



Emerald Ribbon Action Plan

Phase 1 Engagement Summary

January 2024

Agency Landscape + Planning

Siglo Group

University Neighborhood Partners

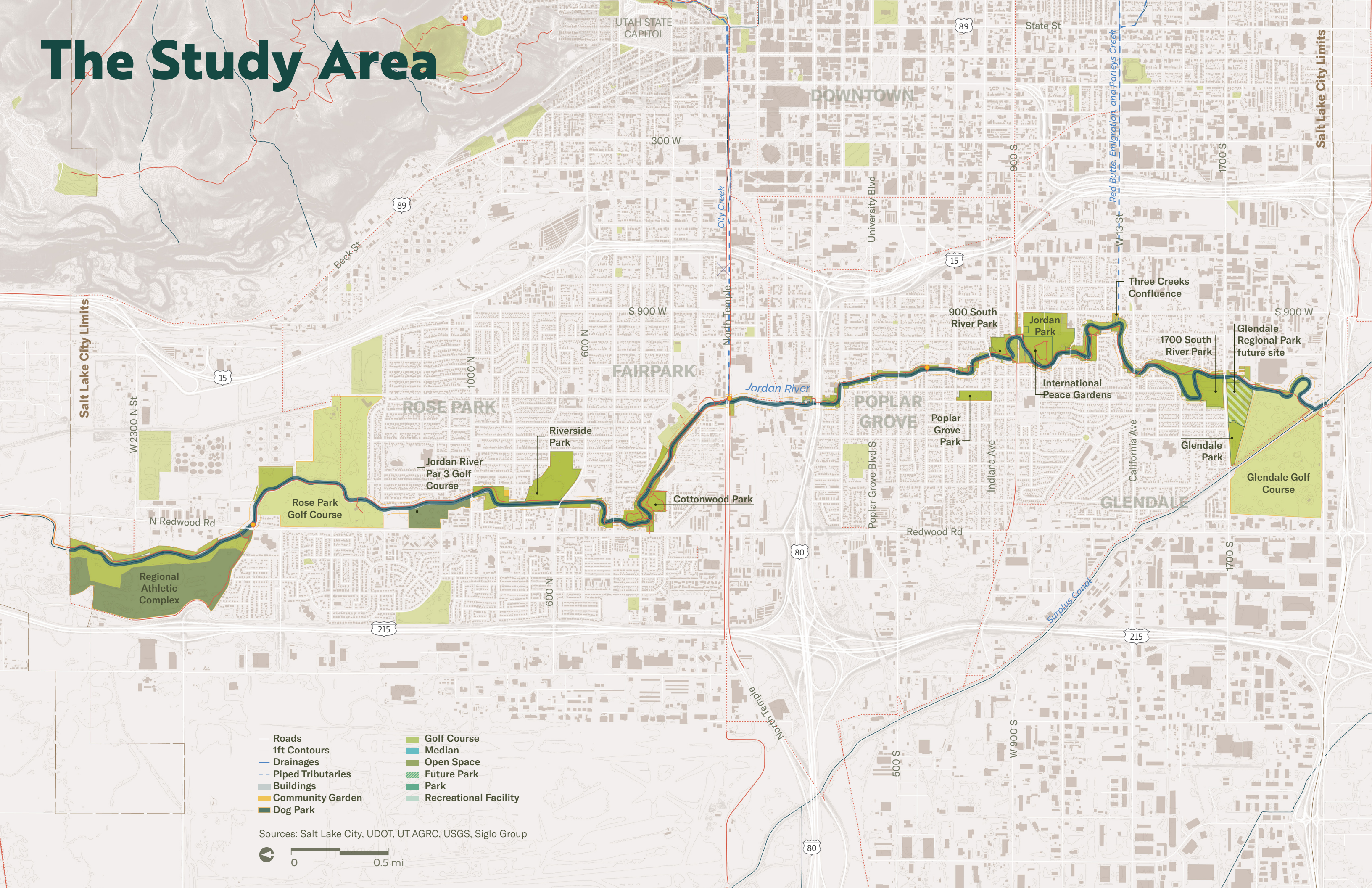


Project Overview

Where we are in the
process

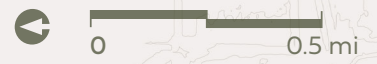


The Study Area



- Roads
- 1ft Contours
- Drainages
- Piped Tributaries
- Buildings
- Community Garden
- Dog Park
- Golf Course
- Median
- Open Space
- Future Park
- Park
- Recreational Facility

