



News Release

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## **Salt Lake County, Partners Improve Jordan River Water Quality, Promote Education**

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**Salt Lake County, UT**—Salt Lake County Watershed Planning and Restoration will team up with the Jordan River Commission and the Center for Documentary Expression and Art (CDEA) to kick off a water quality and Jordan River stewardship education program: "ReAwakened Beauty: Place Based Learning on the Jordan River."

As part of the program, the first workshop will be held tomorrow, where members of the community will have a hands-on opportunity to co-create website content and help spread the word about the value and importance of protecting and enhancing the Jordan River.

"The Jordan River is a treasure that all of us living along the Wasatch Front share," said Mayor Ben McAdams. "If we work together to improve and maintain its water quality, safety and habitat, valley residents will be able to enjoy this asset for years to come."

The program is being largely funded by a \$60,000 grant that was awarded to the county project partners by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA's Urban Waters Small Grants Program funds research, studies, training, and demonstration projects that will advance the restoration of urban waters by improving water quality through activities that also support community revitalization.

"EPA is excited to support strong local projects that increase residents' awareness of their watershed through engagement and empowerment," said Shaun McGrath, EPA's Regional Administrator. "Healthy and accessible urban waters enhance educational, economic, and recreational opportunities in our communities."

In the coming days, program facilitators will begin reaching out to the community through schools and local organizations to discuss issues related to the river, including:

- Water Quality
- Recreation
- Ecology and Ecosystem Restoration
- Community Building
- Human and Natural History

Through this outreach students and residents will assist in the creation of projects and educational materials. The educational content will then be incorporated into an interactive website and a series of educational signage along the Jordan River Parkway Trail.

The first community workshop will be held tomorrow, August 14 at 6:30 p.m. at NeighborWorks in Salt Lake City. Visit [JordanRiverCommission.com](http://JordanRiverCommission.com) for more information on tomorrow's event and the entire project.

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***The Salt Lake County Watershed Planning and Restoration Program (WPRP)*** was created in 1997 and has engaged in numerous restoration, assessment, and planning activities since its inception. Program goals include assessment and restoration of streams and other waterways in the Jordan River watershed, stewardship planning, and educational outreach. Restoration objectives include streambank stabilization, water quality protection, and enhanced natural vegetation and habitat.

Assessments include water quality data collection which provides valuable information for ongoing and future planning; our data is used by regulatory agencies at the federal, state and local levels. Projects are carried out on a cooperative partnership basis with local municipalities, service districts, state/federal agencies, local conservation districts, and private landowners. Details at [www.watershed.slco.org](http://www.watershed.slco.org)

***EPA's Urban Waters program*** supports the goals and principles of the Urban Waters Federal Partnership, a partnership of 12 federal agencies working to reconnect urban communities with their waterways by improving coordination among federal agencies and collaborating with community led revitalization efforts.

Information on the Urban Waters Federal Partnership: <http://urbanwaters.gov/>

See a full list of projects funded here:

<http://www.epa.gov/urbanwaters/funding>

**Center for Documentary Expression and Art (CDEA)** is a local non-profit organization that is dedicated to using the tools of documentary work—oral history, photography, film making, narrative writing, visual art, and music— to help Utahns look inward to better understand our state's past and present and to gaze outward to discover our multi-faceted connection to the nation and the world. CDEA creates and supports projects that examine and honor the cultural, spiritual, and ethnic identities of our nation's diverse population in forums wherein we can acknowledge differences, establish common ground, and hence, build community. Information on CDEA:

<http://www.cdautah.org>

**The Jordan River Commission (JRC)** is a voluntary partnership of cities and counties along the Jordan River. It was created in August 2010 to implement a long-term vision for the Jordan River corridor including expanding recreational access, environmental education, water quality improvements, open space preservation, habitat restoration, and community building that embraces the Jordan River. Information on the JRC:

<http://jordanrivercommission.com>