



Emerald Ribbon Action Plan

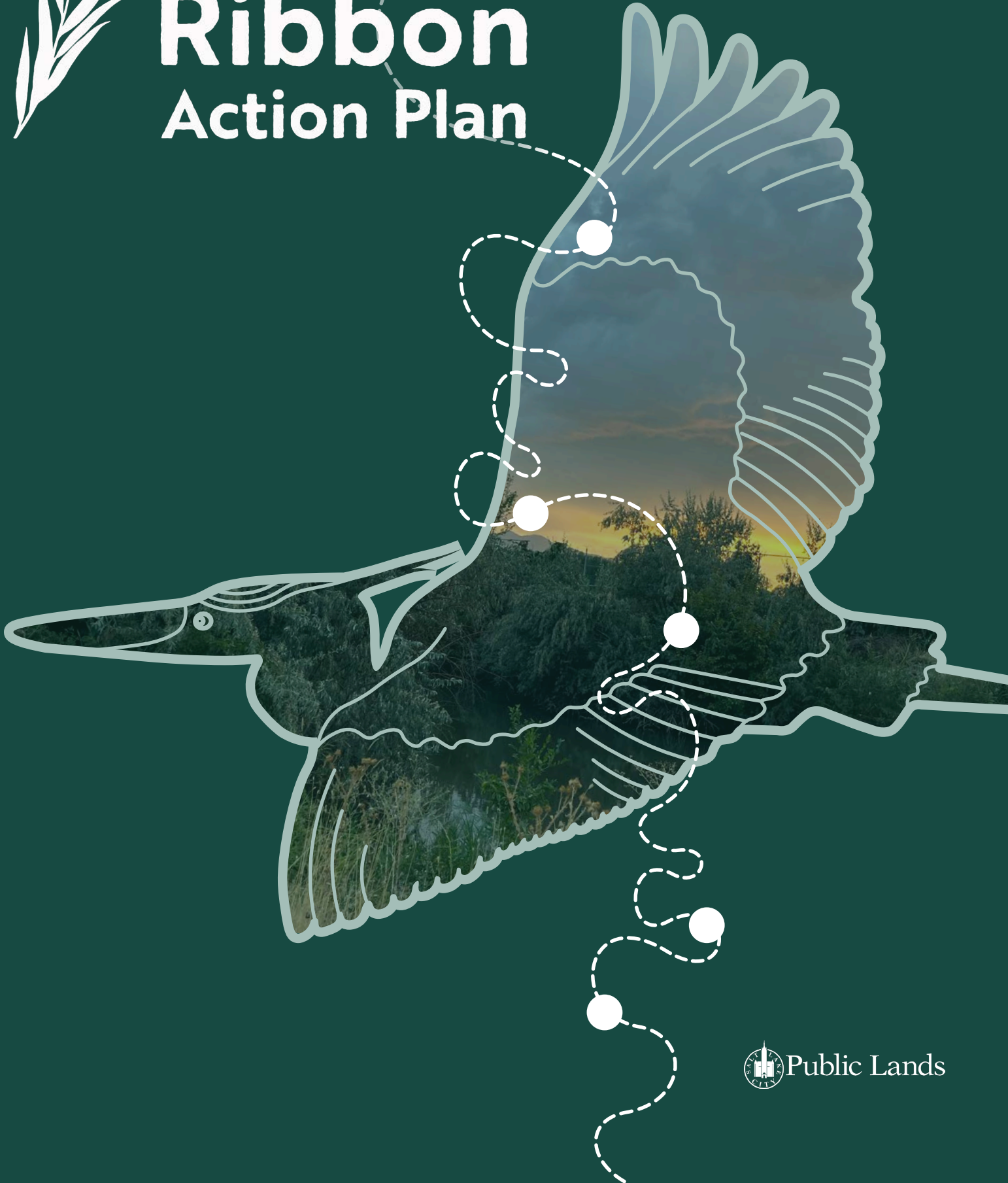




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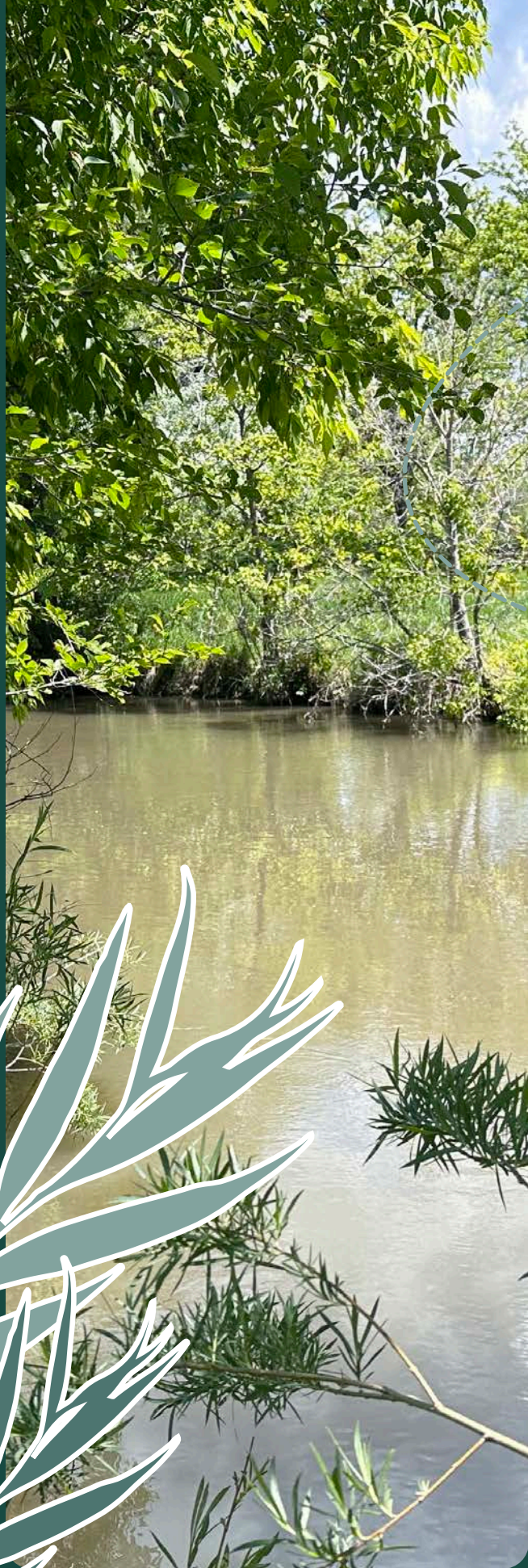
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Introduction





772
Acres of City-owned Land



10
Miles of River Corridor



6
Salt Lake City Neighborhoods



It's time to embrace the Emerald Ribbon.

Embracing the Emerald Ribbon means embracing the Jordan River's future and all its roles in our community: for Salt Lake City residents, the Great Salt Lake, and all the plants and animals that call it home. The Emerald Ribbon is the 10-mile stretch of the Jordan River including surrounding trails and parks, that is the geographic heart of Salt Lake City's Westside.



Executive Summary

The Emerald Ribbon Action Plan is an ambitious vision for the future of the Jordan River, the Jordan River Parkway Trail, and the many city-owned parklands that surround them in Salt Lake City. The ten miles of urban river corridor that cut through the city's Westside neighborhoods are intertwined with the city's history and growth from a natural river (one of four that flow into the Great Salt Lake), to the city's industrial heart, to a vibrant hub of immigration from around the world. The West Side has seen immense transformation in the last one hundred years. The Jordan River has been at the heart of all of it.

The Emerald Ribbon Action Plan builds on the foundational belief that if we care for nature's ecological health, nature will engage and sustain human well being. At the center of this intertwined relationship is a system of care. The Westside community today has watched a once vibrant river corridor struggle under the weight of increased concerns over public safety, under-maintained amenities, and poor water quality. This plan puts forth a proposal deeply rooted in the dreams and aspirations of that community to steward and enliven an Emerald Ribbon that meets its full potential as the heart of the Westside and the vibrant ecological counterpoint to the mountains to the east.

Funded by the voter-approved Parks, Trails, and Open Space GO Bond, this plan puts forth a proposal to advance the community's goals to improve the parks, ecology, and trail system that make up the Emerald Ribbon. The goals and strategies of the plan center around the

needs of Nature (the natural environment), Culture (the human experience), Connectivity (the trail and mobility system), and Care (the stewardship and management of the corridor). The underlying framework of the Action Plan are five guiding principles; within each principle are three to five goals, supported by a series of strategies and actions to advance each goal.

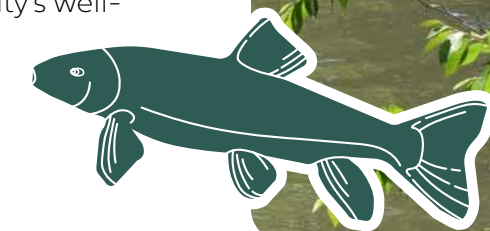
The Westside community, and the Salt Lake City community as a whole, have expressed clear priorities:

1. Center nature and the ecological health of the corridor while also celebrating the rich cultural vibrance of the Westside's people.
2. Improve the trail and pathway system as a true mobility corridor.
3. Cultivate collective ownership and care of the corridor, rethinking the management approach that exists today.
4. Restore and enhance the river's ecological health (and work to make the river swimmable and fishable in the future)!
5. Bring more activity and energy to the river's banks and the corridor's parks, so long as it is supportive of a healthy natural habitat. To do this, a public safety strategy that ensures people feel safe and welcome on the corridor is paramount.

Salt Lake City Public Lands is poised and ready to transform its investment in the Emerald Ribbon in the next ten years. Immense efforts are already underway to increase the department's focus on natural lands management and to better partner with the community to steward the corridor.



This plan proposes two other major shifts: towards a restored river closer to its natural origins as a winding series of wetlands, and towards a significant increase in spending in the programming and activation of the Emerald Ribbon. Across all community conversations, the needs of the natural environment emerged as a top priority. The community agrees: if Salt Lake City Public Lands can steward nature's ecological health on the Emerald Ribbon, creating vibrant and biodiverse ecosystems for plants, animals, and people to enjoy, the Emerald Ribbon ecosystem will sustain the community's well-being for generations to come.



Planning Approach

At the core of the vision for the Emerald Ribbon is the idea that if we sustain nature, nature will sustain us, fostering a system of care that can span generations. This framework evolved from the community's repeated desire to see a more comprehensive approach to care on the Jordan River corridor. Through the planning process, the community's interest in centering the natural environment was clear. The interwoven concepts of Nature, Culture, and Care serve as the underlying approach to the Action Plan.

Nature

If we steward nature's ecological health...

Care

through a process that centers on care

Culture

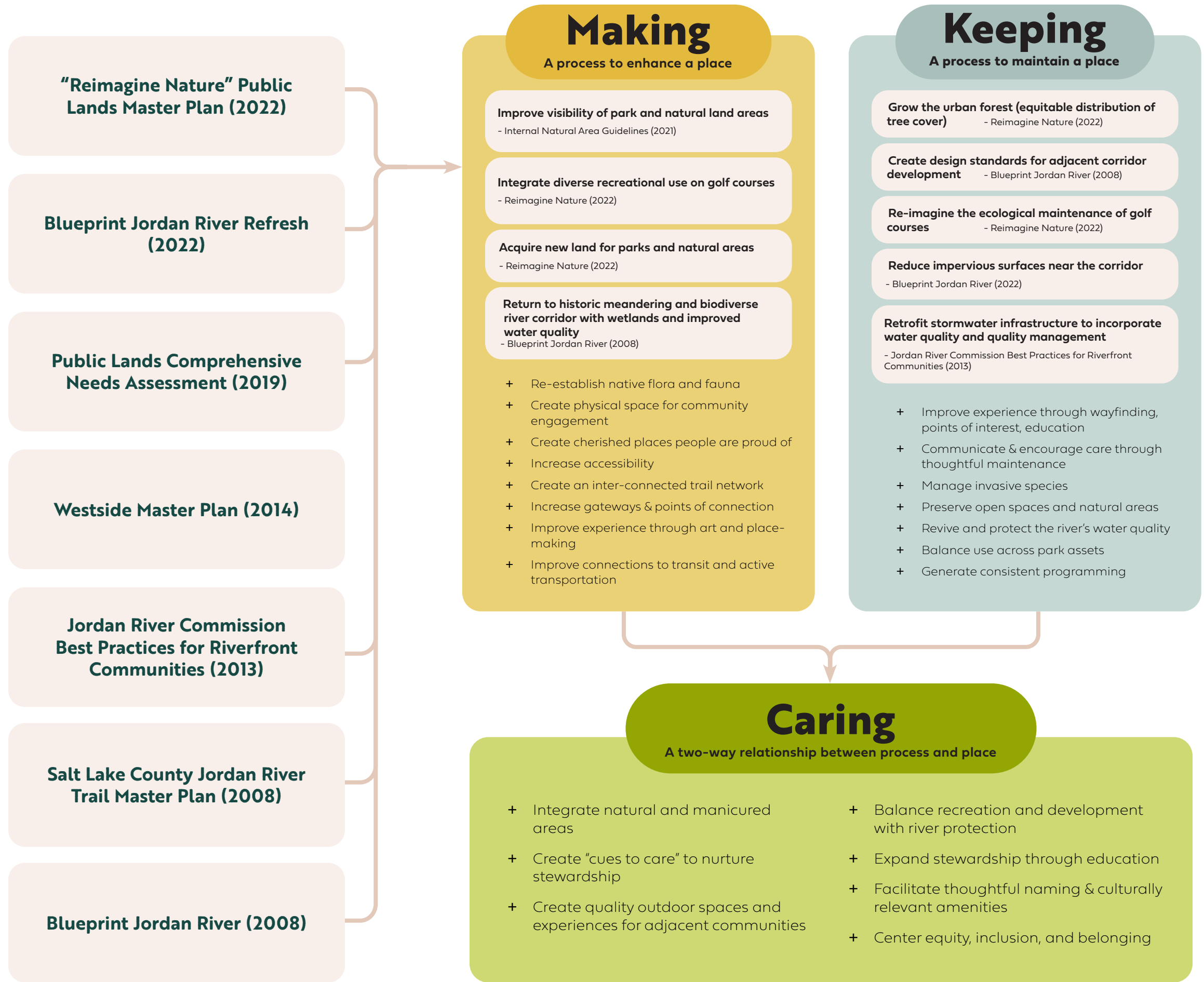
...nature will engage and sustain human well-being.





This plan builds from a strong planning foundation.

The need for the Emerald Ribbon Action Plan emerged out of a number of important planning efforts. The synthesis of these efforts, shown at right, focuses on three main concerns: how the Corridor is invested in as a place (Making), how it is maintained (Keeping) and how the two-way relationship between Making and Keeping can lead to Caring.



Natural Context

The Emerald Ribbon is the spine of a unique and threatened ecosystem.

The Jordan River is the ecological heart of the Salt Lake Valley. Flowing 51 miles from Utah Lake in the south to the Great Salt Lake in the north, the river is a vital waterway in the Salt Lake Valley that has supported robust wetlands and wildlife for millenia. The Great Salt Lake and the Valley are a remnant of the massive Lake Bonneville that was 20 times the size of the Great Salt Lake. As Lake Bonneville subsided, the Jordan River formed a connection between Utah Lake and the Great Salt Lake full of meanders, broad floodplains, marshes, and oxbows. The river that settlers saw in the 1800's has been significantly altered and channelized to fill wetlands, increase areas for development, reduce flooding, and divert water. Despite the changes over more than a century, the river continues to play a crucial role in supporting migrating birds, wetland habitat, other wildlife, and places for people to enjoy nature.

The Emerald Ribbon Action Plan's study area includes 772 acres reaching from the southern to northern ends of the Salt Lake City limits, from 2100 South to the Regional Athletic Complex (RAC). The study area includes all Salt Lake City Public Lands owned parcels adjacent to the river as well as a 150 foot buffer from the river.

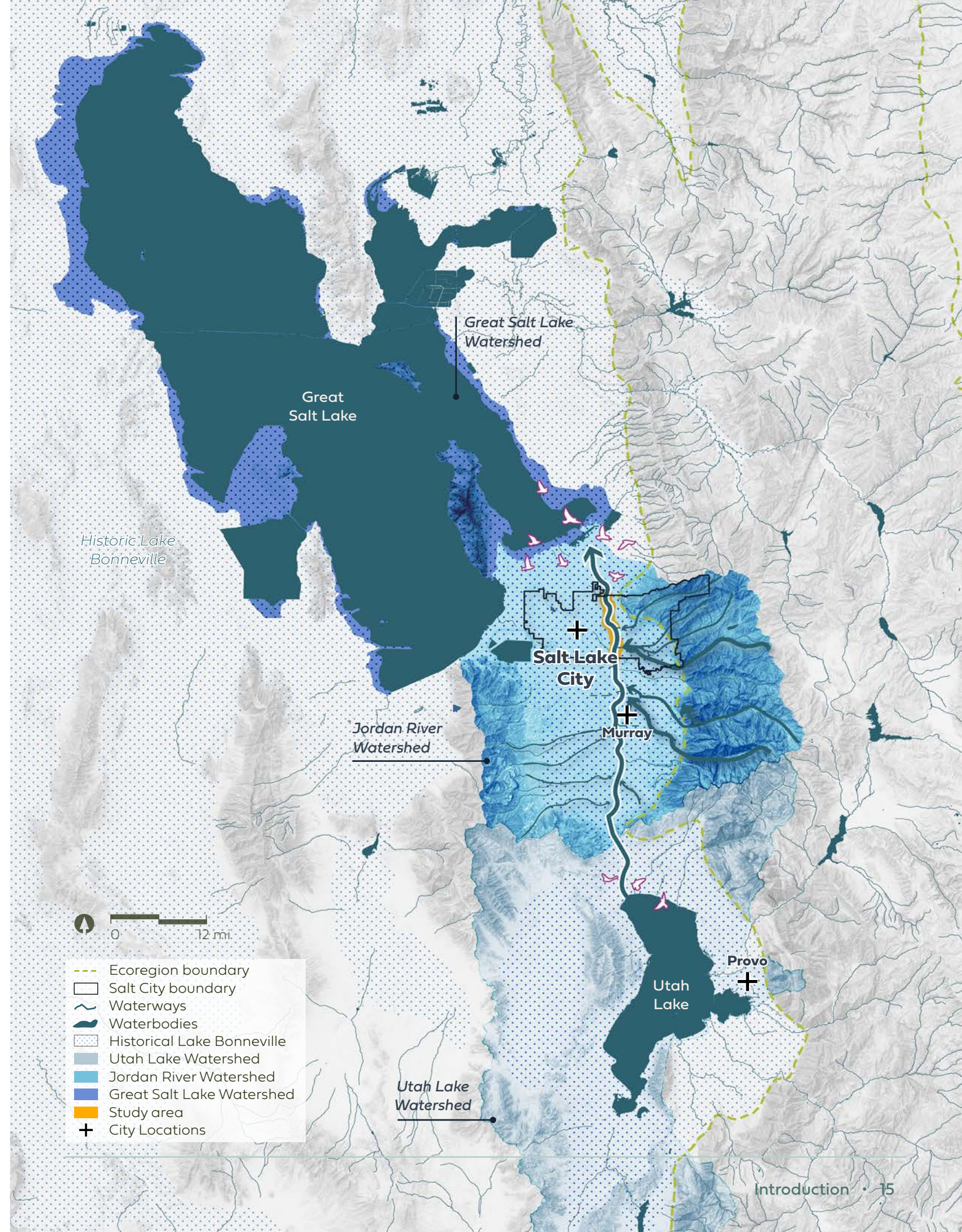
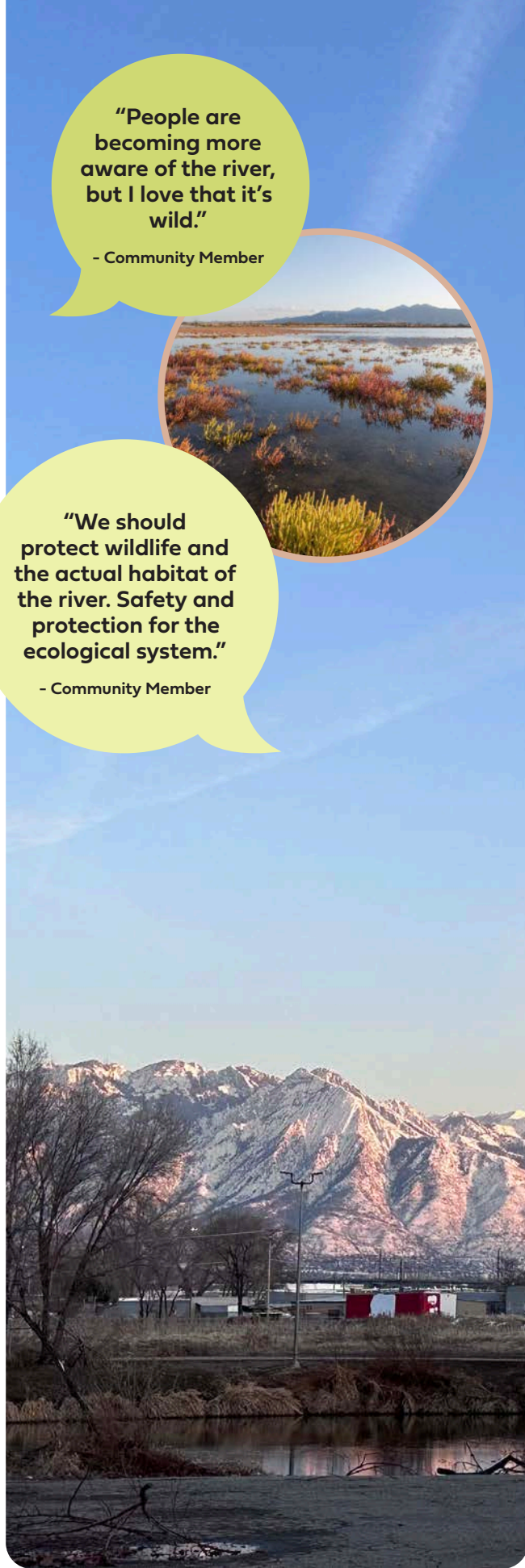
"People are becoming more aware of the river, but I love that it's wild."

- Community Member



"We should protect wildlife and the actual habitat of the river. Safety and protection for the ecological system."

- Community Member





"I want healthy places that are accessible in the community. And I want more coffee shops."

- Community Member



Cultural Context

The Emerald Ribbon is the heart of the Westside, home to some of Salt Lake City's most diverse communities.

People have always had an important relationship with the Jordan River. Indigenous groups, who called the Jordan River Pia Okwai, traded goods and celebrated key events along its banks. Since the late 1800s, the development of the railroad and ensuing industrial activity along the river brought more people to Salt Lake City. The city's rapid population growth corresponds directly with the rapidly shrinking size of the Great Salt Lake.

In the mid 20th century, the I-15 freeway created a physical, cultural, and socioeconomic divide between the east and west sides of the city that remains today. While the east side has access to a variety of downtown parks and mountain landscapes, the Jordan River serves as the primary open space for the Westside. The Westside is made up of neighborhoods diverse and varied in their own right: Poplar Grove, Glendale, Fairpark, Jordan Meadows, Rose Park, and Westpointe. Across all of these neighborhoods, social vulnerability (a measure that includes income, race, lack of vehicle access, and housing instability) is on average higher than Salt Lake City as a whole.



