



**Emerald  
Ribbon**  
Action Plan



# The Emerald Ribbon Action Plan

Salt Lake City City Council

# The Vision

The Emerald Ribbon envisions a future Jordan River Corridor that is a ribbon of **nature** through Salt Lake City, a community **crossroads**, and the **heart** of the Westside. It is a model of **care** for people, wildlife and ecosystems.

Rose Park

Fairpark

Poplar Grove



**772**  
Acres Publicly  
Owned Land

**10 mile**  
River Corridor

# Phase One

**\$11.5 M**  
Total Cost

**\$9M**

Dedicated GO Bond  
Funding

**\$2.5 M**

Additional CIP  
Funding



**\$65 Million**  
long-term vision for  
Transformational Projects

**Rose Park Nature Area**

**Cottonwood  
Park**

**Fairpark Urban Core**

**Modesto Park**

**Glendale Oxbow**

**Jordan River**

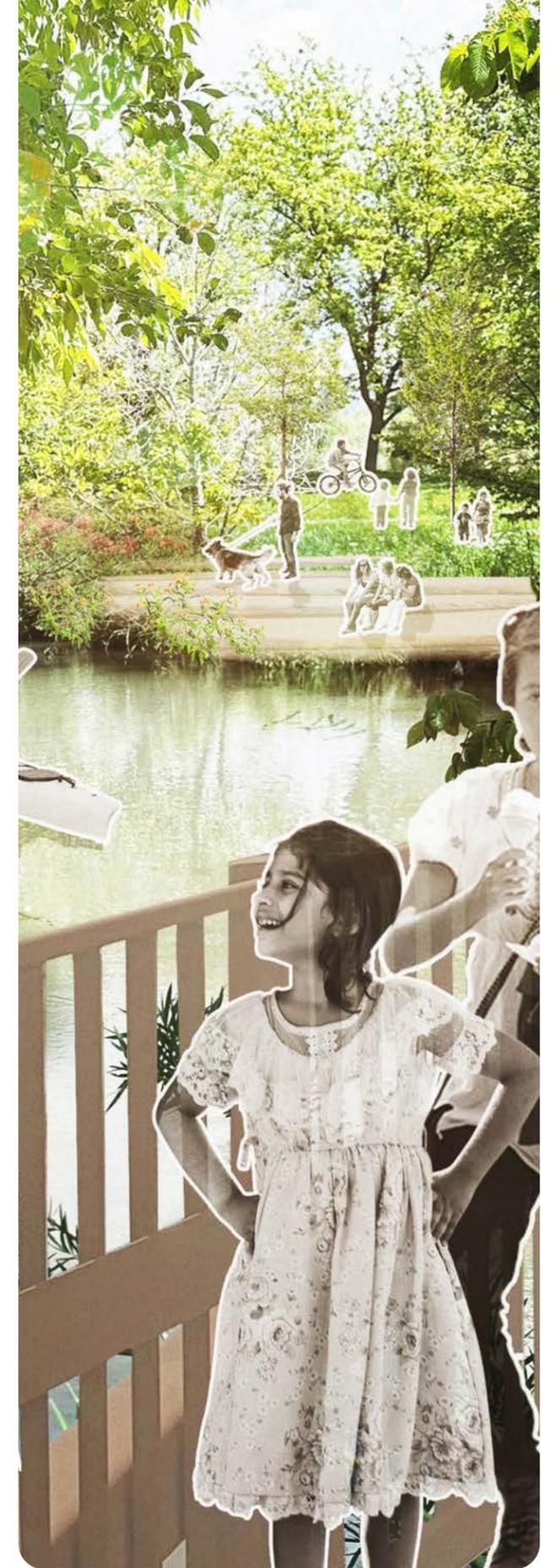
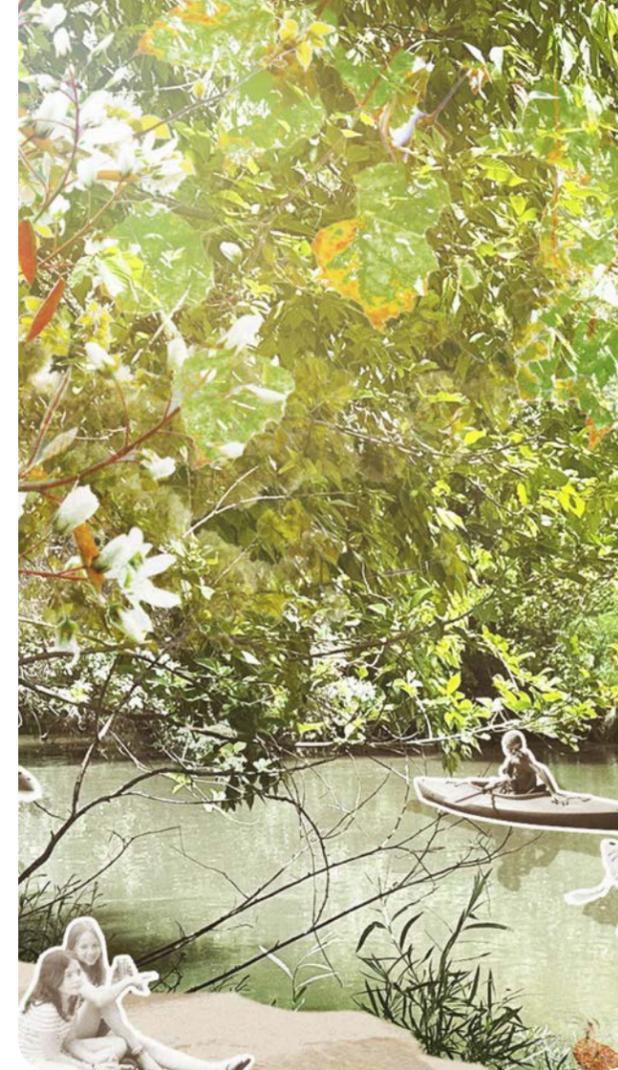
*Rose Park*

