

# The Jordan River Natural Areas Forum 2003 Strategic Plan



**Who We Are  
Why We Exist  
What We Plan to Do**

**Our logo displays Charlie, a yellow-breasted chat, flying into the river corridor. Chats in the river corridor are rare today but we hope, through the efforts of the Forum, to help increase habitat for chats and other native wildlife.**

## Who We Are (Our Mission Statement)

The Jordan River Natural Areas Forum (JRNAF) is a voluntary coalition of local municipalities, county, state and federal agencies, non-profit organizations, local businesses, and individual citizens dedicated to promoting awareness, acquisition, management and restoration of natural areas along the Jordan River balanced with the human uses of the river corridor.

A list of current JRNAF members is available from the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget at 801-538-1027.

## Why We Exist

The 44-mile Jordan River is centrally located within the Greater Wasatch Area (GWA). The GWA is currently home to 1.7 million residents (80% of the state's population). The GWA consists of as little as 1000 square miles of developable private land surrounded by undevelopable public land, lakes, mountains, and desert. By 2020, the GWA's population is projected to grow to 2.7 million residents, and is forecasted to reach 5 million by 2050. Such growth will place continued demands on the area's limited supply of undeveloped land, particularly those along the Jordan River, which have historically provided habitat for wildlife and ecological services for the surrounding community.



depiction of the Jordan River Corridor

Artist's

Prior to European settlement, the river was in many places a highly braided stream across a wide floodplain. As it meandered its way to the Great Salt Lake water would overflow its banks to create approximately 12,500 acres of high quality riparian and wetland habitat for fish and wildlife. Extensive willow stands dominated the vegetation type providing resting, feeding, and nesting areas for a wide variety of wildlife including songbirds like willow flycatchers and yellow-breasted chats.

More recently, in an effort to minimize flood-related impacts, many reaches of the river have been straightened and/or dredged. Such activities have disconnected the Jordan from its historic floodplain and many of its wetlands have either dried out or have been filled to allow for utilization of the land (e.g., agriculture, ranching and structural development). Much of the 6,700 acres of riparian/wetland habitat remaining today is privately owned and is susceptible to development. Only 341 acres, or 3% of the total amount once available, are reserved specifically for native vegetation, wildlife and/or wetland purposes.



Jordan River at location of I-215 in Murray—1939\*



Jordan River at location of I-215 in Murray—1990\*

\*Photos by USDA, Aerial Photography Field Office

Museum records, historical accounts, personal histories, and more recently, inventory and population studies give a fairly detailed view of the decline and eventual extirpation of many species utilizing the valley in general, and the Jordan River in particular. While many species remain abundant breeders in the valley, it is safe to say the avian community has declined dramatically in size and scope. Many riparian dependent species identified as either “common” or “abundant” breeders in the valley in the earliest days of European settlement illustrate the changes. Eight of these include: American redstart, black tern, common yellowthroat, grey catbird, warbling vireo, willow flycatcher, yellow billed cuckoo, and yellow-breasted chat. These eight species were all present, though nesting in vastly reduced numbers, in the 1940s and into the 1950s. By the 1970s, American redstarts, black terns, and yellow-billed cuckoos were no longer observed breeding, or even occurring in the valley. Today, willow flycatchers, grey catbirds, and warbling vireo have joined the list of species no longer breeding (or even occurring regularly) along the Jordan; common yellow-throats and yellow-breasted chats still breed but in small isolated populations.

Despite past impacts, the Jordan River still provides important wildlife and fish habitat. At approximately 4,500 feet elevation, this lowland riparian habitat has been identified by the State Division of Wildlife Resources as the single most important habitat type in the state for avian species. At least 98 (or 42%) of Utah’s avian species use lowland riparian habitat as either primary or secondary breeding habitat in the state, though that habitat type covers less than 0.2% of the total area. The significance and rarity of western riparian habitats to breeding birds makes

the Jordan River corridor important habitat. Its location at the heart of the Great Salt Lake flyway magnifies this value to migrants. For migrant species, extensive degradation and loss of wetland habitats formerly seen in the valley enhances the importance of remaining habitat along the Jordan River.

To bring attention to the natural values of the Jordan River and the need to protect them, the *Jordan River Natural Conservation Corridor Report* was published in September 2000, as a partnership project of the National Audubon Society, the Utah Mitigation Commission, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Great Salt Lake Audubon. The report assembled information on the natural values of the Jordan River, identified areas along the river that still provide habitat for wildlife and ecological services to the community, and made recommendations to conserve and enhance the riparian corridor.