Care Context

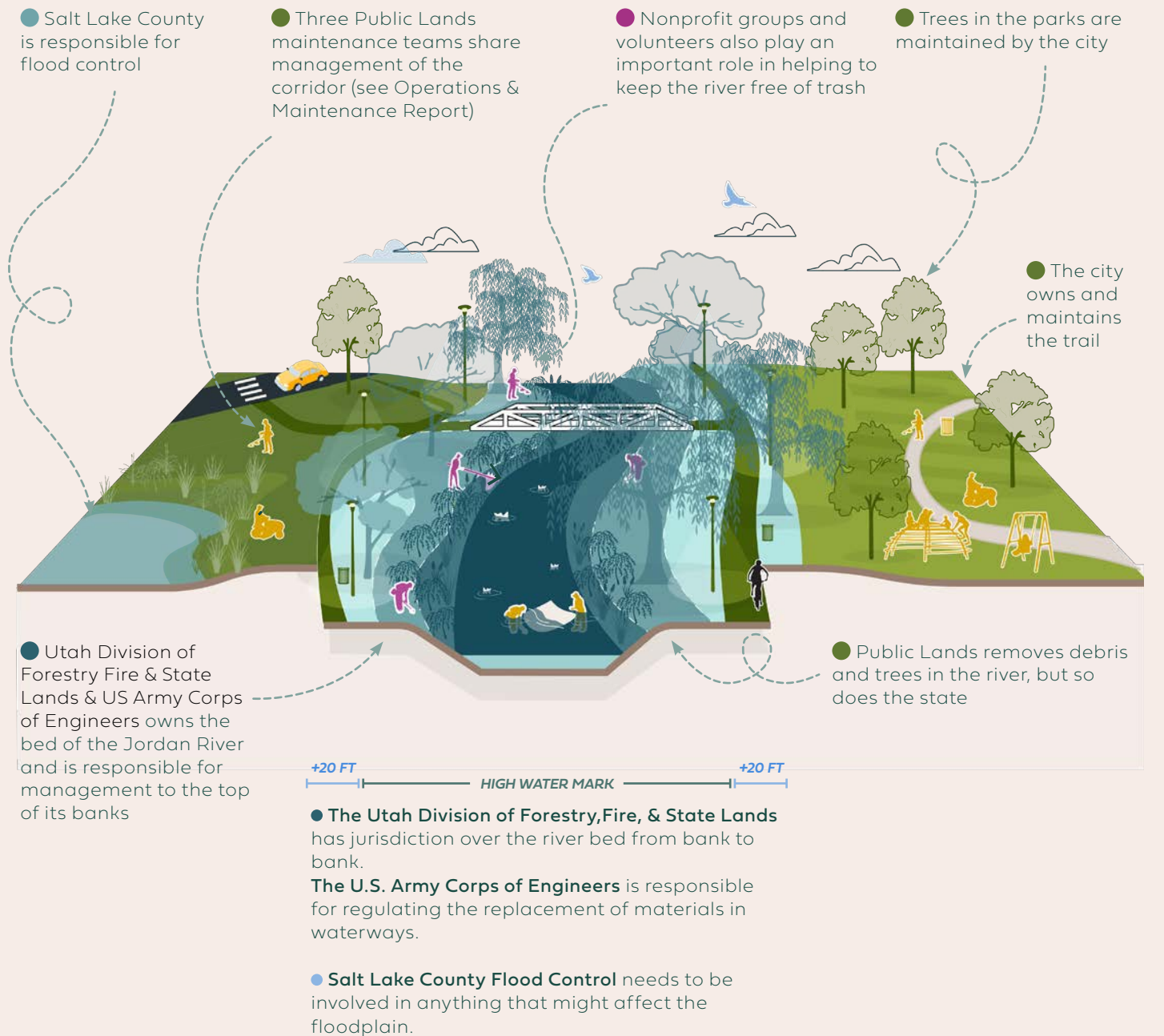
Cleanliness and safety issues threaten public perception of the corridor.

Throughout community focus groups, interviews, and workshops, lack of safety and cleanliness were the most common themes people mentioned when describing their perceptions of the corridor. Safety considerations are multifaceted: residents expressed feeling unsafe at night due to poor lighting along the trail, during the day due to the large presence of unsheltered populations in the corridor, and within the river due to steep banks and poor water quality. Perceptions about cleanliness centered on the presence of refuse in the waterway and adjacent parks and under-maintained amenities. Feeling that it is not well cared for by the city, some residents and stakeholders have mentioned taking it upon themselves to clean certain sections of the river.

Within the new and growing department created to care for Salt Lake City's Public Lands, care for the river corridor is a pressing concern. The Park Rangers team, created in 2023, has already become a key component of trail experience, offering aid, orientation, and a sense of safety. The Trails and Natural Lands (TNL) team on the Parks Division is growing substantially, with six additional positions opening in 2023. Four landscape architects, previously in the Public Services department, moved to Public Lands in 2023, further positioning the department to lead the way on the restoration and care of the corridor's natural ecology.



Who manages the Jordan River Corridor?





Making the Action Plan



Collaborating with the Community



Phase 1 Begin the Journey

51
stakeholders
in focus
groups

100
people at
Dinner on the
River

2
committee
meetings

50
Westside
residents in
focus groups

140
participants
in public
workshops

Phase 2 Dream Big

30
youth workshop
participants

209
participants
in public
workshops

561
online survey
respondents

2
committee
meetings

Phase 3 Create a Road Map

128
participants
in public workshops

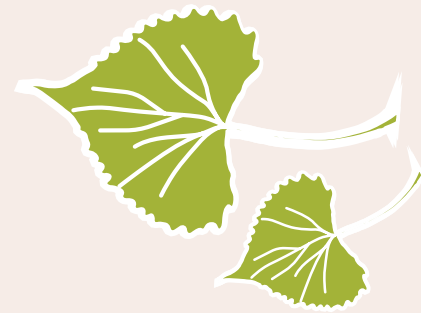
526
online survey
respondents

2
committee
meetings

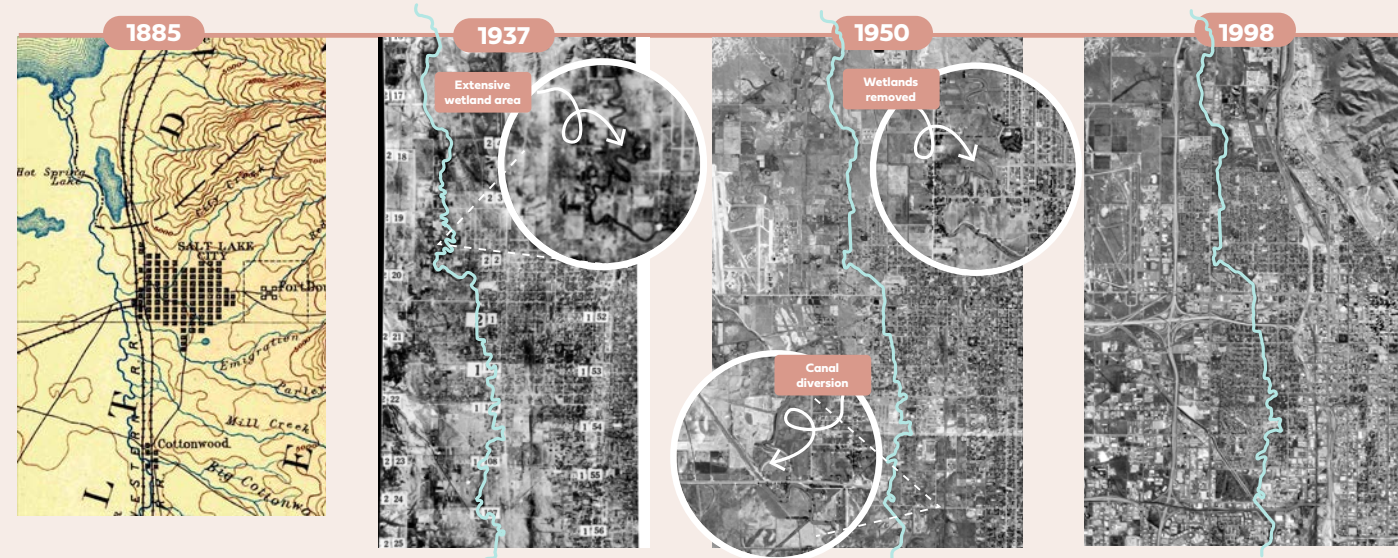
2
elected official
site tours

Phase 1 Begin the Journey

The first phase of planning sought to understand and analyze the existing context, current trends, planned projects, and stakeholder priorities along the 10-mile stretch of river corridor. Analysis included the park, trail, and recreation systems and assets along with community history, its environmental and ecological significance, and its broader role in the community. This phase concluded by defining the opportunities and challenges of the system and documenting the work as an Existing Conditions Report.



The History of the Jordan River in Salt Lake City



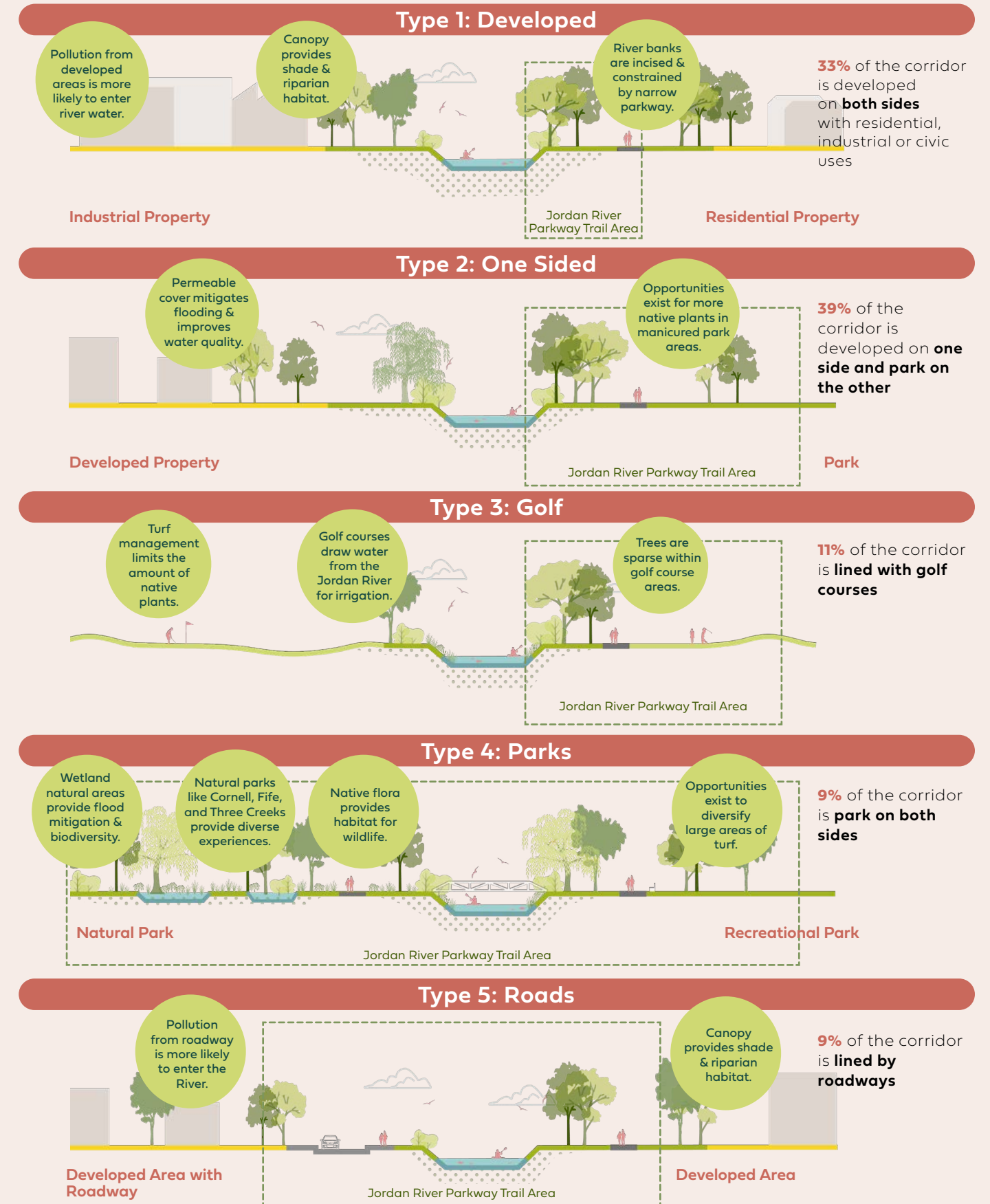
The river remains a meandering corridor, but some historical water bodies have already been filled in, such as Hot Spring Lake.

The dark coloration near the river indicates likely wetlands. The river is a meandering corridor through mostly rural lands at the westernmost edge of the built city.

The downtown core of Salt Lake City has encroached westward beyond the river boundary. Much of the wetlands seen in 1937 have been filled in. The northern section of the site still shows a meandering corridor through undeveloped land.

The river is heavily channelized. Its surroundings are highly developed and much of the open space within the study area is programmed for public use, such as golf.

Land Use Types Along the Corridor Today



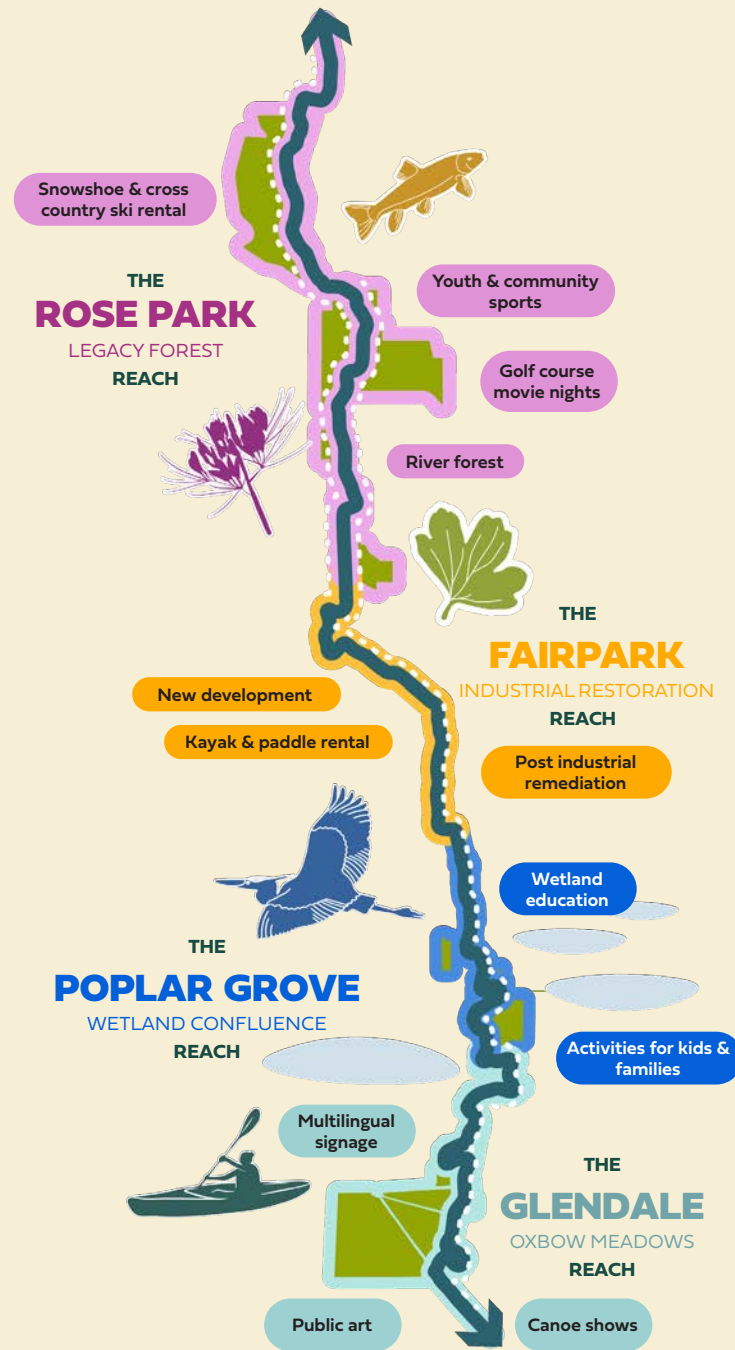
Phase 2 Dream Big

The second phase of planning focused on the development of a framework for the river corridor at a master plan scale. Utilizing the feedback and ideas in the first wave of engagement, five Guiding Principles were developed in collaboration with the Community Advisory Group to ground the plan's goals in the aspirations of the Westside community.

The desired character of the corridor was then tested with the community via the development and evaluation of three imaginative scenarios: Dynamic Districts, River Ribbons, and Meandering Moments. These were visualized at both the system scale (to the right) as well as through three-dimensional sketches of various segments.

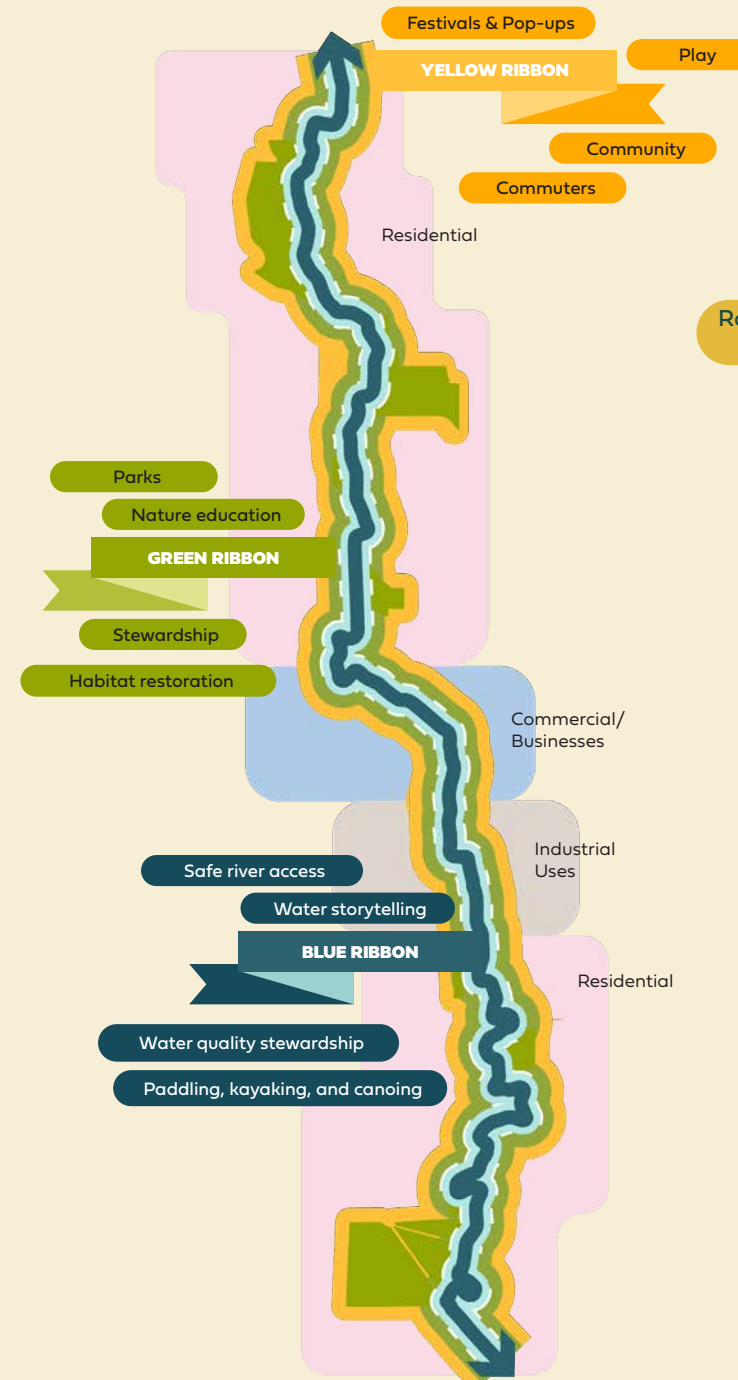
Dynamic Districts

A vibrant, ever-changing corridor that celebrates the diversity of Westside neighborhoods



River Ribbons

A restored river with active, programmed edges and well-connected transition spaces



Meandering Moments

A restored nature education and recreation corridor with unique nodes of activation



Phase 3

Create a Roadmap

Phase 3 focused on the creation of a preferred corridor-wide concept plan with further detail on programming, landscape character, trail connectivity, and ecology. Building on the Guiding Principles and community priorities identified in Phases 1 and 2, the concept was vetted with advisory committees and the public, and high priority ideas from the proposal were identified. The overall concept plan also included five detailed concept plans for areas of potential focus throughout the corridor.

Together, the corridor-wide framework, the five concept plans, and an operations and maintenance plan provide an overall guide for the long-term preservation and enhancement of the Corridor consistent with the community's vision.



Glendale Oxbow



Power District and Fairpark



● Community Engagement

August 2023

Stakeholder Focus Groups

51 stakeholders from community organizations, advocacy groups, schools, and city, county, and state departments convened for small group discussions on topics including Ecology, History and Culture, Mobility, Maintenance, Economy & Policy, and Education & Stewardship.

- The Community Advisory Group (CAG) Kickoff

- Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Kickoff

Fall 2023

Community Focus Groups

Led by University Neighborhood Partners, 50 Westside residents gathered in 8 focus groups, conducted in Spanish, Somali, Tongan, and Tibeto-Burman languages at the Hartland Partnership Center. Participants were compensated and discussions included childcare, making participation accessible to individuals often left out of conversations on the Westside.

November 2023

Public Open Houses

At Sorenson Unity Center and Northwest Recreation Center, the team shared back our understanding of the Emerald Ribbon in the form of an exhibit and game board. Residents shared their priorities from a set of options, the challenges they see today, and their dreams for the future.



● Key Insights

A well-maintained natural and cultural corridor

46% of feedback across open houses and focus groups highlighted the need for a safe and clean corridor.

A vibrant community destination

37% of feedback centered around ideas for programming on the river and along the trail.

A place that fosters long-term multigenerational use

18% of comments centered on cherished personal memories: people feel the corridor has gotten worse in recent years and hope it will be different for the next generation.

Stakeholder Feedback

- + Activate the corridor
- + Collaborate with partners
- + Prioritize nature with new best practices
- + Strategically balance uses

March 12, 2024

Youth Workshop

At the Northwest Recreation Center, thirty young people between the ages of 6 and 12 participated in a workshop to design their dream park on the Jordan River, expressing their priorities and dreams for the future.



March 13-14, 2024

Public Open Houses

In March, hundreds of residents gathered at two open houses, at Sorenson Unity Center and Mestizo Coffee House to review three concepts for the future of the Emerald Ribbon. Residents cast 1,258 votes on various elements to help shape the next phase of the plan and submitted 501 comments.

- 2 CAG Meetings, including Guiding Principles workshop

- TAG Meeting

March-April, 2024

Online Survey

The three design concepts were ranked by over 561 respondents online. Respondents were predominantly Westside residents but included residents of other Salt Lake City neighborhoods and surrounding areas.

Care for Nature

Ecological restoration emerged as the #1 priority across all engagement methods.

Activation in a Healthy Way

More programming and cultural celebration was popular, but only if done in a way that is sustainable to the natural environment.

