

# BLUEPRINT JORDAN RIVER

## A Lake to Lake Vision

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Envision Utah



**~ Outline ~**  
**Envision Utah**  
**The Jordan River**  
**The Blueprint**



# About Envision Utah

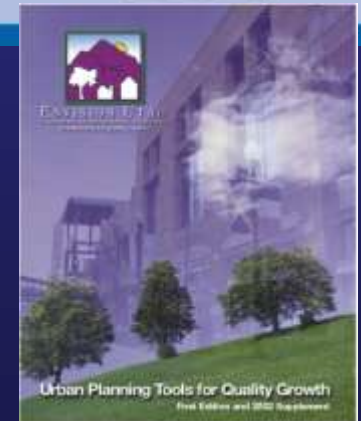
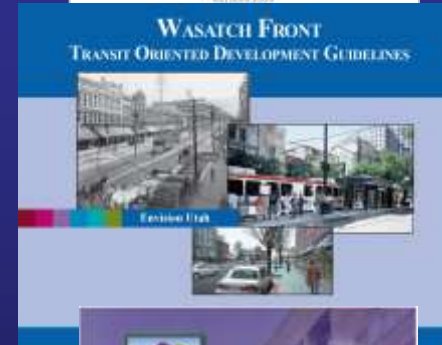
- Non-profit organization founded in 1997 to keep Utah beautiful, prosperous and neighborly
- A neutral facilitator with the goal of empowering people to create the communities they want
- The “public” will make good choices if presented with real options
- Steered by a diverse coalition of governmental leaders, business leaders, conservationists, academics, the development community and other civic leaders



# Recent Projects

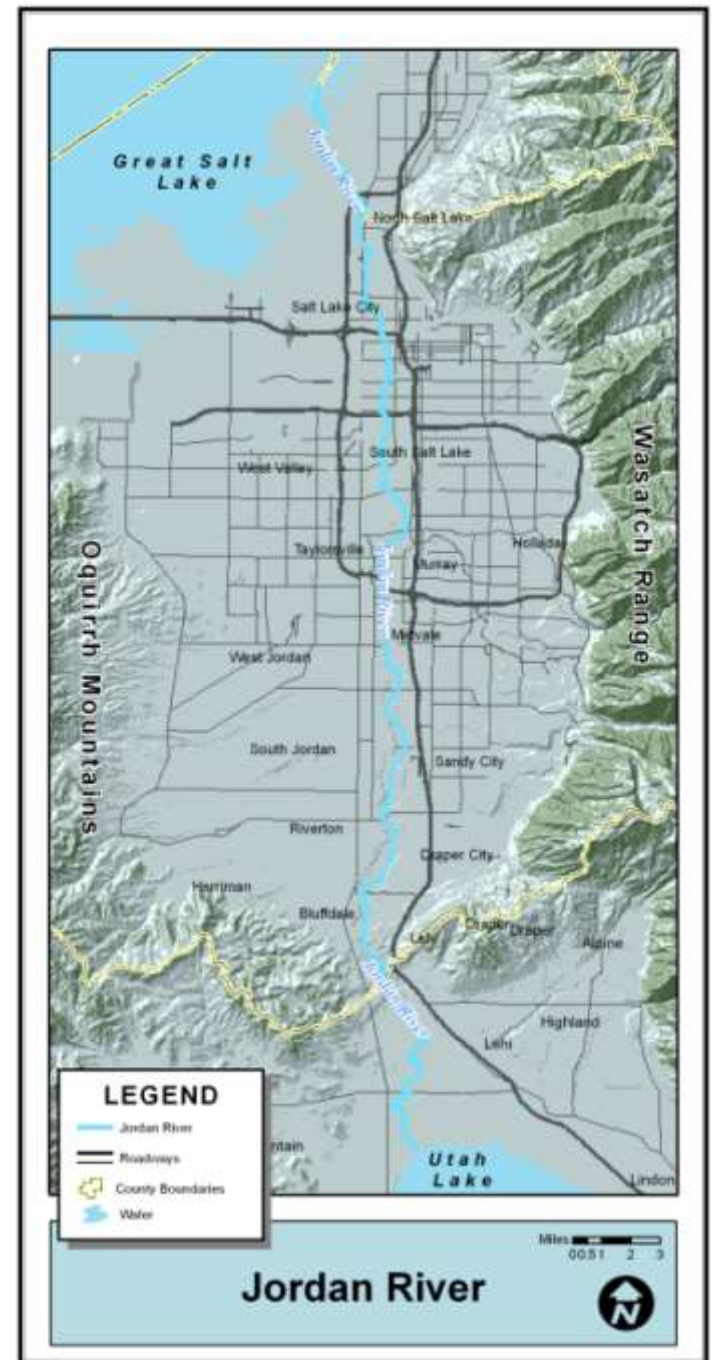
- Vision Dixie – Washington County
- Wasatch Choices 2040
- Mountain View Corridor Vision
- Brownfields Redevelopment Toolbox
- Local Government Economic Development Toolbox