Taking its initial direction from the Report to “create a natural conservation corridor coordinating council,” the Jordan River Natural Areas Forum was formed in February 2001. Between February 2001 and December 2002, the Forum drafted language for, approved, and signed a Memorandum of Understanding, drafted By-laws, and worked through a Steering Committee and several subcommittees to implement the Report’s recommendations.

In September 2002, the Forum held a retreat to review its progress and to develop a Strategic Plan to guide them for the next five years. The Forum’s progress as of December 2002 is documented in Appendix A. Appendix A also provides an explanation of which JRNACC Report’s recommendations were carried forward into the Strategic Plan.<sup>1</sup>

## **What We Plan to Do**

The strategic plan is meant to guide activities for the next five years. It consists of the following goals and objectives. The goals are organized into four areas: preservation, restoration, education and management. Three subcommittees have been established to implement actions in these three areas. A steering committee also exists to direct the administrative activities of the Forum. Appendix B contains the 2003 Work Plan that specifically directs the Forum’s activities for 2003. The Forum intends to review the accomplishments of 2003 and develop a 2004 work plan in the Fall of 2003. Future Work Plans will be developed at annual retreats.

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<sup>1</sup> Appendix C contains ideas generated at the Retreat that were not incorporated into the strategic plan at this time. It also includes ideas generated at the Retreat that have already been incorporated into the Forum’s program.

# Goals and Objectives

## PRESERVATION

**Goal 1.0** Establish a Jordan River Natural Conservation Corridor consisting of properties identified in the Report as reserved, nature parks, and open.

### Objectives

- 1.1 By 2005, determine whether 1,500 acres of reserved areas, along with the current 2,300 acres of nature parks and open areas, will provide habitat necessary for adequate stopover and breeding habitat for avian species.
- 1.2 Increase lands in “reserved” category to 1,500 acres total (12% of total pre-settlement wetland and upland habitat).
- 1.3 Establish 447 acres currently listed as “undecided” into “reserve” category.
- 1.4 Incorporate four large blocks of land south of 12300 South into “reserve” status.
- 1.5 Fund acquisition of reserve areas through multiple sources of funding.
- 1.6 Explore opportunities to preserve lands beyond those identified in JRNACC Report.
- 1.7 Assure that adequate water and water rights are secured for the reserved lands.

## RESTORATION

**Goal 2.0** Restore Lands and water quality throughout the Jordan River Natural Conservation Corridor.

### Objectives

- 2.1 Establish a Restoration Planning Team, to include all agencies of the Utah Department of Natural Resources and others, to investigate all potential properties for restoration by 2004.
- 2.2 Develop a Jordan River Restoration Master Plan by the Planning Team (2.1), to include but not limited to, recommendations that address water quantity/quality, grazing, development, etc, by 2007.
- 2.3 Lead and/or assist partners with implementation of on-the-ground restoration projects.

**Goal 3.0** Support reintroduction of native aquatic species.

### Objective

- 3.0. Encourage a study of reintroducing native aquatic species including Bonneville Cutthroat Trout, June Sucker, and other species as a vital component of the Jordan River and its Tributaries.

**Goal 4.0** Establish JRNAF as a restoration resource for municipalities and private landowners.

### Objectives

- 4.1 Contact municipalities and private landowners to inform them of JRNAF’s restoration-related services by 2004.

- 4.2 Coordinate with the Preservation Subcommittee and municipalities to identify critical properties and develop municipality-level restoration plans by 2005.
- 4.3 Develop a standardized restoration manual, which includes operation and maintenance guidelines for municipalities and private landowners use by July 2004. The manual should distinguish mandatory requirements of local, state and federal authorities from guidelines that are purely advisory.

**Goal 5.0 Objectives** Share restoration expertise both internally and externally.

- 5.1 Develop a means to track and share information about restoration techniques and new projects to JRNAF members by 2005 (e.g., host a restoration workshop, etc).
- 5.2 Improve communications with and collaborate with non-JRNAF members (locally, statewide, nationally) working on restoration efforts by 2004.

## **EDUCATION**

**Goal 6.0 Objectives** Raise awareness of local government and civic groups of the natural values of the Jordan River and encourage actions to protect the corridor.

- 6.1 Make 16 presentations to City and County Planning Commissions and City Councils that have jurisdiction over lands in the Conservation Corridor by December 2004.
- 6.2 Encourage City and County Planning Commissions and City Councils to adopt specific policies that support the Conservation Corridor.
- 6.3. Make City and County Planning Commissions and City Council aware of the authority that the Division of Parks and Recreation and the Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands has over the Jordan River Corridor.

