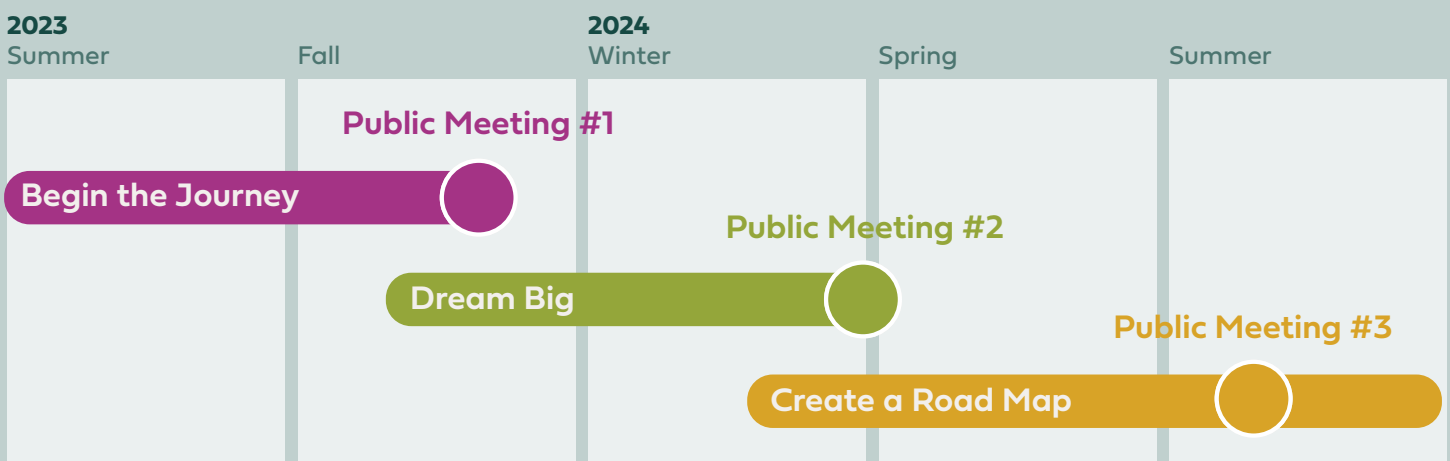


# Emerald Ribbon Existing Conditions Report Snapshot



The Emerald Ribbon Action Plan is an effort by Salt Lake City to help achieve a healthy, thriving, and community-centered Jordan River Corridor. The river plays a critical role in the lives of Salt Lake City residents, the Great Salt Lake, and all the plants and animals that call it home. The Emerald Ribbon Action Plan will determine a community vision for the Jordan River corridor, and it will also provide a roadmap for Salt Lake City to achieve that vision. This includes recommendations for policy, guidelines for maintenance, and a list of projects over the next decade. The planning process kicked off in July 2023, and over 350 people have provided their input thus far. This report represents key findings from our research in phase one and focuses on the existing conditions of the site. The final plan will be completed in late 2024.



## What we have learned

The Emerald Ribbon is tied together by both nature and culture. See below and on the next page for a summary of key questions and takeaways from the project so far. They are organized in the following topics: Context, Communities, Connectivity, Capacity, Awareness, and Activity.

### CONTEXT

- What is the natural context of the Jordan River?
- What is the cultural context of the Jordan River?



### COMMUNITY

- What flora and fauna that live along the corridor?
- Who are the river's different users and advocates?



### CONNECTIVITY

- What are the flows and movements of the river's natural systems?
- How do people move to and along the river today?



### CAPACITY

- What is the capacity of the river to provide healthy habitats?
- What is the capacity of the city to create a healthy river?



### AWARENESS

- How does awareness (or lack thereof) of the river impact it today?
- How does public perception of the corridor impact it today?



### ACTIVITY

- Where along the corridor are the ecologically vital places?
- Where along the corridor are the vital people places?



# KEY TAKEAWAYS | The next steps of the Action Plan should...



## CONTEXT

- More explicitly reflect West Side culture and residents.
- Build trust through better emphasis and equitable maintenance and care.
- Model best practices to address the broader watershed issues of water quality, flood resilience, and habitat restoration.

- Enhance biodiversity and habitat quality to strengthen the corridor's appeal as a natural refuge.
- Engage and support houseless neighbors living along the corridor while improving a sense of safety for all users.
- Develop programming and activation that relates more specifically to the identity and needs of the river's neighbors.



## COMMUNITY

- Improve wayfinding through better placemaking, signage, and design, particularly at decision points.
- Incorporate flood risk reduction for greater resiliency.
- Enhance access to, from and onto the river as a key mobility network.
- Partner and collaborate to enhance the health of the entire watershed.



## CONNECTIVITY

- Expand wetland spaces and improve the river banks for greater ecological function and beauty.
- Simplify, clarify and streamline maintenance, operations and management of the river corridor.
- Establish new standards for care, cleanliness and capital investment.



## CAPACITY



## AWARENESS

- Design the corridor to make people feel safer, especially at night.
- Reduce waste into the water and better manage getting debris out of the water.
- Work with community partners in thoughtfully addressing the unhoused population on the corridor.

- Create more natural spaces that both improve ecological health and enhance human experience.
- Promote stronger visual connection between the urban fabric and the corridor, particularly at parks and more private stretches.
- Explore the potential for more diversity of trail experience, including exploration of slow or unpaved paths.



## ACTIVITY