto	\$6,250
Supplies & Public Notices	\$311
Postage & Mail	\$359
Grant Expenses	\$16,449
Food & Meals	\$1,614
Event Contribution	\$7,000
Printing	\$247
Telephone/Computer/Internet	\$7,370
Accounting	\$3,205
Insurance	\$5,659
Office Space & Storage Rental	\$12,867
Seasonal & Intern Labor	\$2,400
Grants	\$19,035
Employee Education	\$125
JRC Small Grants Program	\$7,200
Payroll Expenses	\$230,906
Total Expenses	\$325,109

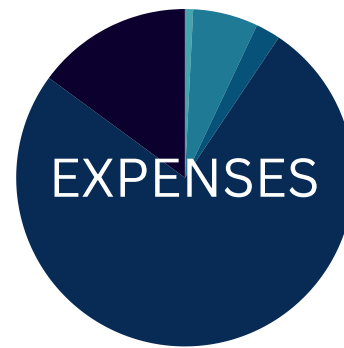


Ex-Officio Partner Contributions 5.3%
Grant Revenue 31.1%



Interlocal Member Contributions 58.6%

Overhead Expenses 14.9%
Grants 6.2%



Payroll Expenses 75.7%

PROPRIETARY EVENT FUNDS

GET TO THE RIVER FESTIVAL

Total Income (sponsorships & sales)	\$77,138
Total Expenses	\$89,823

GOLDEN SPOKE RIDE EVENT

Total Income (partner contributions)	\$3,678
Total Expenses	\$7,426

2024 Highlights

Notable Development Projects along Jordan River

In 2024, significant development projects emerged along Utah's Jordan River, notably **The Power District** in Salt Lake City, **The Point** in Draper, and the **Wander Development** in Saratoga Springs. The Power District represents a historic investment in Salt Lake City's westside and will revitalize the Jordan River and Fairpark neighborhood. The Point commenced its first phase of construction in December, and includes the 1.4 mile River to Range trail that will connect the Jordan River Parkway to the west with the foothills to the east. The trail will serve as a vital component of the regional trail network, promoting outdoor recreation and connectivity within the community. The eastern boundary of Wander Development in Saratoga Springs is oriented around the Jordan River and incorporates a 50 foot riparian buffer as well as a 30 acre linear park along the river. Collectively, these projects are transforming the Jordan River corridor, promoting economic growth, community engagement, and enhanced recreational opportunities for Utah residents.

America the Beautiful Challenge Grant Project Kickoff

On August 30th, The Jordan River Commission and its partners convened at the Big Bend Nature Park and Preserve in West Jordan to announce a significant restoration initiative funded by the America the Beautiful Challenge Grant. This grant, administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, allocated approximately \$5 million to support comprehensive restoration efforts along the Jordan River corridor.

The funded projects encompass several key initiatives:

- **Big Bend Nature Park and Preserve Restoration:** Led by the City of West Jordan, this project widens the river's floodplain, creates a secondary channel, and adds thousands of native plants to enhance habitat and improve water quality.
- **Invasive Species Management and Native Plant Restoration:** Coordinated by the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands, this effort focuses on removing invasive species the river and reestablish native vegetation.
- **Gillmor Sanctuary Enhancement:** Managed by Audubon Rockies, this project aims to restore wetland and upland habitats by controlling invasives and reintroducing native plants, thereby improving conditions for birds and wildlife.
- **Community Engagement and Science Initiatives:** The Jordan River Commission will lead conservation programs, including community science and volunteer stewardship, to foster a sense of ownership and support for the river's health.

This project represents the largest coordinated riparian restoration effort on the Jordan River, and aims to revitalize the watershed and enhance its ecological health for future generations.

Development and Transportation

There are many notable development and transportation projects happening along the Jordan River Parkway through our partner organizations, state agencies and other entities. The Commission Staff and Technical Advisory Committee offer support, input and expertise on many of these projects. The projects are led by the listed Commission partner city, county or company unless otherwise noted.

- **Wander Development and Riverside Park**, Saratoga Springs
- **Salix Park, Boat Ramp and Fishing Pier**, Lehi
- **H2Oquirrh Watershed Plan**, Salt Lake County
- **Jordan River Parkway Trail Connection at 1300 W**, Salt Lake County Bluffdale
- **The Point Development** - Phase One ground breaking in December, Draper
- **Bingham Creek Trail** (Jordan River to Mountain View Corridor), Salt Lake County
- **Welby Jacobs Canal Trail North**, Salt Lake County
- **Shields Lane Solutions Development Study**, South Jordan
- **Big Bend Nature Park & Preserve**, West Jordan
- **Murray Open Space Acquisition & Lighting Planning**, Murray
- **Central Jordan River Reconnect Master Plan**, Salt Lake County
- **3900/4100 S. Shared Use Path**, Salt Lake County
- **Millcreek bridge and trailhead**, Salt Lake County, Millcreek
- **Campus Expansion and Renaming**, Tracy Aviary's Nature Center at Pia Okwai
- **Emerald Ribbon Action Plan**, Salt Lake City
- **Fisher Mansion Restoration & Activation Plan**, Salt Lake City
- **The YARD**, CW Urban, Salt Lake City
- **The Power District**, Larry H. Miller Company, Salt Lake City
- **600/700 N Corridor Plan**, Salt Lake City
- **North Temple Economic Development Action Plan**, Salt Lake City
- **Glendale Regional Park**, Salt Lake City
- **Northpoint Area Zoning, Annexation & Open Space Acquisition**, Salt Lake City
- **Porters Landing Boat Launch rehabilitation**, North Salt Lake City



Restoration

Jordan River Restoration Project with Utah Conservation Corps

Utah Conservation Corps brush cut Phragmites, controlled Russian olive and tamarisk, pulled puncturevine, removed thistles, sowed seed, planted trees along the Jordan River and repaired fencing to project trees.