Sources: Salt Lake City, UDOT, UT AGRC, USGS, Siglo Group



The Process

PHASE 1

Begin the Journey

In this Phase, we will:

- Establish communication protocols
- Understand past plans, data, maps
- Visit and assess the corridor's current conditions
- Partner on an engagement plan
- Publicly kick-off the project!

PHASE 2

Dream Big

In this Phase, we will:

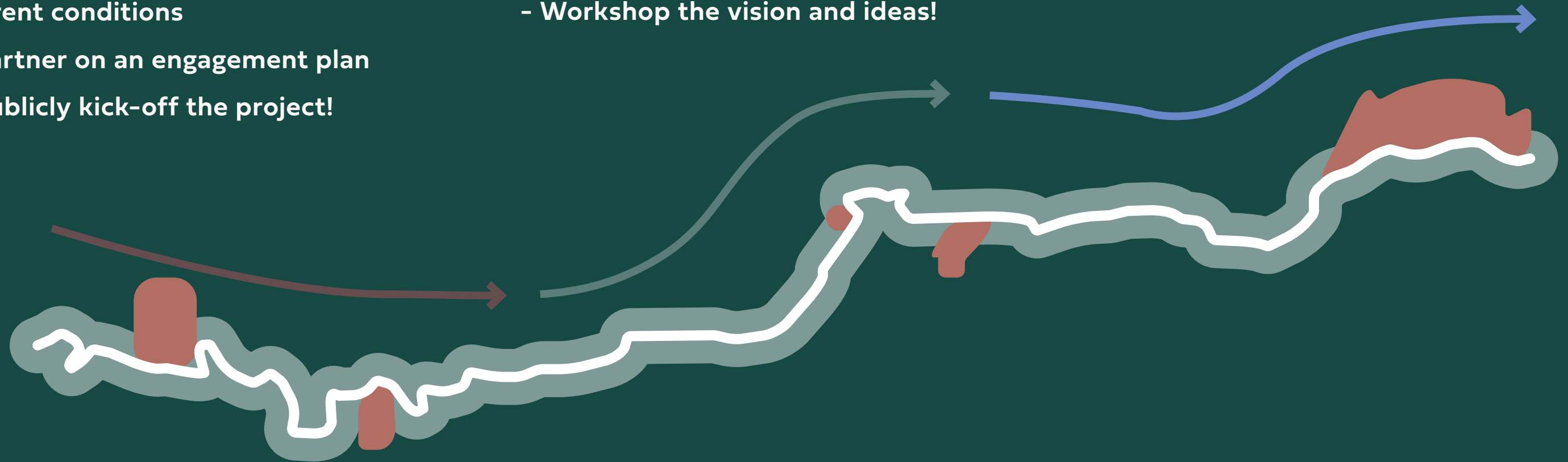
- Collaborate around a framework
- Develop guiding principles
- Communicate character and use
- Share concept alternatives
- Workshop the vision and ideas!

