

Riparian Protection Guidance for Local Governments Along the Jordan River

What Are Riparian Areas?

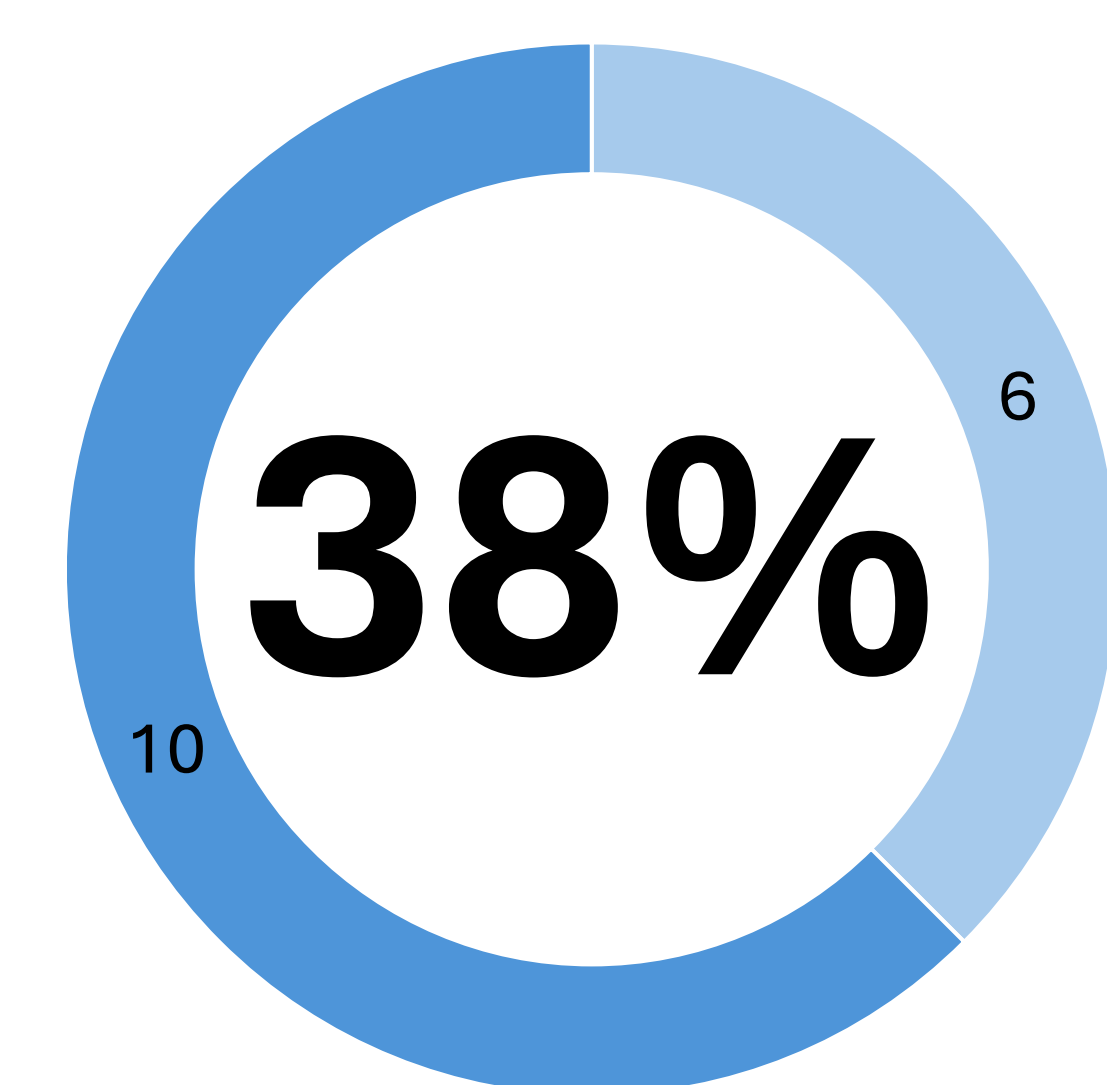
Riparian areas are the **transition zones** between **aquatic environments** within rivers or streams and the adjacent **upland areas**.

- Due to their water availability, they act as a belt of **heightened biodiversity and productivity** that is not seen in other desert ecosystems.
- They provide a habitat to **threatened and endangered species**.

The Salt Lake Valley's Emerald Ribbon

- **The Jordan River** is home to many species of **native wildlife** and provides a resting area for **migratory birds**.
- However, it has a long history of being **polluted, dredged, and diverted**.
- Despite its importance, the Jordan River continues to face **increasing development pressures** as the Salt Lake Valley urbanizes.

Current Level of Protection



■ With Ordinance ■ Without Ordinance

- Cottonwood Heights, although not currently part of the commission, has also adopted an ordinance.
- Other non-member cities within the watershed have expressed interest in adopting protections.
- However, cities need **additional guidance and expertise** to adopt policies.

of cities who are members of the Jordan River Commission have adopted riparian protection ordinances.

