

JORDAN RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL
Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee
June 15, 2006 Meeting

Attendance: Jim Burruss; Pacificorp
Kevin Astill; West Valley City
Wayne Johnson; Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation Department
Heather Johnson; UACD
Jeff Williams; NRCS/RC&D
Becky Hansen; Murray City
Dan Potts; SLCo Fish & Game
Scott Stoddard; Army Corps of Engineers
Lynn Larsen; County Parks & Recreation
Margaret Oler; Pacificorp
Barry Burton; Davis County
Ben Bloodworth; UT Forestry, Fire & State Lands
Natalie Rees; Water Resources Planning Program

Pacificorp Presentation

Pacificorps representative Jim Burriss and Kevin Astill of West Valley City delineated the problems with a parcel at ~30th South adjacent to the Jordan River (See attached PDF). The site was part of the Little Dell mitigation and previously contained the mid-valley substation. A conservation easement was issued in 1993 which established a 150 ft wide trail through this site.

Background

West Valley City approached Utah Power & Light with their concerns in regard to this site. The major problems at this site include: 1) transient camps and use of this area, 2) human waste/garbage, 3) lewd acts, 4) vandalism of sub-station, and 5) non-native, invasive species.

Current Management Practices

Currently, the Salt Lake Valley Health Department posts notices on transient camps (once they are identified). The residents of these camps are then given seven (7) days to vacate without further enforcement. Although, there is a mechanism for removal of transient sites, the corridor is not routinely patrolled with the exception of certain problem areas.

Discussion

1. Grand Junction has a citizen patrol program, which may be used as a model to develop such a program along the Jordan River.

2. On Saturday, June 10th, a clean-up was conducted of the Jordan River that removed five (5) to six (6) tons in two (2) hours. Increased activity along the corridor may serve as a deterrent to transient residence.
3. Lynn Larsen of the Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation Department explained that an RFP has gone out to identify a consultant who will help in the development of a Jordan River Parkway Master Plan. Transient and social issues should be addressed in this plan.
4. It was mentioned that a Russian Olive removal project was conducted at Southbend without exorbitant costs.
5. Becky Hansen of Murray City discussed their nature center. Apparently, this was previously a site of intense transient use; however, the installation of the nature center, and the subsequent increased recreational use, has displaced the previous residents. The facility cost ~\$200,000 to build. Perhaps focusing on the development of nature centers along the River may serve to reduce transient concerns.
6. It was mentioned that in order to fully address these concerns, trail users, property owners, and businesses need to be involved. Additionally, social services are essential to understanding and addressing underlying motivations and concerns.
7. Jeff Salt of the Great Salt Lake Keeper mentioned that his group is working to develop a community-based patrol of the corridor. They will be identifying/recruiting volunteers this summer and will conduct a training relatively soon. Volunteers will be trained in what to look for and what the appropriate response is (i.e. what organization to contact). Additionally, these volunteers may be used to distribute brochures to Parkway users. Jeff will keep the group updated on the progress of this program.
8. It was noted that displacing transients does not solve the problem. Discussions with social service professionals are essential to understanding and addressing these problems.
9. Ben Bloodworth of State Forestry, Fire & State Lands mentioned that he is organizing a clean-up of the Jordan River for September 23rd in conjunction with the international coastal clean-up.
10. Scott Stoddard of the Army Corps of Engineers mentioned that the Corps got funding to conduct assessments of seventeen (17) western states. These monies were just awarded; therefore, Scott will keep the JRNAF members updated as the project develops.
11. Scott also mentioned that he's worked with a group called the Tamarask Coalition which may be able to offer advice. Their contact information is Tim Carlson at (970) 248-1638 or Tcarlson@tamaraskcoalition.org.

12. It was also mentioned that Tim McCreary works on weed removal in Salt Lake County.
13. In order to further discuss Pacificorp and West Valley City's concerns, they will meet with representatives from Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation Department to facilitate a more collaborative clean-up project between 39th and 27th South.
14. Here is the trail patrol contact info for the Colorado River in Grand Junction (it has been very successful).

POC: Joe Stevens
Grand Junction Parks & Rec
970.254.3843
joes@gjcity.org

Next Meeting

The Jordan River Natural Areas Forum (JRNAF) determined that they will continue to meet on a quarterly basis; however, if issues arise and there is a need for more frequent meetings, these will be accommodated. Therefore, the next meeting will be held September 5, 2006. Details will be distributed closer to this meeting date.