- 48.42 acres of habitat improved
- 41.55 acres of invasive species removed
- 1,088 pounds of puncturevine removed
- 6.12 acres were planted with seeds and trees
- 1,897 Individual trees, grasses and shrubs planted
- 1,716 lbs seed spread
- 4.52 miles of waterway improved

Jordan River Phragmites Control

- 144 Acres sprayed over 9 sites
 - Drone: 38 acres
 - UTV: 45 acres
 - Backpack: 62 acres
- Mowed in Dec 2024 - January 2025
- Contractor: Terra Land Works

Puncturevine Bounty Program

- 2,636 lbs removed
- 13 events
- 11 partners
- 263 volunteers
- 1093 hours



Education and Outreach

Recreation Education Events

Paddles: 17 | Bike Rides and Nature Walks: 10
Total Participants: 1467

As we expand and support recreation enhancements along the Jordan River, it is important that we are connecting new users to these resources and educating them on how to utilize the trail and the river. Recreation connects people to a place and creates a desire to take care of it and invest in it. It also gives us a chance to educate on the other issues affecting the river. This year we expanded our recreation programming by adding bike and walking activities with the public.

Outreach and Education & Activities

Total Activities: 50 | Total Participants: 7058

The Jordan River Commission partners with many fantastic organizations to educate the public about the Jordan River and the watershed. We teach about the ecological systems of the river and the impact human activity has on it and what we can do to restore the natural systems of the watershed. This year we also hosted three free film screenings.



#LoveYourWatershed Initiative

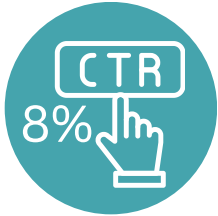
The Commission has two monthly activities to educate and activate the public around our stormwater system. On #FirstFriday, we post a challenge on social media for the public to complete on their own. On #SecondSaturdays we host a cleanup along a major roadway that crosses the Jordan River. We partner with local cities and UDOT for these cleanups. We also make cleanup kits and share those at community events.

Partners and Programs

Hogle Zoo Conservation Action Program
Tracy Aviary Nature Center at Pia Okwai
Wilderness Inquiry - Canoemobile
Salt Lake City Public Lands
Seven Canyons Trust
Fish for Garbage
Natural History of Utah Museum
Thanksgiving Point
Living Planet Aquarium
Division of Outdoor Recreation
Latino Conservation Week
Canyon Rim Cares, Millcreek
Salt Lake Community College
The Nature Conservancy
Blue Swim
Millcreek Commons
Sageland Collaborative
Tree Utah
RIFT
Salt Lake Public Libraries
Bicycle Collective
GREENBike
Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
Audubon
Gardner Village
Center for Documentary Expression and Art
Utah Cultural Celebration Center

Communications

Newsletter Stats



Clickthrough Rate



Open rate



Subscribers

Social Media Stats

Facebook



Reach: 31.5k
Followers: 2,563
Net New: +123

Instagram



Reach: 9.4k
Followers: 1,858
Net New: +250

X



Followers: 525
Net New: +2

LinkedIn



Reach: 3,354
Followers: 194
Net New: +71

YouTube



Impressions 9.1k
Views: 643
Followers: 15



News Coverage

There were over 300 news stories about the Jordan River in 2024. The top three news topics were:

- Water** - More water was in the Jordan River this year as part of the efforts to get water to the Great Salt Lake.
- Safety** - Increased drug activity around the river led to increased policing along the parkway.
- Development** - major projects such as The Power District, The Point and Wander Development were in the spotlight.



Signature Events

Golden Spoke Event

May 11 | 255 participants

- 40 Mile Bike Ride from Roy
- 50 Mile Bike Ride from Provo
- 3.6 and 6.2 Mile All Ages Bike Rides in West Valley City
- 10.2 Mile Parleys Trail Bike ride
- End of Ride Celebration in South Salt Lake at the Tracy Aviary Nature Center at Pia Okwai



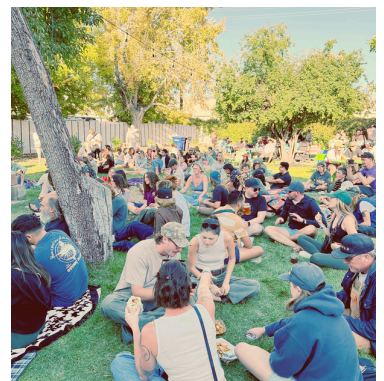
Get to the River Festival

Festival Summary:

- 11th Annual Festival
- 33 Days
- 54 Scheduled Events/Activities
- 30 Partner Organizations
- 14 Cities, 3 Counties
- Thousands of Participants

Financial Summary:

- \$77,138 raised
- 20 Sponsors
- Valuable Earned Media from KTVX, KSTU and KRCL
- Featured Articles in Valley Journals & Community Calendars



Volunteer Impact



By The Numbers:



Volunteers

61 Events
1,627 Volunteers
4,656 Hours



Invasives Removed

2,636 lbs puncturevine
13.64 ha thistle



Trash Cleanup

7,895 lbs removed
from land
7,620 lbs removed
from river



Revegetation

700 plants planted
13.64 ha reseeded

Special Thanks

To our partners for your financial support



Jordan River Foundation

Wasatch Rowing

*We thank you for your continued support
of the Jordan River Commission*

Contact/Follow

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