**Goal 7.0 Objectives** Provide information about the Jordan River

- 7.1 Establish a central repository for information collected regarding the river.
- 7.2 Develop a website to provide baseline information.
- 7.3 Maintain updated Jordan River Natural Conservation Corridor maps. A GIS database of all maps and coverage will be centrally established within the Department of Natural Resources and made available to all state, federal and private agencies and groups and to private citizens.
- 7.4 Develop list of flora and fauna species to be part of restoration manual (3.3 above) by July 2004.

**Goal 8.0 Objective** Develop information on Jordan River tributaries.

- 8.1 Sponsor the development of a study to determine the interrelationship between wildlife use of the river and its tributaries by the end of 2006.

**Goal 9.0** Educate corridor neighbors.

## **Objectives**

- 9.1 Encourage 9 golf courses to incorporate wetlands and native vegetation, which supports native wildlife, in management of their properties.
- 9.2 Inform golf courses and land owners of legal requirements to adopt strategies that will prevent the runoff of pesticides and fertilizers into the Jordan River.
- 9.3 Develop and distribute materials that educate neighbors about the value of backyard habitat for wildlife, the destructive impact of domestic pets (e.g., cats on birds), and wildlife-friendly landscaping ideas by 2004.
- 9.4 Establish at least three new locations as major public environmental education interpretive sites along the river and help coordinate development of consistent educational materials.
- 9.5 Promote the development of a field-trip-based education program.

**Goal 10.0** Increase awareness of and compliance with the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Land's trust responsibilities, the Division of Parks and Recreation authority for management of the Jordan River corridor, and the Division of Wildlife Resources responsibilities.

## **Objectives**

- 10.1 Educate landowners regarding the State's ownership of the riverbed, including the need to secure permits for projects that impact the riverbed.
- 10.2 UCA §63-11-17.5 specifically grants to the Division of Parks and Recreation, through the Jordan-Provo River Parkway Authority, the power to establish and coordinate all development programs affecting recreation development, water conservation, flood control, and wildlife conservation along those rivers and streams that are impacted by high density populations or that are prone to flooding.
- 10.3 Inform communities of the need to trap and dispose of feral species and management of wildlife.

## **RECREATION**

**Goal 11.0** Bring the community to the river.

## **Objectives**

- 11.1 Sponsor one big annual event.
- 11.2 Sponsor other smaller events.
- 11.3 Participate with and support other organizations events.

## **MANAGEMENT**

**Goal 12.0** Ensure that the Forum serves as a clearinghouse for information about development proposals that may affect the conservation corridor.

## **Objectives**

- 12.1 Develop a relationship with municipalities to receive timely information about zoning changes.

- 12.2 Develop a relationship with the State Division of Water Rights (stream alteration permits), Division of Water Resources, Utah Department of Transportation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (wetland permits), utility companies and Utah Division of Parks and Recreation River Enhancement Grant Program to receive timely information about proposed river developments.
- 12.3 Notify the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands of all Jordan River Crossings and activities affecting the bed of the Jordan River. Utah Code 65A-1-4.
- 12.4 Coordinate with the Division of Parks and Recreation for all activities within the flood plain of the Jordan River. Utah Code 62-11-17.5.
- 12.5 Encourage UDFFSL to take a “systems approach” to permitting river-related recreation access.
- 12.6 Sponsor a river keeper, as an on-the-ground presence, who keeps abreast of river corridor developments.

**Goal 13.0** Secure adequate funding to accomplish JRNAF’s mission.

**Objective**

- 13.1 Create a JRNAF development strategy by the end of 2003.

**Goal 14.0** Establish system for coordination of the perpetual management of reserved lands in the Natural Conservation Corridor

**Objectives**

- 14.1 Facilitate JRNAF’s participation as an advisor to, and coordinator of, land managers.
- 14.2 Promote management of reserved areas as a network, not as individual properties.
- 14.3 Promote and assist with the development of a comprehensive resource management plan (RMP) for the entire corridor and coordinated management plans for each reserve area.
- 14.4 Establish interim management guidelines pending completion of a comprehensive RMP.
- 14.4 Create an endowment to fund management needs by DATE.
- 14.5 Provide assistance to land managers in the development of management strategies to limit human impacts in reserved areas.
- 14.6 Develop an “Adoption” program for reserve areas by DATE.

