



Jordan River Commission 2023 Annual Report

Our River - Our Future



Table of Contents

2	Reflections on the River
3	The Commission
5	Grants
7	Fiscal Year Summary
8	2023 Highlights
9	Development and Transportation
10	Invasive Species Control and Restoration
11	Education and Outreach
12	Communications
13	Signature Events
14	Volunteer Impact
	Special Thanks to Partners

Reflections on the River



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Soren Simonsen'.

Soren Simonsen
Executive Director



Silvia Catten
Governing Board Chair

The Commission

2023 Governing Board Officers

Chair - Councilmember Silvia Catten, Millcreek

Vice Chair - Councilmember Don Shelton, South Jordan

Past Chair - Mayor Dirk Burton, West Jordan Mayor

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

City Representatives

Councilmember Wendy Aston, Bluffdale

Councilmember Tasha Lowery, Draper

Councilmember Page Albrecht, Lehi

Councilmember Dustin Gettel, Midvale

Councilmember Silvia Catten, Millcreek

Mayor Brett Hales, Murray

Councilmember Stan Porter, North Salt Lake

Councilmember Andy Pierucci, Riverton

Mayor Erin Mendenhall, Salt Lake City

Councilmember Ryan Mecham, Sandy

Councilmember Stephen Willden, Saratoga Springs

Councilmember Don Shelton, South Jordan

Councilmember Clarissa Williams, South Salt Lake

Mayor Kristie Overson, Taylorsville

Mayor Dirk Burton, West Jordan Mayor

Mayor Karen Lang, West Valley City

County Representatives

Commissioner Randy Elliot, Davis County

County Mayor Jenny Wilson, Salt Lake County

Councilmember Suzanne Harrison, Salt Lake County

State Representatives

Laura Hanson, Utah Governor's Office

Representative Jeff Stenquist, Utah Legislature

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

John Mackey, Utah Division of Water Quality

Nathan Lee, Utah Department of Transportation

Special Districts Representatives

Phil Heck, Central Valley Water Reclamation Facility

Alan Packard, Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District

Matt Myers, South Davis Sewer District

Lee Rawlings, South Valley Water Reclamation Facility

Ken Brand, South Valley Sewer District

Russell Fox, Utah Transit Authority

Ex-Officio Partner Representatives

Daniela Larsen, Hutchings Museum Institute

Craig Walker, Jordan River Foundation

Heidi Hoven, National Audubon Society

Betty Naylor, Gardner Heritage Farm

Darren Parry, Northwestern Band of Shoshone Nation

Brad Knoles, Rocky Mountain Power

Laura Briefer, Salt Lake City Public Utilities

Tim Brown, Tracy Aviary

Eric Ellis, Utah Lake Commission

Eric McCulley, Utah Reclamation Mitigation & Conservation Commission

Larry Mullenax, Utah State Fairpark

Liz Larsen, Utah's Hogle Zoo

Michael Horrocks, Wasatch Rowing Foundation

Jordan River Watershed Council

Chair - Eric McCully

Vice Chair - Laura Briefer

GSL Watershed Council Rep - Heidi Hoven

Commission Staff

Soren Simonsen, Executive Director

Aimee Horman, Events and Volunteer Manager
(Left Commission in September)

Rachel Turk, Communications and Outreach Manager

Zach Vise Seasonal Staff (Left Commission in May)

Rae Robinson, Vegetation (Started in June)

Technical Advisory Committee Officers

Chair: Chris Cline

Vice Chair: Marian Rice

Past Chair: Eric McCulley

Event Advisory Committee Officers

Chair: Daniela Larson

Vice Chair: Marissa Beckstrom



Grants

Grants and Contributions Received by the Commission or Partners

\$120,000	Legislative Appropriations (from FFSL)
\$12,000	Seasonal Employee Grant (from FFSL)
\$1,467	Contribution from the Jordan River Foundation to rent dumpster for cleanups
\$4,991,400	America the Beautiful Challenge Grant (Awarded to the Division of Water Quality)

Grants Awarded by the Commission

Jordan River Assistance Fund Small Grants

\$5000	North Salt Lake - Porters Landing boat launch
\$3000	Seven Canyons Trust - Range to River Relay

Get to the River Festival Mini-Grants

\$675	South Salt Lake - Paint the Pavement
\$530	Millcreek - Food and Dumpster
\$1000	North Salt Lake - Paddle Event



