Riparian Protection Guidance for Municipalities Along the Jordan River

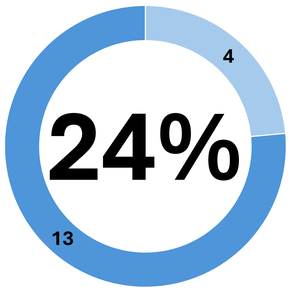
What Are Riparian Areas?

- 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**.
- Additionally, it is an important **recreational asset** to the cities it passes.
- However, it has a long history of being **polluted, dredged, and diverted**.
- It continues to face **increasing development pressures** as the Salt Lake Valley urbanizes.

Current Level of Protection



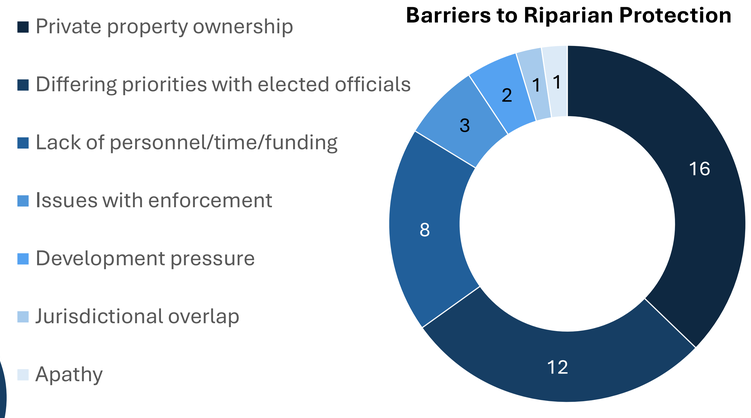
of cities who are members of the Jordan River Commission have adopted riparian protection ordinances.

- Other cities have expressed interest in adopting riparian protection ordinances.
- Cities need **additional guidance and expertise** to adopt policies.
- Interviews were conducted with municipal professionals to identify challenges with riparian protection.

Methods

1. Inventory of existing protections
2. Literature Review
3. IRB approval process
4. Interviews with municipal professionals
5. Creation of advice and resources

What do municipal professionals need?



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

- 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 Municipalities
- Library of Existing Ordinances



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