Perceptions of Insecurity

Public safety remains an urgent priority for residents.



July 10-11, 2024

Public Open Houses

Corridor-wide draft recommendations and proposed concept designs for the five focus areas were shared for feedback. Based on the number of votes, 128 residents gathered to shape the final plan.



July 10-11, 2024

Site Tours with Mayor Mendenhall and Councilmember Puy

The team led site tours of the Glendale Oxbow and Modesto and Bend in the River Parks with Mayor Mendhall and of the Fisher Mansion and Fairpark area with Councilmember Puy to share proposed designs.

- CAG Site Tour of Modesto Park and Bend in the River

- TAG Site Tour of Cottonwood Park

July-August 2024

Online Survey

A second online survey ensured residents could share feedback in multiple ways and gathered 526 responses.

Restoration Priorities: Biodiversity and Water Quality

Improving water quality was highly ranked at open houses and in the online survey, closely followed by improving biodiversity.

Safety & Activation go Hand-in-Hand

Partnering with the city and state to address housing insecurity was a top rated theme, followed by increased programming on the water and water's edge.

Safer Intersections & a Complete Network

Safer and more visible intersections emerged as a top priority alongside a more complete trail network.

Top Rated Ideas

- + Improve water quality
- + Partner with city and state to address housing insecurity
- + Encourage developers to enhance trail network
- + Safer intersections
- + Prioritize ecological restoration



The Action Plan



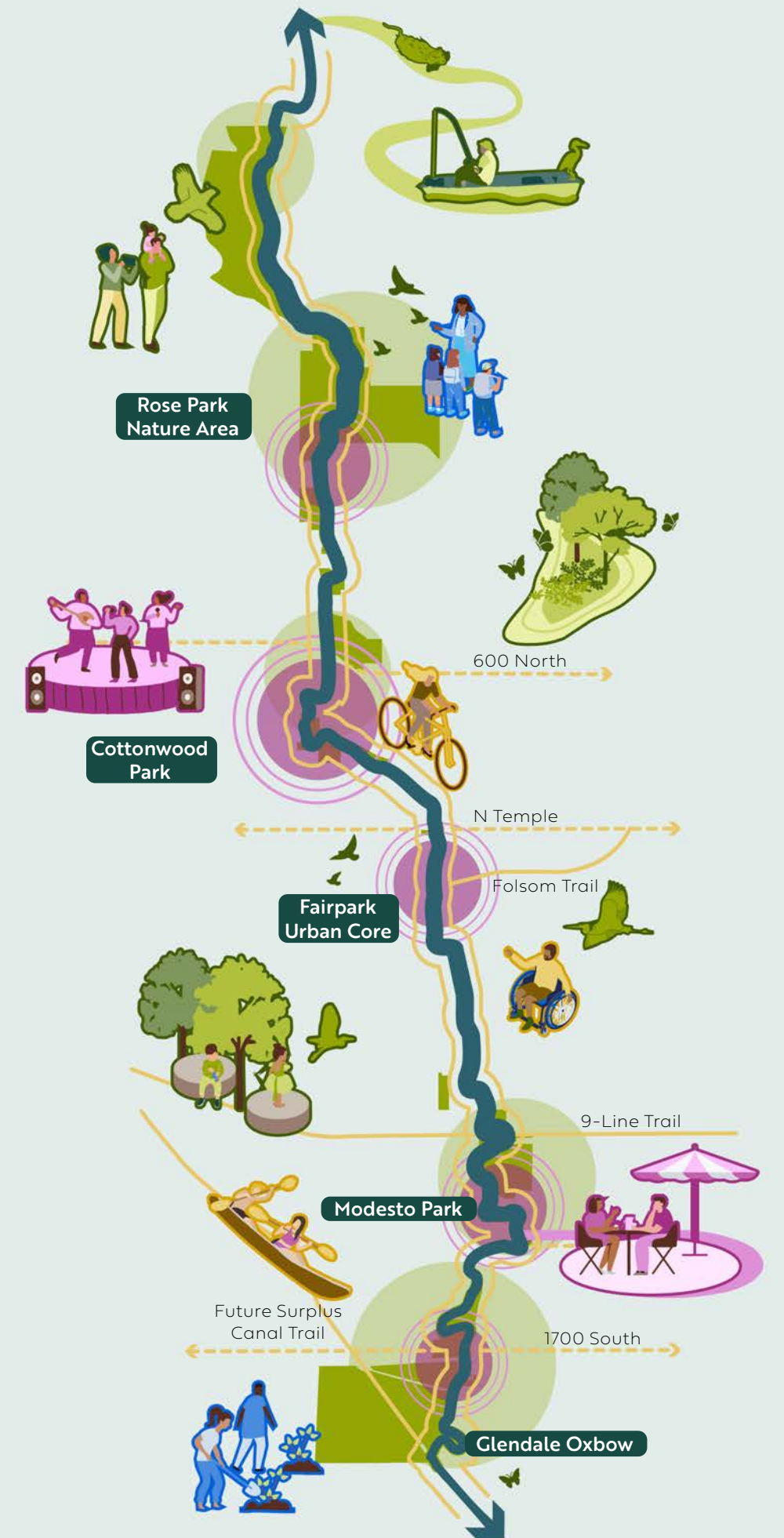
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Principle #5: Activate	86



Vision Statement

The Emerald Ribbon envisions a future Jordan River corridor that is a ribbon of **nature** through Salt Lake City, a community **crossroads**, and the **heart** of the Westside. It is a model of **care** for people, wildlife, and ecosystems.



Action Plan Values



Nature

The lens of Nature highlights the needs of the natural ecosystem along the Jordan River. Across all community engagement, restoring a vibrant natural ecosystem was the #1 priority. The Jordan River is home to over 700 plant and animal species today. As one of the four rivers that feed into the shrinking Great Salt Lake, it will play a critical role in the whole region's resilience in the coming decades. The momentum and support for serious restoration projects on the corridor is clear.

Culture

The lens of Culture focuses on the needs of Westside residents. The Emerald Ribbon runs right through the heart of some of Salt Lake City's most diverse, culturally vibrant, and historically disinvested neighborhoods. While the corridor has more parkland than elsewhere in the city, residents express a frustration that they often find themselves traveling east to enjoy the city's best public places. By better leveraging the hundreds of acres of publicly-owned land along the Jordan River corridor for the benefit of the surrounding community, the Emerald Ribbon can become a cultural destination that makes the Westside thrive.

Connectivity

The lens of Connectivity focuses on the role of the corridor as a critical connector between parks, homes, and businesses. The 10 miles of river that flow through Salt Lake City are part of a large and growing system of trails and waterways but also serve as critical mobility infrastructure within neighborhoods on the Westside. Residents want to use both the trail and the waterway as a transportation method more integral to daily life. A thoughtful, holistic approach to the Emerald Ribbon as a connectivity system across water and land can make the corridor more accessible for both locals and visitors alike.

Care

The lens of Care focuses on the intersectionality of the other lenses: we must care for nature for it to sustain us in return. We must maintain a trail for it to remain useful to the community over time. We must create opportunities for people to thrive for a place to feel vibrant. Perceptions and realities of deferred maintenance on the corridor have shaped public feeling about the Emerald Ribbon in the past. Centering Care will be crucial to the success of the Emerald Ribbon moving forward. Thinking in terms of generations, not just the next few years, will ensure that investments made now are thoughtfully designed to flourish over time.

Nature



The plan recommends that the area currently managed as natural lands (now 14% of the study area) be increased to at least 30% of the study area. This would mean a shift of management techniques in those areas to focus on the restoration of native species, creation of new wetlands and natural habitats, and the design of nature experiences for people.

Some of the goals most focused on Nature include:

- + Enhancing Nature Experiences (1.1)
- + Creating Biodiverse Habitat (1.2)
- + Making Room for the River (4.1)
- + Keep the River Clean by Managing the Source of Pollution (3.4)
- + Expand Restored Natural Lands (4.3)

Note: the numbers above indicate where to find the goal in the Action Plan. (1.1) indicates Guiding Principle 1, Goal 1.



Culture



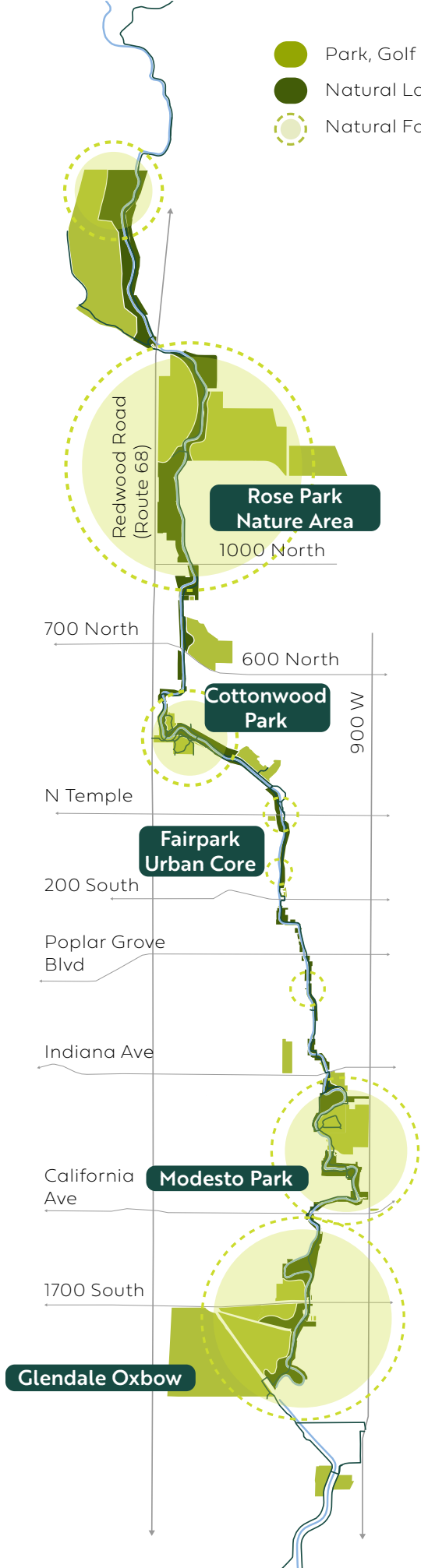
The plan proposes to increase investment in community resources and invest in new public amenities throughout the corridor, focused at specific hubs designed to minimize impact on the natural environment and concentrate maintenance resources. Many of these center on existing parks, where the plan's goals work in concert to better meet the community's needs.

Some of the goals most focused on Culture include:

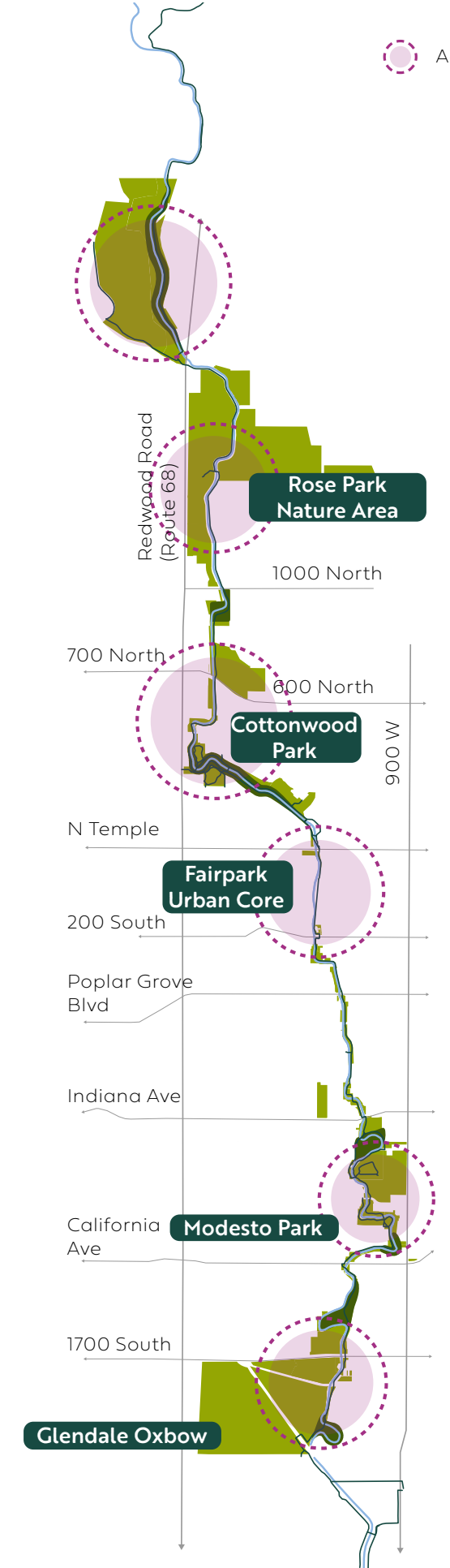
- + Expand Public Art Programs (1.3)
- + Celebrate & Support the Culture of the Westside (1.4)
- + Bring Programming to the River and River's Edge (5.1)
- + Support Small Businesses and Commercial Activation (5.2)
- + Create Flexible Event and Gathering Spaces (5.5)

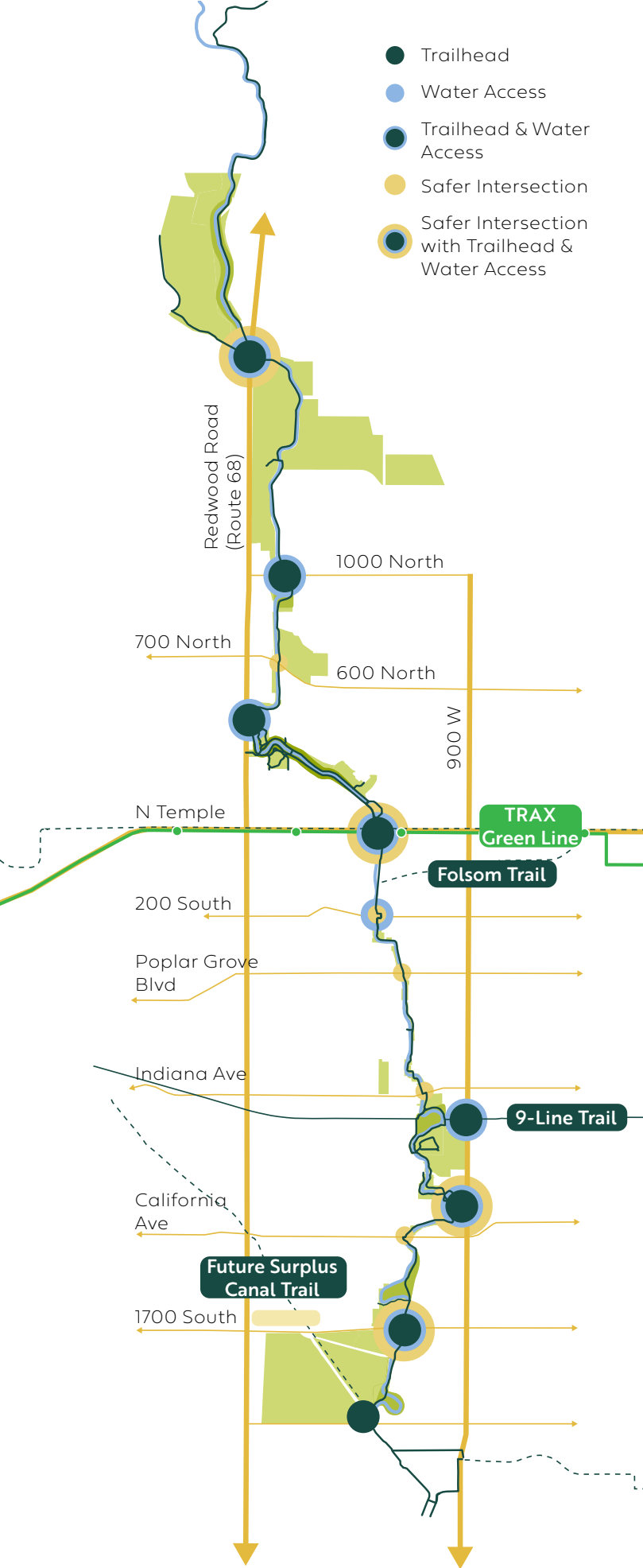


- Park, Golf and RAC
- Natural Lands
- Natural Focus Area



- Activity Hub





Connectivity



The plan proposes to improve the trail network on the corridor, optimizing for all user types and better connecting into both neighborhoods and other trails. An increase in safe, easy-to-access boat ramps can also increase activity on the water and further galvanize public support for water quality improvement efforts.

Some of the goals most focused on Connectivity include:

- + Create Safer and More Visible Intersections (2.1)
- + Improve Neighborhood Connections (2.2)
- + Expand Trail Widths and Separate Paths Where Possible (2.3)
- + Improve Wayfinding and Signage and Resolve Confusing Trail Connections (2.4)
- + Bring Programming to the Water and Waters Edge (5.1)
- + Improve Trail-Side Amenities (5.4)

Care



The plan centers Care as a theme throughout all goals and strategies, but emphasizes in particular the need to address issues of public safety, streamline management to support other investments on the corridor, and collaborate with the community to steward the Emerald Ribbon long-term.

Some of the goals most focused on Care include:

- + Develop Clear Public-Facing Guidelines for Care (3.1)
- + Partner with the Community to Steward the Corridor (3.2)
- + Leverage Policy to Protect and Enhance the River (4.4)
- + Develop a Multi-Pronged Approach to Public Safety (5.3)



Guiding Principles

The 5 Guiding Principles were created in Phase 1 of the Action Plan process in close collaboration with the Community Advisory Group. They emerged from community priorities voiced in focus groups hosted by University Neighborhood Partners and at public workshops around the corridor. These principles hold the plan accountable to what matters most to Westside residents and serve as the chapters of the Emerald Ribbon Action plan.

1

Celebrate the rich ecological and cultural diversity of the corridor.

2

Connect the corridor into surrounding streets, trails, and waterways.

3

Cultivate collective care of the corridor.

4

Restore and enhance the river ecosystem as a peaceful refuge.

5

Create a safe and vibrant destination.



Action Plan Chapters

The Emerald Ribbon Guiding Principles form the chapters of the Action Plan. The Goals on the following pages provide a roadmap for how Salt Lake City Public Lands can advance each of the community's Guiding Principles. Each goal is supported by a series of Strategies and Action to advance that goal.



1

Celebrate the rich ecological and cultural diversity of the corridor.

Pg 44



2

Connect the corridor into surrounding streets, trails, and waterways.

Pg 54



3

Cultivate collective care of the corridor.

Pg 66



4

Restore and enhance the river ecosystem as a peaceful refuge.

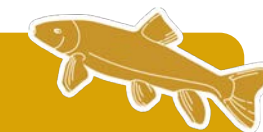
Pg 76



5

Create a safe and vibrant destination.

Pg 88



Celebrate the rich ecological and cultural diversity of the corridor.

Prioritize creating a healthy environment to increase biodiversity and improve water quality.

Pop-up markets, food trucks, or events that highlight small businesses and celebrate the rich history and cultural diversity of the Westside!

Provide places and spaces to learn about the history and biodiversity of the ecosystem.

quotes from the community

what you shared

Goals		
1	Focus on nature experiences	46
2	Create biodiverse habitat	48
3	Expand art programs on the corridor	50
4	Celebrate and support the culture of the Westside	52



what you shared

I like more wetlands! It make the nature experience more complete.

Fairpark section should have an educational section; it sees a lot at tourists and visitors and needs activation.

Love the nature play for kids + outdoor classrooms!

Goal #1 Focus on nature experiences

For many years, the Jordan River has served as a natural and cultural sanctuary for Salt Lake City, especially for the Westside community. However, it has recently faced increasing challenges related to safety and cleanliness. The community has fond memories of engaging with nature along the river corridor and has expressed a desire to experience that more frequently. It is crucial to restore natural areas and improve access to them. Doing so will increase the visibility of the river corridor, promote public awareness, and foster collective care for the area. This will help maintain it as a healthy habitat where wildlife can thrive and people can enjoy nature.

Strategy 1:

Create a comprehensive interpretation and signage plan for the corridor.

Actions:

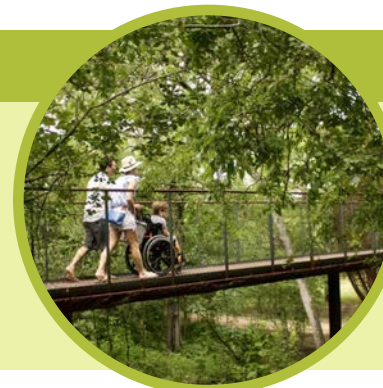
- + Create an Request for Proposal (RFP) for interpretive design of the corridor in conjunction with natural restoration efforts with a focus on human-nature connections (see: Goal #3: Expand Public Art programs for opportunity to engage artists in all or part of this work).

Strategy 2:

Promote citizen science with a focus on youth programming.

Actions:

- + Develop and test multilingual (Spanish-centric) nature education programs led by Park Rangers on the Emerald Ribbon in collaboration with local community partners, including Northwest Recreation Center, Sorenson Unity Center, and K-12 schools along the Emerald Ribbon.
- + Conduct listening sessions with local schools and youth programs to understand how the Park Rangers and Public Lands can increase a sense of safety and reinvigorate youth interest in nature on the corridor.
- + Support the use of i-Naturalist & e-Bird within the corridor.
- + Explore ways for Public Lands to engage youth in leadership and career building opportunities, including through Youth Ranger programs, apprenticeships, Utah Conservation Corp, and the creation of a Youth Community Council.



Kingsbury Commons

This lush green space features well-maintained walking paths that wind through a diverse array of native plants and mature trees. Kingsbury Commons is a cherished retreat and connects visitors to nature without having to leave the city.

Austin, TX

nature care



Goal #2

Create biodiverse habitat

I would love to see space for wetlands + wildlife. Natural environment!

Prioritize creating a healthy environment to increase biodiversity and improve water quality to make it more sustainable.

I think the focus for now should be on biodiversity and wildlife habitat

The Jordan River corridor provides habitat for over 700 plant and animal species. These species depend on the river's riparian, wetland, and upland habitats that form a vital connector through the urbanized Salt Lake Valley. More than half of the corridor's open space is mowed or taken over by invasive species (i.e. phragmites), which impedes the potential for a truly biodiverse landscape. Restoring open space that is currently occupied by turf grass or invasive species will drastically increase biodiversity of the corridor. Incorporating native plant specimens into the corridor will also help reach this goal.

Strategy 1:

Implement riparian, upland, and wetland restoration.

Actions:

- + Map out opportunities for restoration throughout the corridor based on topography, water table, soils, adjacent uses, current use, and ease of transition (completed as a part of this project).
- + Prioritize areas for restoration (completed as a part of this project).
- + Utilize an adaptive management approach and phasing to allow for capacity building within the maintenance crews as outlined in the Operations & Management Guidelines.
- + Utilize on-staff restoration ecologist to promote cultivation to supplement nursery availability and support the propagation of native plants and seeds in the regional nursery trade.

Strategy 2:

Monitor progress towards restoration goals.

Actions:

- + Utilize and promote citizen science to track biodiversity.
- + Utilize volunteers to track invasive species occurrences and reductions.

Operations & Management Plan

A separate document, the Operations and Management Plan (O&M Plan), recommends standards and practices for Public Lands to implement moving forward to establish a new approach to care and management of the Emerald Ribbon and advance the goals of the Action Plan.



