



# **Emerald Ribbon Action Plan**

**City Council Update - September 17th, 2024**



## Creating a Community Vision

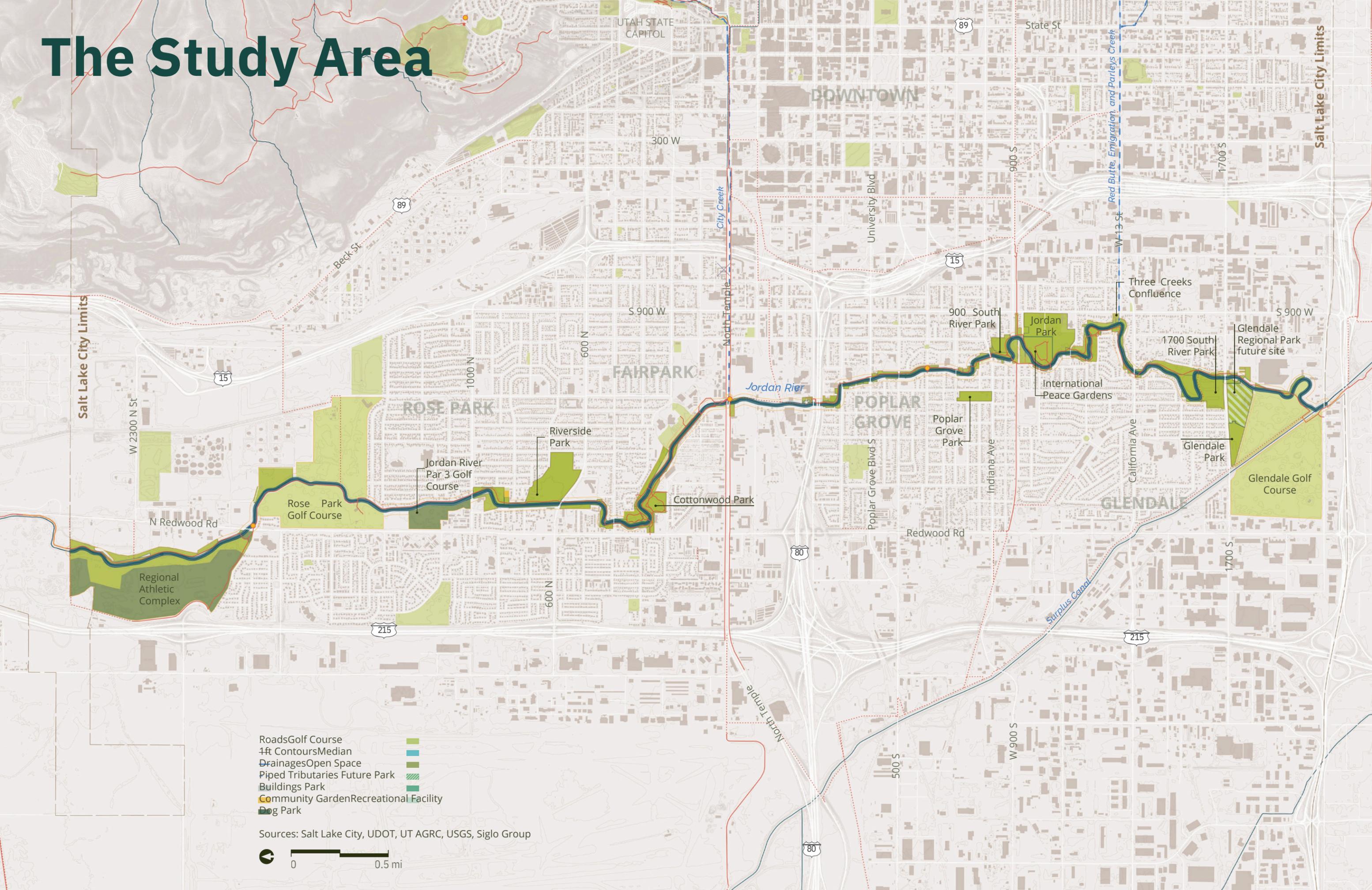


## Determining Key Projects for Bond Funding



## Establishing Maintenance Guidelines

# The Study Area



- Roads
- Golf Course
- 4ft Contours
- Drainages
- Piped Tributaries
- Buildings
- Community Garden
- Recreational Facility
- Dog Park
- Open Space
- Future Park
- Park

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



# The Process

## PHASE 1 Begin the Journey

Summer - Fall 2023

- Understand past plans, data, maps
- Visit and assess the corridor's current conditions
- Understand how the community views the river today