PHASE 3

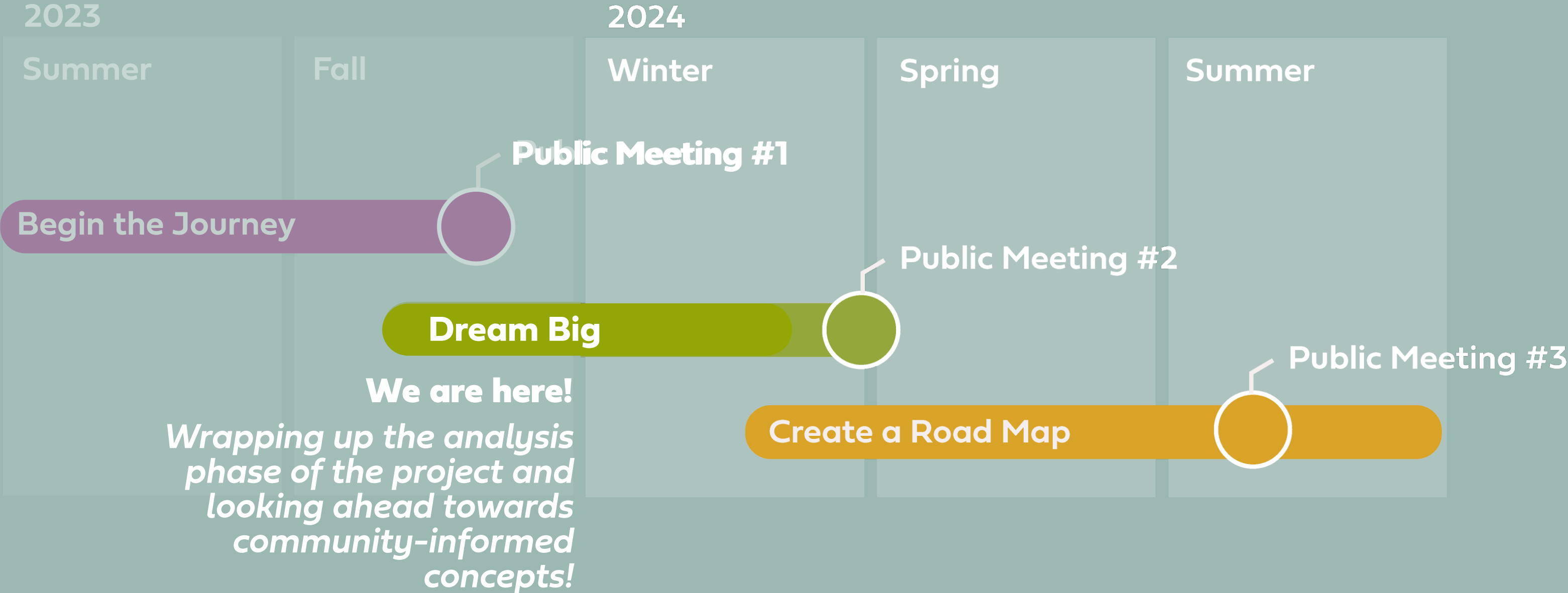
Create a Road Map

In this Phase, we will:

- Finalize the corridor concept plan
- Develop a stewardship strategy
- Vet recommendations
- Implement the plan!



Where we are



Where we've been

Emerald Ribbon team site visits and field work

10
Miles of
Corridor



Walking,
Biking &
Canoeing!



Where we've been

The Emerald Ribbon Plan has conducted outreach in a many different ways to learn from stakeholders and the public!



FOCUS GROUPS

We have conducted six focus groups with the Hispanic, Karen, Pacific Islander, and African Refugee communities. We have also met with groups focusing on Ecological Value/ Sustainability, Recreation/Water Access, History & Culture, Mobility, Management, Economic Impact and Education/Stewardship.



ADVISORY GROUPS

We have kicked off our Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and Community Advisory Group (CAG)! The TAG will inform maintenance and management needs and recommendations, while the CAG will weigh in on community needs throughout the process.



PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

Our first round of three public workshops was a success! Community members joined us to learn about and share their perspectives on the Jordan River today, and to provide their dreams for the future of the corridor.

Who we've met

Thank you to the over 350 community members and stakeholders who have provided their ideas so far!