.....to name a few



# The Jordan River

- The Heart of Our Valley-divides the valley nearly in half
- Formed roughly 16,000 years ago as Lake Bonneville receded
- Headwaters is Utah Lake
- Flows north for roughly 58 river miles before terminating in the Great Salt Lake
- Passes through three counties and fifteen different municipalities
- 1849 the 1<sup>st</sup> bridge was built along the river
- 1<sup>st</sup> diversion dam built in 1859



## Prior to Settlement

- Meandering natural corridor
- Was/is extremely valuable riparian habitat
- Oxbows, braided channels formed numerous islands
- Well connected floodplain
- Rare and Rich avian resource (over 200 species)
- Habitat for a number of animal species including: mule deer, coyote, bighorn sheep, jack rabbit, etc...



1937, Future I-215 in Murray



# Post Settlement / Current Conditions

- Historically used as a waste disposal canal
- Channelized
- Dredged
- Riparian habitat destroyed or under pressure from nonnative species
- Wetlands destroyed and under pressure
- Disconnected from historic floodplain
- Continual pressure from development
- Reduction in riparian dependent birds
- Reduction in large and small mammals



1990, I-215 in Murray

## So Why Do We Care???

*The river is the center of the land, the place where the waters, and much more, come together. Here is the home of wildlife, the route of explorers, and recreation paradise. . . . Only fragments of our inheritance remain unexploited, but these streams are more valuable than ever.*