*Fairpark*

*Poplar Grove*

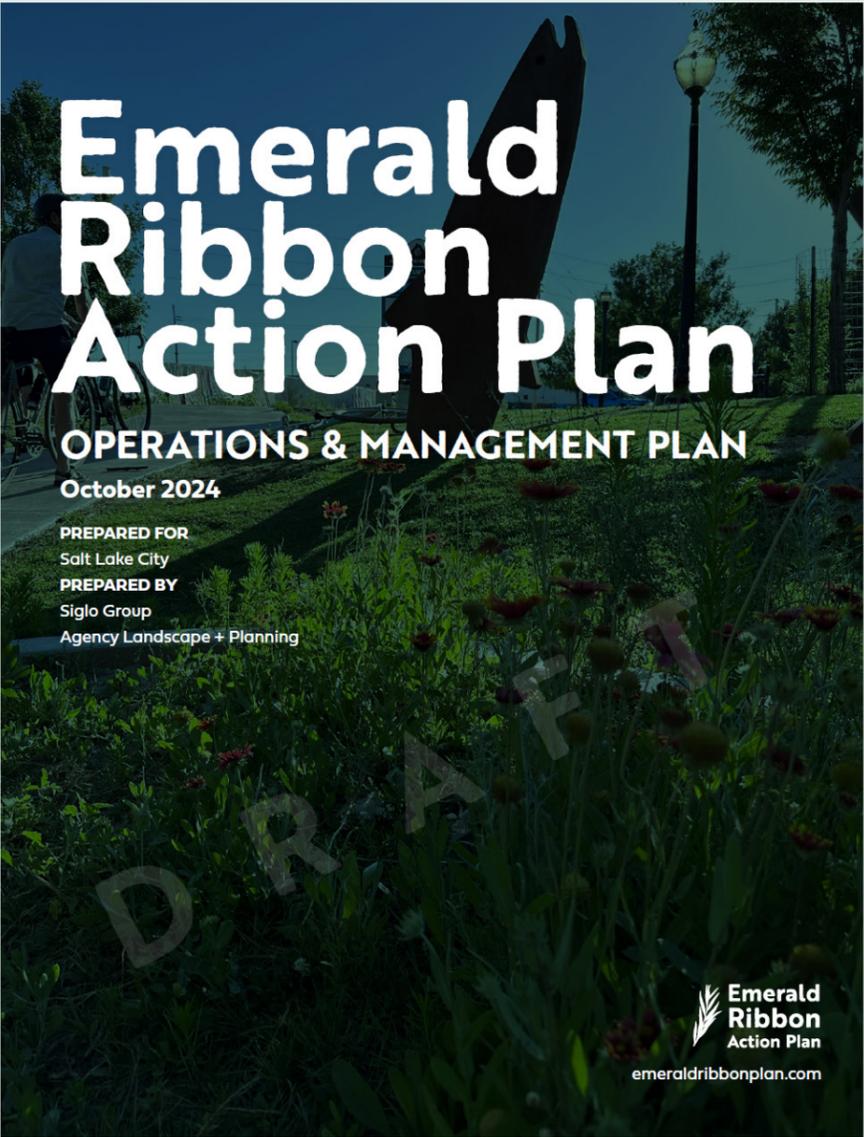
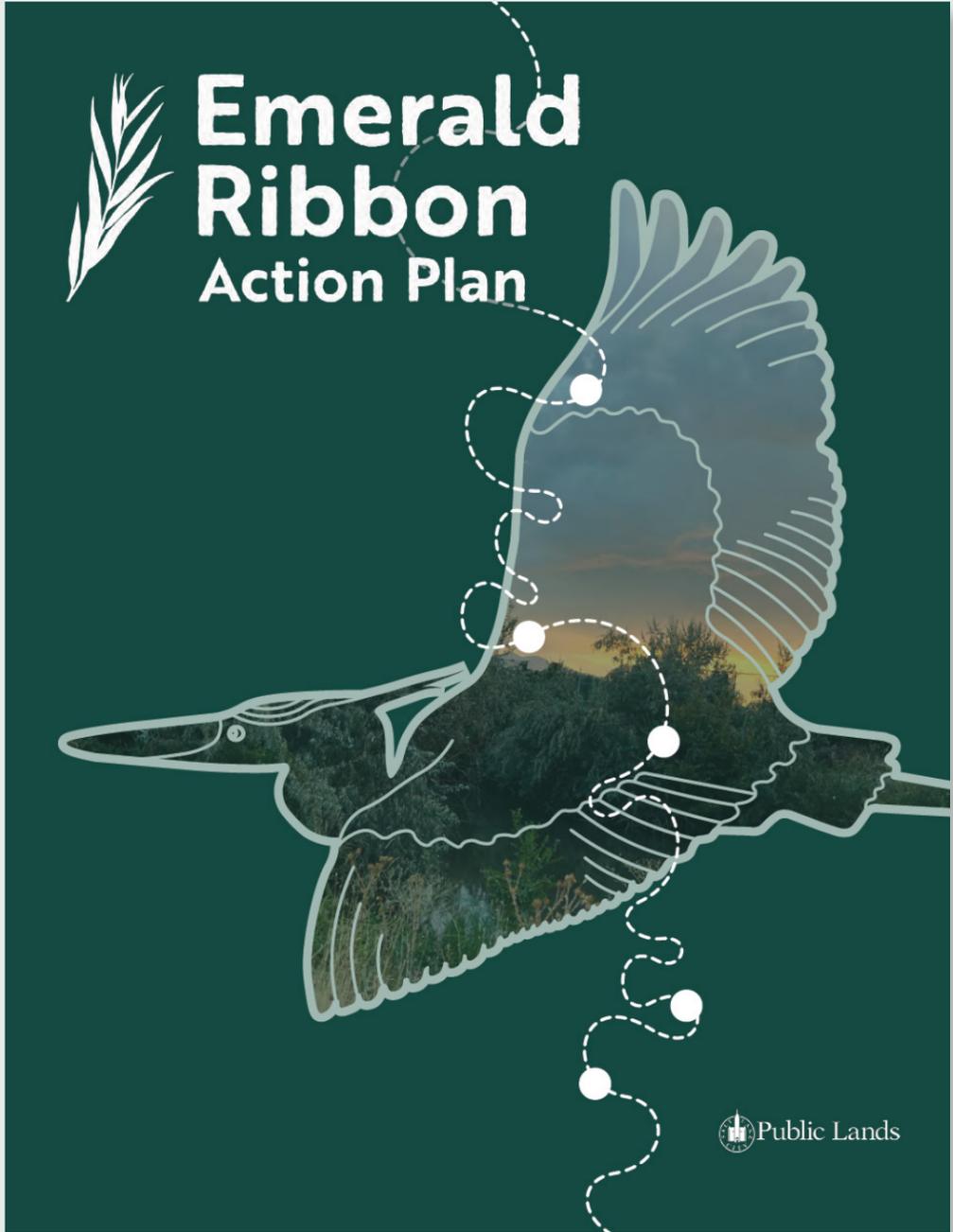
*Glendale*

# Bringing the Vision to Life



# Two Plans to Make it Happen

EMERALD RIBBON ACTION PLAN



OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

# Guiding Principles

1

Celebrate the rich ecological and cultural diversity of the corridor.



2

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



4

Restore and enhance the river ecosystem as a peaceful refuge.



3

Cultivate collective care of the corridor.



5

Create a safe and vibrant destination.