## PHASE 2 Dream Big

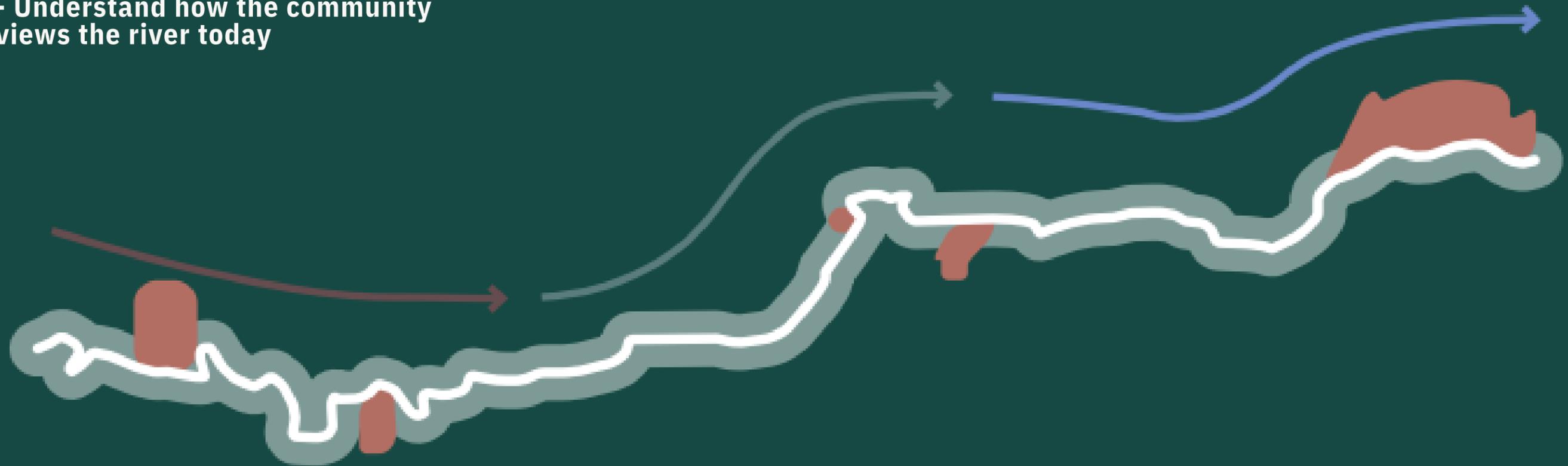
Winter - Spring 2024

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

## PHASE 3 Create a Road Map

Summer - Fall 2024

- Finalize the corridor concept plan
- Develop a stewardship strategy
- Draft concept plans for five key sites
- Create an implementation plan



# Summary of Engagement



# Phase 1 Engagement

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

**30**

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!*

# ***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**

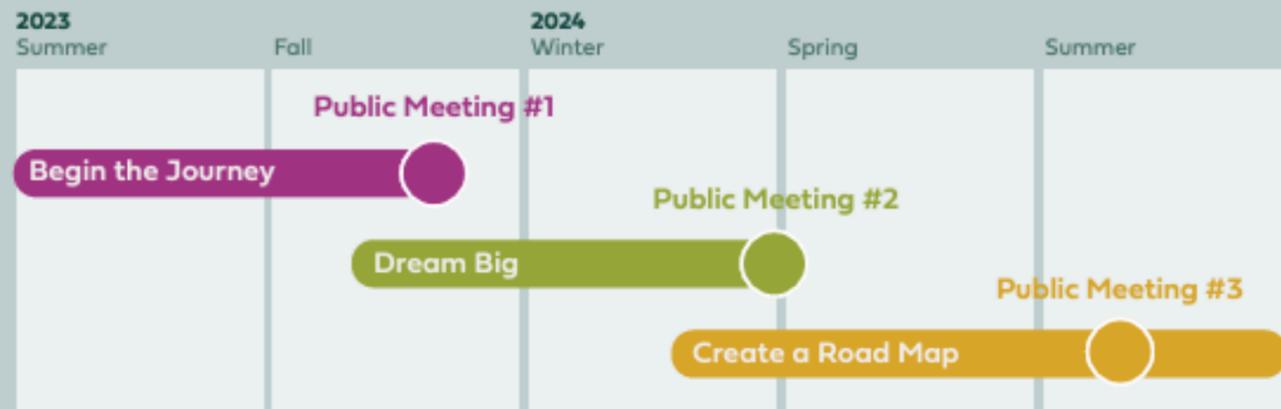


**...a place that  
fosters long-term  
multigenerational use**

# 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.

<p><b>CONTEXT</b></p> <p>What is the natural context of the Jordan River? What is the cultural context of the Jordan River?</p> 	<p><b>COMMUNITY</b></p> <p>What flora and fauna that live along the corridor? Who are the river's different users and advocates?</p> 	<p><b>CONNECTIVITY</b></p> <p>What are the flows and movements of the river's natural systems? How do people move to and along the river today?</p> 
<p><b>CAPACITY</b></p> <p>What is the capacity of the river to provide healthy habitats? What is the capacity of the city to create a healthy river?</p> 	<p><b>AWARENESS</b></p> <p>How does awareness (or lack thereof) of the river impact it today? How does public perception of the corridor impact it today?</p> 	<p><b>ACTIVITY</b></p> <p>Where along the corridor are the ecologically vital places? Where along the corridor are the vital people places?</p> 

# Emerald Ribbon Action Plan

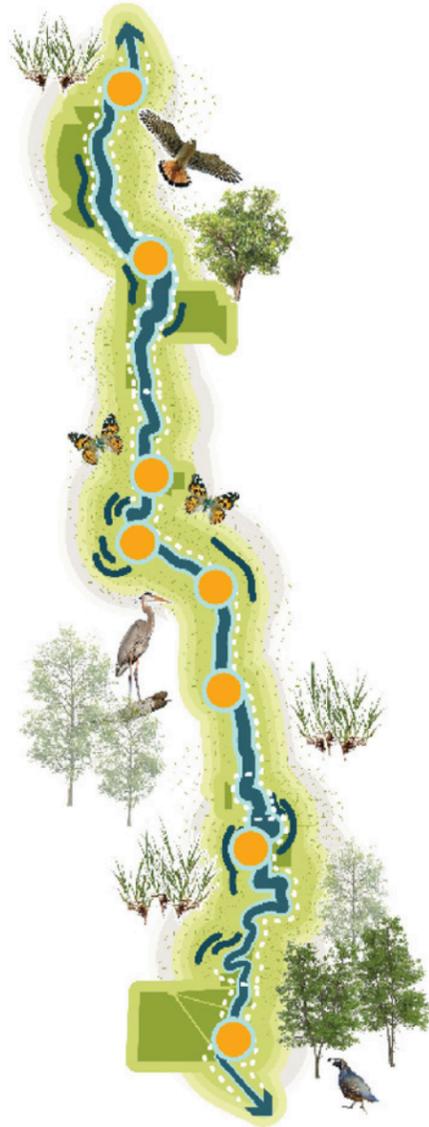
OPERATIONS & MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS  
APRIL 2024