*- Tim Palmer, Lifelines*



**Open  
Space**



**Water  
Quality**



**Quality  
of Life**

**Aesthetics**



**Recreation**



**Wildlife  
Habitat**



**Economic  
Development**



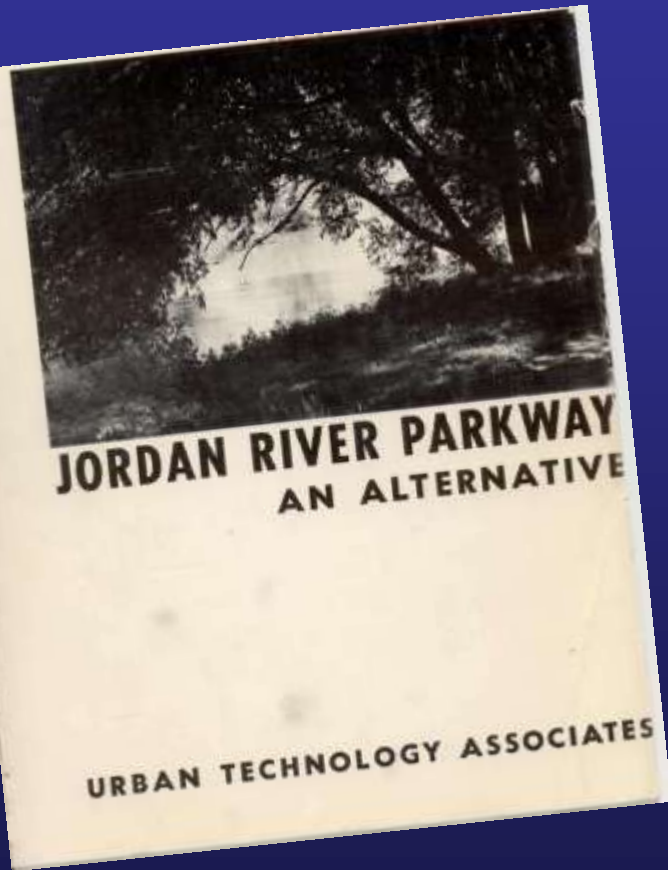
# BLUEPRINT JORDAN RIVER

## A Lake to Lake Vision



# The Blueprint

- Salt Lake County Sponsored, Envision Utah Facilitated



- First comprehensive plan to consider the entire length of the River
- 1971 the Jordan River Parkway: An Alternative
  - 4800 South to the Davis County line

- Coordination is key
- Will tie together recent planning efforts, city land use and open space plans, and 3 Salt Lake County efforts underway:
  - Watershed Quality Stewardship Plan (WaQSP)
  - Open Space Trust Fund
  - Jordan River Parkway Trail Master Plan