## Appendix A: Implementation and Monitoring

This Appendix lists the recommendations made in the original Jordan River Natural Areas Conservation Corridor Report (JRNACC Report). The recommendations have been recast into the Strategic Plan’s Goals and Objectives (additional Goals and Objectives have been added as a result of retreat input). The new Goals and Objectives follows each recommendation. Additionally, in the second column, is information regarding the degree to which the recommendation has been implemented.

JRNACC Report Recommendations	Accomplishments February 2001 to December 2002
<p><b>Establish a Natural Conservation Corridor</b> consisting of properties identified in the Report as reserved, nature parks and open. <i>Goal 1.0.</i></p> <p>Increase lands in “reserved” category to 1,500 acres total (12% of total pre-settlement wetland and upland habitat) <i>Objective 1.2</i></p> <p>Place 447 acres currently listed as “undecided” into “reserve” category. <i>Objective 1.3</i></p> <p>Four large blocks of land south of 12300 South should be incorporated into “reserve” status. <i>Objective 1.4</i></p> <p>Research Need: Determine whether 1,500 acres of reserved areas, along with the current 2,300 acres of nature parks and open areas, will provide habitat necessary for adequate stopover and breeding habitat for avian species. <i>Objective 1.1</i></p>	
<p><b>Lack of Information Regarding the Jordan River</b></p> <p>GIS data layers created through the development of the JRNACC Report should be updated when acquisitions to the Corridor are made. <i>Objective 7.3</i></p>	

JRNACC Report Recommendations	Accomplishments February 2001 to December 2002
<p><b>Restore Reserved Lands in Natural Conservation Corridor. <i>Goal 2.0</i></b></p>	<p>The following restoration projects were implemented by JRNAF members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Murray City's Kennecott Nature Center</li> <li>2) <u>Salt Lake County's 12300? South Project</u></li> </ul> <p>JRNAF's Restoration Subcommittee also provided consultation on the following restoration-related projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) West Valley City's Arts and Cultural Heritage Center</li> <li>2) Springview Farms Development</li> <li>3) Taylorville's Mill Race Park</li> </ul>
<p><b>Establish Perpetual Management of Reserved Lands in the Natural Conservation Corridor <i>Goal 14</i></b></p> <p>Create one management entity responsible for management of the reserved areas. <b><i>Objective 14.1</i></b></p> <p>Reserved areas should be managed as a network, not as individual properties. <b><i>Objective 14.2</i></b></p> <p>Develop management plans for each reserve area. <b><i>Objective 14.3</i></b></p> <p>Limit human use to the perimeter of each reserve area. <b><i>Objective 14.5</i></b></p> <p>Develop an "Adoption" program for reserve areas. <b><i>Objective 14.6</i></b></p>	

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>JRNACC Recommendations</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Accomplishments January 2001 to December 2002</b></p>
<p><b>Fund Acquisition and Management of Reserve Areas. <i>Objective 1.5</i></b></p> <p>Seek out multiple sources of funding. <i>Objective 1.5</i></p> <p>Create an endowment to fund management needs. <i>Objective 14.4</i></p>	
<p><b>Create a Coordinating Council</b> for those entities with reserved, nature park, and open areas within their boundaries, as well as for other interested parties, to address issues that affect these areas.</p>	<p>This recommendation has been implemented. The Jordan River Natural Areas Forum was formed in February 2001. Between February 2001 and December 2002, the Forum drafted language for, approved, and signed a Memorandum of Understanding, drafted By-laws, and worked through a steering committee and several subcommittees to implement the Report's recommendations. In September 2002, the Forum held a planning retreat to review their progress to date and formulate a strategic plan to guide them for the next five years.</p>
<p><b>Information on the Tributaries is Important. <i>Goal 8</i></b></p> <p>Study the interrelationship between wildlife use of the river and its tributaries. <i>Objective 8.1</i></p>	<p>This recommendation has not been a priority and no progress has been made to date.</p>
<p><b>Develop awareness of Local Government and Civic Groups of the Natural Values of the Jordan River. <i>Goal 6</i></b></p> <p>Make presentations to City and County Planning Commissions and City Councils that have jurisdiction over lands in the Conservation Corridor. <i>Objective 6.1</i></p>	<p>Presentations were made to the following entities asking for their support of the MOU: Bluffdale City, Draper City, Midvale City, South Salt Lake City, Sandy City, South Jordan City, Taylorsville City, West Jordan City, Woods Cross City, the Governor, Foundation for the Provo-Jordan River Parkway, Salt Lake County Council of Governments, and the Utah County Council of Governments.</p> <p>Presentations were made to Bluffdale City Council and Planning Commission on the use of transfer of development rights (TDR) ordinances to protect wetlands.</p>