PREPARED BY  
Agency Landscape + Planning  
Siglo Group



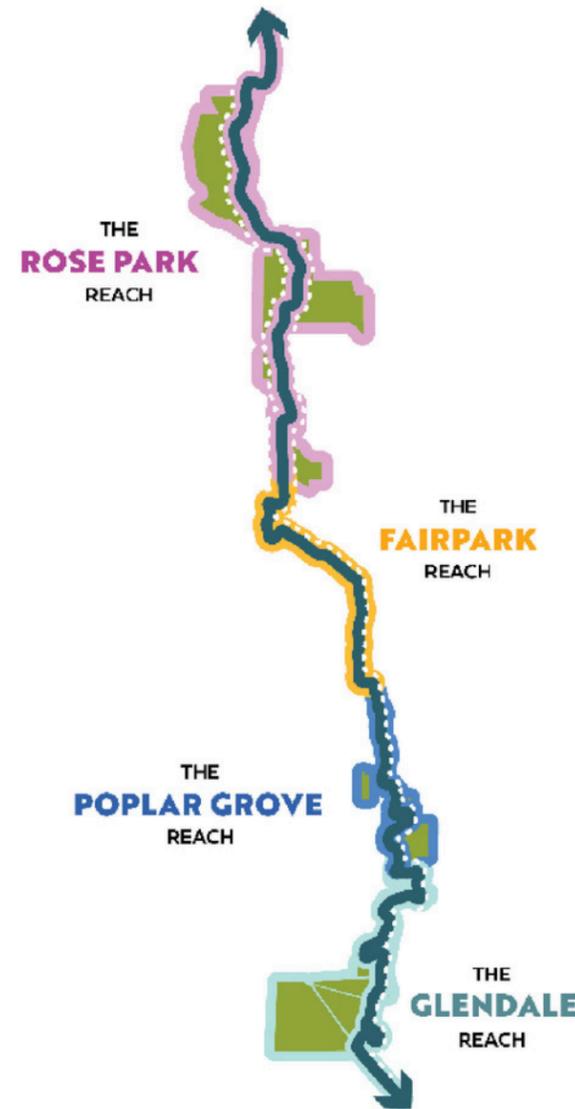
[emeraldribbonplan.com](http://emeraldribbonplan.com)

# Three Concepts for the Future of the Emerald Ribbon



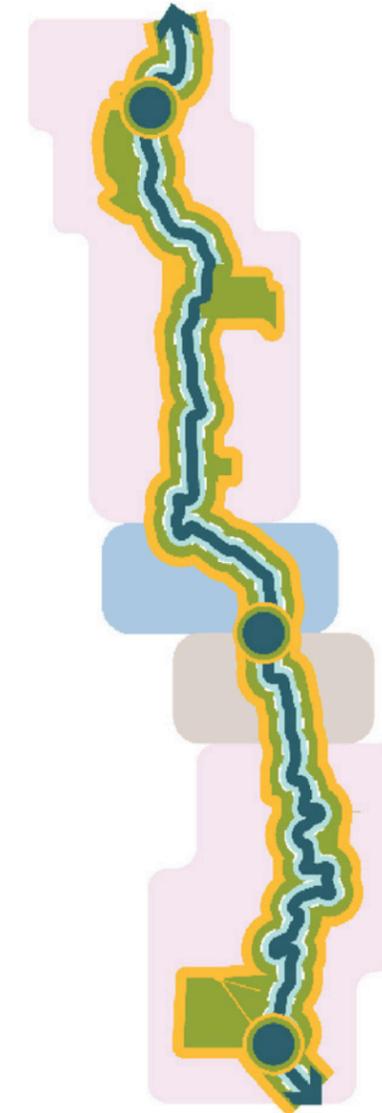
## Meandering Moments

A restored nature education and recreation corridor with hubs of activity at parks



## Dynamic Districts

A vibrant, ever-changing corridor that celebrates the diversity of West side neighborhoods



## River Ribbons

A mobility-focused corridor with unique spaces for passing through, spending time, and enjoying the water

# The Action Plan will be structured on our guiding principles:

The Emerald Ribbon should...

**Celebrate** the rich ecological and cultural diversity of the corridor.

**Connect** the corridor into surrounding streets, trails, and waterways.

**Cultivate collective care** of the corridor.

**Restore and enhance** the river ecosystem as a peaceful refuge.

**Activate** the corridor to create a safe and vibrant destination.

# Phase 2 Engagement

March workshops and online survey collected feedback on our concept designs

**25+**  
collage designs



**500+**  
post-it comments

**2900+**  
online comments

**1250+**  
votes on board



**1160+**  
online votes



**4**  
Hotline Hits



# Overall response to 3 design concepts

CONCEPT #1:  
MEANDERING MOMENTS

Concept #1 is most well-loved among all!

IN-PERSON FEEDBACK\*



ONLINE SURVEY



CONCEPT #2:  
DYNAMIC DISTRICTS



CONCEPT #3:  
RIVER RIBBONS



Not Very Well



Moderately well



Fairly Well



Very Well



\*reflecting the total number of votes received from both public meetings, CAG, and TAG

# Key takeaways based on community feedback

Data collected from both Sorenson and Mestizo Public Meetings, Community Advisory Group, and Technical Advisory Group conducted in March 2024

## CARE FOR NATURE

People **prioritize care for nature** to promote enjoyment for humans while preserving wildlife habitats.

## ACTIVATION IN A HEALTHY WAY

People **encourage activation of the river** and celebration of diverse neighborhoods in a **thoughtful and sustainable** way.