# 1

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

## Goals

- 1 Focus on nature experiences
- 2 Create biodiverse habitat
- 3 Expand art programs on the corridor
- 4 Celebrate and support the culture of the Westside



# GOAL

what you shared

I like more wetlands! It make the nature experience more complete.

Fairpark section should have an educational section; it sees a lot at tourists and visitors and needs activation.

Love the nature play for kids + outdoor classrooms!

## Goal #1 Focus on nature experiences

For many years, the Jordan River has served as a natural and cultural sanctuary for Salt Lake City, especially for the Westside community. However, it has recently faced increasing challenges related to safety and cleanliness. The community has fond memories of engaging with nature along the river corridor and has expressed a desire to experience that more frequently. It is crucial to restore natural areas and improve access to them. Doing so will increase the visibility of the river corridor, promote public awareness, and foster collective care for the area. This will help maintain it as a healthy habitat where wildlife can thrive and people can enjoy nature.



### Strategy 1:

Create a comprehensive interpretation and signage plan for the corridor.

#### Actions:

- + Create an Request for Proposal (RFP) for interpretive design of the corridor in conjunction with natural restoration efforts with a focus on human-nature connections (see: Goal #3: Expand Public Art programs for opportunity to engage artists in all or part of this work).

### Strategy 2:

Promote citizen science with a focus on youth programming.

#### Actions:

- + Develop and test multilingual (Spanish-centric) nature education programs led by Park Rangers on the Emerald Ribbon in collaboration with local community partners, including Northwest Recreation Center, Sorenson Unity Center, and K-12 schools along the Emerald Ribbon.
- + Conduct listening sessions with local schools and youth programs to understand how the Park Rangers and Public Lands can increase a sense of safety and reinvigorate youth interest in nature on the corridor.
- + Support the use of i-Naturalist & e-Bird within the corridor.
- + Explore ways for Public Lands to engage youth in leadership and career building opportunities, including through Youth Ranger programs, apprenticeships, Utah Conservation Corp, and the creation of a Youth Community Council.



### Kingsbury Commons

This lush green space features well-maintained walking paths that wind through a diverse array of native plants and mature trees. Kingsbury Commons is a cherished retreat and connects visitors to nature without having to leave the city.

Austin, TX

nature care

# STRATEGIES

# ACTIONS

# PRECEDENT

# The Next 10 Years

*Our focus today!*

**2025**

Prepare to implement Transformational Projects  
Launch pilots, start deeper dives

**2026-2027**

Implement bond-funded Phase One Priorities  
Transform natural lands and increase programming

**2028-2035**

Complete bond priorities & Transformational Projects  
Evolve and expand new framework for care