Grants

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

Jordan River Recreation Area Improvements Grants

Jordan River Recreation Area “Zone” Project Grants

Jordan River Recreation Area “Zone” Program Grants

Cooperative Weed Management Area Funding

\$75,000 Tracy Aviary’s JRNC - New onsite greenhouse

\$190,000 Tracy Aviary’s JRNC - Programming and education at the Nature Center

\$99,000 West Jordan - Big Bend Project (prepwork for the re-meandered channel)

\$15,000 Center for Documentary Expression and Art - Outdoor Classroom Initiative

\$7,000 Lehi City - Willow Park Phragmites Removal Project

\$60,000 Salt Lake County - Redwood Nature Area Phragmites Removal

\$7,000 Salt Lake Fish & Game Foundation - Native Plant Restoration Project

\$123,000 Salt Lake County - Pioneer Crossing Park Recreational Features

\$9,000 Salt Lake County - Phragmites Invasive Species Removal

\$15,000 Riverton City - Invasive Species Removal of Russian thistle and whitetop.

\$25,000 Riverton City - Bioengineered Bank Stabilization Project

\$25,000 Oakwood Homes - Phragmites Removal Project

2023 Utah Outdoor Recreation Grant (UORG) - Office of Outdoor Recreation

Tier 1 Awards (new recreation infrastructure projects \$10,001 to \$200,000)

\$97,850 Lehi City - Salix Park Boat Ramp and Fishing Pier

\$200,000 Salt Lake City - Backman Community Open Space

\$200,000 Salt Lake County - Jordan River Trailhead and boaters access at 3900 S.

\$50,000 Draper City - Jordan River Rotary Disk Golf Course

\$200,000.00 City of South Jordan - Mystic Spring Wetland Educational Area

Recreation Restoration Infrastructure Grant Awards (up to \$150,000)

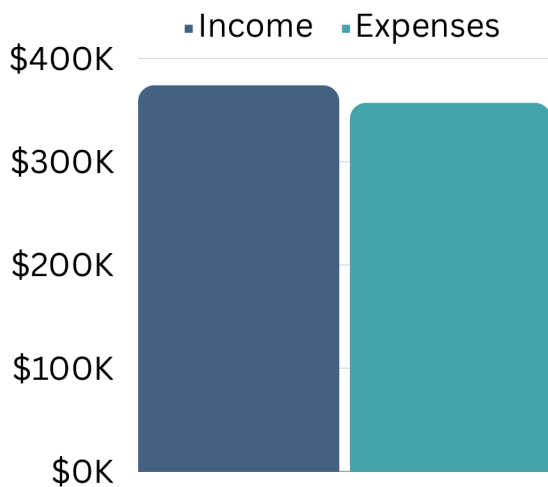
\$75,000 Salt Lake Co Parks & Rec - Jordan River Trail Restoration, Redwood Area

\$150,000 Salt Lake City Public Lands - Jordan River Water Trail Tree & Debris Removal

Fiscal Year Summary

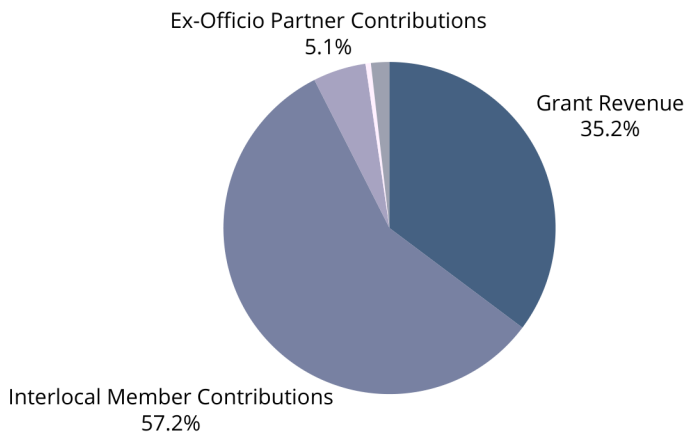
INCOME

Interlocal Member Contributions	\$214,630
Ex-Officio Partner Contributions	\$19,300
Interest Income	\$29
Grant Revenue	\$132,000
Donations Received	\$1,968
Miscellaneous Income	\$351
Prior Year Net Income (carryover)	\$6,712
TOTAL	\$374,989

