



Utah Division of Water Resources

Jordan River Watershed Council - Successes from Stakeholder Survey

Council members submitted several successes to potentially highlight in the state water plan as they relate to vibrant communities and healthy watersheds and ecosystems.

Vibrant Communities

- **Water-wise landscaping policies:** Cities adopting water-wise landscaping ordinances and updating development codes to promote conservation.
- **Water conservation programs:** Water-saving initiatives implemented for residents and businesses, alongside growing public awareness of conservation during drought.
- **Jordan River as a community asset:** Municipalities, the Jordan River Commission and partners collaborating to improve recreation access and green space along the river corridor.
- **Big Bend restoration project:** Restoration work along the Jordan River in the Big Bend area, including shoreline stabilization and river improvements supported through partnerships and an America the Beautiful Grant.
- **Watershed-informed development:** Local planning and development efforts incorporating watershed protection and water conservation principles.

Healthy Watersheds & Ecosystems

- **Public conservation response:** Reduced outdoor watering and increased conservation awareness during recent drought years.
- **Wastewater treatment improvements:** Continued delivery of high-quality treated effluent to the Jordan River, supporting downstream water quality.
- **Low-impact development practices:** Adoption of LID best management practices and policies to better protect watershed health.
- **Habitat restoration and stewardship:** Riverbank stabilization, tree planting, invasive weed management and volunteer efforts improving ecological conditions along the river corridor.
- **Science-based watershed management:** Collaborative studies informing management decisions, including the Utah Lake Water Quality Study and Lower Jordan River Flow Study.
- **Major restoration initiatives:** Projects such as the Big Bend floodplain restoration in West Jordan, improving habitat, floodplain function and public access.





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Jordan River Watershed Council - Raw Survey Submissions

(Provided verbatim from council member survey responses)

Vibrant Communities

City adoption of the water wise landscape ordinance. The City has begun working on the General Plan Water Element. (Todd Taylor, Land use planning agencies)

Many parts of the community are responding to the message of conservation. More attention is being placed on the Great Salt Lake and the Jordan River. (Greg S Davenport, Public water suppliers)

We have worked with the Jordan River Commission, the State of Utah, and many others in improving the Big Bend area along the Jordan River. We just received the America the Beautiful Grant to improve the eroding shoreline and the flow of the river. (Cory Fralick, Other)

We have implemented water-saving initiatives for residents and commercial entities. We have changed our code to promote more water-wise landscaping. (Bryn Johnson, Land use planning agencies)

By prioritizing water conservation, infrastructure modernization, and watershed health initiatives, this effort directly enhances community well-being, resilience, and livability — the core elements of a Vibrant Community. A thoughtful, community-centered approach to water management empowers Utahns to safeguard their environment and lifestyle for future generations, while also fostering equitable access to clean and reliable water for all. (Jade Zephyr, Water dependent habitat & enviro)

Many communities, cities, and municipalities are working together to make the Jordan River a vibrant recreation and green space asset to the community. Restoration work is taking place along the entire Jordan River. (Cameron Ellis, Fish & wildlife)

Addressing smart and careful development practices and making that a priority before communities are built. (Silvia, Municipality)

Additional notes submitted

- Cattle and phrag management
- Daylighting the Jordan or other rivers like City Creek





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Healthy Watersheds & Ecosystems

The public responded during recent drought years by conserving outdoor watering. This has been a success, but only temporary and less permanent. (Ken Leetham, Public water suppliers)

We currently provide high quality, clean effluent into the Jordan River. I think we've done an excellent job at that in the past and I hope to continue that effort going into the future. (Joel Thompson, Water quality)

City adoption of LID best management practices. (Todd Taylor, Land use planning agencies)

We have worked with the Jordan River Commission, the State of Utah, and many others in improving the Big Bend area along the Jordan River. We just received the America the Beautiful Grant to improve the eroding shoreline and the flow of the river. We have also secured grants with the State of Utah, the Jordan River Commission, and many others, in managing the weeds along the river. We have also held successful volunteer groups in weed management. (Cory Fralick, Other)

We have implemented policies to protect our watershed. (Bryn Johnson, Land use planning agencies)

Successes directly advance the goals of Healthy Watersheds and Ecosystems by protecting and restoring the natural systems that provide clean, reliable water, resilient landscapes, and diverse habitats. Healthy watersheds support ecological integrity, reduce the impacts of drought and wildfire, and provide critical recreational and cultural benefits to Utah's communities. By integrating ecological health into water management decisions, Utah ensures that its ecosystems can thrive alongside human development. This balanced, collaborative approach promotes long-term sustainability and strengthens both natural and built environments. (Jade Zephyr, Water dependent habitat & enviro)

Bank stabilization efforts, tree planting, etc. (Silvia, Municipality)

A key achievement for the Jordan River watershed is the Utah Lake Water Quality Study, a collaborative, science-driven effort to manage nutrient impacts on one of Utah's most important water bodies. As the headwaters of the Jordan River, Utah Lake plays a vital role in downstream water quality. This long-term study brings together researchers, agencies, and the public to establish nutrient criteria and guide management strategies. Further downstream, the Big Bend Restoration Project in West Jordan is a major success. Over two decades and with strong partnerships and investment, a former gravel pit was transformed into a restored floodplain that now supports habitat and provides public access. Complementing these efforts, the Lower Jordan River Flow Study evaluates how increased flows improve dissolved oxygen and aquatic habitat. Together, these projects demonstrate momentum toward integrated watershed restoration and long-term resilience. (Sandy Wingert, State Water Quality)

Additional note submitted

- Three Creeks Confluence Project