# Components of a Culture of Long-Term Care



Caring for the  
Corridor

**Operating Costs**

+



Investing in the  
Corridor

**Capital Costs**

+

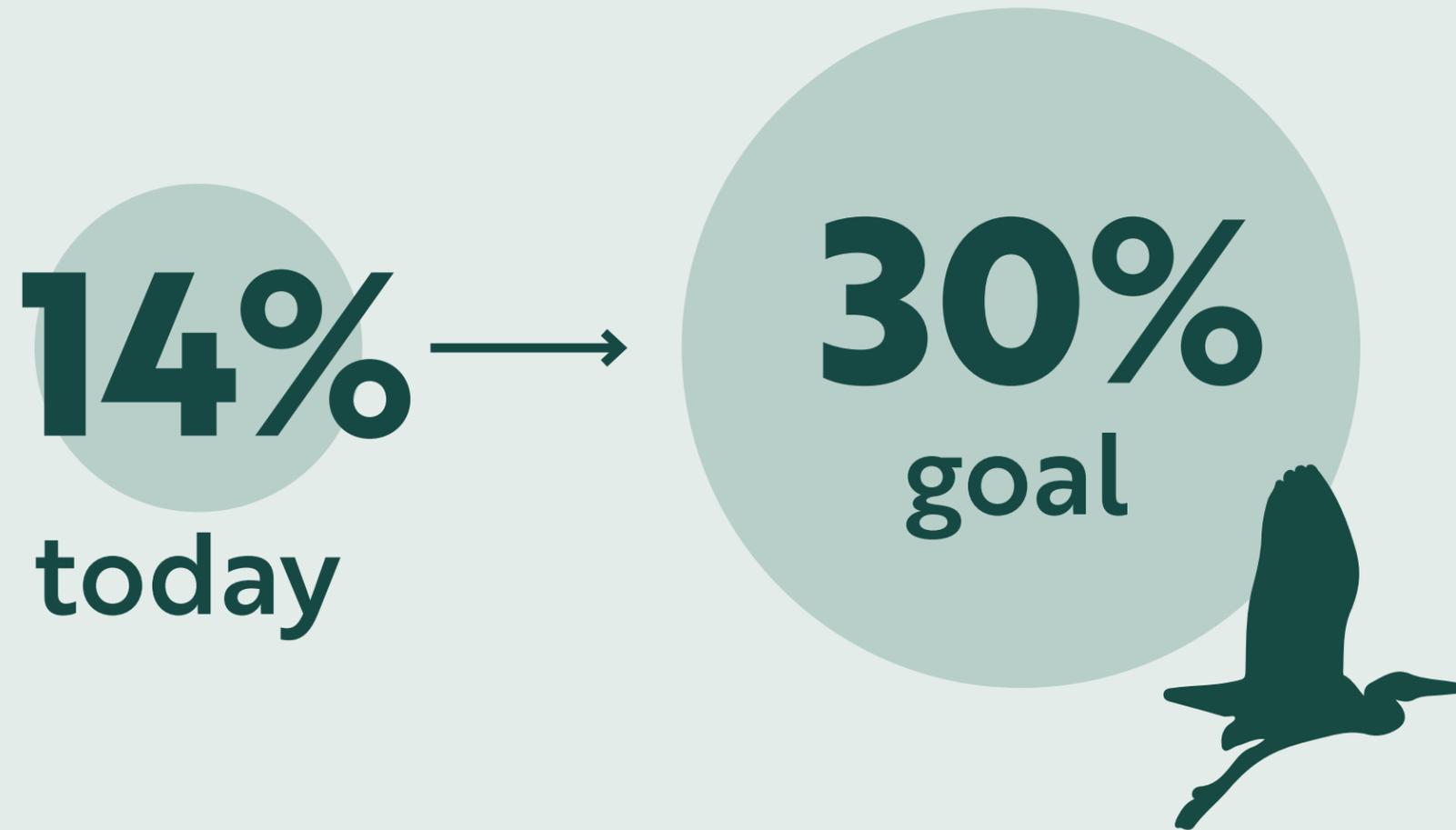


Governing the  