**Salt Lake County  
Jordan River Vision and  
Related Studies**

Great  
Salt  
Lake

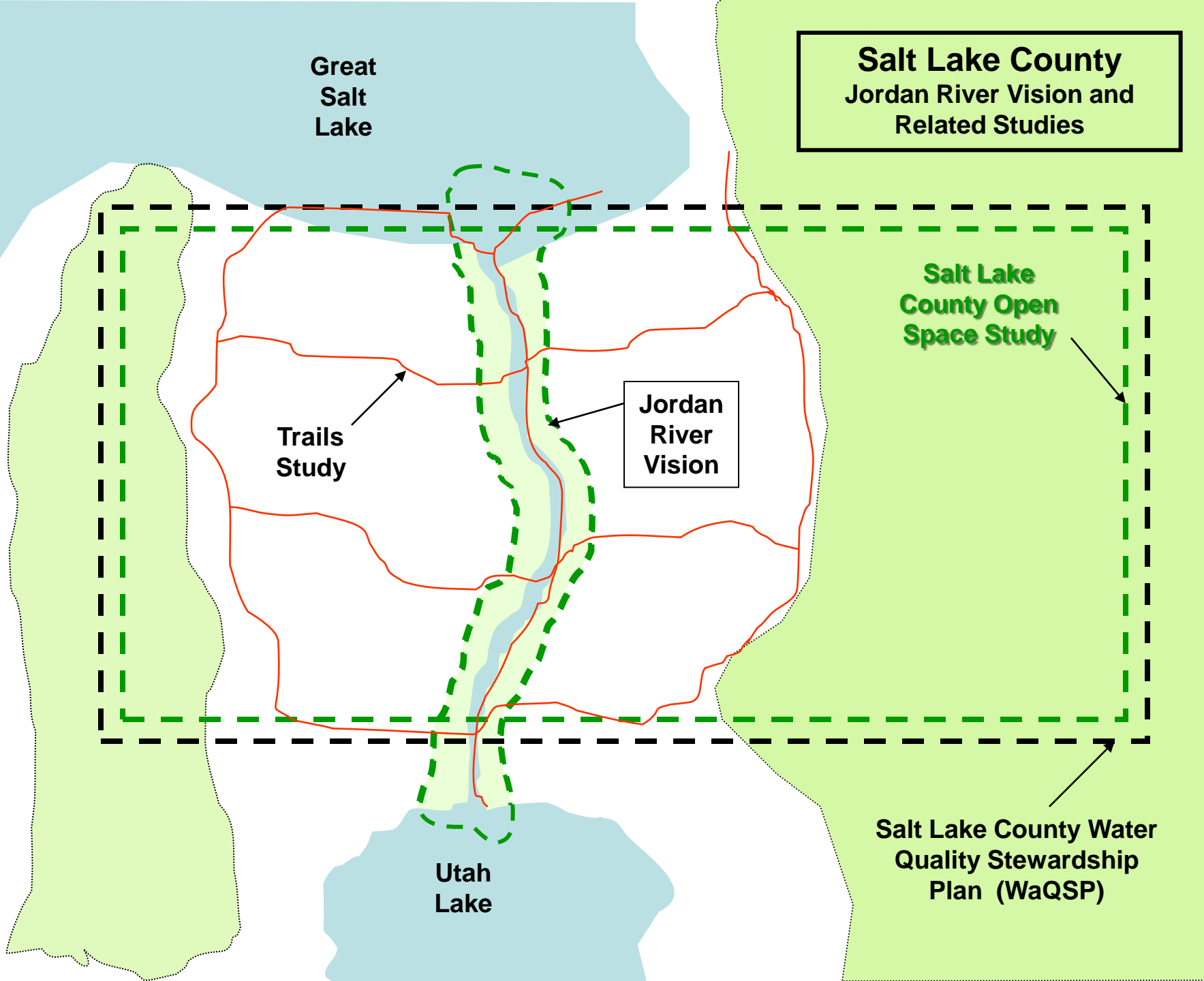
Salt Lake  
County Open  
Space Study

Trails  
Study

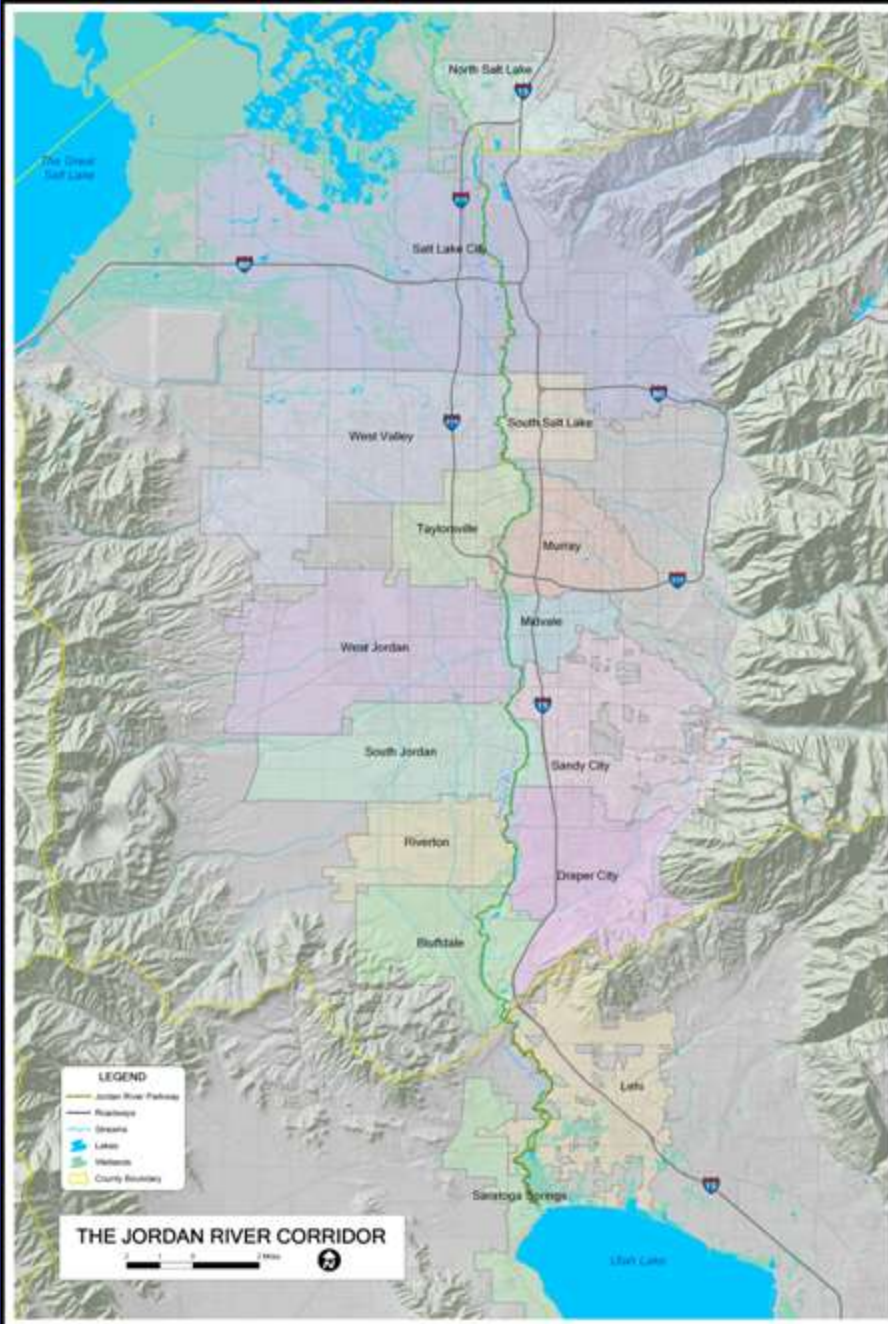
Jordan  
River  
Vision

Salt Lake County Water  
Quality Stewardship  
Plan (WaQSP)

Utah  
Lake







**Partnership with municipalities along the Corridor is critical for success**

**Communities include:**

- Lehi**
- Saratoga Springs**
- Bluffdale**
- Riverton**
- Draper**
- Sandy**
- South Jordan**
- West Jordan**
- Midvale**
- Murray**
- Taylorsville**
- West Valley**
- South Salt Lake**
- Salt Lake City**
- North Salt Lake City**
- Salt Lake County**
- Utah County**
- Davis County**



# Process Goals of Blueprint Jordan River

1. Update the **1971** Jordan River Parkway master plan
2. Coordinate existing and in-progress planning efforts, provide direction to future planning efforts
3. Promote public interest in the Jordan River, recognizing it as a regional recreational, educational, economic and environmental amenity
4. Create a best practices resource available to communities to assist in taking steps to implement the vision for the river
5. Create a common set of data, a mechanism for sharing information

# Topics be addressed

- Recreation/aesthetics
- Development/Redevelopment standards
- Ecosystem/Habitat
- Public Health and Safety
- Big Ideas?