JRNACC Recommendations	Accomplishments January 2001 to December 2002
<p><b>City and County Planning Commissions and City Councils should develop and adopt specific policies that support the Conservation Corridor. <i>Objective 6.2</i></b></p>	
<p><b>Coordination with Golf Courses. <i>Objective 9.1</i></b></p> <p>Encourage golf courses to incorporate wetlands and native vegetation, which supports native wildlife, in their plans and management.</p>	<p>Funding was obtained from the GOBP, Parkway Foundation, Envision Utah, Utah Golf Association, and the Mitigation Commission to develop a plan for wildlife enhancements at Riverbend Golf Course. The plan will be shared with Jordan and Provo River courses through a Conference.</p>
<p><b>Education of Neighbors along the Corridor. <i>Goal 9</i></b></p> <p>There should be an active program to educate residents about the value of backyard habitat for wildlife, as well as the destructive impact of domestic pets, e.g., cats on birds. <i>Objective 9.2</i></p>	<p>Information from the American Bird Association's "Cats Indoors" program was obtained.</p>
<p><b>Lack of Information Regarding the Jordan River.</b></p> <p>Three identified locations should be established as major public environmental education interpretive sites along the river. <i>Objective 9.3</i></p>	

JRNACC Recommendations	Accomplishments January 2001 to December 2002
<p><b>Management of the River Corridor as a Public Trust. <i>Goal 10</i></b></p> <p>Educate landowners along the river about the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands attempt to define the state's ownership claim of the riverbed. <b><i>Goal 10</i></b></p> <p>Whenever there is a proposal that impacts the river streambed, the Division must be contacted and proper easement, permits or leases must be obtained. <b><i>Objective 10.1</i></b></p> <p>The Division should be encouraged to fully implement their trust responsibilities of providing better navigation on the river as well as recreation, preservation, and public access. <b><i>Objective 12.4</i></b></p>	

## Appendix B: 2003 Work Plan

The 2003 Work Plan is composed of action items that will help accomplish the Strategic Plan's Goals and Objectives. Note that each action item has a number that correlates with a goal.

<b>Jordan River Natural Areas Forum 2003 Work Plan</b>			
<b>Education Subcommittee</b>			
<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Team Lead</b>	<b>Team Members</b>	<b>Meet By</b>
<b>G6</b> Develop and share with municipalities a Jordan River zoning "tool box", including the authority of DPR over lands within 150 feet of the river bank and a sensitive areas model ordinance.	GOPB		
<b>G7</b> Hire/find a web site manager <sup>2</sup>	GOPB and GSLA		
<b>G8</b> Study the river ecosystem	Kent Player		
<b>G9</b> Continue to implement the "Wildlife-friendly Habitat Improvements to Golf Courses Project." <sup>3</sup>	Mark Bedel		
<b>G9</b> Develop a nature guide for the river corridor <sup>4</sup>	DWR, GSLA, SLCFGA		
<b>G9</b> Develop an interpretive education curriculum for the river. <sup>5</sup>	Utah Society for Environmental Education		
<b>G6</b> Capitalize on the Scenic Am. Last Chance Landscape designation			

<sup>2</sup> The website manager should find a host for the Jordan River website and create web links.

<sup>3</sup> This project could include development of a golf course managers guide and public education at golf courses.

<sup>4</sup> The guide could include a map showing public access areas, recommended landscaping plants, and a wildlife check list.

<sup>5</sup> In developing the curriculum, an inventory of current education programs and facilities along the river should be developed. Docents could be used to lead field trips.

**Jordan River Natural Areas Forum**  
2003 Work Plan

<b>Education Subcommittee continued</b>			
<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Team Lead</b>	<b>Team Members</b>	<b>Meet By</b>
G Develop Curriculum for Schools			
G Consolidate resource library	Kent		

<b>Recreation Subcommittee</b>			
<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Team Lead</b>	<b>Team Members</b>	<b>Meet By</b>
G11 Sponsor a Jordan River appreciation day celebration event <sup>6</sup>	Jeff Williams		<b>DONE for 2003!</b>

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<sup>6</sup> The Jordan River appreciation day could include parties, a race on the trail, a river race (on the river), artists on the river, and youth activities. In planning the event, JRNAF should involve municipal parks and recreation departments and other organizations.