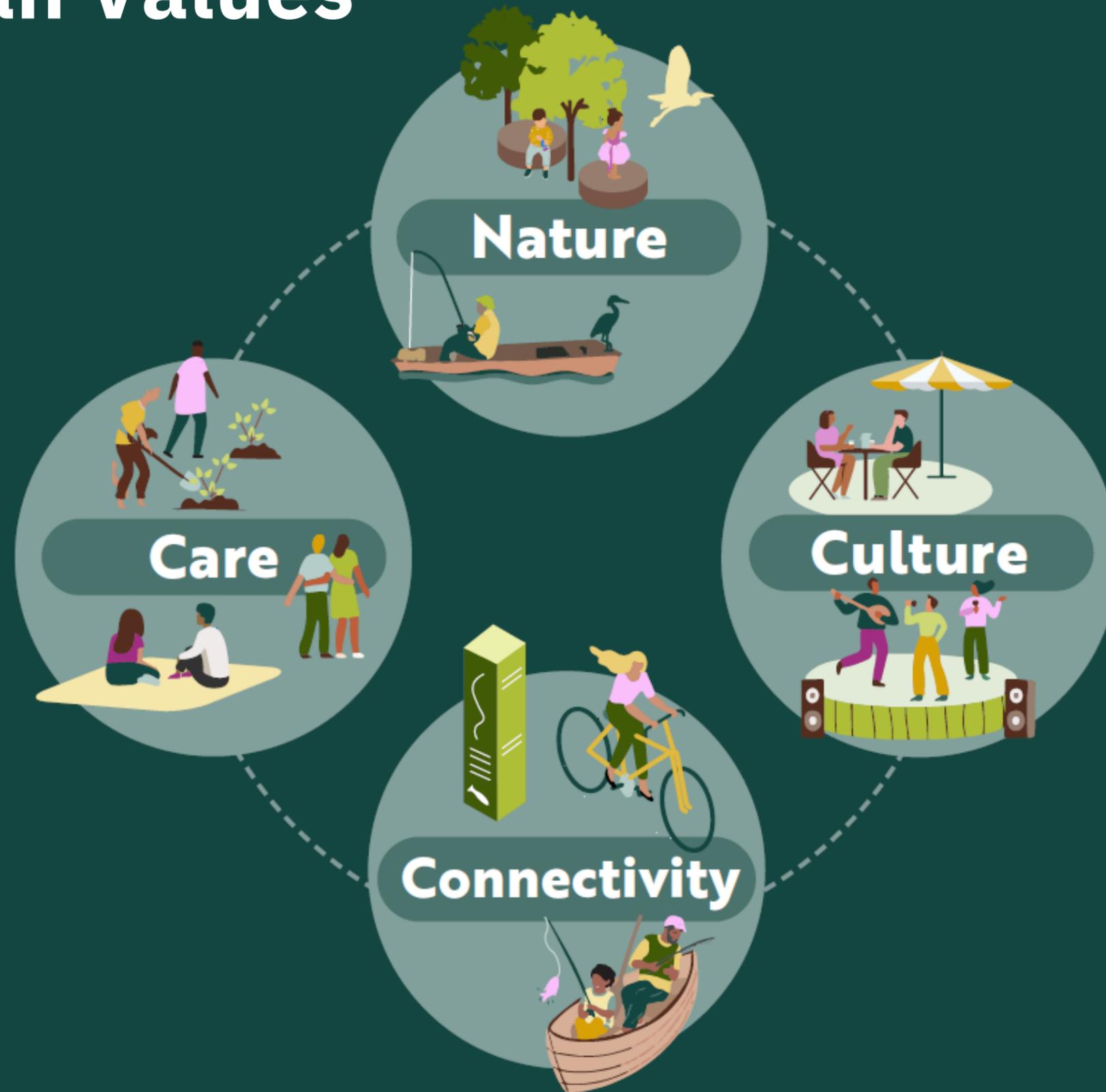
## ENHANCED TRAIL SYSTEM

People would love to see a trail system with **enhanced connectivity, safety, and experience** along the river corridor.

## PERCEPTIONS OF INSECURITY

People **feel unsafe along the corridor** due to physical conditions as well as the presence of the unhoused community.

# Action Plan Values



# Phase 3 Engagement

July workshops and an online survey asked participants to prioritize strategies and improvements and weigh in on five site concepts



