Blueprint Jordan River

Any river is really the summation of the whole valley.
To think of it as nothing but water is to ignore the greater part.

~Hal Borland
Agenda

- Background
- May Workshop Results
- Summer Research
- Open House Results
- The Vision
Its been over 30 years…

- Blueprint Jordan River is the first comprehensive plan to consider the ‘entire length’ of the River

In 1971 a plan addressed:

4800 South to the Davis County line
Coordination is key

Blueprint 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
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
BJR will address:

- Recreation
- Aesthetics
- How development interfaces with the river
- The Environment
- Public Health and Safety
- Big Ideas?
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
- Banks are lined with homes, mixed-use developments and businesses
Providence River Daylighting
Providence, RI

- Day-lighting involved the removal of 1,150 feet of roadway, asphalt, and concrete
- New gondolas, docking platforms
- Created an impressive focal point for the city and the region
Provo River Restoration Project

- 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. A voluntary agreement supporting the ‘Vision’
4. A set of Vision Maps
5. Plan of continued action
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Survey Results

- Public’s top priority is restoration and preservation of River ecosystem
- All other functions depend on a healthy River ecosystem
- A healthy River corridor maximizes ecological services and economic benefits through:
  - Flood and erosion control
  - Water quality
  - Biodiversity
  - Increased property values
  - Enhanced quality of life
Vision Scenarios for the Jordan River

- Mixed-Use Corridor: 15.00%
- Green Corridor: 45.00%
- Recreational Corridor: 35.00%
- Community Corridor: 25.00%
Jordan River Utilization for Long-term Economic Development

- Preserve as natural area: 60.00%
- Provide more shopping: 10.00%
- Promote tourism and recreation: 40.00%
- Encourage job growth: 10.00%
- Other: 5.00%
Areas for Improving River Access

- Expand Trailhead Facilities: 10.00%
- Add Trailheads: 20.00%
- Increase Public Transit: 15.00%
- Add East-West Trails: 40.00%
- Add Bike Lanes: 15.00%
Desired Level of Accessibility from Commercial Developments

- One Per Block: 30%
- One Per Structure: 10%
- Open Access: 50%
- No Access: 20%
Most Important Issues for Management of Jordan River Corridor

- Restore River Habitat: 60.00%
- Business & Job Growth: 50.00%
- Complete / Enhance Trail: 20.00%
- Open Space Investment: 10.00%
- Public Safety: 5.00%
- Promote Recreation: 5.00%
- Landscaping Standards: 5.00%
Agenda

- Background
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Summer Research Teams

- Objectives
  - Review and analyze public input
  - Develop Goals & Recommendations
  - Develop illustrative mapping
  - Identify resources for the Blueprint report

- Structure (4 meetings each)
  - Environment:
    - water quality, wildlife & vegetation, education
  - Neighborhood Development:
    - building design & community stewardship programs
  - Economic Development:
    - regional centers, funding, and implementation
  - Recreation & Tourism
    - Unique recreational opportunities, promotion, and business partnerships
Report Format
(Total: 50-pages)

- Executive Summary (2-3 pages)
- Background/Natural History (2-3 pages)
- Public Process* (4-5 pages)
- **Vision*** (20-pages)
- Best Practices* (10-pages)
- Implementation (5-10 pages)
  - Implementation Committee (Fall ‘08)
- Appendices* (on-line or CD only)
Vision* (20-pages)

- Natural Environment
  - Flood Control & Hydrology
  - Stormwater Management
  - Vegetation & Habitat
- Built Environment
  - Circulation & Connection
  - Building Communities
  - Recreation & Tourism
  - Education & Interpretation
Circulation & Connection

 Goals:
 1) Enhance regional access to the Jordan River
 2) Improve interface between the River and surrounding communities

 Recommendations:
 1) Balance the need for parking along the Jordan River with the impacts on surrounding areas
 2) Provide regional public transportation access to the River corridor
 3) Add road improvements to “calm” the impacts of automobile traffic
 4) Encourage water trail use by providing canoe and kayak launching areas
 5) Provide for a continuous and linked trail system including sufficient access and connection to the surrounding communities
 6) Improve road crossings by adding multi-use paths for bikes and pedestrians
 7) Design road crossings to minimize impact on wildlife
Recreation & Tourism

- **Goals:**
  1. Promote the Jordan River as a regional quality-of-life amenity and recreational destination.
  2. Provide natural areas and waterways which endure and captivate.
  3. Deliver recreation that inspires personal growth, healthy lifestyles, and a sense of community.
  4. Maintain a safe place to play, celebrate, contemplate, and recreate.