<b>Preservation Subcommittee</b>			
<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Team Lead</b>	<b>Team Members</b>	<b>Meet By</b>
<b>G1</b> Develop a Preservation Plan that identifies critical lands for future acquisition efforts <sup>7</sup>	Wayne (National Audubon Society)	Anna (USACOE), Randy (USFWS), Mary (GSLA)	Jan. 03
<b>G2</b> Address Long-Term Management Issues, including maintenance of current reserve areas <sup>8</sup>	Mary (Great Salt Lake Audubon)		Dec. 02
<b>G1</b> Work with State Historic Preservation to identify and preserve archeological sites			
<b>G1</b> Support South Valley Open Space Plan			

<sup>7</sup> A preservation plan could include the following elements: 1) identification of critical parcels that could be purchased/preserved as part of Corp of Engineers mitigation; 2) determination of land ownership and zoning information for all identified parcels; 3) an updated “willing sellers” list; 4) a gap analysis for I.D. ed properties; and, identification of lands that would be eligible under NRCS program for easement purchase.

<sup>8</sup> This could include investigating the possibility of developing a 501( c )( 3) organization to receive donations and provide long-term management.

<b>Restoration Subcommittee</b>			
<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Team Lead</b>	<b>Team Members</b>	<b>Meet By</b>
<b>G3</b> Develop a Restoration Master Plan for the river. Project may include the development of operation and management guidelines.	Dave Bell, Utah State University, Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning Department	Tom (IHI Environmental Consultants), Norm (Natural Resources Conservation Service), Vaughn (TreeUtah)	Nov. '02
<b>G3</b> Establish a riverwide restoration team to assist with community projects.	Norm (Natural Resources Conservation Service)	USU, Tom (IHI), Doug (DWR), Randy (USFWS), Dan (Salt Lake County Fish and Game Association), Wayne (National Audubon Society)	Nov. '02
<b>G5</b> Share restoration expertise both internally and externally.	Vaughn (TreeUtah) (develop a restoration conference/workshop)	Restoration Subcommittee members	

<b>Steering Committee</b>			
<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Team Lead</b>	<b>Team Members</b>	<b>Meet By</b>
<b>G11</b> Develop a plan to include JRNAF in the clearinghouse review process for development proposals along the River	Mark Bedel (Governor's Office of Planning)	Becky Hansen (Murray City), Craig Thomas (WVC), Jeff (NRCS), George Ramique (Wasatch Front Regional Council)	Dec. '02
<b>G12</b> Prepare a development plan <sup>9</sup>	Bill Farrand and Mark Bedel	Juan Arce-Laretta (Parkway Foundation), Craig Thomas (WVC)	Jan. '03

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<sup>9</sup> The development plan may consider 1) finding a volunteer grant writer/researcher; 2) creating a fundraising subcommittee; 3) turning JRNAF into a 501( C )(3) membership organization; and, 4) having JRNAF be the wide umbrella and the Parkway Foundation as the funding entity for the corridor.

## **Appendix C: Good Ideas for Future Consideration and Ideas Already Implemented**

### **GOOD IDEAS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION**

#### **Preservation**

- Consider preserving tributaries of the Jordan and other areas relevant to the River (Utah Lake).
- Identify barriers to achieving preservation goals.
- Consider creating a National Conservation Area through Congress.

#### **Restoration**

- Develop a JRNF policy regarding human use of reserved areas.
- Develop a dedicated municipal tax funding mechanism for operation and maintenance of reserved lands.
- Sponsor or support volunteer monitoring programs.

#### **Education**

- Reach out to developer groups, realtors with JRNAF's message.
- Use the Day-Riverside Library as a repository for information about the Jordan River.
- Develop a website – link with the Davis, Salt Lake and Utah Counties' websites.
- Use the Day-Riverside Library to post information about JRNAF and the Jordan River.
- Expand the water quality education program.
- Educate the Forum about river system functions.
- Utilize Glendale Peninsula as an interpretive site.
- Sponsor an economic benefits analysis.
- Educate people on the amenity value of trails, buffer zones and natural areas.
- Develop a decision-maker training workshop, which includes a field trip.
- Develop a Jordan River video and slide show.
- Provide interpretive signs, which would include the JRNAF logo, for plants and wildlife along the trail system and at golf courses.
- Involve the Utah Native Plant Society and other organizations with similar values.