400+  
votes  
on board

60+  
post-it  
comments



500+  
online  
comments

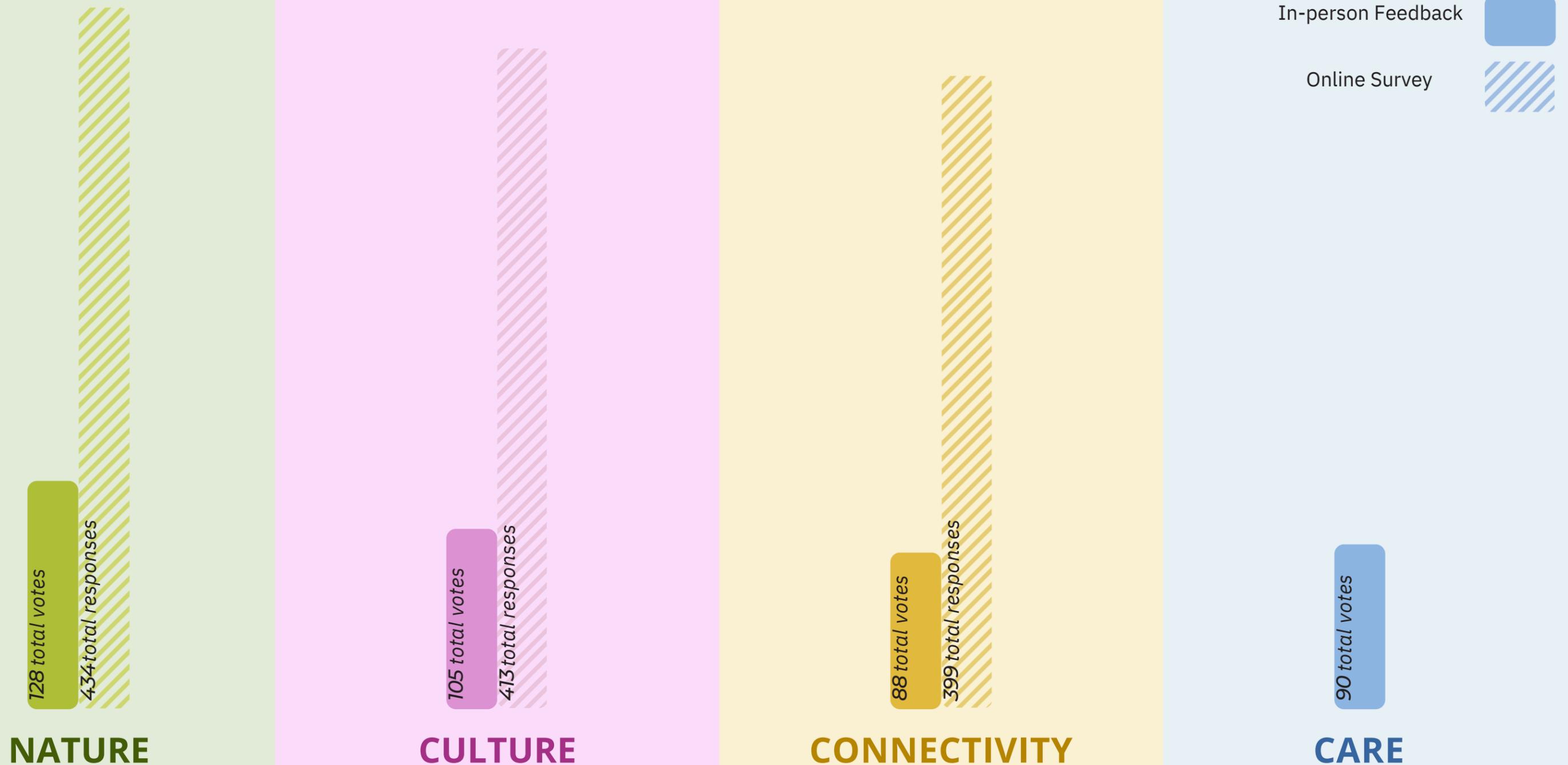


450+  
survey  
responses

\*Based on engagement input by the date of 2024/07/23

# Overall response to themes

People prioritize caring for nature while encouraging cultural celebrations and enhancing the trail system.



\*Based on engagement input by the date of 2024/07/23

# NATURE theme



IN-PERSON  
FEEDBACK



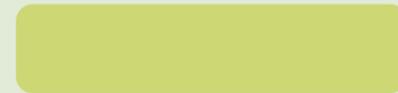
**Improve water quality**



42 votes



Create biodiverse native habitats



26 votes



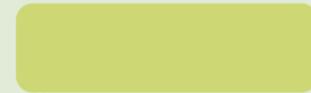
Increase natural lands from 14% to at least 30%



26 votes



Make room for the river



19 votes



Enhance nature experience



11 votes



Facilitate streamlined management



4 votes

Priorities are aligning based on feedback from different sources



ONLINE  
SURVEY



**Improve water quality**



3.34



Improve biodiversity and healthy habitat



3.26



Turn underused land into protected natural areas



3.24



Restore wetlands and soften the slope of river banks



3.05



Create nature experiences on the river (overlooks, nature paths etc)



2.11

# CULTURE theme



## IN-PERSON FEEDBACK



**Partner with city and state to address housing insecurity**



37 votes



**Bring programming to the water and water's edge**



27 votes



**Support small business and commercial activation**



22 votes



**Expand public programs on the corridor**



11 votes



**Create flexible event and gathering spaces**



8 votes

Priorities are mostly aligning based on feedback from different sources



## ONLINE SURVEY



**Partner with city and state to address housing insecurity**



5.19



**More events, workshops, and programs on the river and in nearby parks**



4.55



**Increase patrolling of the corridor (i.e. by police and/or community groups)**



4.54



**Support small business**



4.03



**Flexible gathering spaces to host events with my community**



3.82



**\*New amenities facing the street at parks**



2.97



**\*Public art programs that support local artists**



2.89

\*Multiple-choice option available only in the online survey

# CONNECTIVITY theme



IN-PERSON  
FEEDBACK



Encourage developers to enhance the trail network



25 votes



Create safer and more visible intersections



20 votes



Build trail on both sides of the river



17 votes



Expand trail widths, adding fast and slow lanes



15 votes



Add more places to rest for people walking and riding



11 votes

Priorities are mostly aligning based on feedback from different sources



ONLINE  
SURVEY



Safer intersections (better lighting, painted crossings, improved visibility)



5.42



An improved trail experience (a wider trail, separate fast and slow lanes)