Red Butte Garden

At Red Butte Garden in Salt Lake City, native plantings are carefully curated and wetland areas are carefully managed and restored. Together, the resulting landscapes serve as a vital habitat for a diverse array of flora and fauna.

Salt Lake City, UT

nature care



Goal #3

Expand art programs on the corridor

Love room for community business and murals! Would love to see public art!

Work with local businesses, private land owners and other city entities to develop more art along the JRT corridor.

Art is vital to a healthy community. I would love to see that be prioritized in these developments!

Art has the power to tell stories and reflect culture in the landscape. In the Westside, where such a vibrant mix of global cultures are represented, immigrants from around the world crave a sense of place that connects them both to Salt Lake City and to their earlier homes. In focus groups with Spanish-speaking residents, people expressed interest in spaces for local artists to exhibit work where art and wellbeing could coexist. Public art is already leveraged to great effect by the city. A focus on uplifting Westside artists towards the goal of celebrating the neighborhoods' cultural heritage should be woven throughout the Emerald Ribbon.

Strategy 1:

Leverage local artists in advancing other goals in the Action Plan, including safer intersections, the design and programming of flexible event spaces, and nature interpretation experiences.

Actions:

- + Develop art guidelines for the Emerald Ribbon.
- + Launch an Emerald Ribbon Artist-in-Residence program that offers a stipend to a Westside artist, and grant that person access to early project ideation.
- + Create an RFP for an artist-led cultural interpretation experience that allows visitors to learn more about the past, present, and future of the historic landscapes of the Emerald Ribbon, including narratives of the area's indigenous peoples and present-day cultural communities.
- + Partner with SLC Public Services Street Division and the Arts Council to determine ways to incorporate art into street design for safer and more visible intersections that also create more awareness of the river for street users.

Strategy 2:

Develop community-led beautification programs.

Actions:

- + Identify locations and amenities on the corridor suitable for community-led beautification, like bridges, pavilions, benches, and tables.
- + Facilitate ongoing partnership with community and volunteer groups to beautify (and do aesthetic-level maintenance) on corridor facilities and amenities.

Strategy 3:

Create sustainable funding pipelines for ongoing art programming.

Actions:

- + Advocate for Salt Lake City Arts Council funding to be allocated towards approved Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) along the Emerald Ribbon.
- + Develop private and philanthropic partnerships to fund arts programming on the Emerald Ribbon.



Cooper's Alley

This revitalized alleyway features an inviting mix of green spaces, art installations, and pedestrian-friendly pathways, creating a dynamic environment for residents and visitors alike. Colorful murals and interactive features celebrate local culture and creativity.

Chattanooga, TN

culture care



Painted crossings or gateways would be great to develop community ownership.

Goal #4 Celebrate and support the culture of the Westside

Create a program for a small business trail. The trail lacks destinations, i.e., ice cream, tacos, clothes shops, sandwiches, etc...

Westside residents shared dreams of a future place that fosters long-term multi-generational use and celebrates the diverse and dynamic cultures represented on the Westside. Community members expressed special concern for small business support and services to connect residents (especially youth) to economic opportunity. Likewise, through both art and business offerings, residents want to see their culture represented on the Emerald Ribbon. While developing a cohesive and continuous trail experience is paramount, emphasizing and celebrating the cultural diversity of adjacent neighborhoods should happen in parallel.

Strategy 1:

Partner with local organizations and small businesses to increase programming and build community representation and ownership of the Jordan River.

Actions:

- + Create formal agreements with local organizations to regularly program flexible event spaces and/or outdoor classrooms to ensure ongoing activity at such spaces.
- + Audit existing Public Lands' vendor agreements and identify ways to better support small businesses in pursuing opportunities with Public Lands.
- + Explore what internal resources are needed to build out a bigger vendor program beyond the few vending agreements in place today for services like kayak rental, bike rental, and food and drink on the corridor.

Strategy 2:

Create gateways onto the trail on the border into a new neighborhood (ie. Glendale, Poplar Grove, Fairpark, Rose Park) to let people know when they're entering those neighborhoods.

Actions:

- + In conjunction with an artist-led interpretive system to highlight the area's history and present day culture, create highly visible signage to mark the entrance to a new neighborhood on the corridor.
- + Create visible gateways at entrances from major roadways to improve visibility to drivers and cyclists.



LaGuardia Community Greenway

The LaGuardia Community Greenway is a transformative urban project spanning several miles designed to enhance pedestrian-friendly connectivity. Residents celebrate the borough's diverse culture using the greenway's vibrant outdoor social spaces.

Queens, NY

- nature
- culture
- connectivity
- care

Connect the corridor into surrounding streets, trails, and waterways

Trail intersections are a great way to support access to the other side of the road. Having lights to support pedestrians would help.

We need more small bridges to be able to cross the river.

quotes from the community

What if the river became the main street corridor for Salt Lake's westside? The spot you're most likely to catch your breath, meet a friend for coffee, and commute.

Goals		
1	Create safer and more visible intersections	56
2	Improve neighborhood connectivity to parks and the trail	58
3	Expand trail widths and separate riding and pedestrian paths where possible to reduce conflict	60
4	Improve wayfinding and signage and resolve confusing trail connections	62
5	Improve water access points and connectivity to the river	64



Goal #1 Create safer and more visible intersections

Along its 10-mile run through Salt Lake City, the Jordan River intersects the street grid of the City dozens of times. At each intersection, the Jordan River Trail must contend with many different kinds of crossing and streets - from quieter stretches in residential areas to large arteries at neighborhood edges. Only a few of these intersections are grade-separated by either a tunnel (underpass) or a bridge (overpass). The great majority are at grade. This goal emphasizes the need for consistent, safe crossings that are legible to both those on the trail and those traveling on the street grid.



Strategy 1:

Provide safe crossings.

Actions:

- + Clearly identify all at-grade crossings and highlight the desired and safest path of travel using colored concrete, painting, paving, and/or signage.
- + Explore potential for underpasses or overpasses at high-volume and/or high-speed intersections including at North Temple St.
- + Provide signalized crossings at trail intersections with busy streets. Implement pedestrian-activated flashing beacons at minor streets.
- + Explore potential for expanding and enhancing waiting areas or pedestrian refuges at busy streets (with shade, signage and amenities).

Strategy 2:

Provide a clear, recognizable, and continuous trail experience.

Actions:

- + Develop a unifying palette of materials: paving, lighting, site amenities, and signage, to ensure a unified and clear system at all crossings.
- + Create prominent and legible signage to identify and reinforce crossings and alert drivers to trail users at any crossing.

Denver High Line Canal

This 71-mile trail is a popular recreational path for walkers, joggers, and cyclists and features approximately 26 underpasses that allow the trail to seamlessly cross various streets, enhancing its accessibility and continuity while providing a safe passage for trail users.

Denver, CO

nature culture connectivity



Goal #2 Improve neighborhood connectivity to parks and the trail

Opening and connecting homes in a safe way to the river.

Access to the river, connectivity and safe transitions from areas are all important.

Providing a connection with the river for people to be more connected to it

The Emerald Ribbon has the potential to be a highly connected corridor; today it faces challenges stemming from historic transportation injustices on the Westside and the piecemeal development and maintenance of the trail. The Jordan River Trail is unique in that it serves as a critical connective tissue within and between Westside neighborhoods in addition to its role as a commuting and recreation corridor. Short travel journeys matter just as much as longer ones.

Throughout the Jordan River corridor, there are many different points of connection between adjacent neighborhoods, trails, and open space resources. Sometimes these connections are clear and welcoming, with signage and amenities that signal the corridor as a place for all people. In many instances, however, the River is barely visible or made inaccessible by either design or lack thereof. This goal emphasizes the opportunities for a more consistently welcoming, accessible, and inclusive series of connections.

Strategy 1:

Complete the trail on both sides of the river (whether paved or soft surface).

Actions:

- + Where repeated foot traffic has already worn informal trails into the landscape, improve connection from those unpaved trails to the paved trail.
- + Establish a multi-year plan with the city's legal and real estate teams to reduce encroachments onto the river.

Strategy 2:

Conduct a study of possible street closures to enhance connectivity to parks and the trail.

Actions:

- + Complete a traffic analysis to determine whether there is potential to close low-traffic streets adjacent to the Emerald Ribbon. Potential opportunities include 300 S and Fremont Ave.

Strategy 3:

Increase local neighborhood cut throughs to the corridor.

Actions:

- + Conduct an assessment of frequency of street access to the Jordan River Trail and establish a baseline target for how often there should be a connection (potential baseline could be 0.25 miles, which takes an able-bodied person 5 minutes to walk).
- + Add new trail connections to streets and into neighborhoods to ensure no user has to walk/ride further than 5-10 minutes to get on or off the trail via ADA-accessible trail connections.
- + Priority projects include: Gold Place at Modesto Park, connection into Northwest Recreation Center and adjacent streets, Walnut Street near Og-Woi People's Garden, the northeastern corner of Cottonwood Park, connection into the Southern section of Riverside Park, and access to Redwood Road between 1000 N and 1900 N.



The Katy Trail

This trail, built on an old railroad right-of-way, links multiple neighborhoods and provides a recreational corridor that promotes walking, biking, and community interaction. Its success highlights the potential of rail trails to integrate various parts of a city.

Dallas, TX

connectivity



Goal #3 Expand trail widths and separate riding and pedestrian paths where possible to reduce conflict

Recommend widening the existing trail to 12' to better accommodate all trail users.

If you can make the trail wide enough, separate lanes for walking and biking would improve safety. Many of us have pets so a few access points for dogs would be nice.

Would love to see bridges wide enough for pedestrian + cyclist to pass each other.

Today, the trail is 10 feet wide at most points, two feet under the NACTO recommended width for a two-directional shared use trail. That means that pedestrians, cyclists, and other riders are exposed to potentially dangerous conflicts if multiple people are on the trail and passing at the same time. Expanding the trail width is critical if the city intends to increase usage. In line with other goals in the Action Plan, there is interest in creating nature paths along the trail as well as moving the trail further back from the river to make room for habitat restoration. In engagement activities, separating a 'fast lane' from slower, unpaved pedestrian routes that wind through nature experiences was very popular. This strategy is focused on improving the trail experience while meeting both needs.

Strategy 1:

Conduct inventory of existing trail system condition.

Actions:

- + Conduct a trail inventory and condition assessment to assess trail widths, materials used, and facility conditions.
- + Use the inventory to set priorities for replacement.

Strategy 2:

Replace existing trail over the next ten years to meet new standards.

Actions:

- + Develop new trail standards for the Emerald Ribbon in three types: shared use paths (where all modes share the trail), separated use paths (with different modes of travel have separated trails), and soft surface nature trails.
- + Complete path between Fisher Mansion and Cottonwood Park to new standards, including separated use paths and nature trails.

Strategy 3:

Develop new bridge standards and develop a plan for gradual replacement of the most narrow bridges.

Actions:

- + Conduct an evaluation of all existing bridges for safety and maintenance needs.
- + Gradually replace bridges with a new standard width for multi-use trails and replace wooden boards with a bike/scooter-friendly flooring material.
- + Evaluate visibility of bridges from the trail and remove vegetation. Add lighting where needed to enhance feeling of safety.



Chicago Lakefront Trail

This multi-use path along Lake Michigan connects diverse neighborhoods, offers recreational opportunities, and enhances connectivity within a city. The path network utilizes creative design strategies to separate bikes and pedestrian traffic.

Chicago, IL

connectivity



Goal #4 Improve wayfinding and signage and resolve confusing trail connections

A universal sign and different color code for each district!

Trail signage needs to be clear to users who to stay on the trail and which way. Large "TRAIL" arrows are needed.

Better signage so that walkers stay out of the bike lanes (and vice versa).

While the trail is consistently available along the 10-mile study area, the need to improve confusing decision points and develop clear and consistent wayfinding emerged as a priority across stakeholder and public engagement. Whether for short local trips by foot or longer journeys on wheels, the trail's existing signage, while informative, is inconsistent at indicating connections to other trails or roadways. There is an opportunity to better celebrate the corridor's role as a main artery and guide users to surrounding amenities. Since the trail crosses streets at over a dozen places along the Emerald Ribbon, each intersection poses a challenge to wayfinding: while some crossings have clear sightlines to the trail on the other side, some lose the trail and lack clear wayfinding to find it again.

Strategy 1:

Develop a comprehensive wayfinding strategy under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Lands.

Actions:

- + Release an RFP for a complete wayfinding and environmental signage system that builds on the existing design.
- + Launch a new user-friendly map displaying the full Emerald Ribbon and its connections to other trails and waterways both in print and online.

Strategy 2:

Redesign and clearly mark missing segments in the Jordan River Trail.

Actions:

- + North Temple Street trail redesign (see Transformative Projects) - clarify land ownership on the parcel of land north of the N Temple intersection on the western side of the corridor. Acquire any land needed to complete the broken portion of the trail.

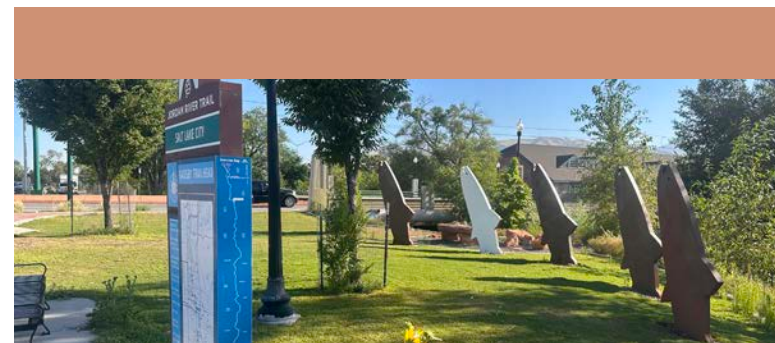
- + Redesign the trail segment north of 1700 S next to the pump station as a clearly painted and marked on-road bike route with wayfinding that indicates it is the JRT.

Strategy 3:

Improve connections to trails that meet the Jordan River Trail.

Actions:

- + Build new trail segment to connect the Folsom Trail to the JRT at Fisher Mansion, with a focus on restoring the riparian ecology and developing nature experiences.
- + Redesign the intersection of the JRT and the popular 9 Line Trail to reduce confusion, improve wayfinding, and maximize its potential as a key trail crossroads.
- + Facilitate better connectivity to the Surplus Canal Trail (which is managed by Salt Lake County); if the trail is redesigned as a formal bicycle trail, build a clear and well signed connection to the JRT.
- + Collaborate with West Valley City to ensure there is clear signage and wayfinding at the intersection of Parley's Trail and the JRT, and add signage to tell JRT trail users how to connect to Parley's Trail.



Sarasota Bay Park

Paths meander across a 10-acre park that sits at the edge of Sarasota Bay, connecting visitors with the site ecology. The trail uses wayfinding and signage to amplify species, such as the Mangrove Bayou Walkway.

Sarasota, FL

culture connectivity



Goal #5 Improve water access points and connectivity to the river

I would love to have a river taxi to take you to businesses on the river.

I like seeing the river flow because it relaxes me - still a strong relationship, when we walk by it and see the flow run quickly, i teach my kids about the danger and power of water.

Kayaking and canoeing on the Jordan River today is commonly considered an activity only for the brave. There are accessible boat ramps in a few locations, but many have been poorly maintained and lack parking access that would make them truly usable to boaters. New trailheads have high quality boat ramps and should be expanded into a more complete system of water access that makes the water trail accessible to a broader audience. Access should also be prioritized for non-boaters through improved water visibility, fishing overlooks, and restored riverbanks that make walking down to the river's edge safe for all. During focus groups facilitated by University Neighborhood Partners, the Karen Community of the Westside, hailing from Myanmar and Thailand, shared that the Jordan River's northward flow makes it a holy river for their community. If the water was cleaner and water access safer, the community would engage in spiritual ceremonies along its edges.

Strategy 1:

Provide increased access points to the river.

Actions:

- + Create a system of water access points, with larger entrance and exit points (boat ramps with adjacent parking) at significant public park sites and minor access points (for boaters to rest or pause) at public nodes.
- + Develop a high quality standard for boat ramp design that utilizes best practices to ensure accessibility for a variety of recreational needs and abilities.
- + Create overlooks that allow for water views and fishing access.
- + Include public access points in all riverbank restoration projects, increasing options for people of all abilities to safely walk down to the water's edge.

Strategy 2:

Add signage on the water trail at each overpass or bridge.

Actions:

- + Incorporate signage facing the water trail to indicate to boaters which cross-street they are passing.
- + Add wayfinding signage for boaters to indicate upcoming boat ramps and water access and exit points.
- + Add wayfinding signage for boaters to indicate nearby points of interest, such as adjacent parks, Fisher Mansion, etc.



New York State Canal System

The New York State Canal Corporation and the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor offer competitive grants to enhance access and connections to the canal system, providing funding for recreational amenities, wayfinding signage, events, and more.

State of NY

nature

culture

connectivity

B

A healthy river in SLC requires great collaboration with everyone upstream.

what you shared

My dream is that every person in SLC understands and feels their personal connection to the Jordan River and its watershed.

Cultivate collective care of the corridor

Goals		
1	Establish a public narrative around "Keeping it Wild"	68
2	Partner with the community to steward the corridor	70
3	Develop an effective long-term care model for the corridor	72
4	Keep the river clean by managing the sources of pollution	74





Goal #1 Establish a public narrative around 'Keeping it Wild'

My dream for the future of the Westside is local stewardship to maintain it clean and support its well-being.

Current facilities and landscapes are poorly maintained, esp. south of Jordan Park, would want to be convinced of the parks depts intention to maintain.

what you shared

Across stakeholder and public engagement, there is a strong perception that public land along the Emerald Ribbon is under-maintained compared to park land elsewhere in Salt Lake City. The more robust Operations & Management Guidelines (O&M Guidelines) that accompanies this plan substantiates some of those concerns and found that many management teams are under-resourced and tend to be stretched across many acres of land city-wide, making it challenging to meet their goals. The O&M Guidelines puts forth a roadmap to address consistent management inequities on the corridor. In addition, with the goal to increase the percentage of lands managed as natural lands on the corridor (see Guiding Principle #4, Goal 3), it will be important to set standards for what the public will see when they visit natural areas. Natural lands and restoration areas can be seen as messy or unkempt, especially in early stages; setting expectations will allow city staff to manage the corridor in a proactive rather than reactive manner.

Strategy 1:

Streamline management areas within the Emerald Ribbon and support an increase in natural lands.

Actions:

- + Update management areas within the Emerald Ribbon (whether by reducing the number of land types or developing Emerald-Ribbon specific areas), allowing for more streamlined management protocols.
- + Develop clear and consistent management guidelines for natural lands.
- + Invest in professional training for Public Lands staff to support the growing focus on natural lands and restoration efforts on the Emerald Ribbon.

Strategy 2:

Clearly communicate difference between natural lands and park lands and their differing management standards.

Actions:

- + Include the designation of Natural vs. Park lands in public-facing maps and guides to the Emerald Ribbon (see Goal #3 Improve Wayfinding - Action 3.1.2).
- + Create new, user-friendly park signage at gateways to parks to differentiate between parks as compared to the corridor as a whole.

Strategy 3:

Integrate environmental education efforts into existing Public Lands processes.

Actions:

- + Develop restoration education materials and programming to occur alongside regular volunteer events.
- + Expand environmental education programs led by Park Rangers and develop corridor-wide programming focused on interpreting ecology and restoration efforts.
- + Collaborate with the school district to identify experiential and nature-based education partnerships to activate spaces as outdoor classrooms.

Strategy 4:

Create visitor-centric native restoration areas in the corridor with a focus on visually appealing species.

Actions:

- + Develop three to four priority restoration demonstration areas accessible via boardwalks or overlooks that protect species growth while allowing visitors to interact with the project.
- + Develop design standards for overlooks and/or boardwalks into natural restoration areas. Develop signage standards for restoration zones.
- + Develop fencing standards to thoughtfully protect restoration areas from human intervention while also making them appealing and visible to visitors.

Goal #2

Partner with the community to steward the corridor

Let's clean out the trash everywhere! This could be a monthly volunteer clean up event.

I know I would like to volunteer time helping clean up the river and parks and learn more about the habitat and what I can do at home to help indigenous species.

More organized opportunities for the public to help clean the river. An "adopt a section of the river" program where individuals help maintain sections.

Partnerships with community organizations and neighbors will help care for the corridor as well bolster the sense of community on the Westside. While many of these partnerships do currently exist, organizing tasks for volunteers and landowners will create an efficient system to get work done. Public Lands' new Stewardship Program is an excellent start and should be further invested in to ensure that community members build a vested interest in the health of the Emerald Ribbon. The program's existing volunteer events centered around clean-ups and planting should be expanded on the Emerald Ribbon in coordination with restoration efforts. The program can also fold in consideration of adjacent landowners as a key population to engage and educate about the goals of this plan.

Strategy 1:

Create opportunities for ongoing stewardship within the corridor in partnership with local organizations.

Actions:

- + Work with organizations to create at least 30 volunteer events within the next 3 years (towards the goal of 10/year).
- + Use the O&M Guidelines to create task oriented projects for volunteer organizations to take on.
- + Develop a 1-year pilot partnership with 2-3 organizations who are well equipped to leverage volunteer efforts within a portion of the corridor. Evaluate pilots and consider expansion if effective.

Strategy 2:

Create guidelines and incentives for landowners in the study area to care for native landscapes.

Actions:

- + Create a pamphlet to distribute to landowners in the next year. The pamphlet should include information specifically about how to plant and manage native plants on private property, how to reduce impervious surfaces, and the role of green infrastructure.
- + Create incentives for landscape restoration/management. List existing incentives (i.e. turf trade).



Mass Audubon Salt Marsh Science Project

Mass Audubon engages students in grades 5 through 12 to learn about salt marshes and how to manage invasive species along the North Shore. Data collected from the project since 1996 helps scientists guide others on how to restore the marsh ecologies.

Newburyport, MA

nature culture care



Goal #3 Develop an effective long-term care model for the corridor

The concept seems most suited to gather community support to maintain it.

I have some concern about the three different maintenance groups being able to work together consistently.

Operating and managing the Emerald Ribbon is already a highly collaborative effort between the city, county, state, federal agencies, and private actors. There are many well organized community-based organizations who work near or around the corridor and are invested in its success, but these groups have little formal support from Public Lands to engage on the Emerald Ribbon and no venue in which to collaborate or exchange ideas. The Community Advisory Group and Dinner on the River events show the potential for these groups to overlap more frequently. It is rare today for successful urban river corridors to be managed and operated entirely by public entities. The most effective care and governance model for the Emerald Ribbon likely includes a new approach to public-private partnership.

Strategy 1:

Support the development of a private governance body to coordinate stakeholders and advocate for the success of the Emerald Ribbon.

Actions:

- + Evaluate the best model for public-private partnerships on the corridor and the potential for a conservancy or "Friends-of" groups.
- + Gather key players to plan the creation of a private entity that can bridge gaps in staff capacity, raise funding, and lead program development.
- + Consider developing a quarterly gathering of stakeholders to build ongoing momentum for work on the corridor and encourage collaboration.

Strategy 2:

Assess overlapping jurisdictions in the corridor related to care and management. Organize a cross-departmental group to evaluate and streamline ownership between departments.