25
Community
Advisory Group
Members

10+
Stakeholder
Interviews

51
Stakeholders in
Focus Groups

50+
Westside
Residents in Focus
Groups

140+
Participants in
public workshops

100
People at Dinner
on the River

3
Hotline
Hits

30
Technical
Advisory Group
Members

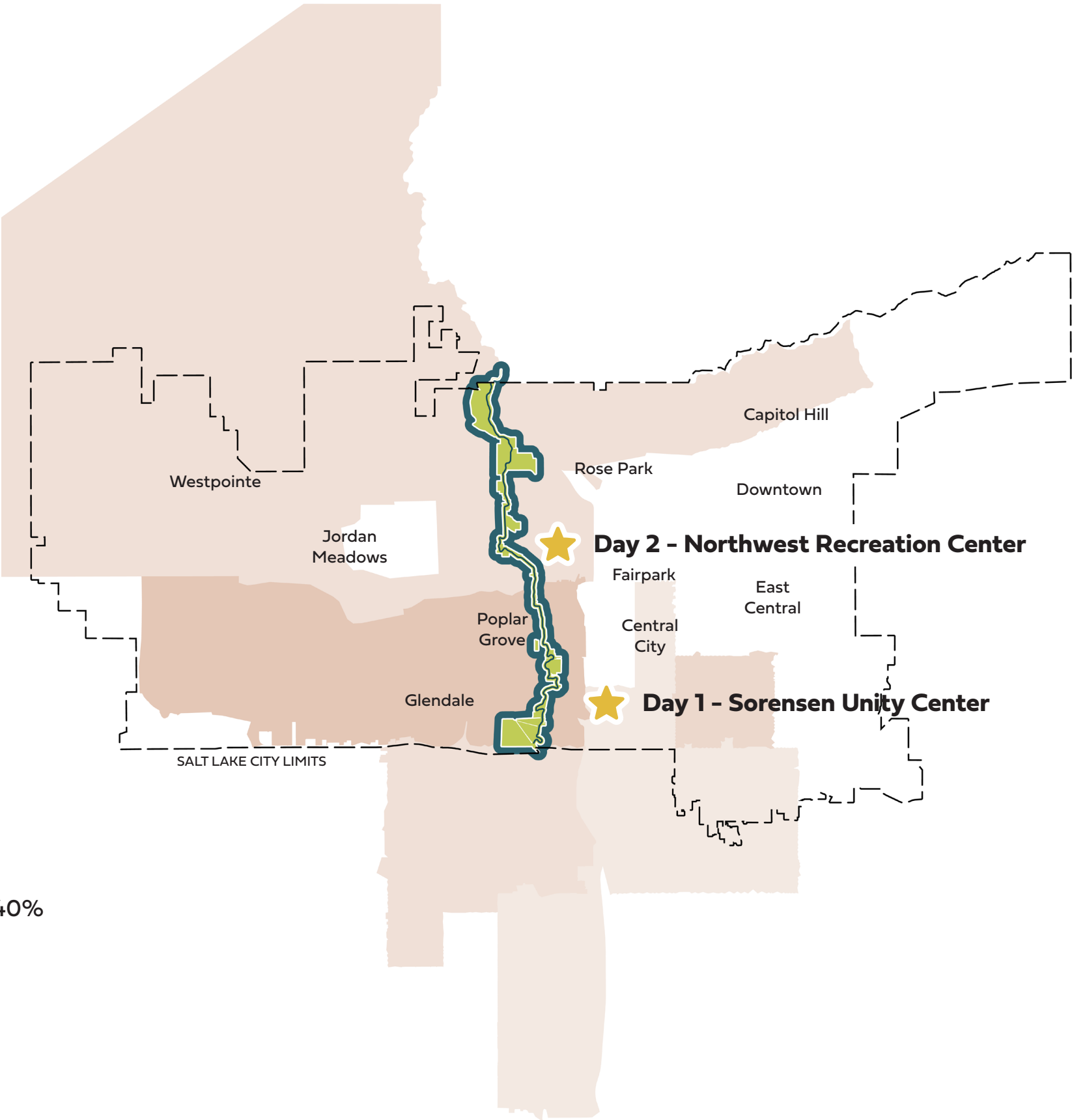
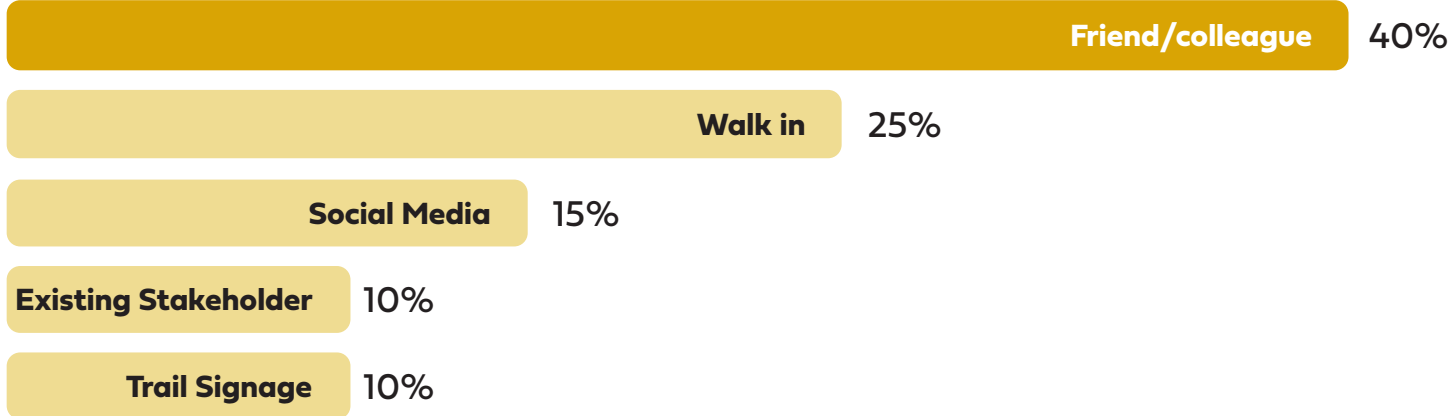
Your dreams and goals for the future of the Jordan River will inform the concepts developed during the Dream Big phase!