5.41



More trail on both sides of the river



3.91



Ensure the trail is protected with new development



3.87



More places to sit and rest



3.73



\*Increase signage for trail and neighborhood navigation



2.93



\*Additional boat ramps for water access



2.73

\*Multiple-choice option available only in the online survey

# CARE theme



IN-PERSON  
FEEDBACK



**Prioritize ecological restoration**



41 votes



Strengthen partnerships  
and agreements



13 votes



Focus on nature  
experiences



13 votes



Increase interagency  
and interdepartmental  
collaboration



12 votes



Streamline  
management of the  
corridor



11 votes

**People agreed on the importance of care and prioritize ecological restoration.**



**Rose Park Nature Area**

**Cottonwood Park**

**Fairpark Urban Core**

**Modesto Park**

**Glendale Oxbow**

**Jordan River**

*Rose Park*

*Fairpark*

*Poplar Grove*

*Glendale*

**Transformative Projects**



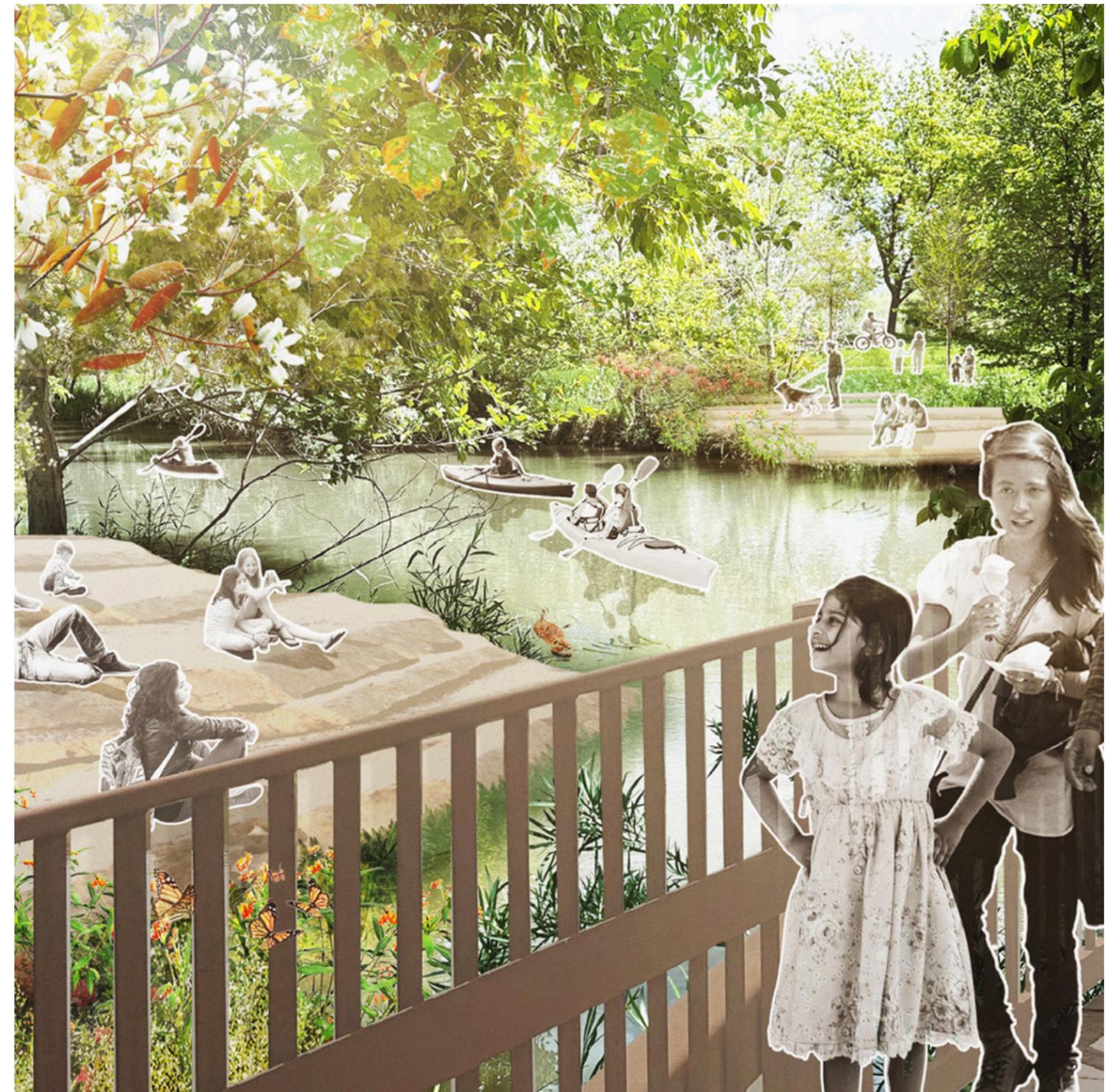
# ROSE PARK NATURE AREA

People are enthusiastic about activating the edges and creating sightlines into the space from the neighborhood. There is a desire for elevated overlooks, increased access to the trail, and the acquisition of the eastern trail.