Actions:

- + Audit management practices at Public Lands that are duplicated by the activities of other public-sector and private-sector partners, like tree removal from the waterway.
- + Identify which duplicated management practices Public Lands wants to take clearer ownership of or more formally offload, especially in conjunction with increased investment in volunteer and nonprofit support.
- + Organize an inter-agency group of city, county, and state stakeholders to develop a streamlined management approach in conjunction with the recommendations in this plan.



Franklin Park Coalition

The Franklin Park Coalition focuses on revitalizing the 527-acre park's natural features with maintenance largely carried out by local volunteers and community members. The Coalition engages residents in both stewardship practices and community events.

Boston, MA

nature culture care



Goal #4 Keep the river clean by managing the sources of pollution

I think water quality will be critical to make water access work here.

I hope that the bulk of any improvements in all areas starts with clean water and increased flow.

The water quality within the Emerald Ribbon is poor due to a number of intersecting factors: significant improvements can be made by addressing point source and non point source pollution. This plan recognizes that many conditions within the Emerald Ribbon stem from factors outside the study area. Collaboration with Salt Lake City Public Utilities is crucial to addressing water quality issues. Studies have identified dissolved oxygen and E. coli levels out of compliance with state and federal regulations within the Jordan River in Salt Lake City. By working with Public Utilities more closely, Public Lands can advance the goal of a swimmable Jordan River by advocating for green water infrastructure, pet waste reduction programs, and innovative practices that benefit Salt Lake City, the county, and the state.

Strategy 1:

Support Public Utilities use of SLC right-of-way draining to the Emerald Ribbon for green infrastructure.

Actions:

- + Further analyze water quality problem areas to determine how best to treat water before it reaches the Jordan River utilizing green infrastructure best practices.
- + Implement green stormwater infrastructure practices in all right-of-way when water can affect water quality in the Jordan River. Prioritize areas with substantial stormwater outflows, water quality issues, and ample right of way for green stormwater infrastructure.
- + Utilize existing precedents such as 900 S and/or others to create replicable green stormwater infrastructure improvements that can be duplicated throughout the areas draining to the Jordan River.

Strategy 2:

Support Public Utilities in evaluating waste systems in the corridor and along tributaries affecting the Jordan River.

Actions:

- + As part of the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study currently underway, advocate for the evaluation of septic systems in the corridor and along tributaries for potential impacts to water quality.
- + Where appropriate, advocated for modernization of wastewater systems in the corridor and along tributaries that are impacting or could impact water quality.

Strategy 3:

Highlight and enforce waste reduction programs for pets in the corridor and along tributaries.

Actions:

- + Install additional waste stations in the corridor and along tributaries.
- + Create a public information campaign to highlight the need to keep pets on leash adjacent to water bodies to reduce erosion and contain wastes unless in off-leash areas.
- + Create buffers between off leash areas and waterways to reduce the chances of waste and erosion impacting the Jordan River and its tributaries (i.e. Cottonwood Park Dog Park).



Anacostia Waterfront Initiative

The Anacostia Waterfront Initiative focuses on enhancing water quality and restoring ecosystems through monitoring, community involvement, and sediment cleanup efforts, addressing historical contamination to promote biodiversity and improve environmental health in the region.

Washington, D.C.

nature culture care

Restore and enhance the river ecosystem as a peaceful refuge



Restore as much natural area as possible, and try to acquire and purchase land that is not currently being used before it can be developed.

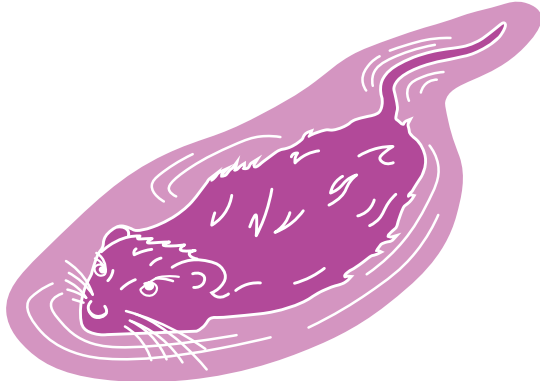
I dream of clean water for the fish and fishing.

quotes from the community

Heal the river and its function to then build recreation and connection around that.

Goals

1	Make room for the river	78
2	Expand restored natural lands	80
3	Introduce more visitors to natural areas and the river by connecting and expanding the Jordan River Parkway Trail system	82
4	Leverage policy to protect and enhance the river	84





Goal #1 Make room for the river

what you shared

I love the wide river banks that would help support a healthier habitat for birds & animals.

Wider banks would encourage erosion control, better wildlife habitat & safety buffer for those using path.

Love extending and restoring banks more restoration overall - the river already is home to wildlife but we should make expanded banks.

The Jordan River's banks and floodplains are constrained due to fill, levees, and other flood control structures that are used to protect the adjacent neighborhoods. While these adjacent land uses must be protected, there is room in the river corridor to pull back levees and grade down fill, creating more room for floodwater and natural river dynamics. The water quality within the Emerald Ribbon is poor because of alterations to hydrology as well as point source and non point source pollution. Solutions for improved water quality include getting more water into the system, incorporating green infrastructure (especially at outfalls), and adding complexity to the river channel. These solutions will help dilute urban runoff, filter urban stormwater, and maintain flows and ecosystems during dry seasons.

Strategy 1:

Move the levee away from the river.

Actions:

- + Conduct a feasibility study with FEMA and Salt Lake County to move and improve the levee on the north end of the corridor away from the banks in order to protect more homes from flood risk while giving the river room to flow.

Strategy 2:

Use grading changes to expand floodplain volume, thereby reducing flood threats, creating more room for flow, and expanding the opportunities for riparian and wetland habitat restoration.

Actions:

- + Create overflow channel at 2100S oxbow and restore wetlands and riparian areas.
- + At 900 South River Park grade edge of channel lower to create wetlands and riparian areas.
- + Use the recommended plant communities data and priorities identified by the Operations and Management Guidelines to identify additional areas for wetland and riparian restoration that benefit from grading changes and expansion of the floodplain.

Strategy 3:

Increase water flow into the corridor.

Actions:

- + Work with Salt Lake County and the state to increase flow in the main channel of the river, which is currently being diverted to the Surplus Canal due to a lack of overall management. Negotiate flow to ensure that any excess water - after water rights and flood control requirements are met, enters the Jordan River.
- + Work with the Salt Lake County and the County to modernize the diversion system at 2100 S such that the system can work remotely and be tied into flows at City Creek and Three Creeks to allow for greater flows while reducing flood risk.
- + Create a multi governmental task force to update practices and policies associated with water divergence at 2100 S.

Strategy 4:

Restore natural channel geometry to the River.

Actions:

- + Work with the State and Salt Lake County to evaluate stream channel geometry. Identify opportunities to rebuild a pool/riffle system at parts of the river that better carry sediment loads during low flow periods to create more diverse riparian habitat and a more natural river system.
- + Implement at least two natural channel design projects in the corridor in the next three years with the state and county. (priorities include 2100 S Oxbow, Peace Labyrinth, and Rose Park).

Goal #2

Expand restored natural lands

I'd love to see expanded and restored banks with buffer zones.

Please expand the radius of protected land and, if possible, help some of the bordering industrial businesses to relocate.

My priorities for the river are to preserve, expand, and improve existing natural areas along the river.

Expanding and restoring natural lands meets the community goals and Salt Lake City's goals to increase nature in the corridor and enhance human/nature experiences. More natural lands will bolster ecosystem services, provide important habitat for wildlife, and create comfortable and peaceful places for visitors. While expanding natural lands will be time and labor intensive up front, management of these areas over the long term will take less of the city's resources than traditional park spaces.

Strategy 1:

Increase natural lands from 14% to at least 30% of the corridor by 2035.

Actions:

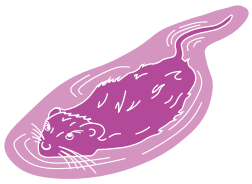
- + Change the management of underutilized turf areas to natural areas within the next 3 years.
- + Implement Adaptive Management Practices to facilitate transition to natural area management.
- + Implement the priority restoration areas identified in the Operations and Management Guidelines within the next five years.

Strategy 2:

Increase staffing along the corridor to facilitate transition in management.

Actions:

- + Conduct specialty training for Parks Division staff in landscape restoration techniques appropriate for the corridor.
- + Increase specially trained Parks staff and Natural Resource Technicians.



The Wild Mile

The Wild Mile is an ambitious urban renewal project that transforms a stretch of the Chicago River into a vibrant, green space dedicated to ecology and recreation. The park features floating gardens, wetlands, and elevated walkways.

Chicago, IL

nature

culture

connectivity

care



Goal #3 Introduce more visitors to natural areas and the river by connecting and expanding the Jordan River trail system

Don't do all this work/spend all this money just to hand it over to developers.

Ensure the trail is protected FROM development. Not WITH development.

Opening and connecting homes in a safe way to the river.

Salt Lake City is the only city in Salt Lake County with an official riparian ordinance. The Riparian Corridor Overlay District designates a 100-foot buffer from the Annual High Water Line (AHWL) and mandates no development requiring heavy equipment within 25 feet from the AHWL. Projects such as paths, stairs, or open patios are allowed with a permit. Between 25-50 feet from the AHWL, lighter construction is allowed as-of-right, but no new large structures are permitted. 50-100 feet from the AHWL, all development permitted by zoning is allowed, excluding leach fields, stormwater retention ponds, and commercial parking lots. While the ordinance is effective at creating a buffer for development, the existing ordinance does not include consideration of the trail, putting it at risk with new development. Especially as the Fairpark and Power District areas looks towards major development activity, protecting and expanding the trail and ecological health of the river will be critical.

Strategy 1:

Expand the existing riparian protection ordinance to include consideration of the Jordan River trail.

Actions:

- + Increase development buffer widths where possible as recommended by the 2022 Jordan River Blueprint Refresh. Support the preservation and enhancement of buffers through voluntary review by the Jordan River Commission Technical Advisory Committee or staff.
- + Update the Salt Lake City Riparian Overlay District to include the requirement for any large development projects within the Overlay District to either develop new segments of the Jordan River Trail or protect and maintain the existing trail.

Strategy 2:

Enhance regional and local collaboration with riverfront landowners and trail stewards.

Actions:

- + Invest in neighborhood connector paths between the river trail, residential neighborhoods, and key community destinations.
- + Consider right-of-way easements that create density credits for development projects along the river.
- + Collaborate with the Jordan River Commission and Salt Lake County to create safe connections between the Jordan River trail network and surrounding communities.



River-to-Ridge Trail

The Open Space Institute protected 360 acres of land stretching from the Walkill River to the foothills of the Shawangunk Ridge from further development in flood-prone land. In 2020, volunteers planted 100-foot vegetated buffers along the river full of native species.

New Paltz, NY

nature culture care



Goal #4 Leverage policy to protect and enhance the river's ecological health

The river itself needs improvement through control of stormwater!

Protect and restore the riparian zone while also providing clear access points to get down to the water.

Protecting and restoring the riparian zone while also providing clear access points to get down to the water, so people can access it without trailblazing across the protected areas.

Salt Lake City can enhance the Jordan River and surrounding developments by adopting "environmental superiority" standards for development practices along the corridor. Advanced stormwater management systems, riparian buffers, and green infrastructure will protect water quality and support wildlife habitats. Preserving open spaces for parks and natural areas will foster community cohesion and ecological health. These goals can be achieved through policy and codes that ensure forthcoming development enhances and protects the river corridor. These measures will improve residents' quality of life and make the Jordan River corridor a vibrant, sustainable, and cherished part of the city.

Strategy 1:

Require the development within the corridor meet high standards of environmental superiority.

Actions:

- + Work with the Salt Lake City Planning Department to develop an Environmental Superiority Policy that incentivizes meeting higher standards of environmental protection and human/nature connection for projects within the Riparian Corridor Overlay District, including requirements for stormwater management, impervious surface minimization, air quality, tree canopy, public access to the corridor, inclusion of public facilities along the riverfront, and native landscaping requirements.
- + Support and/or require LEED and SITES Certification or equivalent for construction and landscape.

Strategy 2:

Develop eco-landscape requirements for new development projects.

Actions:

- + Ensure at least 50% of the river's edge on any project is maintained in native plants with at least a 50' setback.

- + Support and/or require landscapes in the corridor to utilize native plants.
- + Support and/or require landscapes in the corridor to evaluate and enhance soil fertility where needed.
- + Support and/or require the use of green infrastructure to enhance water quality within the corridor.

Strategy 3:

Enforce and expand development limitations in riparian buffer zone in high sensitivity areas.

Actions:

- + Evaluate violations on Riparian Corridor Overlay District requirements, prioritizing areas of high environmental sensitivity such as wetlands and restoration areas.
- + Enforce Overlay District regulations, with a focus on land uses that at higher risk to pollute.



Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, 2014

The Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act safeguards wetlands critical for flood control and habitat. It mandates permits for any construction within 200 feet of a protected wetland, ensuring careful management of potential impacts and ecological preservation.

State of MA

nature care

5

quotes from the community

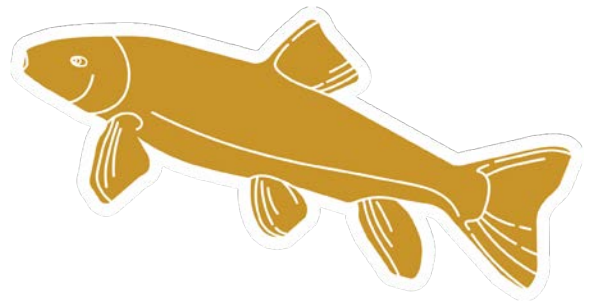
I would love to see it as a main artery for walking + biking. Street market + festivals with food trucks. The place to be.

Help small local businesses to sell on the river. Have support on the river to assist people get their business permits.

Activate the corridor to create a safe and vibrant destination

Goals

1	Bring programming to the water and water's edge	88
2	Support small businesses and commercial activation	90
3	Develop multi-pronged approach to public safety on the corridor to address short-term and long-term goals	92
4	Improve trail side amenities	94
5	Create flexible event and gathering spaces	96



what you shared

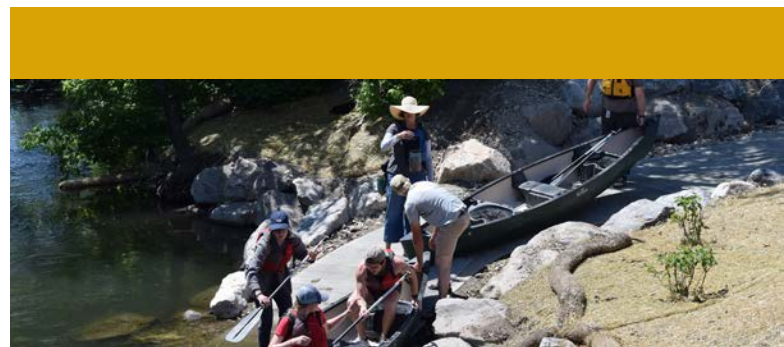
I love the idea of community murals and kayak rentals on the river!

Boat rentals is a great idea. Dynamic interaction with the water. A destination for families/festivals.

A kayak launch sounds fantastic. I'd love to be able to walk to a place I can paddle.

Goal #1 Bring programming to the water and water's edge

The Jordan River corridor is a unique opportunity for immersion in nature in the City and a continuous ribbon of greenway. Yet, the river itself is often just a glimmer of reflection through the trees; a visual asset just out of reach. There are only a handful of places, for instance, where users are welcomed to engage the river itself. This goal emphasizes the potential of intentional design to create more access to the river's edge and the water itself through increased access points, more diverse ways to access the river, and more programming and uses that capitalize on the presence of water.



Strategy 1:

Diversify the activation and programming of the river.

Actions:

- + Create opportunities for temporary and permanent art installations that engage the river and its surrounding natural and cultural diversity.
- + Increase the use of the river for fitness and community-related uses like boat races, community rides, and floats.
- + Pursue programming partners for water recreation, including a paddle or kayak share program.

Strategy 2:



Make lively destinations at the river's edge that improve symbolic, physical, and visual access to the river.

Actions:

- + Work with SLC Community and Neighborhoods (CAN) department and local community-based organizations to identify the process and partners needed to create a true public access node at the Fisher Mansion.
- + Implement the focus area designs to create an equitable distribution of community spaces.



Hubbard Park

The new kayak launch at Hubbard Park provides the Village of Shorewood with a new access point to the Milwaukee River. This addition to the park expanded recreational amenities, and allows visitors to experience the park from a unique vantage point.

Shorewood, WI

nature culture connectivity

Goal #2

Support small businesses and commercial activation

I'd love to see trail-side small business development at key nodes.

Create a program for a small business trail or river-oriented path along the trail. The trail lacks destinations like ice cream, tacos, clothing shops, sandwiches, beer, and small art.

Creation of a community feeling for the neighborhoods. Add more space for small/local businesses.

Throughout the planning process, community members expressed the desire for more connection to the vibrant and vital communities of West Salt Lake City. One particular opportunity that frequently emerged in dialogue was the potential for more small business and commercial activation to celebrate the unique and diverse cultures of the Westside. The growth of commercial and business opportunities near the corridor can also provide places for pause, rest, and refreshment to corridor users. This goal recommends physical, programmatic, and policy changes to encourage both the short and long-term potential for more small business and commercial activation along the corridor.

Strategy 1:

Understand and remove barriers to small business and commercial activation of the river.

Actions:

- + Host listening sessions with business owners and vendors to understand barriers to use of the river corridor.
- + Assess clarity of existing policies and practices related to vendors on the river corridor with an emphasis on identifying places to streamline.

Strategy 2:



Develop a framework to identify sites and opportunities for activation.

Actions:

- + Identify and outfit short-term and temporary activation sites with necessary infrastructure (power, lighting, appropriately-scaled and designed space).
- + Inventory long-term sites for small business and commercial activation including existing and potential places within a five-minute walk of parks along the corridor that are easily accessible to park visitors.



Pop-ups along the Bassin de la Villette

Eateries along the Bassin de la Villette in Paris activate the waterfront, creating a vibrant pulse for visitors. These temporary dining spots engage both locals and visitors at the water's edge, contributing to the city's dynamic social scene.

Paris, FR

culture connectivity

Goal #3 Develop multi-pronged approach to public safety on the corridor to address short-term and long-term goals

Police presence does not equal safety for all. There needs to be a solution outside of increasing police patrols.

Patrolling to make sure homeless camps stay off and away from the trail will help the community feel safer. Lighting also is important.

Though this Action Plan may not have any budget to improve social service resources, it must advocate for better access and outreach by the surrounding cities collectively.

Many of the goals and strategies in this Action Plan are contingent on the ability for Salt Lake City Public Lands and its partners to address the increasing concerns over public safety on the corridor today. Many places on the corridor remain beloved and in high use by the community, but other places are increasingly avoided due to the presence of campsites or individuals suffering from substance abuse disorders. While this is a complex issue tied closely to a national crisis in housing, the impact on Public Lands and the Emerald Ribbon in particular is stark. The increasing concern over safety on the Jordan River Corridor in the last five years must be reversed for the Emerald Ribbon to succeed as a thriving ecological and cultural place in Salt Lake City.

Strategy 1:

Balance a services-first approach with increased police patrols.

Actions:

- + Support an increase in patrols in close coordination with the Salt Lake City Police Department and Homeless Engagement and Response Team (HEART) to address illegal activity, increase top-of-funnel coordination, and place more people into supportive programs.
- + Advocate for an increase in social services budget and programs city-wide to address the impact of housing insecurity on the city's parks.
- + Continue to build interagency collaboration and partnership through the Salt Lake Valley Coalition to End Homelessness and other similar bodies.

Strategy 2:

Shift amenities into higher visibility areas and activate street edges.

Actions:

- + In all park redesigns and new investments, focus amenities like playgrounds, pavilions, grilling areas, and shade structures along street edges and in higher visibility areas with clear sightlines

to surrounding neighborhoods.

- + Focus on the design and activation of street edges in public lands, including the improvement of gateways, park signage, and welcoming trail connections at high-visibility entrance points.

Strategy 3:

Improve methods to field complaints and concerns on the corridor.

Actions:

- + Explore the potential to implement an Emergency Call Box or mobile app alert system along the Emerald Ribbon Corridor in collaboration with the Salt Lake City Police Department.
- + Conduct an audit of the process of submitting a complaint to the city from the perspective of a resident and document the available resources, identifying where Public Lands is involved (or not) and how the Department can optimize their resources.
- + Identify whether an employee-safety evaluation is needed. Ensure that internal resources are available for maintenance staff and park rangers to document safety concerns and that mental health resources are available to staff.



Village Green Park Redesign & Crime Reduction

Challenges around crime, drugs, and underutilization festered due to poor park access from homes and the street. New amenities and community programs boosted park use by 25%. Collaboration between citizens, police, and nonprofits reduced crime by over 50%.

Macon, GA

culture

care



Goal #4 Improve trail amenities

More trail amenities - trash, benches.

I like the idea of providing more waste bins and benches for greater access.

Yes to trash bins + benches!!!

Great riverfronts and their often associated greenway trails include a wide range of things to do, places to rest, spaces to learn, and access to both natural and design experiences. While there are numerous wonderful experiences today along the Jordan River corridor, there is also a tremendous opportunity to expand offerings. This goal aims to make the trail experience more delightful and comfortable for people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities who walk or ride on the trail. This includes increasing both the amount and quality of amenities, shade, and experience.

Strategy 1:

Add more higher quality amenities throughout the Emerald Ribbon.

Actions:

- + Choose new standard design for benches, trash cans, and water fountains that reflects the public's interest in the corridor as a nature-centric experience.
- + Increase frequency of trash receptacles along the corridor to every 200-300 feet along the trail.
- + Increase frequency of water fountains and water refill-stations so that at least one is available at every park (per new Park / Natural Lands designation) that is functional from May through September.

Strategy 2:

Increase shaded rest-spaces for trail users.

Actions:

- + Identify high-visibility locations where trail users are likely to feel safe resting
- + Increase regular frequency of rest areas and create a new standard so that all rest areas include a bench, trash can, and map

Strategy 3:

Create a lighting standard for the corridor and fill any gaps in safe, nature-friendly lighting.

Actions:

- + Fill gaps in lighting to ensure safety throughout the corridor
- + Develop a new nature-friendly lighting standard and transition existing lighting to that standard over time



The Lake Wallace Sensory Trail

Designers created a sensory trail around Lake Wallace to make recreation accessible for all abilities. The community-led process resulted in features like wildlife observation points, interpretive signage in braille, and benches sourced from local trees.

Belchertown, MA

nature culture connectivity care



Goal #5 Create flexible event and gathering spaces

Dedicated spaces for gathering or festival space.

It would be incredible to see the Jordan River incorporated into the daily lives of more Salt Lakers and to see people celebrating and enjoying each other in one of our most (at least with the potential to be) spectacular city amenities.

I love the creating places for gathering.

The 2019 Salt Lake City Parks & Public Lands Needs Assessment identified that only a few parks city-wide are equipped with essential event infrastructure like water and electricity, none of which are on the Westside. High demand for those spaces puts pressure on parks like Pioneer Park and Liberty Park that do have well-equipped event spaces and reinforces the idea that Westside residents need to travel East for high quality experiences. Event plazas are only as effective as their programming, and existing partnership and events staff may need additional capacity to support new spaces. For an investment in new flexible event spaces to be successful, local organizations must be consistently engaged to host events in those spaces and feedback loops must exist to ensure that the rental and programming process works well for everyone involved.