#### **Management**

- Define the role of the Steering Committee, e.g., 1) to serve as a check and balance for the subcommittees to assure they are operating consistently with the mission and objectives; and, 2) to modify or adjust the mission and goals as needed.
- Develop a process to deal with: 1) conflicts between members; and, 2) bring issues to JRNAF.
- Establish ground rules for interacting as a group.
- Clarify how the Steering Committee represents itself, how members represent themselves in public.
- Develop code of ethics criteria for membership.
- The Steering Committee should publish policies in form of white papers, or other available forms.

- Develop a handbook with river-wide standards for things like signs, boardwalks, etc.
- The Steering Committee should invite open space preservation non-profits to participate.
- JRNAF should play a stronger role in community economic development.
- Assign a JRNAF member to critical communities to stay abreast of community actions that may affect the river.
- JRNAF should play a stronger role in municipal parks and recreation.
- JRNAF should also cover recreation and water quality.
- Create a marketing plan for JRNAF, which could include getting endorsements from famous people.
- Develop a public relations and media plan, which could include having a media day.

### **IDEAS THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN IMPLEMENTED (OR WILL BE SHORTLY)**

**Idea:** Work with Envision Utah.

**Implementation:** Envision Utah has been invited to participate in the Forum and has attended meetings.

**Idea:** Develop a GIS database that is accessible to all governing agencies. Include land uses, proposed land uses, protected areas, and ownership.

**Implementation:** This information was provided in the JRNACC Report and is available from the Mitigation Commission.

**Idea:** Encourage a buffer between homes and the river.

**Implementation:** When providing consultation to municipalities, developers, etc, the Restoration Subcommittee recommends a 200-foot buffer between any development and the river.

**Idea:** Conduct a Forum-wide vote to elect Steering Committee members.

**Implementation:** Steering Committee members will be elected by Forum members at January 2003 Quarterly Meeting.

**Idea:** Disseminate a list of JRNAF participants, phone numbers, address and email.

**Implementation:** This has been accomplished. The Governor's Office of Planning and Budget is responsible for maintaining and distributing the list to Forum members.

**Idea:** Make regular presentations to municipalities to explain the mission of JRNAF.

**Implementation:** Over the last two years, presentations were made to the following entities informing them about the natural values of the Jordan River and the role of JRNAF and asking for their support of the MOU: Bluffdale City, Draper City, Midvale City, South Salt Lake City, Sandy City, South Jordan City, Taylorsville City, West Jordan City, Woods Cross City, the Governor, Foundation for the Provo-Jordan River Parkway, Salt Lake County Council of Governments, and the Utah County Council of Governments.

**Idea:** Develop a brochure on JRNAF, who we are, mission, what we do.

**Implementation:** A brochure is in the works. (It is? Who's doing this? Is it the Strategic Plan?)

# The Jordan River Natural Areas Forum

## 2002 Strategic Plan

The Division of Parks and Recreation is writing to comment on the above plan. We feel that overall the plan has considerable merit; but does not address numerous issues nor the statutory authority granted specific agencies within the Department of Natural Resources.

UCA §63-11-17.5 specifically grants to the Division of Parks and Recreation, through the Jordan-Provo River Parkway Authority, the power to establish and coordinate all development programs affecting recreation development, water conservation, flood control, and wildlife conservation along those rivers and streams that are impacted by high density populations or that are prone to flooding. This was upheld by the District Court of the Third Judicial District in their ruling on Utah State Supreme Court in Salt Lake County vs. Salt Lake City, Civil No. 208384 (October 17, 1973). This case also extends to the Division of Parks and Recreation the authority to oversee development on all lands within 150 feet of the stream bank of all rivers susceptible to flooding in the State of Utah.

**Page 2**, next to last paragraph. Native fish species should be addressed in this paragraph.

**Page 3**, second paragraph, first line change to: “Despite past impacts, the Jordan River still provides important wildlife and fish habitat.

**Page 5. RESTORATION**, Goal 2.0: Restore lands and water quality throughout the Jordan River Natural Conservation Corridor.

**Objective 2.1.** A Restoration Planning Team needs to include all agencies of the Department of Natural Resources.

**Objective 2.2.** The development of a Jordan River Restoration Master Plan must include a representative from all agencies of the Department of Natural Resources.

**Objective 3.3.** Will the “standardized restoration manual” be made mandatory for municipalities and private landowners? This may be construed as a “taking”. Who will have professional oversight of the manual’s contents? Will private landowners be provided funding to meet the objectives of the manual? What happens if the private landowner does not follow the “guidelines”?

**Page 6. EDUCATION.**

**Goal 5.0. 5.3.** Make City and County Planning Commissions and City Council aware of the authority that the Division of Parks and Recreation and the Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands has over the Jordan River Corridor.