Corridor

**Governance**

*Big Idea*

# Transition to Natural Lands



Natural lands management target

*Big Idea*

# Transition to Natural Lands

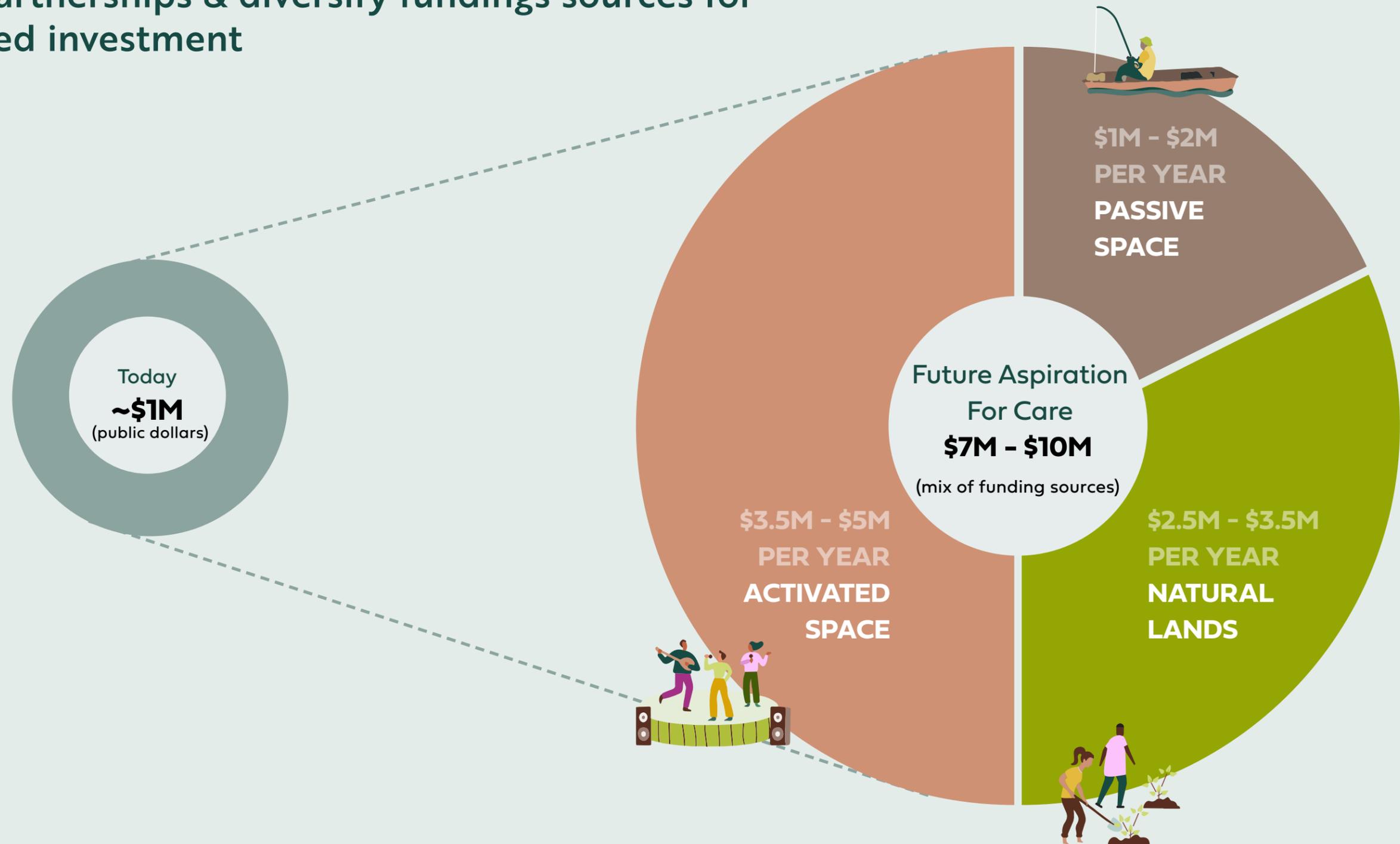