Strategy 1:

Dedicate some parks on the Emerald Ribbon as Special Event Parks and develop community-scale event infrastructure in those parks.

Actions:

- + Develop new public programming space at Rose Park adjacent to the existing Golf Course Clubhouse designed for performances and events that includes necessary light, sound, water, and electricity infrastructure.
- + Study where there is demand and the necessary transportation accessibility (ie. parking, maintenance, and food truck accessibility) for a new community event plaza at an existing Emerald Ribbon park. If sufficient need is identified, convert one existing park into a Special Events Park designation and build a new event plaza. Potential areas for consideration include Peace Labyrinth Open Space, Jordan Park, and Cottonwood Park.

Strategy 2:

Increase partnership management capacity at Public Lands with a focus on department-led programming.

Actions:

- + Partner with a Westside community-based organization(s) to organize year-round programming at any new special events facilities. Consider a contract agreement with a local organization to run programming for a dedicated space.



Beach Campus Detroit

Beach Campus transformed an underutilized space into a flexible, beach-like urban amenity. With movable seating, shade structures, and a large lawn, it encourages socialization and diverse outdoor activities with a focus flexibility and user comfort for a range of users.

Detroit, MI

culture care



Bringing the Vision to Life



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How to Realize the Vision

Operations

Operating the Jordan River corridor involves a complex collaborative effort between many stakeholders. New governance models could make this easier. Governance of the river includes developing and enforcing policies that protect its ecological integrity while balancing the needs of recreation, development, and Conservation.

Management

The Emerald Ribbon Operations & Management Guidelines (a separate document) are guided by best practices from vibrant corridors, natural land, and cultural assets from around the country. Successful river corridors demonstrate the importance of continuous investment in ecological restoration, infrastructure improvements, and community engagement.

Programming

Great places have things to do when you get there. Public Lands is currently limited in its capacity to program public spaces on the corridor. That said, Salt Lake City's commitment to public lands reflects a broader vision of sustainable urban growth, where natural resources are preserved and enhanced within a thriving metropolitan context. Foundational programming elements must be put in place for the continued success and vitality of the Emerald Ribbon.

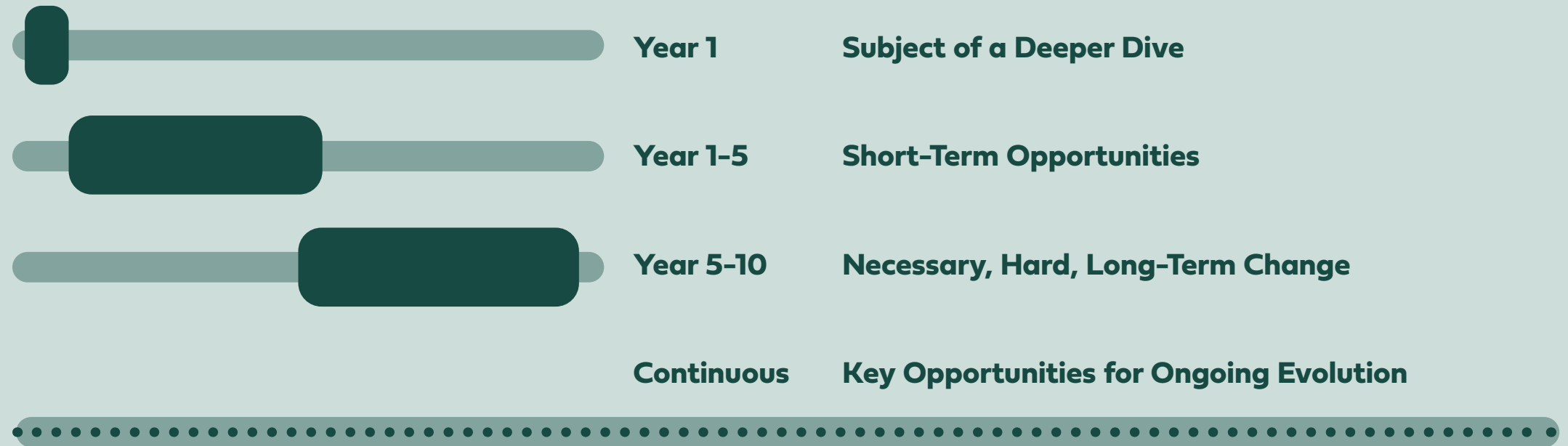
Planning for Long-Term Success

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Funding & Governance

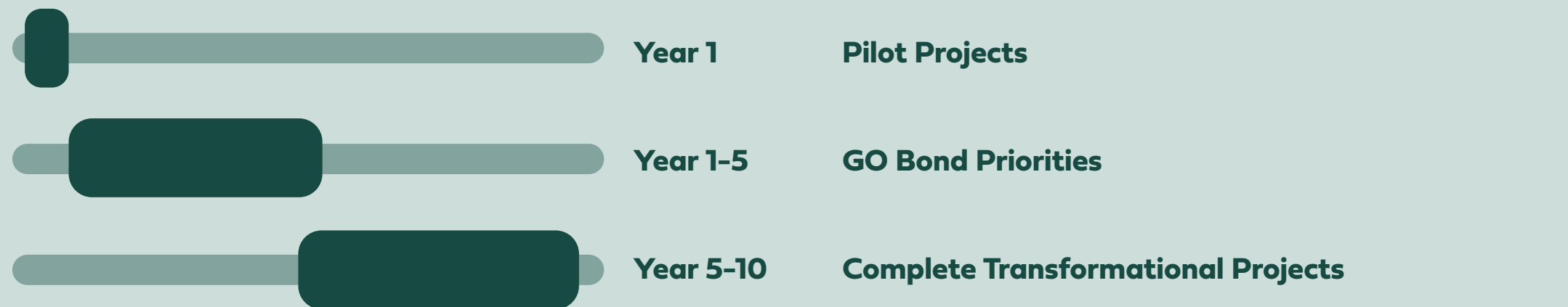
Prioritizing the Action Plan's Goals

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Realizing Transformational Projects

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Planning for Long-term Success

Salt Lake City and Public Lands have made significant capital investments in recent years along the corridor. Contemporary park design best practices encourage planners, designers, and city leaders to place equal emphasis on the ongoing financial picture to support the long-term success of corridor investments. The community feels the difference: feedback gathered through this planning process often centered on notions of care and perceptions of lack of care on the Emerald Ribbon today.

To ensure the Emerald Ribbon has the best chances for a long and successful trajectory, the current approach to programming, managing, and acquiring funding to support long-term park care must be expanded.

Capital Costs

In terms of capital costs, comparable parks around the country cost between \$2M to \$3.5M per acre – many of which leverage public, contributed, and earned income mechanisms. The immediate opportunity of \$9M of bond funding is a strong start, and many creative funding sources exist to support further investment. Additional funding sources are currently underutilized or unavailable to Public Lands but could be explored on a path to implementation.

Operating Costs

In terms of operational costs, comparable river corridors can cost between \$100K to \$200K per acre depending on the level of programming and need for maintenance. Naturalized areas can be significantly less. Similar to capital cost, many other cities are leveraging public funding, contributed dollars, captured value, and earned revenue to cover the cost of long-term care and activation. For a 10-mile-long corridor replete with urban parks, we might expect an annual operating budget to be upwards of \$20M-\$30M annually.

Governance

It is rare today to see successful urban river corridors improved, managed, and operated purely by public entities. Many different forms of public-private partnerships, conservancy models, and "Friends of" groups can help to bridge the gap in capacities, raise funding, and help to enliven the corridor with activation. The examples to the right showcase a few comparable corridors that can serve as models for the Emerald Ribbon. Each of these examples has a dedicated external organization (in some cases, more than one) to support the programming, fundraising, management and operations, or community outreach.



High Line Canal, Denver, CO

Ownership and Management: Denver Water
Capital Development, Fundraising, and Programming: High Line Canal Conservancy

In 2023, through the leadership of the High Line Canal (HLC) Conservancy, the Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) awarded a \$7 million dollar grant for improvements to 28 miles of the High Line Canal Trail in Denver. The HLC also facilitated the clean up of over 15,500 pounds of litter in 2023.



Buffalo Bayou, Houston, TX

Ownership: City of Houston and Harris County Flood Control District
Capital Development, Maintenance, Fundraising, and Programming: Buffalo Bayou Partnership (BBP)

In 2022, the BBP received a \$100 million gift from Kinder Foundation, which is leveraging another \$210 million of public and private investments to construct new bayou parks, trails, housing, cultural destinations, and infrastructure improvements into low income neighborhoods along the Bayou's east side.



Joe Louis Greenway, Detroit, MI

Management, Maintenance, and Outreach: City of Detroit
Capital Development and Fundraising: Joe Louis Greenway Partnership (JLGP)

Beyond their role in funding and constructing the Greenway, JLGP is currently providing funding and technical assistance to support businesses that have been displaced by the Greenway and acquired land adjacent to the Greenway to expand food/beverage businesses and affordable housing.

Preparing for Implementation

This Action Plan includes both corridor-wide strategies and transformational projects to provide a multi-pronged approach to implementation. Both of these types of change need to be grounded in realistic budgets in order to be realized. To establish reasonable costs, a number of benchmarks were evaluated and inventoried. These helped to create broad conceptual costs per element below. **These costs include an additional 50% to cover soft costs, contingencies, and escalation.**

These conceptual costs are a handy tool in planning for change. In the following pages, these costs will be applied to the concept designs to help facilitate a realistic approach to near and long-term funding. They can also be used for prioritizing other actions.



Park Space

\$2,500,000 per Acre



Glendale Park, Salt Lake City

A number of similar, recently completed community parks with amenities and a level of finish similar to the concept design helped establish a conceptual cost of \$2,500,000 per acre. These included Glendale Park in Salt Lake City, River's Edge Park in Council Bluffs, Iowa, and New Park at 47th & Telluride in Denver, Colorado.

Ecological Restoration

\$150,000 per Acre



Clear Creek Restoration, Tacoma, Washington

Ecologically-oriented projects - including bank stabilization, wetland restoration, and habitat enhancements - can be accomplished for a conceptual cost of \$150,000 per acre. Benchmarks here included Tacoma's Clear Creek, Marsh Creation in New Orleans, and riparian restoration in Hamilton City, California.

Trails and Greenways

\$3,500,000 per Mile



Carolina Thread Trail, Charlotte, North Carolina

While trail and greenway costs can range dramatically, there are a number of comparable, urban greenway corridors like the Carolina Thread Trail in Charlotte, North Carolina, Path400 in Atlanta, Georgia, and the Marquette Greenway in Illinois. These point to a conceptual cost of \$3,500,000 per mile for greenway and trail construction. This includes the development of trail-side amenities, signage, and wayfinding.

Prioritizing the Action Plan's Goals



The goals, strategies, and actions in this plan provide guidance for transformation of the corridor to align with the community's vision. Here, the Action Plan outlines, based on technical considerations, the different potential implementation pathways and timelines. The Action Plan identifies a multi-pronged approach to implementation.

Cost	Organizational Complexity	Potential Project Duration	Community Impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> < \$250K 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can be done independently or by a small team with limited process and permitting barriers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1-3 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would benefit the smallest number of people or user groups
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$250K - \$2M 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May require multiple agencies or face process and permitting barriers, but not both. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3-5 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This would benefit multiple user groups.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > \$2M 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires multiple agencies or jurisdictions, enabling work or permitting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5-10+ years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This impact would be felt by the majority of the corridor's users.

Subject of a Deeper Dive

While many of the strategies in the Action Plan are framed as tangible projects, the list below outlines initiatives that will require more time and planning to better define and realize. A deeper dive into these topics is the necessary next step to clarify the work ahead.

		Cost	Complexity	Project Duration	Community Impact
1.1.1	Create a comprehensive interpretation and signage plan for the corridor				
2.4.1	Develop a comprehensive wayfinding strategy under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Lands				
3.2.2	Create guidelines and incentives for landowners in the study area to care for native landscapes				
5.3.3	Improve methods to field complaints and concerns on the corridor				

Quick Wins for Immediate Impact

The strategies listed below are achievable in the short-term, having limited complexity and cost. Framed as “quick wins”, these items can begin in the next year for visible community impact.

	Cost	Complexity	Phase Length	Community Impact
1.1.2 Promote citizen science with a focus on youth programming	Low	Low	Short	High
2.1.1 Provide safe crossings	Low	Medium	Short	High
2.2.3 Increase local neighborhood cut-throughs to the corridor	Low	Medium	Short	High
2.4.2 Redesign and clearly mark missing segments in the Jordan River Trail	Low	Medium	Short	High
3.1.2 Clearly communicate difference between natural lands and park lands and their differing management standards	Low	Low	Short	High
4.3.2 Increase staffing along the corridor to facilitate transition in management	Low	Low	Short	High
4.3.1 Expand the existing riparian protection ordinance to include consideration of the Jordan River trail	Low	Low	Short	High
5.1.1 Diversify the activation and programming of the river	Low	Low	Short	High
5.2.2 Develop a framework to identify sites and opportunities for activation	Low	Low	Short	High
5.3.1 Balance a services-first approach with increased police patrols	Low	Low	Short	High
5.4.2 Increase shaded rest-spaces for trail users	Low	Low	Short	High
5.5.1 Dedicate some parks on the Emerald Ribbon as Special Event Parks and develop community-scale event infrastructure in those parks	Low	Low	Short	High
2.3.1 Conduct inventory of existing trail system condition	Low	Low	Short	Low

Necessary, Hard, Long-Term Change

These strategies involve broad systemic change that will take the most time, collaboration, money, and effort to be realized. They are framed here as items that can be started now. They will most most likely require collaboration and be realized over the long term.

	Cost	Complexity	Phase Length	Community Impact
1.2.1 Implement riparian, upland, and wetland restoration	High	High	Long	High
1.3.2 Develop community-led beautification programs	Low	Low	Short	High
2.3.3 Develop new bridge standards and develop a plan for gradual replacement of the most narrow bridges	High	High	Long	High
4.1.1 Move the levee away from the river	High	High	Long	High
4.4.1 Require the development within the corridor meet high standards of environmental superiority	Low	High	Short	High
5.3.2 Shift amenities into higher visibility areas and activate street edges	Low	Low	Short	High
5.5.2 Increase partnership management capacity at Public Lands with a focus on department-led programming	Low	High	Short	High
3.3.2 Assess overlapping jurisdictions in the corridor related to care and maintenance. Organize a cross-departmental group to evaluate and streamline ownership between departments	Low	High	Short	High
3.4.3 Support Public Utilities in evaluating waste systems in the corridor and along tributaries affecting the Jordan River	Low	High	Short	High
4.4.2 Develop eco-landscape requirements for new development projects	Low	High	Short	High
4.4.3 Enforce and expand development limitations in riparian buffer zone in high sensitivity areas	Low	High	Short	High
4.1.3 Increase water flow into the corridor	Low	High	Short	High
4.2.1 Increase Natural Lands to 30% of the corridor by 2030	Low	High	Short	High

Key Opportunities for Ongoing Evolution

More complex than a single capital improvement yet easier than systemic, large-scale transformation, the following strategies are important and requiring ongoing investments that involve some complexity and time to be realized.

		Cost	Complexity	Phase Length	Community Impact
3.1.4	Create visitor-centric native restoration areas in the corridor with a focus on visually appealing species				
1.2.2	Monitor progress against restoration goals				
1.3.1	Leverage local artists in advancing other goals in the Action Plan, including safer intersections, the design and programming of flexible event spaces, and nature interpretation experiences				
2.1.2	Provide a clear, recognizable, and continuous trail experience.				
2.2.1	Complete the trail on both sides of the river (whether paved or dirt)				
2.3.2	Replace existing trail over the next ten years to meet new standards				
3.1.1	Streamline management areas and support an increase in natural lands				
3.2.1	Create opportunities for ongoing stewardship within the corridor in partnership with local organizations.				
3.2.3	Support the development of a private governance body to coordinate stakeholders and advocate for the success of the Emerald Ribbon				
4.1.2	Use grading changes to expand floodplain volume, thereby reducing flood threats, creating more room for flow, and expanding the opportunities for riparian and wetland habitat restoration.				
4.1.4	Restore natural channel geometry to the river				
3.4.1	Support Public Utilities use of SLC right of way draining to the Emerald Ribbon for green infrastructure				

Key Opportunities for Ongoing Evolution

4.3.2	Enhance regional and local collaboration with riverfront landowners and trail stewards				
2.5.1	Provide increased access points to the river				
5.1.2	Make lively destinations at the river's edge that improve symbolic, physical, and visual access to the river.				
5.2.1	Understand and remove barriers to small business and commercial activation of the river				
5.4.1	Add more higher quality amenities throughout the Emerald Ribbon				
1.3.3	Create sustainable funding pipelines for ongoing art programming				
1.4.1	Partner with local organizations and small businesses to increase programming and build community representation and ownership of the Jordan River				
1.4.2	Create gateways onto the trail on the border into a new neighborhood (ie. Glendale, Poplar Grove, Fairpark, Rose Park) to let people know when they're entering those neighborhoods				
2.4.3	Improve connections to trails that meet the Jordan River Trail				
2.5.2	Add signage on the water trail at each overpass or bridge				
3.1.3	Integrate environmental education efforts into existing Public Lands processes				
3.4.3	Highlight and enforce waste reduction programs for pets in the corridor and along tributaries				
5.4.3	Create a lighting standard for the corridor and fill any gaps in safe, nature-friendly lighting				
2.2.2	Conduct a study of possible street closures to enhance connectivity to parks and the trail				



Rose Park Nature Area

Cottonwood Park

Fairpark Urban Core

Modesto Park

Glendale Oxbow

Jordan River

Rose Park

Fairpark

Poplar Grove

Glendale

Transformational Projects

These five locations were identified and further explored in conceptual plans in the following chapter. These locations were selected because they explore a variety of contexts and experiences along the corridor, from a largely undeveloped and relatively wild area to neighborhood parks, an urban stretch with limited public land but high connectivity to the rest of the city, and lands adjacent to golf courses. The sites were also selected to ensure geographic distribution of future investment along the Emerald Ribbon.

The Value of Popping Up

A Cycle of Learning

While the Action Plan lays out a clear series of next steps, there is much that cannot be known about the future. In any planning process, questions remain, community needs evolve, and priorities shift over time.

The Action Plan embraces the potential to adaptively manage implementation by recommending the use of pop-up programs, projects, and policies. "Pop-ups" are short-term and/or temporary examples of potential implementation strategies. They enable the community to imagine change and learn about proposed techniques and processes. Feedback and lessons learned from the development of pop-ups can be leveraged in order to adapt and improve long-term implementation.

Here are three ideas for pop-up projects that could start immediately!



Expanding Program Opportunities



Lot Lab, Boston

Artful Testing

The Westside of Salt Lake City is home to numerous organizations, groups, and businesses who could take a more active role in activating the Emerald Ribbon. A pop-up project that engages these potential partners in a temporary activation could help inspire more engagement with the corridor, test new programs, and grow the roster of potential community-driven events.

Success Story: *Now + There*, an arts organization with the goal of using temporary public art to create change, transformed an empty lot in the Charlestown Navy Yard into a testing ground for public art.

Previewing Ecological Change



Congress Avenue, Austin

Environmental Education

The community shared its desire for a nature-forward vision for the Emerald Ribbon. Achieving this will require new design, planting, and maintenance strategies and processes. Pop-ups could be used to mock-up and test some of these new approaches. In the example above, community members were invited to measure the temperature of different paving types to understand how material selection impacts microclimate.

Success Story: As part of a vision plan for Congress Avenue, a series of pop-ups allowed community members to test new ideas.

Transforming Traffic Tactically



Existing Condition



Street Pilot, Seattle

1700 S Trail Intersection

The intersection of the Jordan River Trail and 1700 S is a great opportunity for a pop-up approach. Here the trail is less continuous and legible to users. Pop-up tactics could test safety measures such as changes to the activated crosswalk signals and paint to make the crossing more visible to drivers. These could be in place for a period of time with users providing real-time feedback that could inform a long-term series of improvements.

Success Story: The City of Seattle used painting and tactical approaches to testing new traffic and pedestrian patterns.



Develop a New Wildlife Area at Glendale Oxbow

The southern gateway of the Jordan River corridor as it enters Salt Lake City proper, the Glendale Oxbow is both a confluence of city-wide systems like the Surplus Canal and the Jordan River Trail and a unique moment of natural beauty thanks to the sculptural form of the river. With the construction of a new regional park in the Glendale neighborhood, this stretch of the corridor is soon to be home to a great new urban park replete with amenities, play, and water access.

Develop a New Wildlife Area at Glendale Oxbow

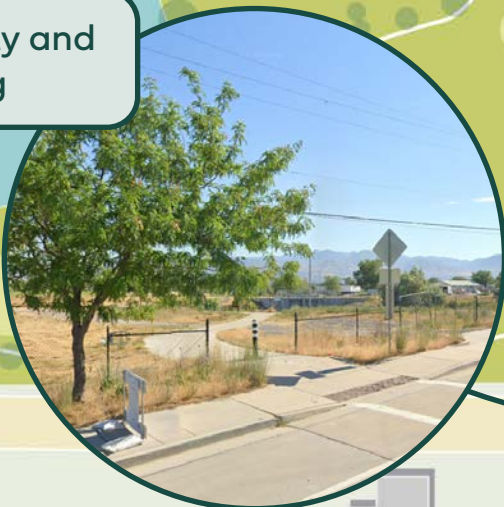
Existing Conditions

The 2100 S Oxbow is located just east of Glendale Golf Course. The opposite bank is dominated by commercial and industrial uses that contribute to a steep, eroding river bank. The area is less frequented by trail users, with scattered unhoused encampments occasionally found within the peninsula. Golfers at Glendale Park can see the area, but it remains peripheral to their experience. On the eastern bank of the river, commercial and industrial land uses encroach on public lands and infringe on the required buffers for the Jordan River.

The area is generally mowed but holds significant potential for riparian, wetland, and upland restoration. Notably, there are numerous interesting features in the area, such as a spring on the north side of the trail bridge between the river and the trail, areas of the oxbow that present opportunities for wetland creation, a low-lying area at the bend in the river adjacent to the golf fairway that could become a wetland, a low-lying bench on much of the western bank of the river, and moderately sloping banks on the Westside that are conducive to riparian woodland restoration.



poor connectivity and wayfinding



lots of ecological potential!



Develop a New Wildlife Area at Glendale Oxbow



The Proposal

This underused site is a great place to give space back to nature along the river. New wetland areas and expanded floodplain will provide better habitat for birds and other animals. People will be able to enjoy the natural environment through seating areas, interpretive signage, and wildlife viewpoints. The proposal also includes improvements to enhance the area as a gateway for people. A new trailhead with parking is proposed on 2100 S. To the west of the river, a new trail will be added along with natural landscaping and new trees.



Develop a New Wildlife Area at Glendale Oxbow



The following estimates assume 0.71 acres of park redesign, including the trailhead on 2100 S, overlooks, picnic tables, and amenities along the boardwalk. Restoration estimates assume 17.07 acres of restoration. Trails and greenway estimates cover 0.63 miles of improvements, including a 100-foot buffer for amenities like lighting, benches, trash cans, and fountains. These are order-of-magnitude cost estimates based on peer comparison data, with soft costs included in all three estimates.