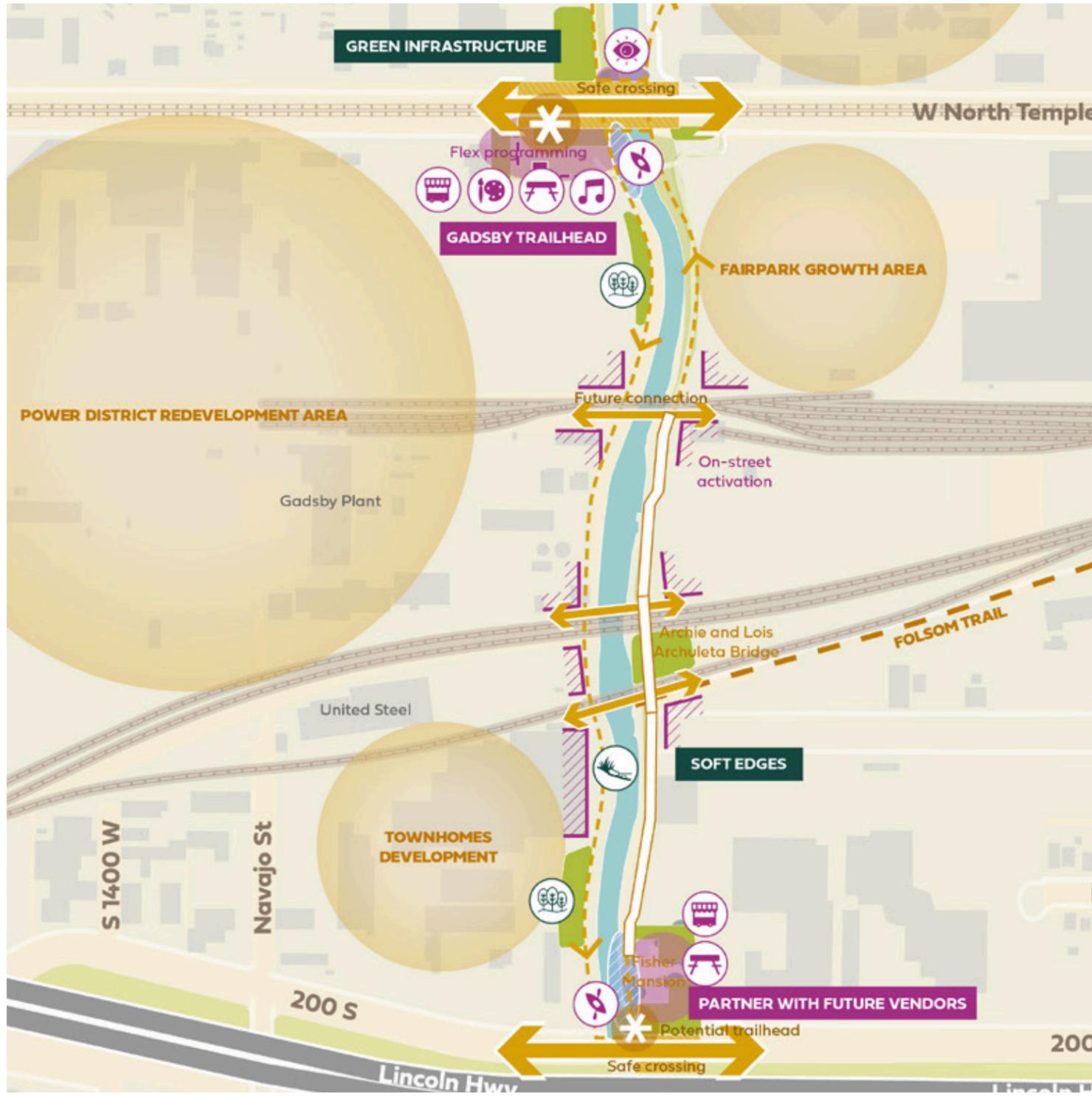
# COTTONWOOD PARK

People embrace the idea of community porch and open access to the river, and would love to see the space and programs better connected with the surrounding community.



# FAIRPARK URBAN CORE

People love the idea of celebrating Fisher Mansion as a community hub. They prioritize acquiring river buffer and softening the edges in conjunction with redevelopment, and see potential for better and safer connections.



# MODESTO PARK

People embrace the idea of wetland restoration and the activation of underutilized spaces. They see the potential for thoughtful activation to foster community care and address safety concerns.



# GLENDALE OXBOW

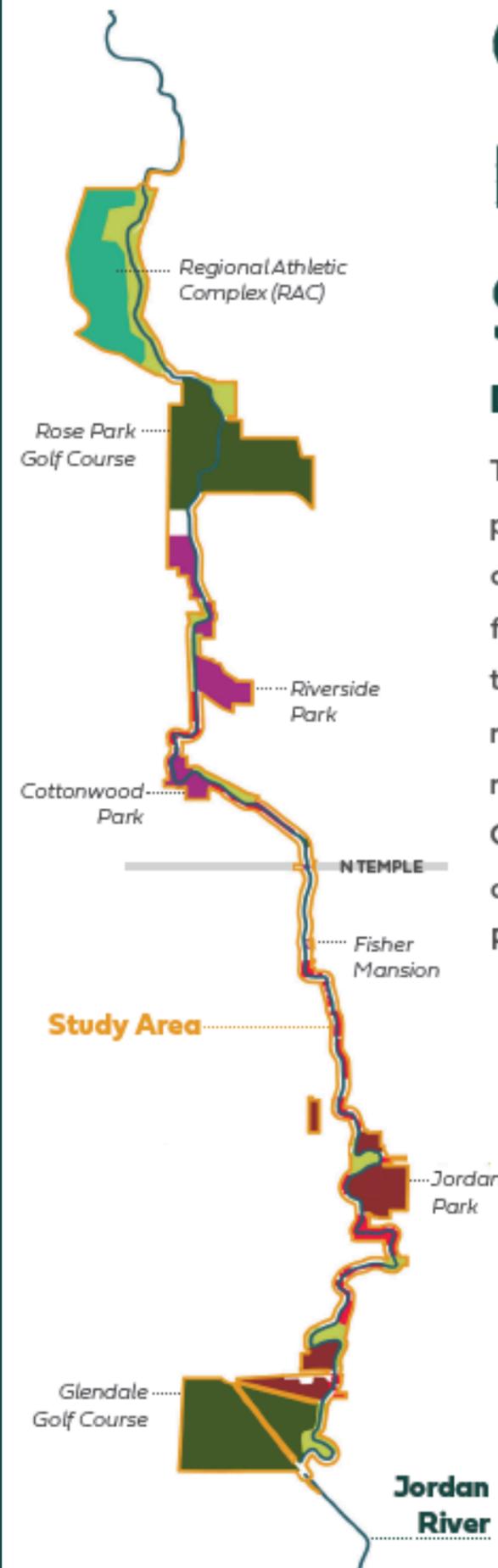
People support the emphasis on nature and are eager to see enhanced access and connectivity especially on 2100 S, informative signage, and cultural representation.