Today, the ratio of acres to FTE is 74.5. The recommendation is 20 acres per FTE.

## Big Idea

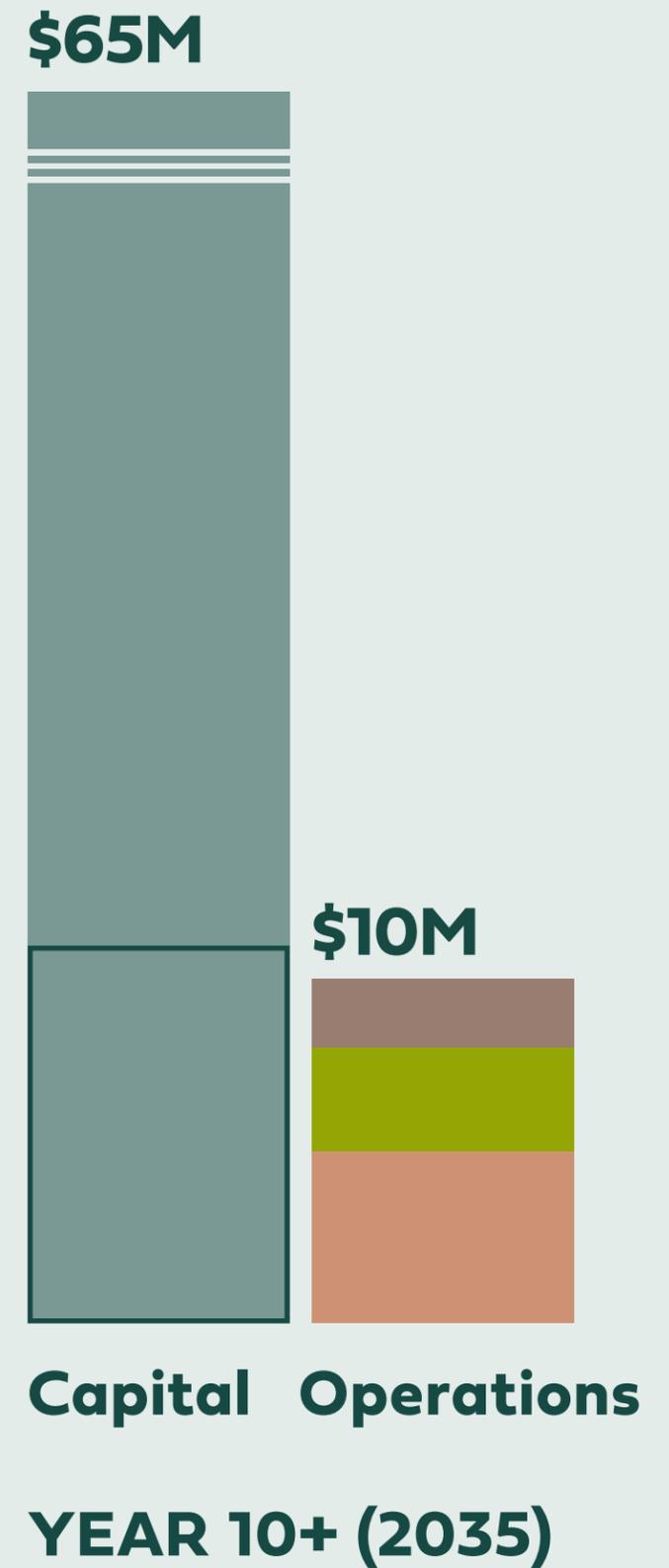
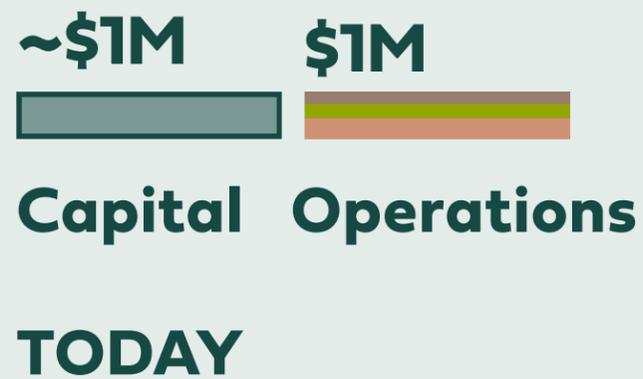
# Increase Care & Cultural Activation