Estimated Full Build-Out Cost	\$6,081,603
Park	\$1,687,535
Restoration	\$2,372,222
Trails & Greenway	\$2,020,846

Phase One Projects



Community Park Space

Park \$689,275

Park investments in the Glendale Oxbow in Phase One are minimal but include two boardwalks, which should be developed in conjunction with restoration projects. Lowering the grade of the existing plane to encourage wetlands will create a new nature area; thoughtful creation of nature experiences for people should happen side by side with those projects, including interpretive experiences.

Ecological Restoration

Restoration \$1,417,496

This area is a strong potential pilot area for restoration efforts, some of which can be conducted internally at Public Lands. The Phase One priority is to lower the grade of the existing ground plane to be conducive to wetlands at the oxbow and along the bank to the north. This should be done alongside the removal of invasives and installation of native riparian tree mottes.

Greenway & Trail Improvements

Trails & Greenway \$192,462

Phase One prioritizes the creation of a new trailhead at the intersection of the Jordan River Trail and 2100 S. As the southern edge of the corridor, the trailhead will serve as the entrance into the Emerald Ribbon from South Salt Lake and West Valley City. The largely industrial area today provides few amenities to trail users; a new trailhead that include waste receptacles, water refill stations, shade, and parking for trail users will make the area more accessible to the community.

2



Reimagine Modesto Park and Bend in the River

Modesto Park and Bend in the River are poised for a transformational design that will unlock their full potential as vibrant community spaces. Today, public concern over safety, outdated amenities, and poor maintenance makes these parks fall short of their promise. The new vision introduces a dynamic 'community porch' with shaded seating, a nature playground, and an outdoor classroom, alongside enhanced pathways and a formal trailhead with improved access. Ecological upgrades will revitalize riverbanks, expand wetlands, and enhance wildlife habitats. The redesign will create a welcoming, connected, and ecologically thriving hub for the entire community.



Reimagine Modesto Park and Bend in the River

Existing Conditions

Today, Modesto Park and Bend in the River offer expansive green space to the adjacent neighbors. Yet, the composition of elements, ecological improvements, and park edges fall short of the potential for a great neighborhood park. Concerns about safety, coupled with outdated amenities, prevent this from being a true community hub.

The park edge along Modesto Avenue feels uninviting and inaccessible due to a lack of meaningful amenities, poor maintenance of vegetation, and limited views of the river. Safety issues with the existing playground in the south and the under-programmed outdoor classroom in the north deter people from engaging with the water and the park's features.

The parking area along Fremont Ave, which serves as an entrance to the park, has been a cherished community space, offering a strong foundation for enhanced community gathering place with better connectivity to Bend in the River Park.



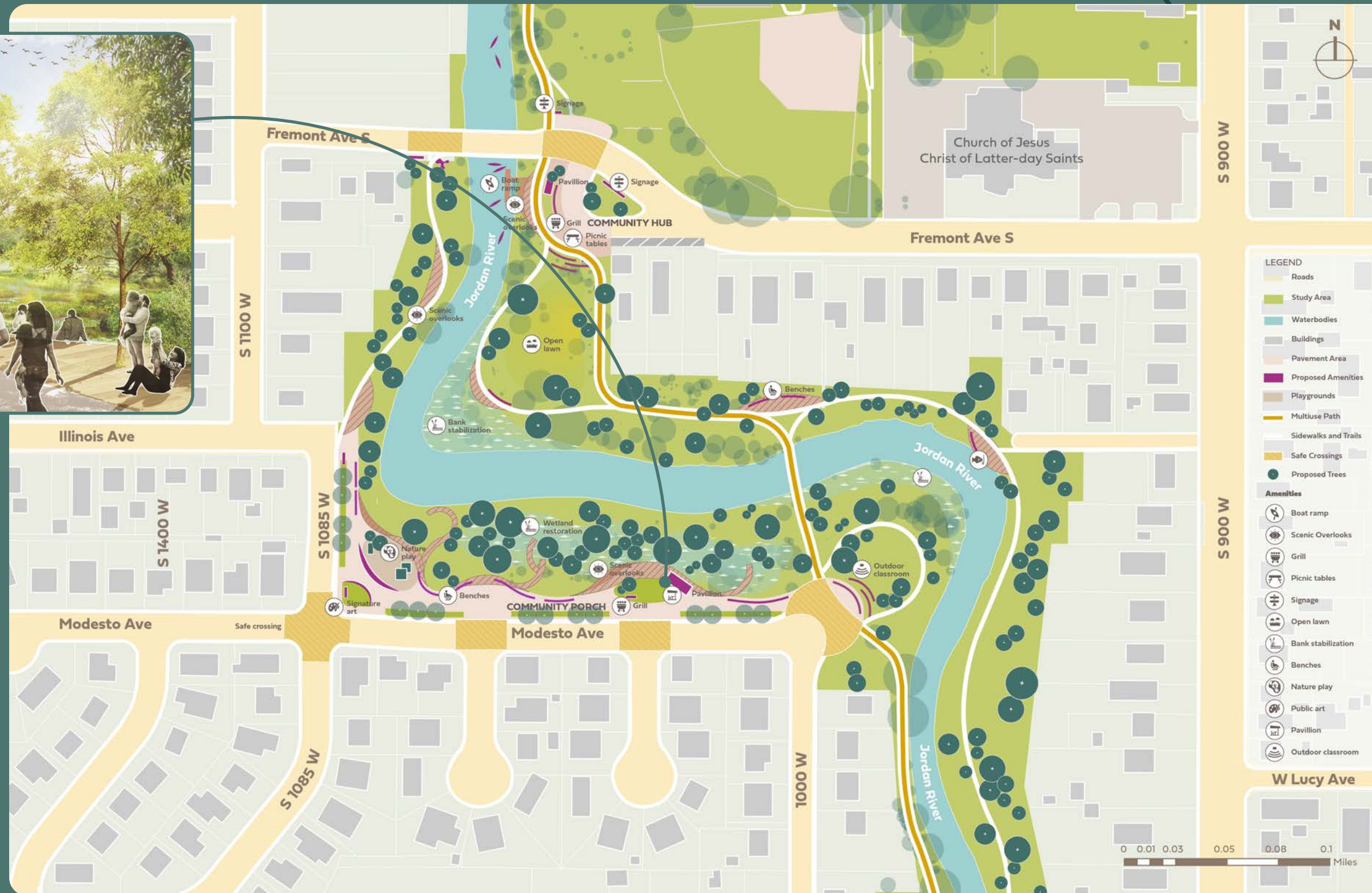
Reimagine Modesto Park and Bend in the River



The Proposal

This concept addresses safety concerns and introduces a new 'community porch' with shaded seating, a lawn, cooking areas, a nature playground, and art installations. Enhanced pathways and new access from 900 W will improve the parks' relationship to the surrounding neighborhood. A small lot on Fremont Ave will become an enhanced trailhead with increased visibility into the park and a new boat ramp.

Ecological improvements include regrading riverbanks to reduce erosion, expanding wetlands for wildlife and stormwater management, removing invasive plants, and protecting significant trees to enhance the park's ecological function and visitor experience.



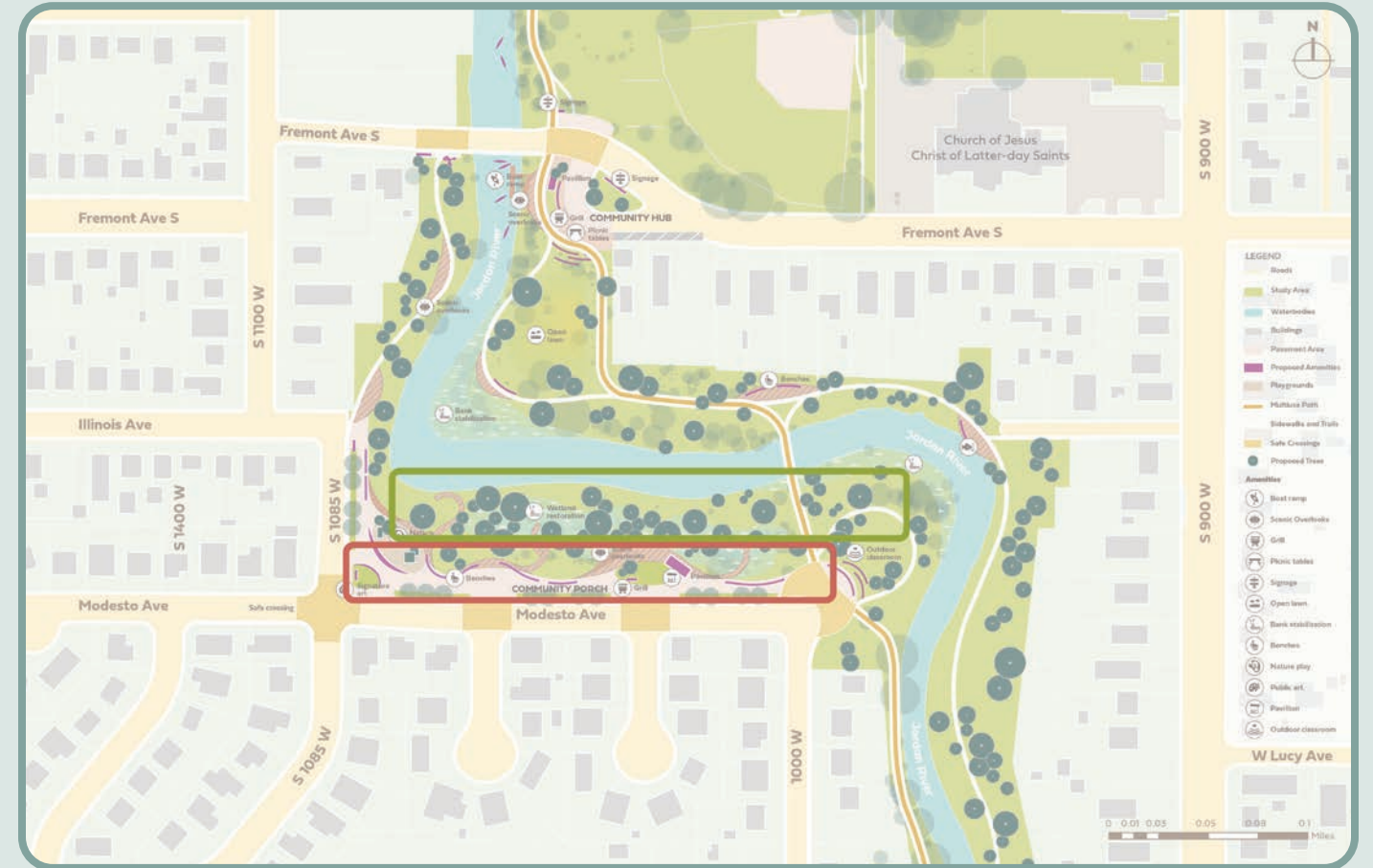
Reimagine Modesto & Bend in the River Park



The following estimates assume 2.37 acres of park redesign, including creating the 'community porch,' renovating the trailhead on Fremont Ave, and adding amenities along the trail. Restoration estimates assume 7.44 acres of restoration. Trails and greenway estimates cover 0.33 miles of improvements, including a 100-foot buffer for amenities like lighting, benches, trash cans, and fountains. These are order-of-magnitude cost estimates based on peer comparison data, with soft costs included in all three estimates.

Estimated Full Build-Out Cost	\$7,725,517
Park	\$5,633,040
Restoration	\$1,033,939
Trails & Greenway	\$1,058,538

Phase One Projects



Community Park Space Park \$3,636,519

The 'community porch' along Modesto Avenue is the recommended first phase of investment in public park space. The ability to deliver walkable amenities to the nearby neighbors and improve sight lines and access to the river make this a priority.

Ecological Restoration Restoration \$391,896

Adjacent to the "Porch", a first phase capital project could include expansion and enhancement of the existing wetland as well as regrading and restoration of the river's edge. This action builds on recent good work while growing the ecological value.

Greenway & Trail Improvements Trails & Greenway \$0

Greenway and trail improvements will be a focus of effort and investment in the long term, but are not included in Phase One projects. Priorities could include the creation of a new trail connection to S 900 W at Gold Place and the replacement of the existing boat ramp, which should be relocated to the north side of the park for easy access from Fremont Ave.

3



Center Nature and Activate Public Space in Fairpark

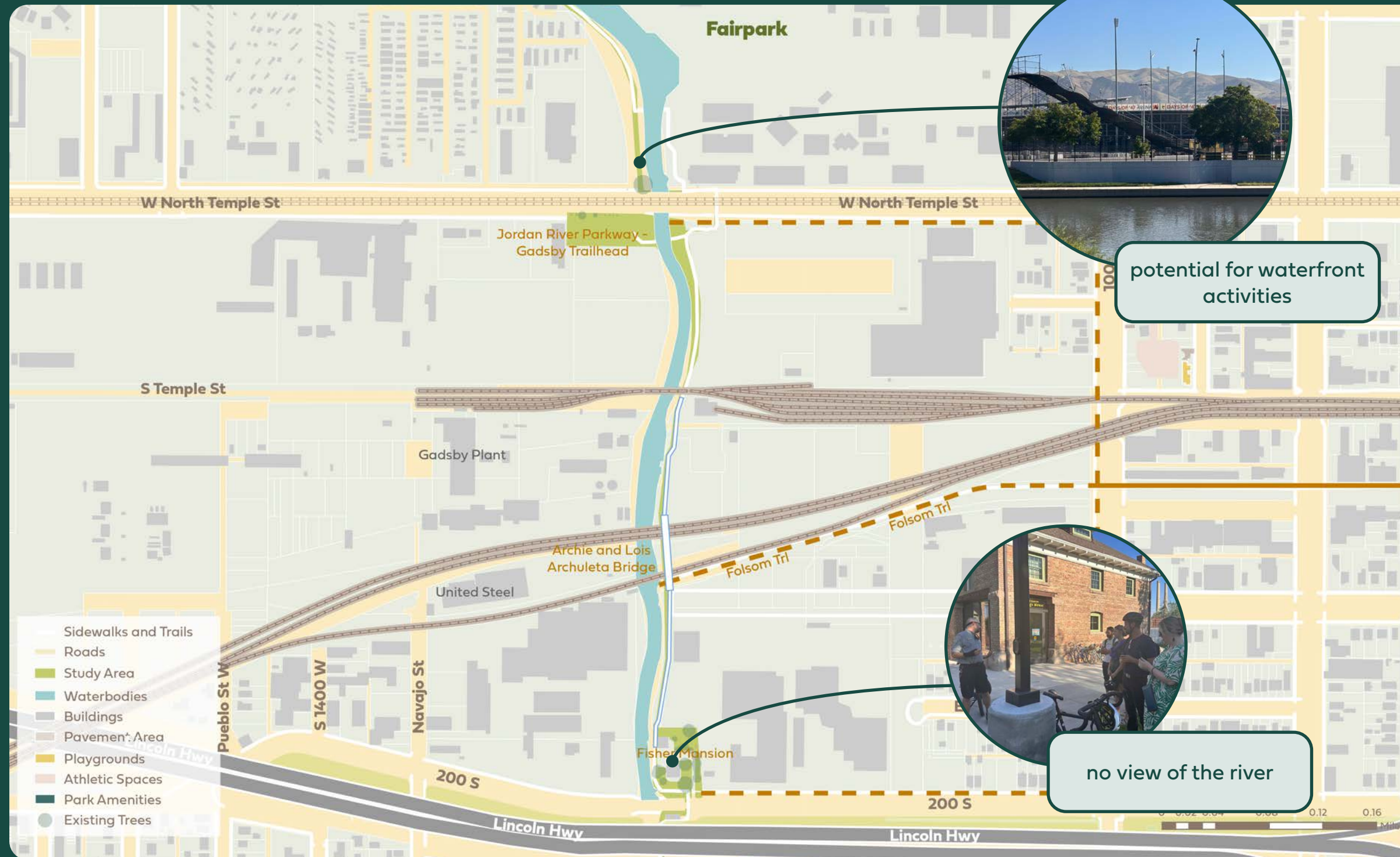
The Power District and Fairpark, together, constitute a significant portion of the Jordan River corridor, and both experiencing considerable new development. This offers an opportunity to center the community's priorities in the creation of a more urban stretch of the river with active uses and more vibrant public spaces. At the same time, care should be taken to ensure the river itself feels public and that the ecological health of the river is prioritized.



Center Nature and Activate Public Space in Fairpark

Existing Conditions

Today, the segment of the Jordan River between Fisher Mansion and Cottonwood Park runs through a highly industrial area. The area is crisscrossed by major railroads and by the TRAX Green Line at North Temple, which connects downtown to the Fairpark and Jordan River Trail. The existing Gadsby Trailhead at North Temple Street (which includes a parking lot and boat ramp) has been defined by undesirable activity in recent months, restricting its use as a gateway to the Jordan River corridor. The Fisher Mansion and adjacent Carriage House, recently remodeled for use as a Public Lands office and headquarters for the Park Rangers, has enormous potential but is fenced off from the river and offers no trailside amenities today. The trail becomes especially confusing at the North Temple Street intersection near the TRAX station, where one of the few deadly pedestrian-involved accidents on the corridor occurred.

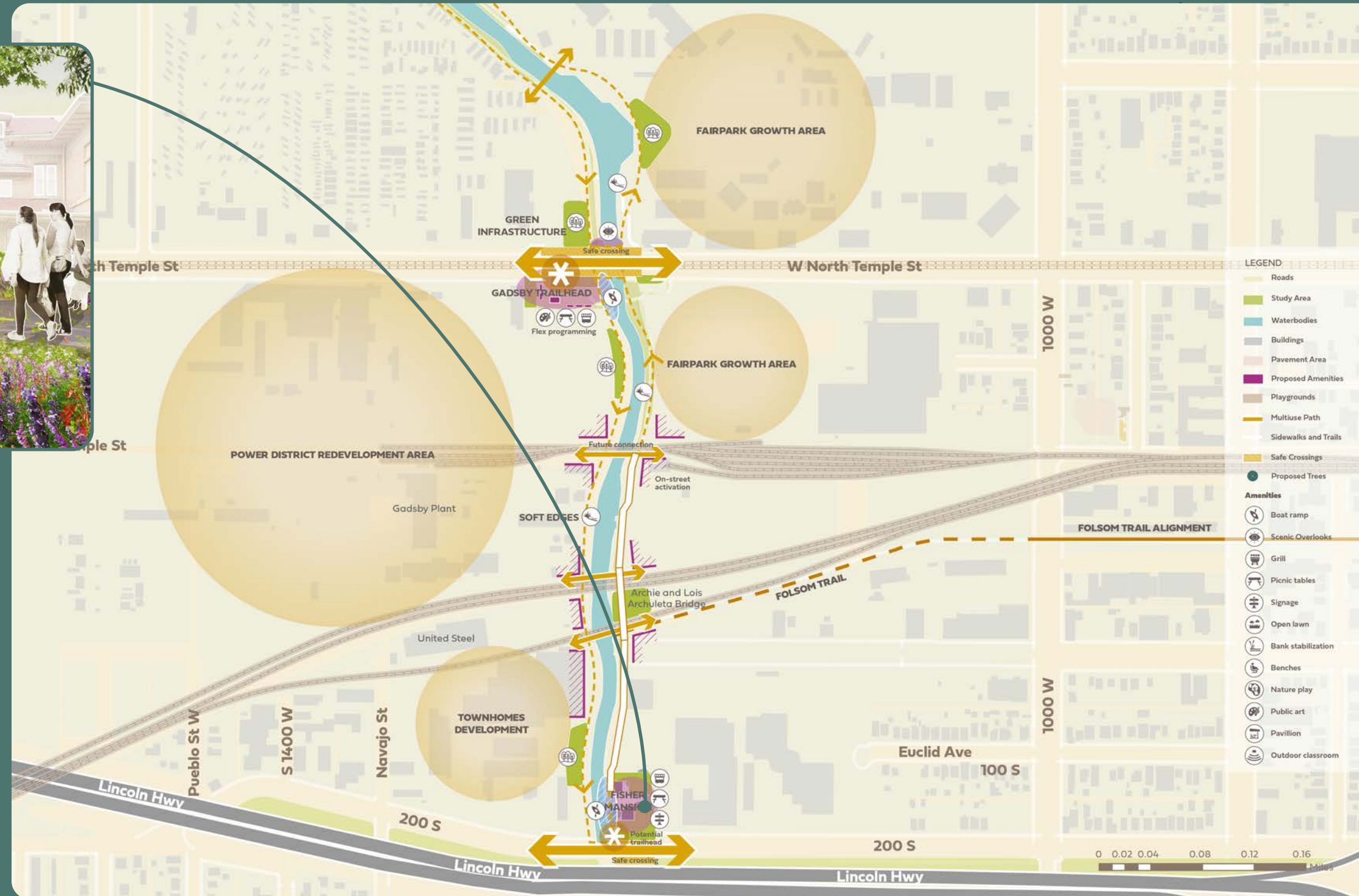


Center Nature and Activate Public Space in Fairpark



The Proposal

In this changing district, the plan focuses on providing safe and comfortable connections for trail users, businesses, and future residents. This concept illustrates improvements and activation at the Fisher Mansion and the Gadsby Trailhead. These areas have the potential to become hubs for community events, water recreation, and nature education for the river. The City will work with the Power District developers and the Fairpark community to improve the Jordan River experience as this area grows. Policy changes (recommended in Guiding Principle 4, Goals 4 and 5) are paramount to ensure that new development meets the needs and priorities of Westside residents, including environmental superiority.



Center Nature and Activate Public Space in Fairpark



The following estimates assume 1.48 acres of park redesign. Restoration estimates assume 1.09 acres of restoration. Trails and greenway estimates cover 1.07 miles of improvements, including a 100-foot buffer for amenities like lighting, benches, trash cans, and fountains. These are order-of-magnitude cost estimates based on peer comparison data, with soft costs included in all three estimates.

Estimated Full Build-Out Cost	\$7,101,387
Park	\$3,517,679
Restoration	\$151,478
Trails & Greenway	\$3,432,231

Phase One Projects



Community Park Space Park \$1,449,854

Capital park improvements in a first phase focus on the city-owned Fisher Mansion and its adjacency to the trail and existing boat ramp, transforming it into a public amenity. A redesign should better open the mansion onto the trail, improve water access and visibility, and incorporate space for vendors, including a kayak rental.

Ecological Restoration Restoration \$0

While no capital improvement dollars are suggested for restoration projects in Phase One, Public Lands should begin a process with the Planning Division to evaluate what an environmental superiority policy could look like for development between 200 S and North Temple St to protect and enhance the health of the river with new construction.

Greenway & Trail Improvements Trails & Greenway \$1,700,077

The first of two priority projects is the completion of the trail connection to the new Folsom Trail, opening up the JRT and Fisher Mansion to other trail users. The other critical priority is to complete the missing segment of trail north of N Temple St, which suffers from safety, visibility, and quality issues today. This will protect and enhance the trail as new development transforms the area.

4



Bring New Life to Cottonwood Park

Cottonwood Park is set for a remarkable transformation that will redefine its role as a community hub. Currently, the park's distinctiveness is overshadowed by navigation challenges and limited engagement, making the community park fall short of its potential. The new proposal aims to enhance connectivity with realigned trails, fresh nature walkways, and a vibrant 'community porch' on the southern edge. Upgrades to the trailhead and the potential future relocation of the levee will improve access, visibility, and the park's relationship with the river. This redesign promises to create a more cohesive, inviting space for all.