# Operations and Management Plan

The O&M Plan will:

- Establish goals for care of the Jordan River
- Set new guidelines to standardize care of the natural areas in the corridor
- Identify pilot projects for restoration and multi-year strategies for implementation
- Set metrics for success

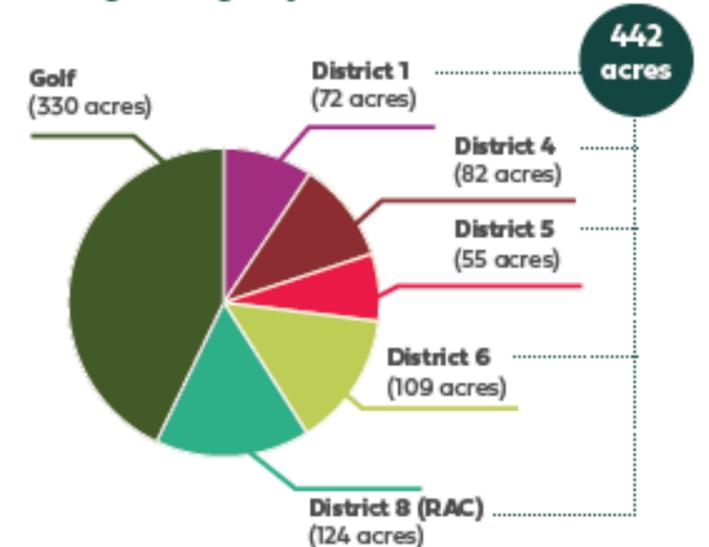


## OPERATIONS & MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

### DISTRICTS 1, 4, 5, 6, & 8 (RAC)

These districts are responsible for the traditional parks, greenbelts, and nature based parks within the corridor (442 acres). Districts 1 and 4 are responsible for traditional parkland, District 8 is responsible for the RAC, and Districts 5 and 6 are responsible for natural areas and greenbelts. This assessment does not include Golf areas that are owned by Salt Lake City (as they are independently managed) or other areas in the corridor not owned by Salt Lake City Public Lands.

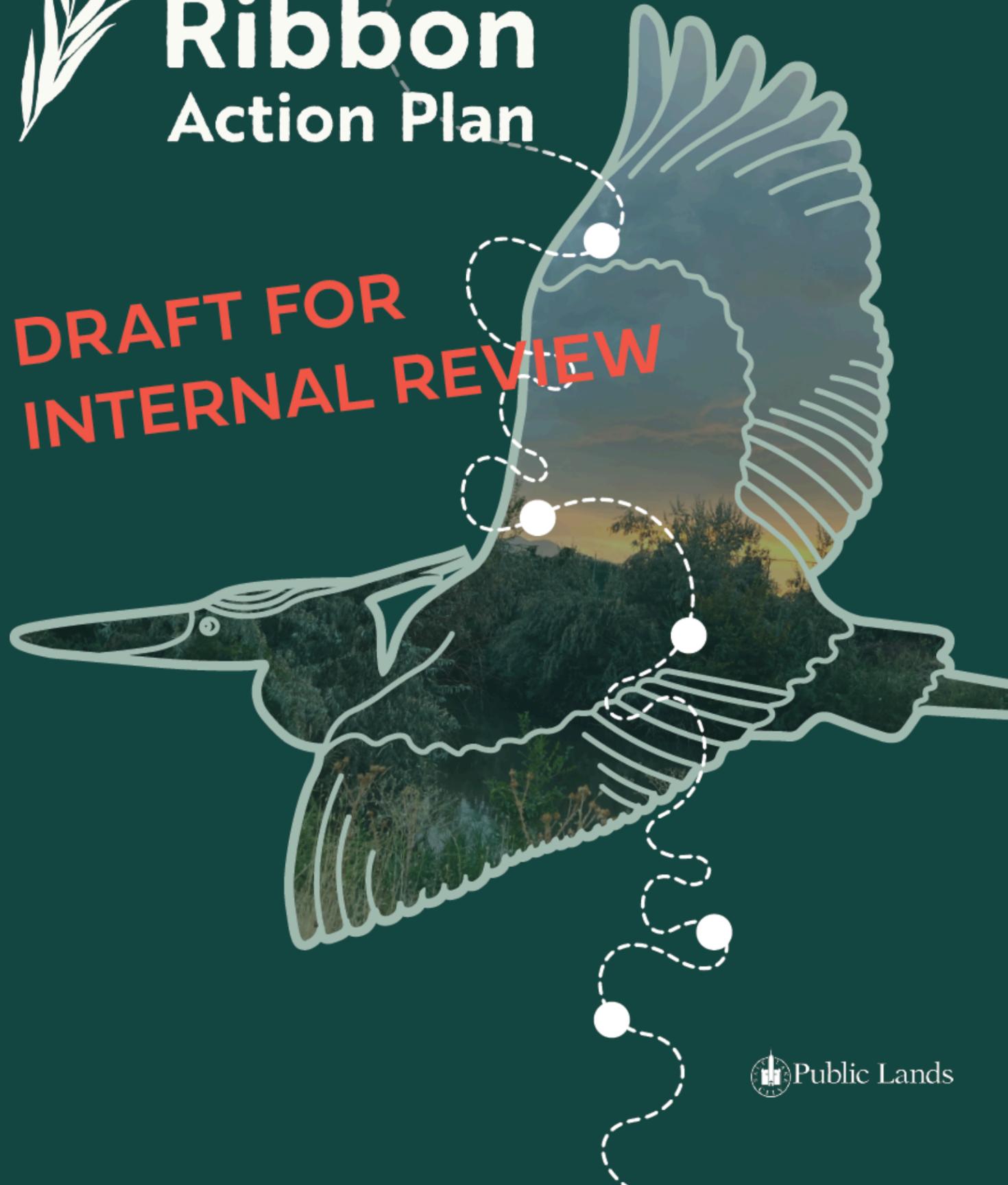
Acreeage Managed by Districts:





# Emerald Ribbon Action Plan

**DRAFT FOR  
INTERNAL REVIEW**



**Final Draft Anticipated  
in October 2024**