**number of invitees as of 12/07*

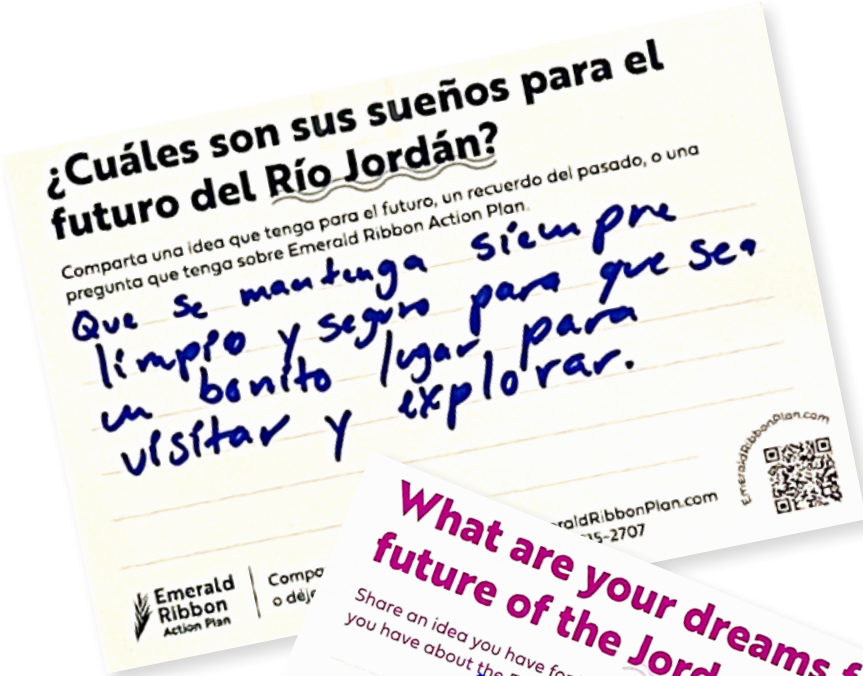
Public Workshop attendees represented nearly ten different communities around and outside of Salt Lake City.*

**based on zip codes provided on the first workshop at Sorensen Unity Center*

How did people hear about this event?