# Structure

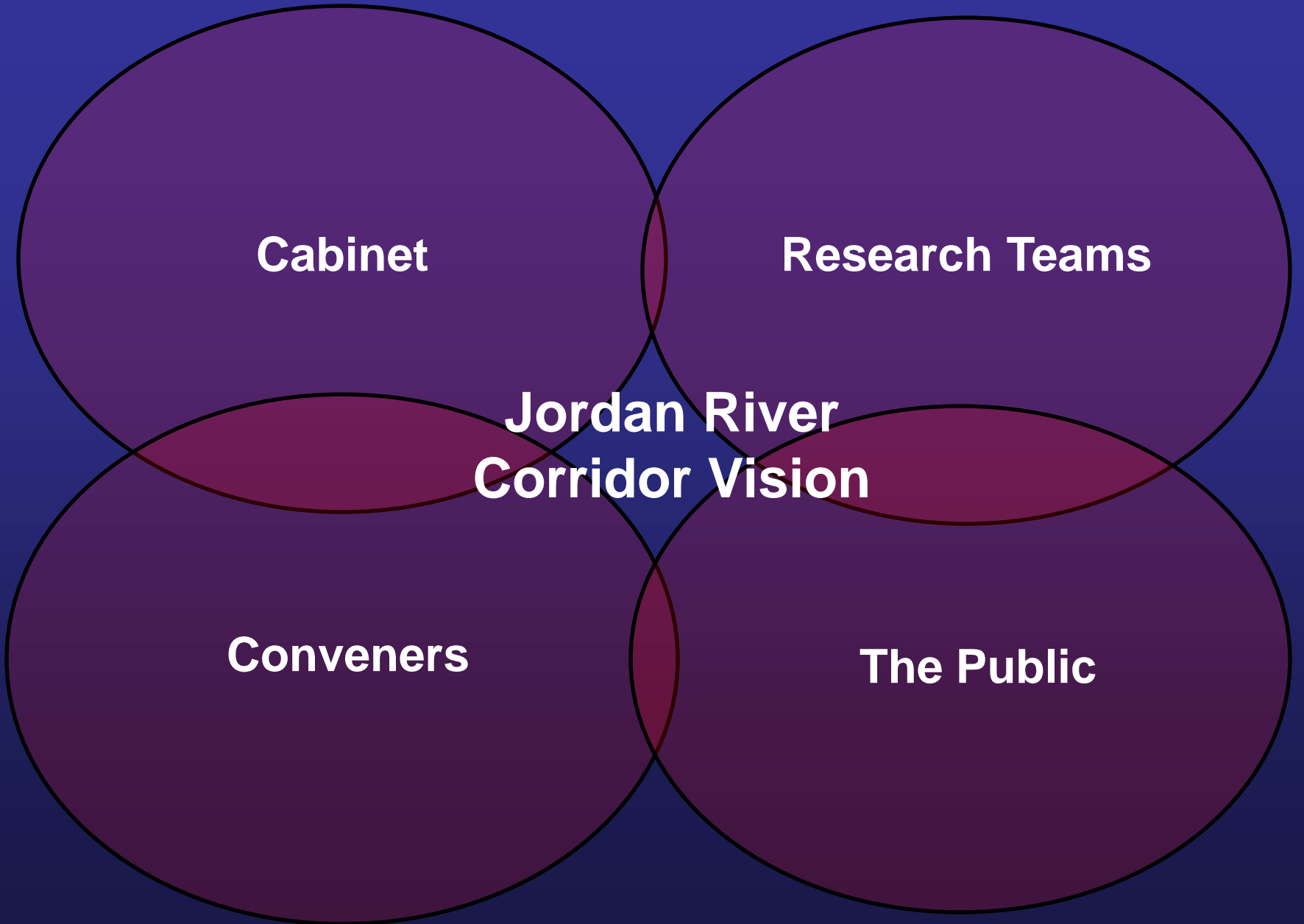
**Cabinet**

**Research Teams**

**Jordan River  
Corridor Vision**

**Conveners**

**The Public**



# Role of the Committees

## ***Conveners-***

- Composed of Mayors of each municipality.
- Oversees process and are the primary signatories of the Blueprint Vision

## ***Cabinet –***

- listens to broad public feedback
- makes key decisions regarding the visioning process:
  - Methodology
  - Scenarios
  - Vision
  - Strategies

## ***Technical Advisory Committee/Research Teams-***

- Analyze issues and make recommendations to the Conveners.
- Provide guidance on the technical content of the data and scenarios

# Two Research Teams

## 1. Development and Design team

- How development interfaces with the river
- Redevelopment areas/opportunities
- Storm water, water quality, practices
- Vegetation/revegetation practices,
- Aesthetic impacts
- Reuse/improvement incentives

## 2. Recreational and Open Space team

- Open space priorities
- East/west connections – opportunities and improvements
- Connections to other parks and open space
- Build on parkway plan

