



## ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP OF THE SALT LAKE CITY REGIONAL ATHLETIC COMPLEX

The location of the Regional Athletic Complex along the Jordan River presents opportunities for increased recreation, environmental stewardship and community access along the river corridor. This fact sheet outlines the environmental oversight, which has been central to the planning of this project since its inception and will continue throughout construction and long-term management. The plans for the Complex facilitate the creation of a Nature Preserve along the Jordan River to increase stewardship and provide opportunities for education and recreation.

### **Jordan River Blueprint Guidelines**

The City adheres to the Jordan River Blueprint guiding principles in planning and designing this project:

1. *Preserve and rehabilitate natural river features and functions to the greatest extent possible*  
The Nature Preserve component of the Complex will support a natural meandering corridor for the Jordan River through regraded banks that allow for natural and stable bank slopes. Created and maintained wetlands will provide water storage, filtration and habitat. The removal of invasive species and the planting of native trees, shrubs and grasses will promote a healthy riparian corridor and expands existing native riparian habitat.
2. *Establish buffers between the river and the built environment*  
The Nature Preserve area of the Complex establishes a buffer, approximately 23 acres, averaging 223 feet in width between the river and the Complex. The Jordan River Blueprint has identified this area as a “silver level” preservation and restoration opportunity. The width of the Nature Preserve exceeds the recommendation of 100 – 200-foot buffer.
3. *Restore riparian and in-stream habitat*  
The Nature Preserve area will be the focus of riparian and wetland habitat restoration along the river.
4. *Replace structural water conveyance devices with alternatives that allow for flood management plus improvements for water quality, recreation and habitat*  
This project incorporates appropriate best management practices to reduce, retain, slow and filter stormwater within the Complex. Utilizing non-structural water management techniques such as bio-swales, ponds, native riparian plantings and wetlands this project will manage flows and create wildlife habitat. This site is designed to allow function within its natural flood plain dynamic as only minimal habitable structures will be built on elevated pads.
5. *Reduce the use of hardscapes and impermeable surfaces in and near the corridor*  
The 23-acre Nature Preserve area adjacent to the river is the focus of restoration and will be protected in a natural state. The Complex is designed to have 85% of the project area as vegetated soil which allows for natural percolation; only 15% will be hardscaped.
6. *Manage stormwater on site*  
The project incorporates best management practices to collect, filter and store stormwater runoff.

Stormwater will be collected and stored on site to protect Jordan River water quality from nutrient loading. Two ponds will be constructed to store water and hold for reuse.

7. *Balance needs for development, recreation, and public access with river protection*

The Complex allows for active recreation west of the river; the planned connection of the Jordan River Parkway Trail on the east bank will provide the public with active and passive recreation opportunities. The Nature Preserve area protects the river and enhances wildlife habitat while providing an area with watchable wildlife. Appropriate access and interpretative signage will be developed to increase opportunities for outdoor education for nearby schools and community groups.

8. *Incorporate the river's natural and cultural history into design for riverfront features, public art, education and signage*

Planned design elements and amenities, such as interpretative signage, along Jordan River Parkway Trail and Nature Preserve will highlight the area's environmental and cultural history along both sides of the river.

9. *Apply design standards for complementary development and redevelopment in the corridor to support increased viability and recreational use of the river*

This project increases recreation and visitation along the river and incorporates strategies for sustainable design and low-impact development, water efficient irrigation and the protection of the riparian area.

10. *Encourage regional transportation planning to connect communities to the river corridor, emphasizing non-automobile travel*

Regional transportation is facilitated through the completion of the Jordan River Parkway Trail and through future partnerships to coordinate access to this area of the Jordan River through public transportation.

## **Design Elements**

An important design element of this project is the creation of a natural buffer and the establishment of a 23-acre Nature Preserve between the Complex and the river's west edge. This buffer, with an average width of 223 feet, exceeds the requirements of the City's Riparian Corridor Overlay ordinance and will serve to protect and enhance the river corridor and wildlife habitat.

An additional component of the environmental oversight is the mitigation and improvement of the site's wetlands beyond the requirements of the Army Corp of Engineers. The Complex will also meet or exceed FEMA flood plain rules.

Sustainable design standards are being developed for project components, including:

- Lighting – properly selected to minimize impact to wildlife and nearby residents
- On-site stormwater management – to protect Jordan River water quality
- Efficient irrigation – designed to allow for the use of non-potable water in an effort to conserve drinking water resources

In addition to improvements along the west edge of the river, the City has secured \$1.3 million for recreation amenities on the east bank. These secured funds will be used to complete the Jordan River Trail connection to the Davis County line and beyond to the Legacy Parkway Trail and to restore native plant communities and wildlife habitat. The City is also actively seeking grant funds to continue Jordan River restoration efforts such as those currently underway in a joint project with Salt Lake County and the State of Utah at 560 South, 1175 South, 1550 South and 2050 South.

For more information on the Regional Sports Complex go to [www.slcgov.com](http://www.slcgov.com) and click on Hot Topics or email [mayor@slcgov.com](mailto:mayor@slcgov.com) with your comments.