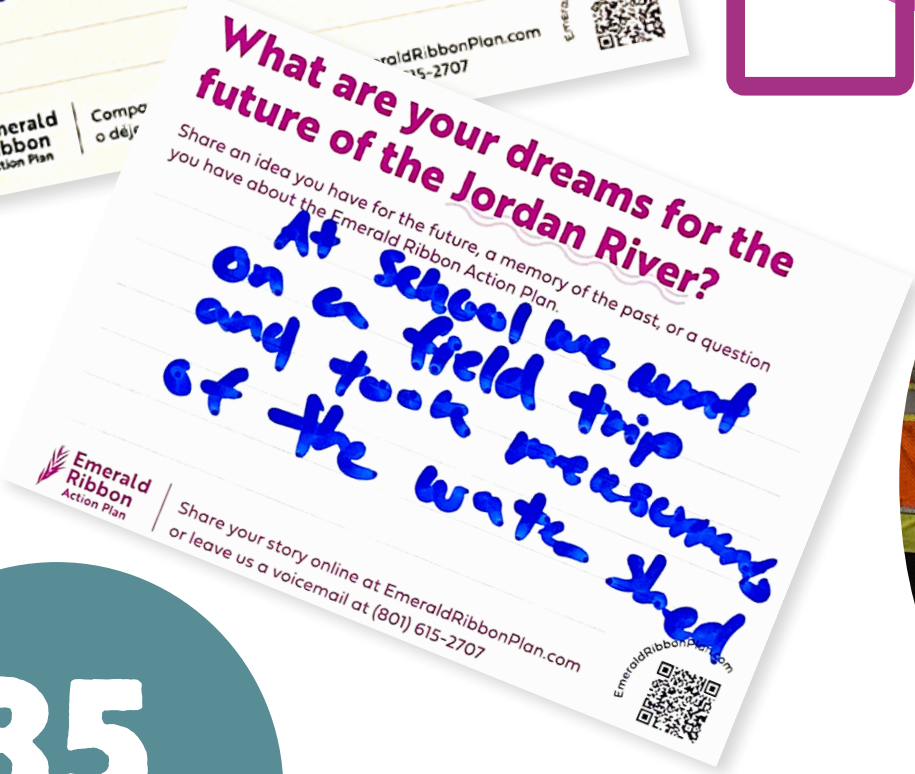
We've received hundreds of dreams and ideas for the future of the Jordan River.



3 Hotline Hits

70 post it comments

800 focus group comments



1400 gameboard votes

85 postcards

Feedback Summary

Community Ideas and
Comments

The public provided feedback in three different ways:



THE GAMEBOARD
Participants voted on their priorities for the Jordan River and the Emerald Ribbon Plan related to Activity, Awareness, Capacity, Communities, Connectivity, and Context.



THE TOWERS
The towers provided information about the existing natural and cultural context of the Jordan River today and residents provided their thoughts on key questions.