**Goal 6.0. Add: 6.4.** A GIS database of all maps and coverages shall be centrally established within the Department of Natural Resources and made available to all state, federal and private agencies and groups and to private citizens.

**Goal 7.0**

**Add Objective 7.2.** Study the feasibility of reintroducing native aquatic species including Bonneville Cutthroat Trout, June Sucker, and other species as a vital component of the Jordan River and its Tributaries.

**Goal 8.0**

**Objective 8.1.** Require all golf courses to adopt strategies that will prevent the runoff of pesticides and fertilizers into the Jordan River.

**Objective 8.2.** Add,

**Objective 8.3.** Why only “three locations” for public education and interpretive sites?

Page 7. MANAGEMENT

**Objective 10.2.** Develop a relationship with the State Division of Water Rights (stream alteration permits), . . . . and Utah Division of Parks and Recreation Riverway Enhancement Grant Program . . . .

**Objective 10.3.** Add and the Division of Parks and Recreation for all activities within 150 feet of the banks of the Jordan River.

**Objective 10.4.** Define what a “systems approach” is. Is this a Resource Management Plan similar to the Great Salt Lake Plan? **River-related recreation** comes under the authority of the Division of Parks and Recreation.

**Objective 10.5.** A “river keeper” should be a position having the official and legal authority to oversee all activities along and upon the Jordan River. As such, this position must be administered within the Department of Natural Resources.

**Goal 11.0.** Secure adequate funding to accomplish JRNAF’s mission. Will the Utah State Legislature provide funding for this mission? Should the local communities, sewer districts and water agencies provide funding through impact fees to meet the mission requirements of the JRNAF? The URMCC has approximately \$43-million for recreation and wildlife activities; should the URMCC be required to contribute?

**Goal 12.0.** Establish Perpetual Management of Reserved Lands in the Natural Conservation Corridor. Since these lands will be under public ownership they must be managed by a public agency with full authority over how they are administered.

**Objective 12.3.** It would be better to develop an overall resource management plan for the entire corridor, rather than management plans for each reserve area.

**Objective 12.5.** Human use of the area may be restricted to certain area during certain periods of the year, e.g. nesting periods; but the overall restriction of no human activity should not be considered.

## **Page 9. JRNACC Report Recommendations**

### **Management of the River Corridor as a Public Trust.**

**Second paragraph.** All proposals that impact the Jordan River and those lands within 150 feet of the banks of the Jordan River should receive the necessary permits from the Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands and the Division of Parks and Recreation.

**Last item.** The discussion to include provision for a minimum in-stream flow must be addressed under current Water Right law. Only the Division's of Wildlife Resources and Parks & Recreation may hold water rights as instream flows.

**Page 14.** Include in **Action Items, G5** “. . . Jordan River zoning “tool box” the authority of the Division of Parks and Recreation to provide input on all development within 150 feet of the edge of the Jordan River.

**Page 16. Steering Committee, Action Items, G11.** There currently exists a clearing house for development proposals that may affect the JRNAF. This is the Resources Development and Coordinating Committee (RDCC) through which all local, state and federal agencies would submit their plans if the plan affects the Jordan River.

**Page 17. Restoration.** Second bullet. Develop a dedicated municipal tax funding mechanism for operation and maintenance. If public funds, i.e. tax dollars, are used to fund the JRNAF then public access cannot be severely restricted. Limited seasonal access may be required; but this would have to be approved through a resource management plan developed and controlled through a state agency.

**Page 17. Management.** Last bullet. Develop a code of ethics criteria for membership. This may be a violation of Civil Rights under federal and state statutes.

Finally, perhaps the participants in the JRNAF and agencies of the Department of Natural Resources should consider requesting special consideration from the U.S. Congress for this corridor to become a National Conservation Area.

## State Sovereign Lands Comments

Under Management section

- 10.2 should include Water Rights and Water Resources.
- 10.3 is more clear when it reads, “Notify the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands of all Jordan River Crossings and activities affecting the bed of the Jordan River.
- Add another section 10.6. Statutory Mandates: Utah Code unannotated Title 63-11-17.5 describes the powers and duties of the state parks board and division concerning areas along rivers and streams.

Title 65A-1-4 describes the power and authority of the Division of Forestry Fire and State Lands.

- Add another section 10.7: Centralize and consolidate all existing data regarding Jordan River.
- Add another section 10.8: Identify interim management guidelines pending completion of a comprehensive management plan.