- **Recommendations:**
  1. Complete lake to lake “blue-green” trailway for boats and multi-use recreation
  2. Create a network of wildlife viewing areas, nature centers, and interpretive trails with signage
  3. Develop consistent and uniform signage throughout the corridor
  4. Make available trail maps that are easy to understand and use
  5. Promote the corridor for recreational uses via multi-media outlets
  6. Promote events such as: history tours, bike rides, and paddling festivals
  7. Integrate fishing ponds and playgrounds into existing neighborhoods
Agenda

- Background
- May Workshop Results
- Summer Research Update
- Open House Results
- Next Steps
Open House Results

- Photo-simulations
- Vision Maps
- Survey Results
Photo-Simulations
Establish Nature Preserves
Provide Recreational Amenities
Facilitate Urban Renewal
Vision Maps

- Comprehensive Map
  - 12 big ideas (environment, recreation, economic development, tourism, education, transportation)

- Environmental Opportunities Map
  - Floodplains, wetlands, priority natural areas, tributary habitat, etc.
  - Nature Centers, Trails

- Environment and Development Conflicts
  - Regional and Neighborhood “River Centers”
    - Mixed-use activity nodes
  - Future planned land use
  - Transportation corridors & crossings
Comprehensive Map

- Regional Trail Connections
- Public Transportation and TODs
- Environmental Opportunities
  - a. Gold Opportunity Areas: 200-300 foot buffer
  - b. Silver Opportunity Areas: 100-200 foot buffer
  - c. Bronze Opportunity Areas: 50-100 foot buffer
- The Jordan River Natural Corridor
- Continuous “Blue-Green” Trail from Utah Lake to the Great Salt Lake
- Jordan Valley Water Demonstration Garden & Facilities
- Murray City/Kennecott Nature Center
- Legacy Nature Preserve
- West Valley Cultural Celebration Center & Marketplace
- Whitewater Kayaking in the Jordan Narrows
- Rowing in the Canal
- Equestrian Access and Amenities
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AND TODS

New rail stops near the River represent multiple opportunities for the River’s future and the future of our Region. Frontrunner and TRAX stops open up the River corridor to residents from the Greater Wasatch Area and tourists arriving via the Salt Lake International Airport and staying in our regional urban centers, such as Salt Lake City, Provo and Ogden. New rail stops also provide ways for residents to enjoy the River without having to drive and use limited parking facilities that impact the natural environment. In addition to transporting people, rail stops provide a development opportunity as nodes of activity are naturally intensified around fixed transit routes and stops. These “transit-oriented” developments (TODs) are natural centers for river-related businesses, such as restaurants, recreational shops, rental facilities, and visitor centers. Catching a train to visit the Jordan River may be a popular pastime in the foreseeable future.
CONTINUOUS “BLUE-GREEN” TRAIL

The Blueprint includes the completion of the multi-use surface trail for pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians, and for the removal of the remaining barriers to lake-to-lake boating for kayaks, canoes and other non-motor boats. Missing trail segments prevent water trail users from enjoying a continuous trip on the Jordan River, and the primary factor causing this fractured condition of the water trail is the prevalence of hazards and impassable elements within the river corridor. One of the most important keys to improving the functional level of the water trail corridor is to “fill in” these gaps by negotiating hazard removal, negotiating and developing appropriate portage facilities around the hazards, and improving safety and awareness through signage and educational efforts.
GOLD OPPORTUNITY AREAS

Gold opportunity areas remain relatively open and have fewer development impacts. They present the greatest opportunity for large-scale habitat preservation and enhancement and include conservation of 200-400 feet on either side of the area. From wildlife viewing spots, one might glimpse a Bald Eagle or a Cooper’s Hawk. Implementation measures include land acquisition and permanent protection.

SILVER OPPORTUNITY AREAS

Silver opportunity areas accommodate a mix of uses and water channels to do so, tying vibrant urban environments to naturalized areas along the river. Increased environmental sensitivity in development projects would yield a 200-240 feet corridor. This natural corridor would be secured with a trail moving in and out along river and the edge of habitat areas. From the trail one might see the Downy Woodpecker or the Long-eared Owl.