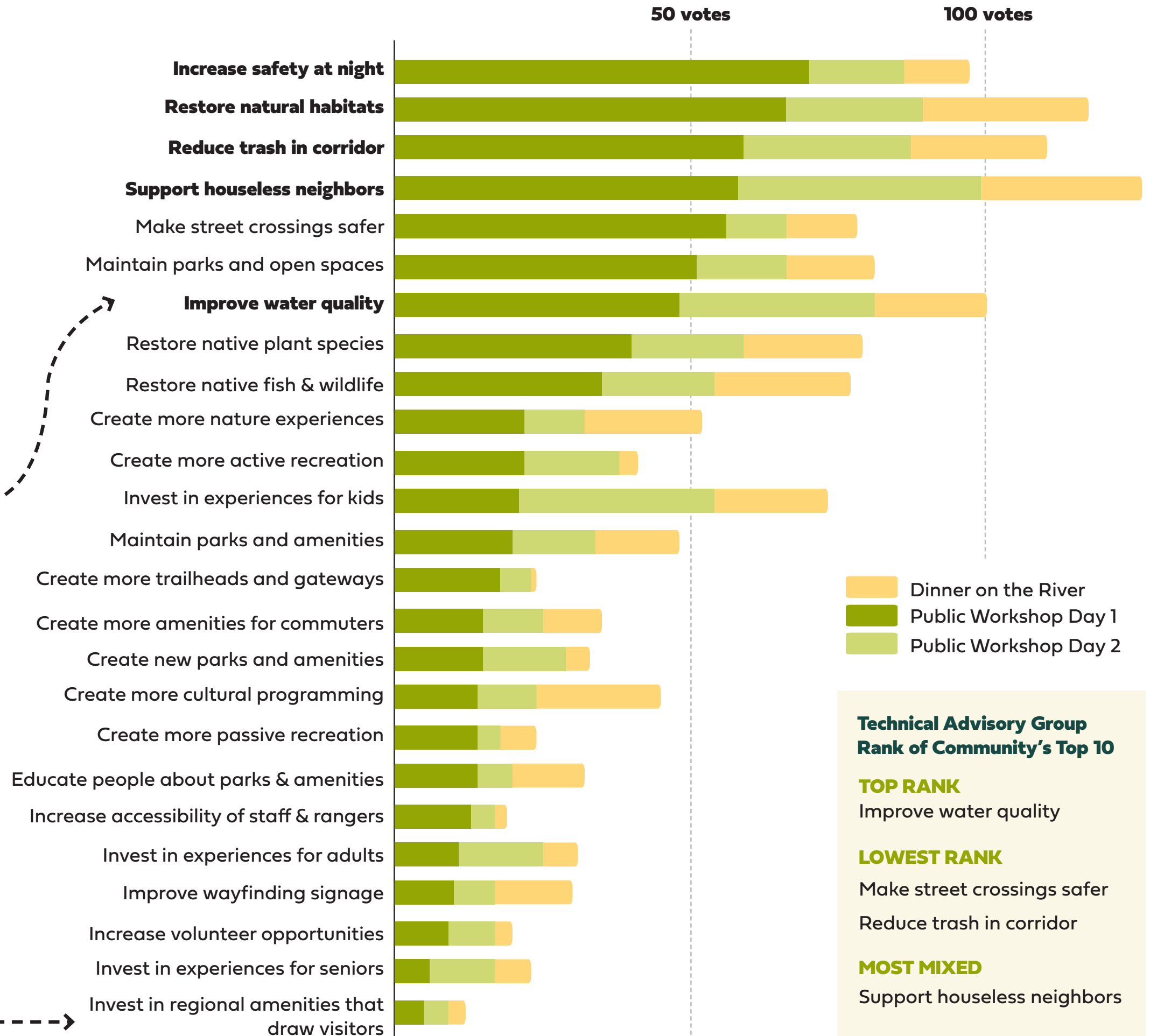


THE POST CARDS
Participants wrote down their dreams for the future of the Jordan River.

THE GAMEBOARD

Safety, cleanliness, houseless support, water quality and habitat restoration are top priorities.

Activities for tourists was least important.



■ Dinner on the River
■ Public Workshop Day 1
■ Public Workshop Day 2

Technical Advisory Group Rank of Community's Top 10

TOP RANK
Improve water quality

LOWEST RANK
Make street crossings safer
Reduce trash in corridor

MOST MIXED
Support houseless neighbors

Stakeholders are saying...

Data collected from Technical Advisory Group members
and 8 focus groups conducted in August 2023

Activate the Corridor

Activating the river and making it a recreation resource will help us achieve other priorities (like public safety and restoration).

Collaborate with Partners

SLC cannot transform the river alone. Partnership with cities upriver and local residents alike will be critical to achieving our goals.

Prioritize Nature with New Best Practices

Stakeholders agree on the need for new practices to tackle erosion, invasives, and trash removal.

Strategically Balance Uses

The goals of a healthier environment and a more fun recreation destination may clash: how can we strategically do both better together?

Based on community feedback themes, the Salt Lake City community is dreaming of...

based on data collected from 6 focus groups completed in October 2023, 2 public open houses, and online comments.



**...a well-maintained
natural and cultural
sanctuary**



**...a vibrant community
destination**



**...a place that
fosters long-term
multigenerational use**



**THE JORDAN
RIVER IS A WELL-
MAINTAINED
NATURAL AND
CULTURAL
SANCTUARY**

**46% of feedback
highlights the need
for a safe and clean
corridor that fosters
a healthy habitat and
community refuge.**

HOW PEOPLE ARE FEELING

Many people feel unsafe along the corridor due to physical conditions as well as the presence of the unhoused community, while others already see it as a refuge.

Uncomfortable

due to the presence of unhoused folks along the river and their perceived impact on safety and cleanliness

"Want it cleaner, security, feels unsafe around people who are experiencing homelessness." - Focus Group

"It's my place to get out of my head & find peace & gratitude."