Bring New Life to an Expanded Cottonwood Park

Existing Conditions

Cottonwood Park is a distinctive open space stretching across the river. On one side, a popular dog park serves as a cherished neighborhood spot but has the potential for enhanced water visibility and connectivity to the rest of the park. The current trail design has no wayfinding to the other side of the river, making it difficult for visitors to navigate the entire park. On the other side of the river, the community park offers essential green space and some amenities but falls short in engaging community members effectively. The trail design and lack of activities facing the street discourage deeper exploration of the park. Additionally, the levee creates a natural barrier to the river, leading to safety concerns and increased likelihood of encampments. Improving connectivity, visibility, and engagement in both areas could significantly enhance the park's usability and safety, creating a more cohesive and welcoming space for the community.

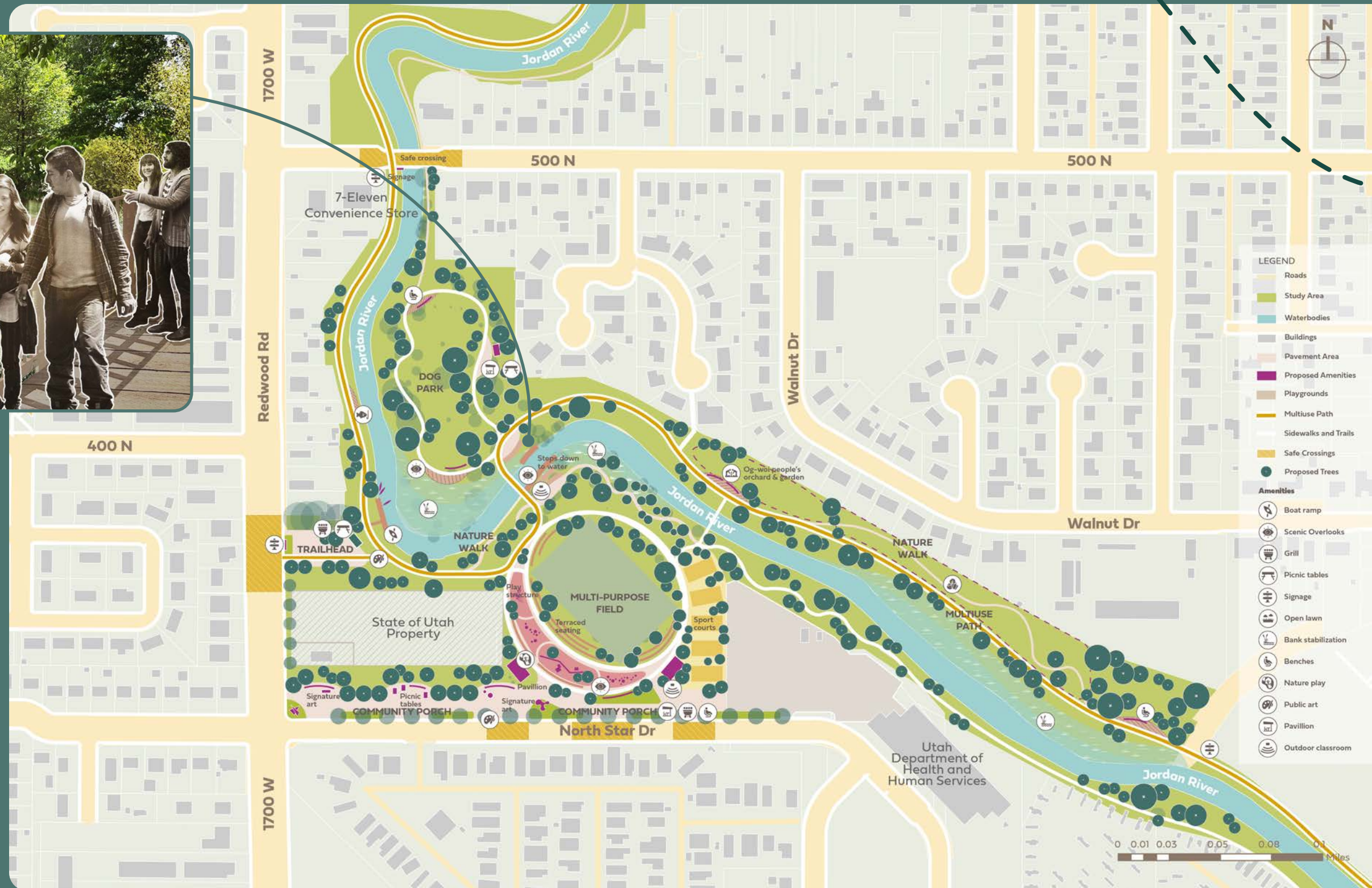


Bring New Life to an Expanded Cottonwood Park

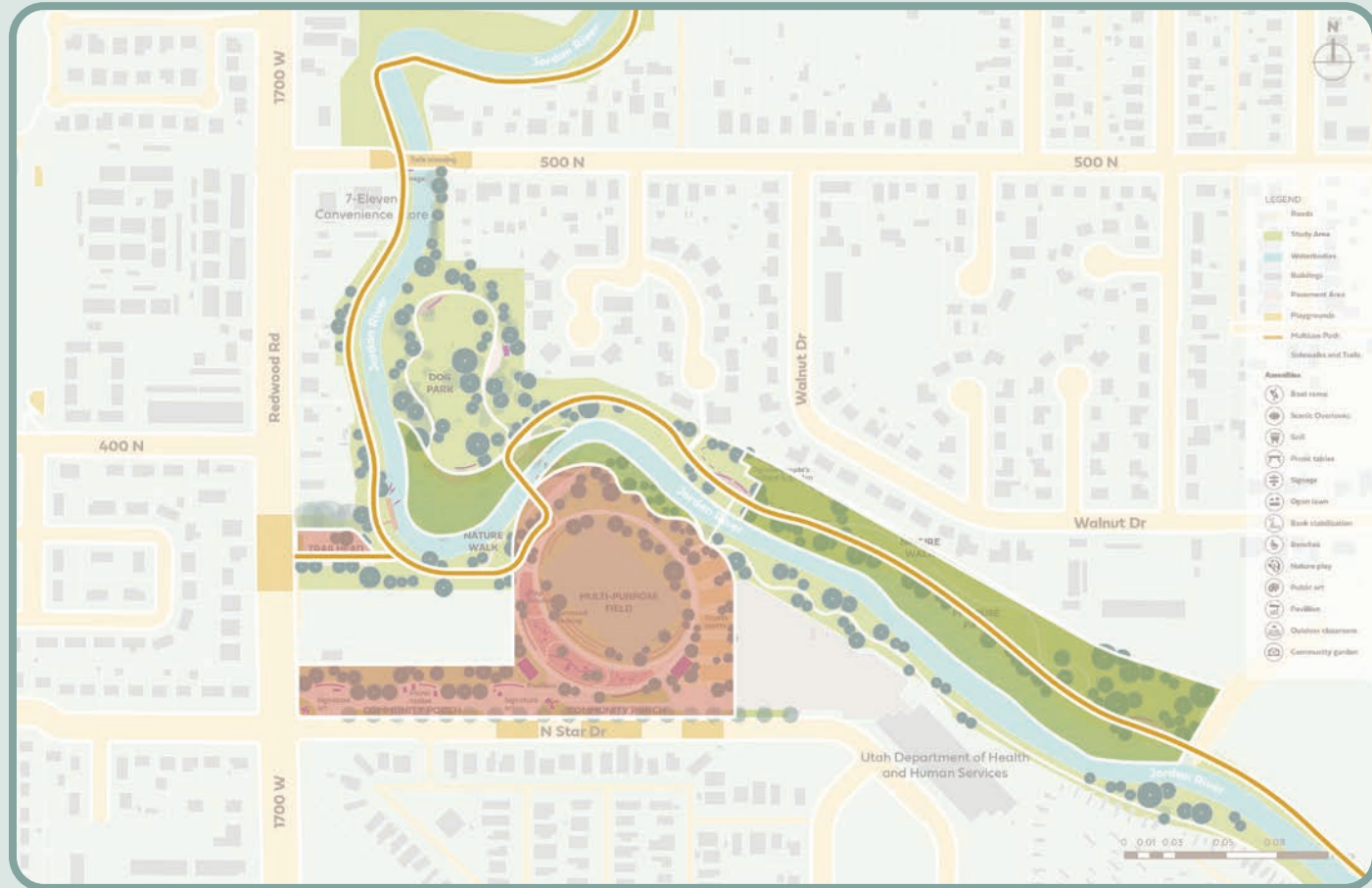


The Proposal

This concept enhances connections within the park and between the park and the river. Realigned trails and new signage will simplify navigation, while nature walkways will offer fresh experiences for walking and biking. Recreation amenities will be concentrated at the south end, creating a welcoming 'community porch'. The existing dirt parking lot on Redwood Road will be upgraded to a trailhead with artwork, signage, new restrooms, and a boat ramp. In the longer term, relocating the levee further from the river will improve visual and physical connection to the water, providing more space for the river to flood.



Bring New Life to an Expanded Cottonwood Park



Phase One Projects



The following estimates assume 8.36 acres of park redesign, including the creation of the 'community porch,' recreational sports fields, and the trailhead. Restoration estimates assume 7.61 acres of restoration. Trails and greenway estimates cover 1.1 miles of improvements, including a 100-foot buffer for amenities like lighting, benches, trash cans, and fountains. These are order-of-magnitude cost estimates based on peer comparison data, with soft costs included in all three estimates.

Community Park Space

Park \$5,347,822

Park investments during Phase One will focus on the creation of a community porch along the southern edge. This addition will create a welcoming and inviting area, enhancing connectivity with the neighboring community and maximizing the project's impact.

Ecological Restoration

Restoration \$836,601

With so much acreage, there is immense potential to restore and enhance natural lands at Cottonwood Park. Phase One projects include the removal of invasive plants, restoration of native species in the riparian area, and the establishment of an upland plant community on the northern edge of the river. In Phase One, the installation of stormwater wetlands at the toe of the slope is recommended to develop this area as a natural land pilot program ripe for nature experiences for people.

Greenway & Trail Improvements

Trails & Greenway \$962,308

Trail and greenway improvements in Phase One are closely tied to restoration efforts, as the regrading of the bank along the northeast section of the park will require moving the primary trail back from the river. Doing so creates an opportunity to upgrade this segment of trail to be a wide, marked, multi-use trail. Likewise, development of unpaved nature trails to create a loop along the north and south edges should happen after restoration efforts.

Estimated Full Build-Out Cost \$24,456,156

Park \$19,870,131

Restoration \$1,057,564

Trails & Greenway \$3,528,462

5



Develop a New Nature Park near Rose Park Golf Course

The Rose Park Golf Course today is a well-used space separated from the river by a large, continuous levee. While this levee reduces flood risk for many nearby neighbors, it physically and visually separates them from the river. While the golf course is well-loved, the adjacent Rose Park Golf Course Driving Range is underutilized and in a prime location for a nature area. Similar to Cottonwood Park, the potential exists to create more “room for the river” by relocating portions of the levee and developing wetlands. In doing so, this concept creates more expansive hydrologic function and new habitat for wildlife.



Develop a New Nature Park near Rose Park Golf Course

Existing Conditions

The Rose Park area includes Rose Park Golf Course, Roots Disc Golf Course, and the greenbelt between them adjacent to the Jordan River. Boundaries include the river and Reclamation Road to the north, 1200 W and residential housing to the east, 1000 N to the south, and Redwood Rd to the west. Both golf courses and the formal east-side trail and informal west-bank gravel trail are actively used.

A levee along the western bank, currently non-compliant with regulations, will need upgrades to meet higher flood levels and stricter standards. The golf course features mowed areas with specimen trees in the roughs. For much of its length, the course is separated from the river by fencing, the levee, and dense vegetation. Some planting has occurred in the disc golf area.

Significant potential exists for expanding the floodplain and restoring riparian woodlands, wetlands, and uplands to enhance the site's ecological health and improve the experience for course and trail users.

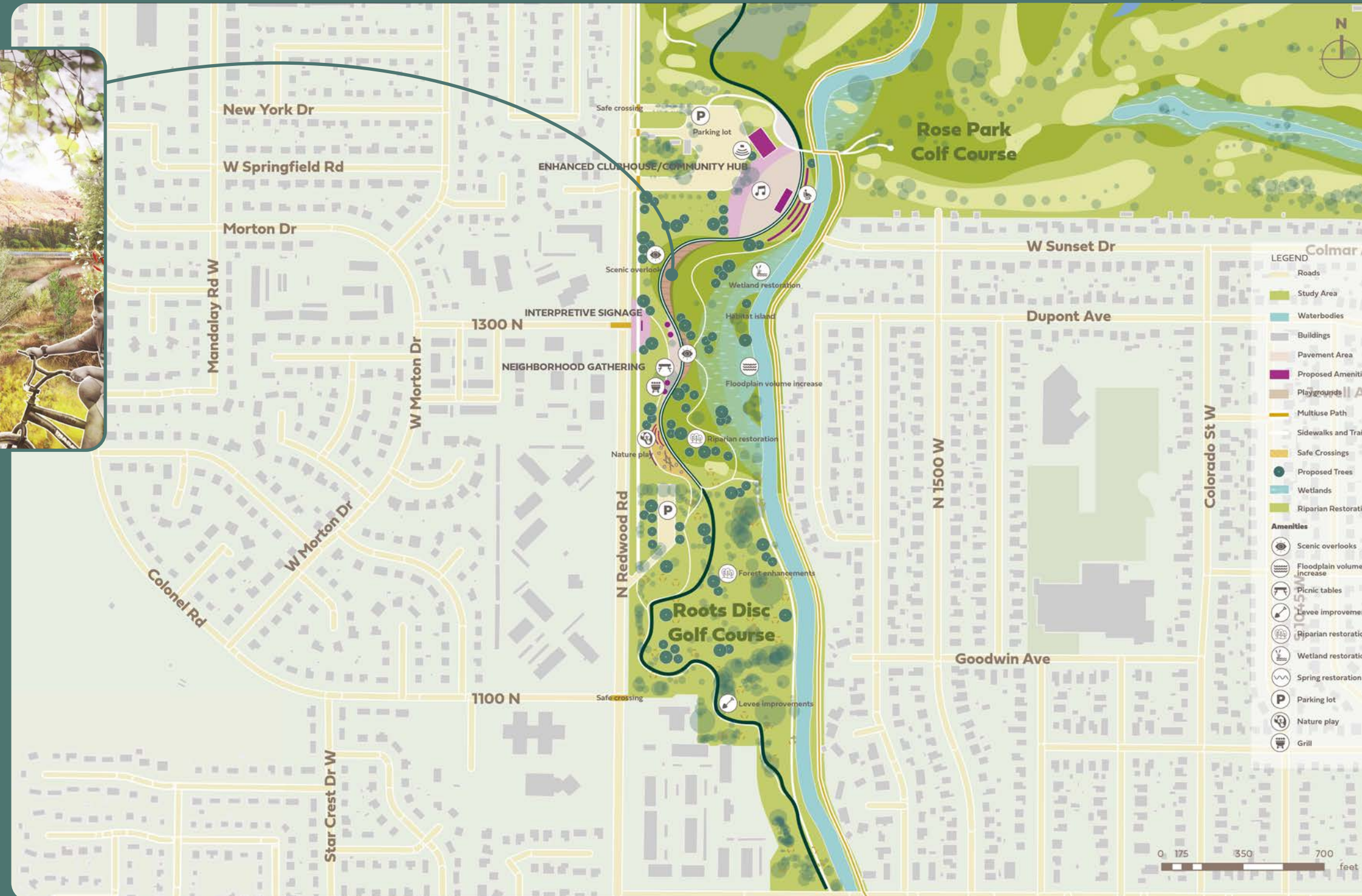


Develop a New Nature Park near Rose Park Golf Course



The Proposal

This concept reflects ongoing discussion to transition the underutilized driving range at Rose Park Golf Course into a publicly accessible park and nature area. A pathway through Roots and the driving range would become a slower, scenic walking route. A new gathering space and a nature playground incorporates amenities to better serve the broader community. A large nature preserve will include scenic overlooks and educational signage. An enhanced clubhouse can serve both golfers and trail users, and steps down to the water would provide new boat access.



Develop a New Nature Park near Rose Park Golf Course



The following estimates assume 5.35 acres of park redesign. Restoration estimates assume 31.95 acres of restoration. Trails and greenway estimates cover 0.83 miles of improvements, including a 100-foot buffer for amenities like lighting, benches, trash cans, and fountains. These are order-of-magnitude cost estimates based on peer comparison data, with soft costs included in all three estimates.

Estimated Full Build-Out Cost	\$19,818,417
Park	\$12,715,933
Restoration	\$4,440,099
Trails & Greenway	\$2,662,385

Phase One Projects

Feasibility Study

\$300-500k

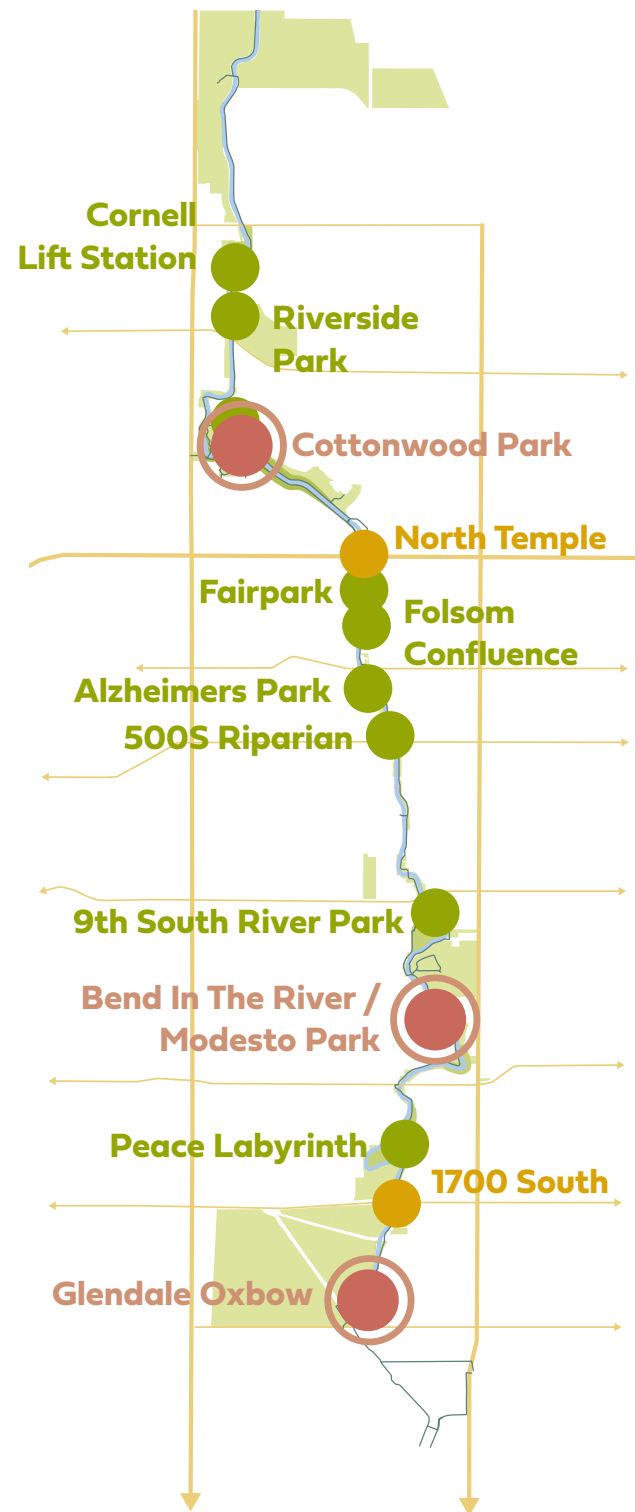
A feasibility study for relocating the levee between Redwood Road and 1000 North must assess the new alignment's geotechnical and environmental suitability. It should evaluate design and construction needs to meet regulatory standards and ensure effective flood protection. The study must also consider integrating the levee with proposed park uses (as described in this document), estimate costs for dismantling the old levee and constructing the new one, and include considerations for community impacts. Additionally, it should provide a timeline and risk management plan to address relocation challenges.

No design or construction is proposed as part of Phase One for this project.

Phase One Priorities

\$14M for Phase One Priorities including \$9M in Bond Funding

Note: Soft costs such as design fees, permitting costs, contingencies and escalation are included in these budget numbers. For full methodology of cost modeling, see pages 102-103.



Transformational Projects

Bend in the River & Modesto Parks

\$3M (Bond) + \$1M (Addl CIP) = \$4M Total

A first phase here includes the 'community porch' along Modesto Avenue and enhancement of the existing wetland as well as regrading and restoration of the river's edge. See page 126 for details.

Cottonwood Park

\$3M (Bond) + \$1.5M (Addl CIP) + \$2.5M (Addl fund needed for phase one) = \$7M Total

A first phase here includes trail and greenway improvements closely tied to restoration efforts along both sides of the river to the east. This also includes improvements to the trailhead on Redwood Road. See page 140 for details. This work can likely be completed now without being removed by levee relocation in the future.

Glendale Oxbow \$500K (Bond)

A first phase here includes invasive removal, native planting, regrading for new wetlands, and restoration of the existing spring. See page 118 for details.

Note: The Action Plan identifies the need for a feasibility study as the first step of the work ahead at Rose Park and therefore is not included in this round of capital improvements.

Total Funding: \$11.5M
Bond Funding: \$6.5M
Add'l Dedicated CIP Funding: \$2.5M
Add'l Funding Needed: \$2.5M

Corridor-Wide Restoration Projects

Peace Labyrinth \$150K

Riparian planting, invasives removal, regrading for wetlands, and slope stabilization.

9th South River Park \$200K

Riparian planting and regrading for wetlands.

500 South Riparian \$150K

Bank stabilization, invasives removal, and riparian restoration.

Alheimers Park \$100K

Establish and enhance riparian community. Tie into existing irrigation.

Riverside Park \$200K

Conversion of mowed area to riparian area and connection to existing irrigation.

Cornell Lift Station \$125K

Invasive removal, enhanced habitat, and expansion of the existing wetland.

Fairpark \$50K

Establish/enhance riparian community along trail. Install irrigation.

Folsom Trail \$25K

Establish/enhance riparian community along trail. Install irrigation.

Total Funding: \$1M
Bond Funding: \$1M

Corridor-Wide Safety Focused Projects

Wayfinding Redesign \$700K

Create and implement a corridor-wide wayfinding system to address safety concerns and improve navigation.

North Temple Street Intersection and Trail \$700K

Develop community-driven plan for the North Temple Street intersection public realm to occur in conjunction with new development, enacting the recommendations of the plan regarding trail design and intersection visibility. Clarify Public Lands land ownership on the quarter mile trail segments north and south of North Temple Street to determine whether collaboration with a potential developer or an internal redesign should be pursued.

1700 South and 900 South Trail Intersection \$100K

Improve the trail and improve signage so that trail users can easily navigate the Jordan River Trail. Increase intersection safety and visibility through activated crosswalk signals and paint to make the crossing more visible to drivers.

Total Funding: \$1.5M
Bond Funding: \$1.5M



Public Lands



Agency
Landscape + Planning



2024