

Jordan River CWMA Site Prioritization
Jordan River Commission TAC Meeting | December 21, 2023

This is a working draft. If your agency/organization has other priority locations in mind, please let us know in this short survey: <https://forms.gle/Kt1SyGAfs3tm46Jw5>

Site prioritization for Phragmites

With so much Phragmites on the Jordan River, the Phragmites Working Group created the following prioritization criteria to determine where to work:

- a. Critical need — areas where ecosystem functions and services are at great risk and demand immediate attention
- b. Protection — areas where ecosystem functions and services are of high quality but need management to maintain this status
- c. Leveraged efforts — areas where control efforts would build upon other investments along the Jordan River

Using these criteria, here are some priority locations for controlling Phragmites on the Jordan River:

- River channel and terraces from Bangerter Highway (Draper) to 7800 S (~Big Bend, West Jordan)
 - Rationale: Leverage other large investments on the River, protect high quality ecosystem functions and services associated with large parcels of Big Bend, URMCC properties, and Galena Soo'nkahni (e.g., habitat, open space, cultural resources). The access is potentially better here due to large parcels, established partnerships, and boat ramp infrastructure for boating access along this stretch.
- Areas where Phragmites heavily encroaches into the channel from Joint Dam area near Perry Farms Park (Bluffdale) to Bangerter Highway.
 - Rationale: In this area Phragmites spans the channel or encroaches heavily into the channel. In addition to CWMA funds, we can use funding from Salt Lake County here to improve navigation of the water trail. Navigation is a FFSL public trust value that we strive to uphold.
- River channel and banks from Inlet Park (Saratoga Springs) to Thanksgiving Point (Lehi)
 - Rationale: This is an area of active recreation use, both on the trail and in the river, and where there is substantial public and private investment occurring for parks, natural lands, and river access infrastructure; for example, the new Wander community subdivision will dedicate approximately 35 acres, a linear nature park almost a mile in length between Saratoga Road and Pioneer Crossing highway, with the homebuilder

investing in invasive species mitigation, riparian and upland restoration, and trails and boating access recreation improvements; Lehi and Thanksgiving Point are also investing in park improvements.

- Areas near Camp Williams and Turner Dam (Lehi/Bluffdale)
 - Rationale: Camp Williams has expressed interest and previously helped apply for an ISM grant (not awarded), and has wildlife and vegetation specialists who are interested in partnerships with the Jordan River CWMA; the Turner Dam in the Narrows below Camp Williams is a major point of diversion and there are opportunities to work with the canal companies and public utility entities in ways that benefit the river and canals together through partnership; because of the diversions, where the amount of bank susceptible to infestations is multiplied, this is an area that has some of the most expansive Phragmites infestations in and around the Jordan River; partnering with the National Guard and canal entities is possible.
- Areas that are adjacent to CWMA-funded projects (river terraces and channel)
 - Rationale: Leverage other investments on the river, support awardees via technical knowledge sharing and on the ground presence, possibly contractor sharing

Note: Do we need similar approaches for prioritizing Russian olive, tamarisk, and puncturevine (i.e., working groups, prioritization framework)?

Site prioritization for Russian olive and tamarisk

- Same as priority areas for Phragmites. Removal of Russian olive and tamarisk in these areas will improve access to Phragmites and the River.
- Adjacent to and in conjunction with tall pot planting areas

Site prioritization for puncturevine

- Large infestations are ideal for volunteer events: Mill Creek Confluence area, South Salt Lake; Redwood nature area, West Valley City; Willow park, Lehi; smaller infestations around Jordan River Narrows Park, Bluffdale; others?
- Along the parkway from 7800 South (~Big Bend, West Jordan) to Bangerter Highway (Draper).
- Check EDDmaps to see where puncturevine has been mapped on Parkway

Site prioritization for revegetation

- Tall pot program (application based; entire River Corridor)
- Will depend on Phragmites, Russian olive, tamarisk, puncturevine control in next few years
- Pilot areas for seedlings and plantings in 2024 TBD

Notes about breakdown of labor

- Utah Conservation Corps (and possibly 2 winter FFSL fire seasonals) to brushcut Phragmites, control Russian olive and tamarisk with cut stump method. UCC can pull puncturevine and support volunteer activities of the Puncturevine Bounty program.
- Contractor to spray Phragmites (using boats or vehicles to access Phragmites). Contractor to mow Phragmites when larger equipment is required.