# Blueprint Milestones

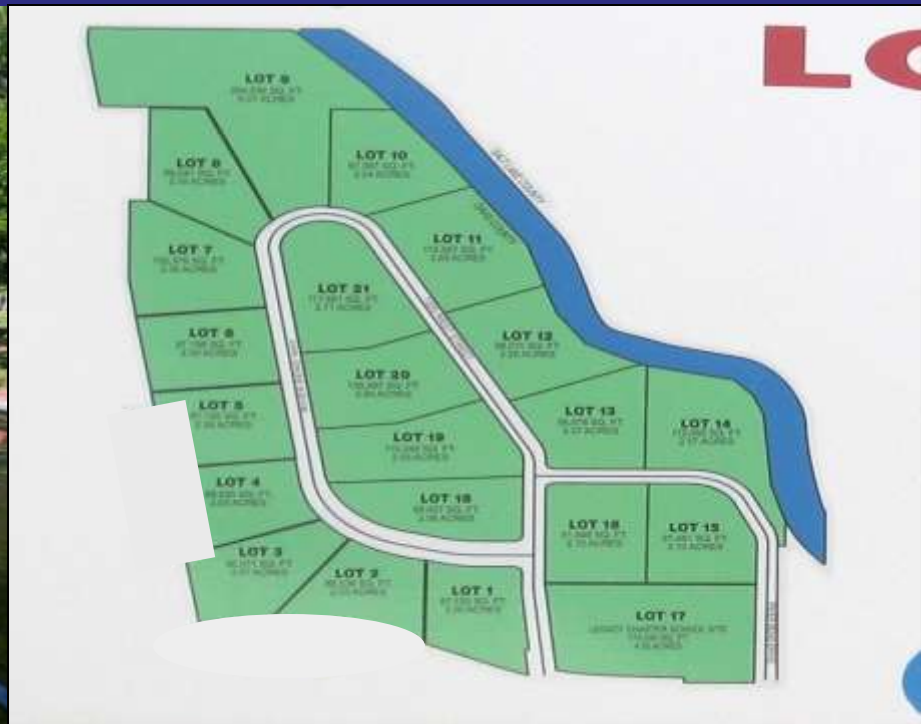
- Steering Committee Initial meetings
  - September, October '07
- Research Teams -- uncover key issues, opportunities, challenges
  - October '07—January '08
- Public Workshops
  - February '08
- Develop Vision Scenarios
  - March '08
- Community Dialogue Meetings
  - May '08
- Final Vision & Toolbox
  - September '08



# WHAT ARE THE BIG IDEAS?

What types of 'PLACE' can we create?

Is the river the heart of our region or the border between communities?



# South Platte River Restoration

## Denver, CO



- 140 acres of new parkland
- Elimination of 250 direct sources of river pollution
- Restored wildlife corridor, native riparian vegetation
- Spurred economic growth in neighboring areas
- Today more than half of the state's bird species use the river as a habitat and its banks are lined with homes, mixed-use developments and businesses.

# Providence River Daylighting

## Providence, RI



- Paved over, abused with sewage, and ignored for decades.
- Daylighting involved the removal of 1,150 feet of roadway, asphalt, and concrete that had covered created one of the most lovely urban riverscapes in the country.
- Complete with gondolas and docking platforms, and (more importantly) it provided a reason for people to return to downtown Providence.

# Provo River Restoration Project

PRRP began construction in 1999.

- created a multiple-thread meandering river channel connected to existing remnants of historic secondary channels, wetland ponds and small side channels.

Long-term project outcomes include:

- a five-fold increase in the trout population
- doubling of the riparian bird population
- diverse native vegetation
- two additional miles of main river channel; and,
- nine additional miles of small side-channel habitats and wetlands





# Final Products

1. Document suitable for a general plan addendum
2. Model Implementation tools
3. Organized and comprehensive set of data
4. A voluntary agreement supporting the 'Vision'



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*The Sun shines not on us but in us. The Rivers flow not past, But through us.*

- John Muir