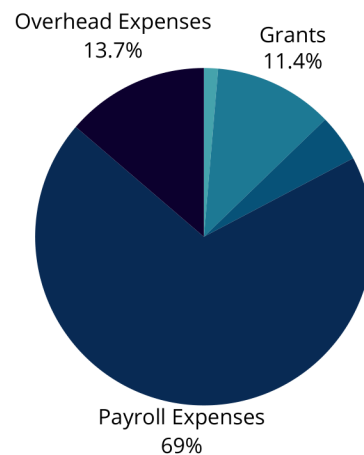


EXPENSES

Publications & Memberships	\$2,209
Outreach & Public Notices	\$2,218
Mileage & Auto	\$7,010
Supplies & Public Notices	\$964
Postage & Mail	\$262
Misc. Expenses (Volunteer Program)	\$1,487
Food & Meals	\$1,514
Events, Conferences & Workshops	\$4,500
Printing	\$5,016
Telephone/Computer/Internet	\$8,506
Accounting	\$3,600
Insurance	\$6,240
Office Space & Storage Rental	\$12,867
Grants	\$25,000
JRC Small Grants Program	\$8,000
Payroll Expenses	\$268,290
Total Expenses	\$357,684
Net Operating Income	\$17,305



INCOME



EXPENSES

2023 Highlights

Jordan River Watershed Council

On April 12, 2023, a conditional certification of the Jordan River Watershed Council was approved by the Utah Watershed Council and was officially certified on January 18, 2024. The creation of 12 Local Watershed Councils are a part of the state's ongoing efforts to better steward our water resources. Local Watershed Councils encourage and facilitate discussion and collaboration on water-related issues and concerns among the stakeholders within the watershed as well as designate one representative to serve on the Utah Watersheds Council. The watershed councils do not have any regulatory, infrastructure financing, or enforcement powers or responsibilities. Meetings of the Jordan River Watershed are held in conjunction with the bimonthly meeting of the Governing Board.

\$4.9 Million awarded for Community Driven Riparian and Wetland Restoration of the Jordan River

The Utah Division of Water Quality, along with the City of West Jordan, National Audubon Society Rockies Region, Utah State University's Utah Water Watch, and the Jordan River Commission have been awarded \$4,991,383 for several key projects focused on improving the Jordan River and its surrounding riparian areas and watershed. We are especially grateful to Utah's Senator Mitt Romney, who helped negotiate and secure this funding program in Congress, and all of Utah's 6 national delegates in Congress who provided support and assistance for the grant application.

The award will fund four primary projects:

- Restoration at Big Bend nature park and preserve
- Invasive species management and native species restoration across the Jordan River
- Wetland and upland restoration on the Gillmor Sanctuary to enhance function and shorebird habitat
- Public outreach and citizen science

Development and Transportation

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

Utah County

Saratoga Springs

- Wander Development

Lehi

- Salix Park, Boat Ramp and Fishing Pier
- Willow Park Dog Facility

Salt Lake County

- Water Trail Development (see cities for locations)

Bluffdale

Draper

- The Point Development - demolition of site and signing of contract

Riverton

South Jordan

- Outdoor Classrooms and JRMBR

Sandy

West Jordan

- Big Bend

Midvale

- Portage at 7600 S. (Salt Lake County)

Taylorsville

Murray

West Valley

- Pioneer Crossing Park (Salt Lake County)
- Pioneer Crossing All-Ability Boating Access (Salt Lake County)

Millcreek

- Portage at 3900 S.

South Salt Lake

- Completion of the Parley's Trail connection to the Jordan River Trail
- Expansion of Tracy Aviary's Jordan River Nature Center

Salt Lake City

- Emerald Ribbon Action Plan
- TheYard CW Urban
- The Power District
- 600/700 N Plan
- Jordan River Water Trail Tree and Debris Removal Project
- North Temple Small Area Plan
- Glendale Regional Park

Davis County

North Salt Lake

- Porters Landing Boat Launch rehabilitation

Invasive Species Control and Restoration

Hired a Jordan River Vegetation Project Coordinator— Rae Robinson

In June 2023, Jordan River Commission and Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands hired a newly-created, joint position to lead collaborative efforts to manage invasive species along the Jordan River. Rae implements and guides vegetation and habitat restoration projects on lands along the Jordan River and administers the Jordan River Cooperative Weed Management Area funds.

Supported 9 weeks of Utah Conservation Corps work along the Jordan River

Utah Conservation Corps brush cut Phragmites, controlled Russian olive and tamarisk, pulled puncturevine, removed thistles, sowed seed, and planted trees along the Jordan River at the below locations:

- Galena Soo'nakahni Preserve (Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands)
- Jordan River Migratory Bird Refuge, South Jordan (Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission)
- Pioneer Crossing Regional Park, West Valley City (Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation, Watershed Planning & Restoration Program)
- Thanksgiving Point Trailhead Park, Lehi (Thanksgiving Point)

Created best practices and tested new methods for invasive species control

- Created three Best Management Practices documents for 1. Phragmites control, 2. Russian olive and tamarisk control, and 3. revegetation along the Jordan River
- Evaluated drone spraying of herbicide on ~14 acres of Phragmites across two Jordan River locations.