BRONZE OPPORTUNITY AREAS

Bronze opportunity areas are heavily populated and present the most opportunity for urban environmental education and stewardship. Opportunities include securing a 50-100 feet buffer buffer stabilization and neighborhood programs emphasizing native vegetation, urban forestry, and clean up. These measures would improve water quality and bring species like the Black-Capped Chickadee and song sparrows to the river. The trail is more linear in this section, providing a viable option for commuters.

EQUESTRIAN TRAILS

Equestrian trails are intended to accommodate equestrians and their horses, but also serve as an alternative path for pedestrians and cyclists on wilderness terrain trails. Equestrian trails are always required, soft surface trails, and therefore require the use of in-line skaters and cyclists on road trails by design. Equestrian trailheads have similar requirements as the multi-purpose trailheads, with the addition of needs for parking to accommodate horse trailers and the tracks that are pulling them. Other desired facilities are loading/unloading platforms and ramps, tie-up areas, access to fresh water for horses, and small corrals on site construction allow. Signage should clearly indicate trails for that accommodate equestrian use.
BOATING (CANOE & KAYAK)

Launches and portages need to be developed with safe, flexible, functional designs that meet water trail user needs at different flow levels of the river, and that accommodate boating parties of varying sizes and skill levels. A comprehensive water trail map should be incorporated as part of the Salt Lake County standard trailhead sign design. In addition, the County should make mapping available online, and in printed format that water trail users can utilize to plan trips, and to take with them on their visits to the Jordan River. These maps could take the form of a guide booklet or large foldout map, and could include information on the history of the river, flora and fauna found along the river, and cultural information.
Open House Map Results
Open House/On-line Survey: www.blueprint.slco.org

3. Environmental Stewardship and Community Involvement

1. Would you be willing to volunteer, at least once, in an "adopt-a-River" group (like "adopt-a-highway"), through your work or neighborhood to clean-up or restore a segment of the River?

- Yes, every few years
- Yes, once a year
- Yes, several times a year
The Vision

- Policy Framework
- Guiding Principles
- “Big Ideas”
- Implementation
Over-arching Policy Framework

1. Preserve and rehabilitate remaining undeveloped areas, including:
   - floodplains, wetlands, habitat, variable buffers (3 tiers)
   - 7,300 acres

2. Areas that are planned for development that conflict with Policy #1 should be priority areas for acquisition and protection
   - 3,800 acres within priority preservation areas slated for development

3. Developable areas not restricted by Policies #1 & #2 within the corridor should be required to incorporate low-impact-development standards
Guiding Principles

1. Preserve and rehabilitate as many natural river features and functions as possible
2. Implement buffers between the River and the built environment
3. Rehabilitate and improve riparian and in-stream habitats
4. Replace structural water conveyance devices with alternatives that allow for flood control plus water quality, recreation, and habitat improvements
5. Reduce hardscapes near or in the Corridor
6. Manage stormwater on site
7. Balance development, recreation, and public access needs with river protection
8. Incorporate the River's natural and cultural history in designs for riverfront features, public art, education, and signage
9. Integrate complementary development and redevelopment design standards
10. Encourage regional transportation planning to connect communities to the River corridor, with an emphasis on encouraging non-automobile travel
“Big Ideas”

- Contiguous lake-to-lake Blue-Green trail
- Jordan River Natural Corridor:
  - 7,800 acres (not including Legacy NP)
- 7 Regional “river centers”
  - Fairgrounds; River Row; Jordan Marketplace; Cottonwood onfluence; Gardner Junction; Riverpark; Thanksgiving Point
- Enhanced Regional Access
  - East-west Connecting Trails
  - TRAX, MAXX and Frontrunner Stations
  - Bridge enhancements
- “Epic Trips”
  - Lake-to-lake boating, wildlife viewing, hiking, biking, historic / culture tours, etc.
- Environmental Education
  - Murray/Kennecott Nature Center
  - JVWC
- Building Communities
  - Public art, stewardship programs, community centers
Implementation

- Create a unified “authority” made-up of local governments, State agencies and stakeholders
  - Dedicated funding for open space acquisition, maintenance and capital projects

- Funding strategies
  - Special service districts
  - Mitigation banks
  - Jordan River open space fund
  - Capital projects funded from “river centers”
  - Development trades for open space
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