Methods

Inventory of existing protections

Literature Review

IRB approval process

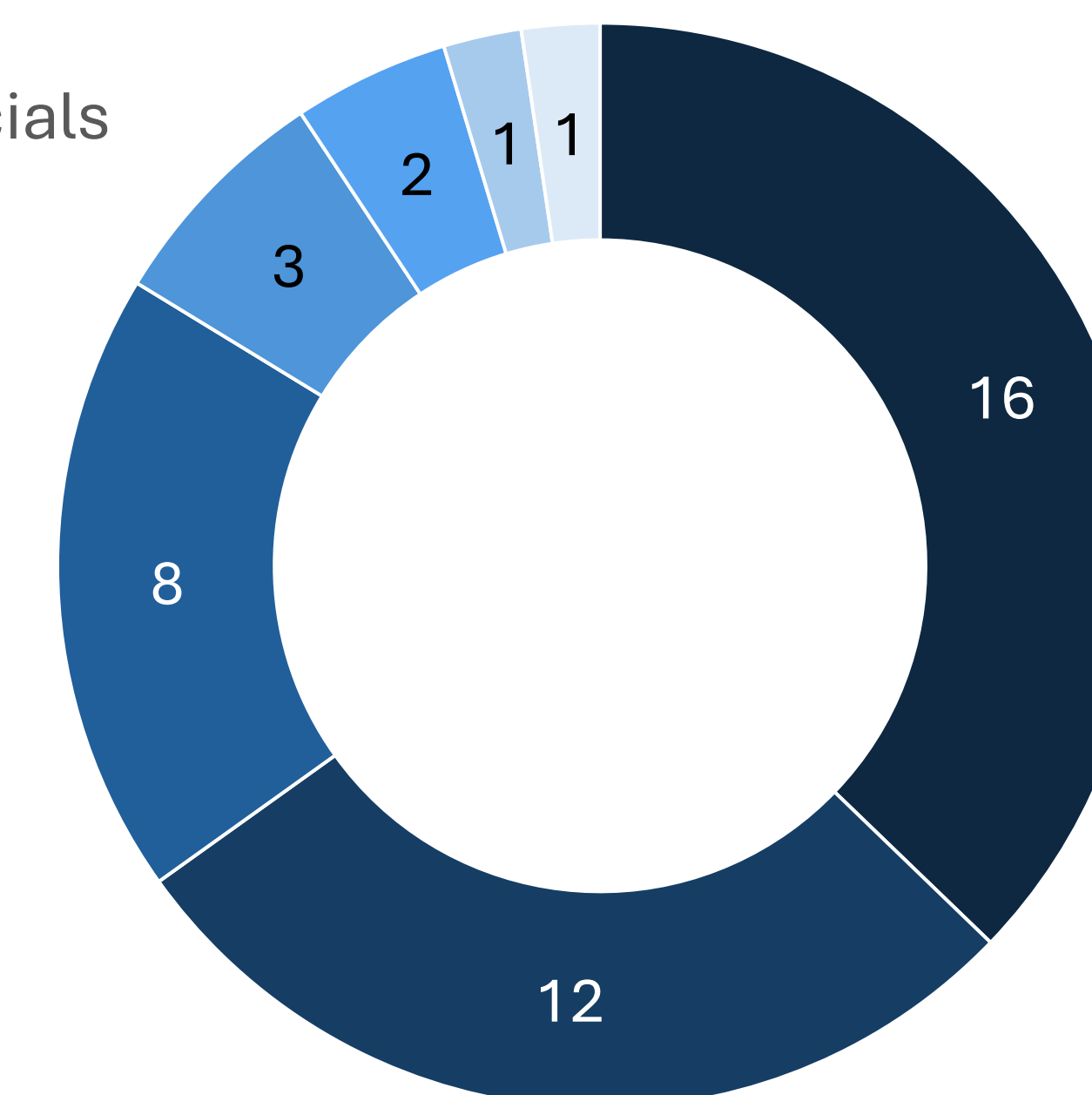
Interviews with professionals

Creation of advice and resources

What do professionals in local governments need?

- Private property ownership
- Differing priorities with elected officials
- Lack of personnel/time/funding
- Issues with enforcement
- Development pressure
- Jurisdictional overlap
- Apathy

Barriers to Riparian Protection



Average Satisfaction With Riparian Protection:

5.9 **10**

- The most prominent barriers are **private property ownership, differing priorities with elected officials, and a lack of resources and funding**.
- Professionals desired **better ecological health and quality, land acquisition, public access, and community education and support**.

Recommendations



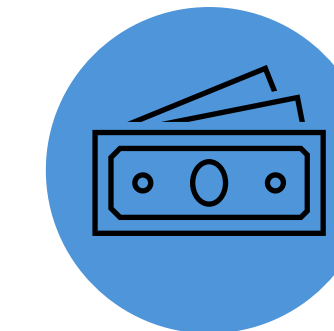
Adopt a **riparian protection ordinance** and a **general plan element** detailing the city's intent to protect riparian areas.



Focus on **restoration** in addition to protection, especially in heavily developed cities.



Acquire land to improve public access and enable more comprehensive protection and restoration actions.



Apply for grants and seek alternative sources of funding for protection.

Deliverables

Model Ordinance Template

Guidance for Riparian Protection Strategies

Pitch Presentation for Interested Governmental Entities

Library of Existing Ordinances