Puncturevine Bounty Program

- 2,380 lbs removed
- 12 events (6 hosted by JRC)
- 11 partners
- 227 volunteers
- 470 hours

Planting & Reseeding

- 642 trees, shrubs and forbes planted in the spring and fall
- 510 lbs seed, covering approx 10.2 acres (50lb/acre)
- 14 Planting events
- 462 participants
- 977 hours



Education and Outreach

Education and Conservation Paddle Events

Total Paddles: 41 | Total Participants: 1235

In addition to the public paddle events held each spring and during the Get to the River Festival in the fall, the commission's staff provides guided paddle experiences to our partner groups and other community organizations. This service offers the commission an opportunity to educate students, city and county employees, and various organizations about the Jordan River's history and ecology, as well as how to engage in recreational activities on the river safely. With our partnership with the Jordan River Nature Center, in 2023 we were able to expand our reach and engage with community members who have never had the opportunity to connect with the river in this way.



#LoveYourWatershed Initiative

The connection between stormwater and water quality isn't always visible to the public. Through the #LoveYourWatershed Initiative, the Commission has two monthly activities to both educate and activate the public around our stormwater system. On #FirstFriday, we post a challenge on social media. On #SecondSaturdays we host a cleanup along a major roadway that crosses the Jordan River.

Outreach and Education & Activities

Total Activities: 30 | Total Participants: 3223

The Jordan River Commission partners with many fantastic organizations to educate the public about the Jordan River and the watershed. We teach about the ecological systems of the river and the impact human activity has on it and what we can do to restore the natural systems of the watershed. A major focus of our outreach efforts is with the unsheltered community around the river.

Partners and Programs

Hogle Zoo Conservation Action Program
Tracy Aviary's Jordan River Nature Center
Salt Lake City Public Lands
Seven Canyons Trust
Salt Lake Valley Coalition to End Homelessness
Salt Lake Homeless Engagement and Response Team (HEART), Third District Court - Kayak Court
Natural History of Utah Museum
Thanksgiving Point
Division of Outdoor Recreation
Latino Conservation Week
Canyon Rim Cares, Millcreek
Girl Scout of Utah
Utah Tribal Leaders
Salt Lake Community College, LatinX

Communications

Newsletter Stats



Clickthrough Rate



Open rate



Subscribers

Three photos showing volunteers in orange gear participating in a cleanup.

Volunteer

#LoveYourWatershed
#SecondSaturday

Cleanup

Sat November 11
10am to 12pm

Three Creeks Confluence
950 W 1300 S.
Salt Lake City, 84104

#LoveYourWatershed

LOVE

your watershed

- Jordan River Commission -

#LoveYourWatershed

Scoop the Poop!

A close-up of a dog's face with its tongue out, scooping up a pile of poop.

Social Media Stats

Facebook



Reach: 28.9K
Followers: 2,440
Net New: +502

Instagram



Reach: 3.8K
Followers: 1,608
Net New: +266

Twitter



Impressions: 24K
Followers: 523
Net New: +54

LinkedIn



Reach: 2,416
Followers: 131
Net New: +80

YouTube



Views: 189
Videos: 8
Followers: 11

Signature Events

City Nature Challenge

4 Activities | 266 participants

- April 28 Thanksgiving Point Event
- April 29 City Nature Festival
- April 30 iNaturalist Nerd Mixer
- May 1 Galena Sookani Bioblitz



Golden Spoke Bike Ride

May 12 | 240 participants

- 25 Mile Ride from Ogden
- 75 Mile Ride from Provo
- 2.5 Mile All Ages Ride
- End of Ride Celebration in Farmington



Get to the River Festival

Festival Summary:

- 10th Annual Festival
- 31 Days
- 41 Scheduled Events/Activities
- 28 Partner Organizations
- 14 Cities, 3 Counties
- 9 earned media segments
- Thousands of Participants

Financial Summary:

- \$61,000 raised
- 12 Sponsors
- Valuable Earned Media from KTVX, KSTU and KRCL



Volunteer Impact



By The Numbers:



Volunteers

61 Events
2,841 Volunteers
5,959 Hours



Weed Removal

2,380 lbs removed



Trash Cleanup

10,642 lbs removed
from land
26,642 lbs removed
from river



Revegetation

642 plants planted
520 lbs of seed used

Special Thanks

To our partners for your financial support



Jordan River Foundation

Wasatch Rowing

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

Contact/Follow

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[@jordanrivercomm](https://twitter.com/jordanrivercomm)

