

JRC Fishing Access Design Guidelines

Designing fishing access spots along the Jordan River in Utah requires balancing ecological preservation, accessibility, and user experience. Here are some key guidelines:

1. Environmental Considerations

- Litter Control: To avoid littering and wildlife harm, install trash and spent line receptacles near human access points. Please encourage river users to clean up any litter they may find left along the Parkway.
- Riparian Buffer Protection: Preserve native vegetation to reduce erosion and support wildlife. Please allow for a clear access trail and adequate space for a legal fishing access point.
- Erosion Control: Use materials like boulders, coir logs, native plants, or bioengineering techniques to stabilize riverbanks. Please consult a restoration specialist to determine the best solutions as needed.
- Water Quality Protection: Implement stormwater management strategies to minimize runoff and pollutants.
- Habitat Conservation: Design access points away from sensitive fish spawning sites.

2. Accessibility & Safety

- ADA Compliance: Provide wheelchair-accessible paths, ramps, and fishing platforms where possible.
- Non-Slip Surfaces: Use textured concrete, rubber mats, or natural rock for safety.
- Handrails & Guardrails: Install barriers where there are steep drops or high-flow areas.
- Hazard & Warning Signage: Place signs that indicate site hazards, current conditions, weather conditions, and flood markers.
- Emergency Access: Ensure clear routes for first responders and rescue teams.

3. Sustainable Materials & Low-Impact Construction

- Fishing Platforms:
 - Natural Integration: Use locally sourced wood, stone, and gravel to blend with the environment.
 - Minimal Concrete Use: Prioritize permeable surfaces to reduce runoff.
- Elevated Boardwalks: In marshy or sensitive areas, use elevated pathways to prevent soil compaction.
- Spent Line Disposal Containers

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4. User Experience & Amenities

- Multiple Access Points: Provide a mix of shoreline access, platforms, and piers to accommodate different fishing styles.
- Educational signage: Install signs with fishing regulations, species information, and conservation messages.
- Parking & Restrooms: Ensure sufficient facilities near high-use areas.
- Benches & Shade: Add seating areas with natural shade or small shelters.

5. Community & Regulatory Considerations

- Public Engagement: Involve local anglers, conservation groups, and community members in the design process.
- Compliance with Local & Federal Regulations: Adhere to Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) rules and Clean Water Act guidelines.
- Multi-Use Compatibility: Design access points that integrate well with trails, kayaking, and wildlife observation.

6. Education

- Species Education Signage
 - Common and scientific names of native and invasive species, as well as habitat preferences and seasonal behaviors
 - Fishing regulations, catch limits, best practices for ethical angling, and catch-and-release techniques
- Flood Markers: Indicate past flood events and their impacts to help users assess risk during high-water events. They should be clearly visible and located in proximity to water entry points or boat ramps
- Water Hazards: Alerting users to potential water hazards is essential for safety. Place hazard warnings at launch points, popular wading spots, and other access nodes. Use icons and multilingual labels to ensure broad understanding. Signage and markers should identify:
 - Strong currents or undertows
 - Submerged obstacles or sudden drop-offs
 - Seasonal risks such as ice, algae blooms, or increased flow during snowmelt
- Restoration/Conservation Areas: Encouraging public respect for these zones reinforces long-term sustainability and supports habitat resilience. Designate and label areas undergoing ecological restoration or reserved for conservation. These areas should be:
 - Clearly marked with signage explaining their purpose (e.g., habitat restoration, bank stabilization, or native plant reintroduction)
 - Accompanied by educational panels about the value of healthy riparian zones and watershed conservation
 - Physically protected with fencing, buffers, or natural barriers where appropriate