

Jordan River Recreation & Restoration Improvements

Outline for Senator Lincoln Fillmore

Funding Key: Small Funding – thousands to tens of thousands of dollars
 Moderate Funding – hundreds of thousands of dollars
 Large Funding – millions to tens of millions of dollars

Recreation Elements

This portion of the legislation is related to improving and expanding recreation opportunities in the Jordan River, related to navigability, access, types of recreation activities, and water flow impacts on recreation

- Jordan River Recreation Area Statute : Explore possible changes to the Jordan River Recreation Area fund to improve effective use and distribution, and make possible changes to expand use of current “Recreation Zone” (limited to use between Highway 201 and 5400 South)
 - Move education outreach and program funds to different funding source restricted to education (similar to Utah Water Ways programs, with focus on environmental education like that provided by Utah’s Hogle Zoo, Tracy Aviary, and Loveland Living Planet Aquarium)
 - Possible change of boundaries or elimination “Recreation Zone” funds for use across a larger area or the entire river
 - Possible changes in how funds are allocated each year
 - Simplify fund categories to increase flexibility
 - Improve communication, coordination and collaboration with Commission for directed toward law enforcement activity
 - Explore law enforcement funds directed more toward social services and mental/behavioral health programs to divert homeless activity toward treatment
- Navigable River : One time funding for design and development of portage passage around the Turner Dam and Joint Dam in the area of the Narrows, and funding for the development of the portage passage around the Jordan River Surplus Canal diversion
 - Moderate funding item(s) : hundreds of thousands of dollars
- Water Trail Maintenance : Ongoing funding for annual vegetation maintenance to remove tree limbs and deadfall that obstruct river passage
 - Moderate funding item(s) : hundreds of thousands of dollars (augment existing \$250,000 ongoing annual Jordan River Cooperative Weed Management appropriation)
- Water Flow : Designation of the Jordan River navigation and recreation as a beneficial use that would include maintaining minimum flows for recreational use in stretches of the river that currently and frequently have insufficient flow to navigate
- Water Trail Official Designation : One time funding to designate the Jordan River Water Trail (see <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationaltrailssystem/national-water-trails-system-criteria.htm>)
 - Small funding item(s) : thousands to tens of thousands of dollars to prepare and coordinate application
- River Sports Center Implementation : One time funding to address the diversion structure and levees in the vicinity of the Jordan River/Surplus Canal to create a minimum 1200 meter rowing course, and preferably a 2000 meter course for both year round training and frequent competitive regattas, and develop the “River Sport Center” idea in the Blueprint Jordan River
 - Large funding item(s) : millions of dollars

Restoration Elements

This portion of possible legislation and appropriations are related to improving the condition of riparian areas of the river, planning and coordination with different local government jurisdictions and private property owners to beautify and support healthier riparian habitat, and water quality needs for both human and wildlife health

- State and Local Government Riparian Restoration Partnerships : Revisit the “Riparian Amendments” bill sponsored by Rep. Gay Lynn Bennion (<https://le.utah.gov/Session/2024/bills/static/HB0243.html>) two sessions ago, and explore bringing this idea of planning and partnership for riparian corridors in city and county general plans, and encourage riparian friendly development codes
 - Moderate funding item(s) : 1-2 staff positions for planning and riparian technical support within DNR, as outlined in the prior draft bill
- Revisit the 2021 HCR 9 “Concurrent Resolution Encouraging Development of a Statewide Anti-littering Campaign” sponsored by Rep. Cheryl Acton (<https://le.utah.gov/~2021/bills/static/HCR009.html>), and explore ways to move forward with a statewide and perhaps a more localized Jordan River anti-littering campaign to help reduce the impacts of litter and waste on streets, roads and highways, parks and public lands, trails, and in the Jordan River
- Invasive Species : One-time funding for a 3-4 year period (large funding item) to tackle major invasive species removal, and increase existing ongoing funding (moderate funding item) for ongoing maintenance and restoration
 - Large one-time funding item(s) : millions of dollars for initial major invasive species removal
 - Moderate ongoing funding item(s) : hundreds of thousands of dollars to augment existing \$250,000 ongoing annual Jordan River Cooperative Weed Management appropriation
- Restoration Guidebook : One-time funding to create a landscaping guide (non-binding; similar to LocalScapes and Utah Water Savers programs) for public and especially private lands around the Jordan River within 1/2 mile of the Jordan River to re-establish and encourage more habitat and bio-diverse landscapes
 - Small funding item(s) : tens of thousands of dollars to prepare and coordinate distribution of guidebook, including education workshops; could be connected with Utah Pollinator Habitat Program
- Water Quality - One-time funding (large funding item) to tackle 2-3 major water quality stormwater impacts (i.e. - Vitro ditch in South Salt Lake)
- Riparian Restoration - One-time funding (large funding item) for riparian restoration elements of the Salt Lake County Central Jordan River and Salt Lake City Emerald Ribbon restoration plans