Calm

for some, the corridor is a refuge already; a place to engage in nature alone or with others

Unsafe

due to inadequate lighting, the presence of needles, dangerous intersections, and drowning risks

"Child safety. The river is dangerous and is prone for kids falling into it." - Focus Group

"I don't feel safe walking on the street, everywhere in the neighborhood needs more lights" - Focus Group

NURTURING NATURE

People would like to see nature thrive along the Jordan River: for wildlife to thrive and for people to enjoy.

“Only have natives trees on the banks of the river. And only native trout in the water.”

more trees Protect wildlife

Restoration

People talk about the need to protect and restore the natural environment on the river, to ensure natural habitat for future generations.

Keep it wild

flowers

Beauty

Many comments about nature are about how people want to *experience* nature near their homes.

nature education
weed mitigation

water safe enough to use for ceremonies

Bird walks
more wetlands

NURTURING COMMUNITY

People shared about the poor physical condition of the water, trail, and adjacent parks.

Water

Water quality comes up again and again as a barrier to enjoying the corridor; from an inability to swim to the visual effect of trash, people want cleaner water.

"Continue cleaning the river of trash and debris. It always looks funky."

Cleanliness and trash came up in

90+

public workshop and focus group comments

Parkland

People celebrate places like Jordan Park, but we heard over and over again a desire for more to do: entertainment, gathering places, community gardens, food markets and more.

Trail

Many mention how much they love the trail today, but lament that it is too narrow, not well connected on both sides, and lacks suitable signage & wayfinding.



**THE JORDAN RIVER
IS A VIBRANT
COMMUNITY
DESTINATION**

**37% of feedback
centers around ideas
for programming
in the river, on the
trail, and within the
corridor.**

**PROGRAMMING:
ON THE RIVER**

Many community members would like to engage with the water, with activities such as fishing, paddling, and swimming coming up most often.



**PROGRAMMING:
ON THE TRAIL**

**Along the trail,
the community
would like more
nature education
and amenities and
facilities suitable
for all modes of
travel.**



**PROGRAMMING:
SURROUNDING LANDS**

Adjacent to the corridor, people would like to see commercial activation and programming for all ages.





**THE JORDAN RIVER
IS A PLACE THAT
FOSTERS LONG-TERM
MULTIGENERATIONAL
USE**

**18% of comments told
a story about their
memories associated
with the Jordan River
and dreams for future
generations.**

MEMORIES OF THE RIVER

Though there are challenging perceptions of the river today, the community shared cherished memories of the Jordan River.

A memory that I have is jogging and biking around it. Also I remember seeing ducks, but I haven't in a while. So maybe make the water cleaner.

I loved biking with my dad and running on the trail. It's a great trail.

At school we went on a field trip and took measurements of the watershed.

My favorite memory in Salt Lake is at the Peace Gardens in Jordan Park. I was having a really bad day and stumbled upon it and it changed my whole state of mind.

I've used the Jordan River to run during my cross-country for West High School. Nice to have a change in scenery when running I usually run the city so it's refreshing to get miles in by nature and the water.

I remember going down to the river with my niece and relaxing next to the river.

FUTURE DREAMS FOR THE RIVER

The community would like for improvements along the Jordan River to facilitate memory-making for future generations.

"I would like to see more community and cultural events at the Jordan River. Most importantly, this spacious and incredible place for future generations to enjoy the beauty of it."
- Public Workshop

"Special people who can give tours along the river with the native plants and fish explained, bird watching"
- Focus Group

"Expanded wetland habitat along the Jordan along with native plant restoration and weed mitigation. My dream is one day it will be clean enough to swim!"
- Public Workshop

"Playground for the kids and kids activities that the mom can take with her kids, so she can rest and the kids can play"
- Focus Group

"Dream is to have more adult activities for us to act be as a community. we need more group activities. More community improvement"
- Public Workshop

"To keep trash out of the river for future generations"
- Public Workshop

"For families to be able to walk along the trail together & enjoy the scenery & nature without being scared"
- Public Workshop

"To have a clean place for recreation and adventure. To see wildlife more often."
- Public Workshop

What's Next?

Looking Ahead to 2024!

Your dreams and ideas for the future of the corridor will inform new concepts that will be shared in early 2024.



And there is still time to provide feedback! Text or call the hotline at (801) 615-2707 and visit emeraldribbonplan.org to stay in the loop about future ways to engage.



Thank you!