Build partnerships & diversify fundings sources for increased investment



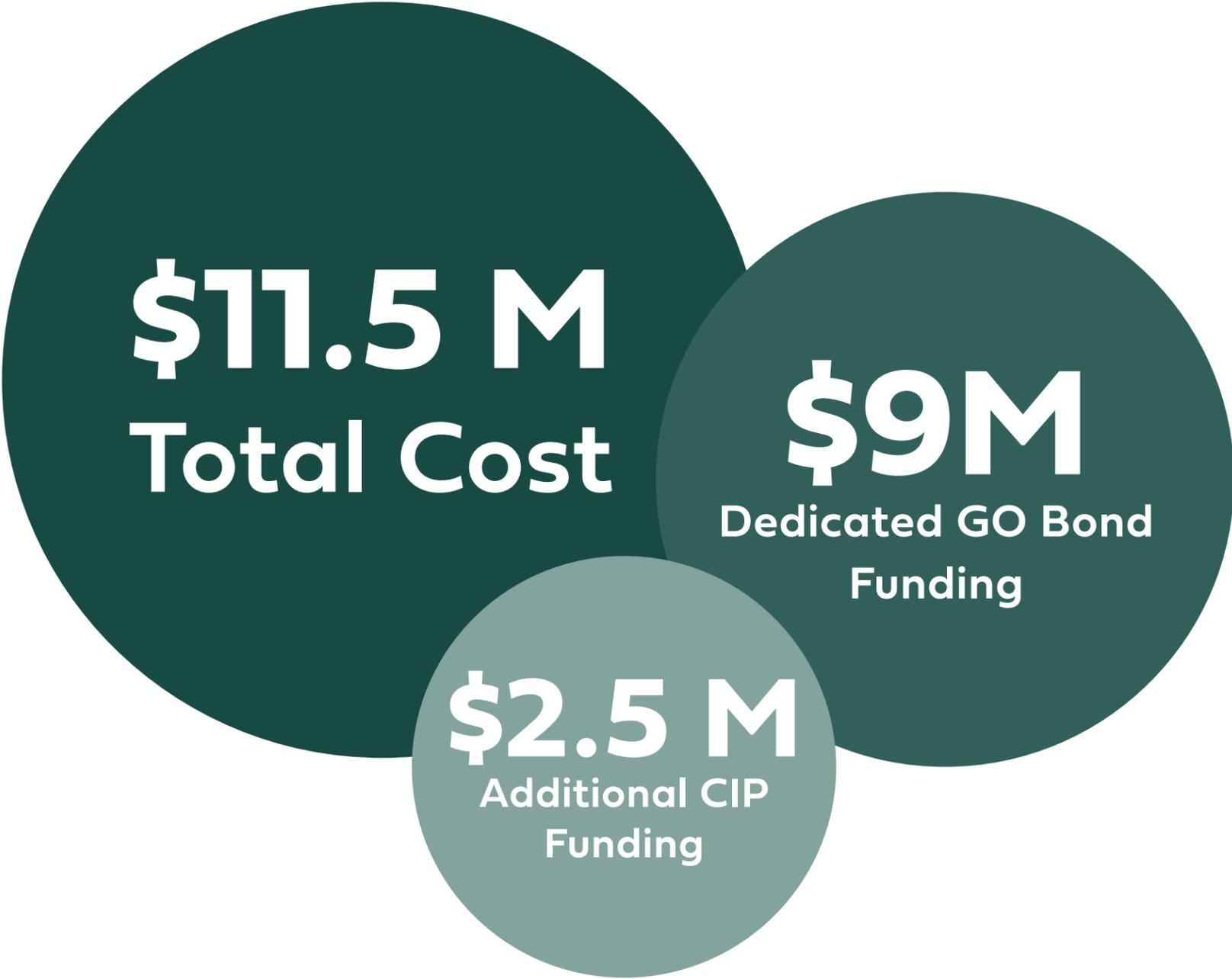
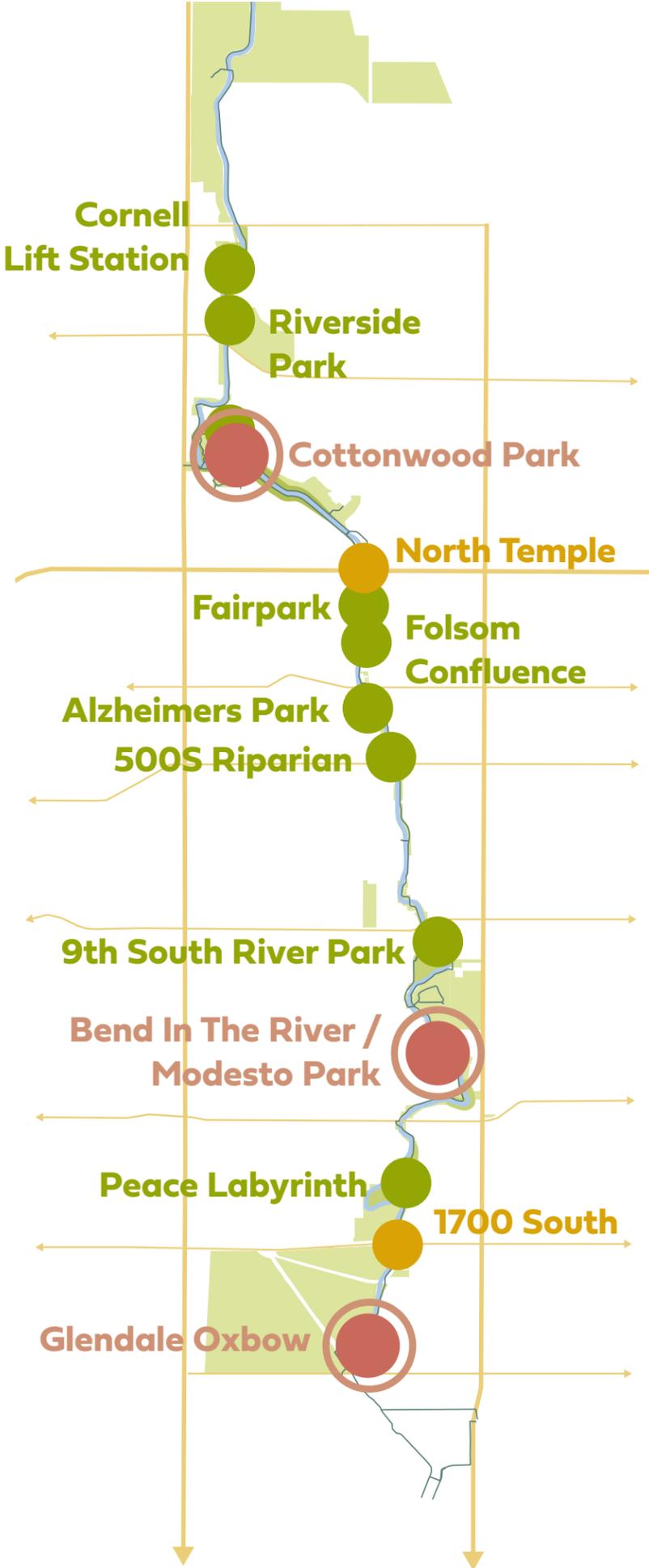
## Big Idea

# Increase Care & Cultural Activation

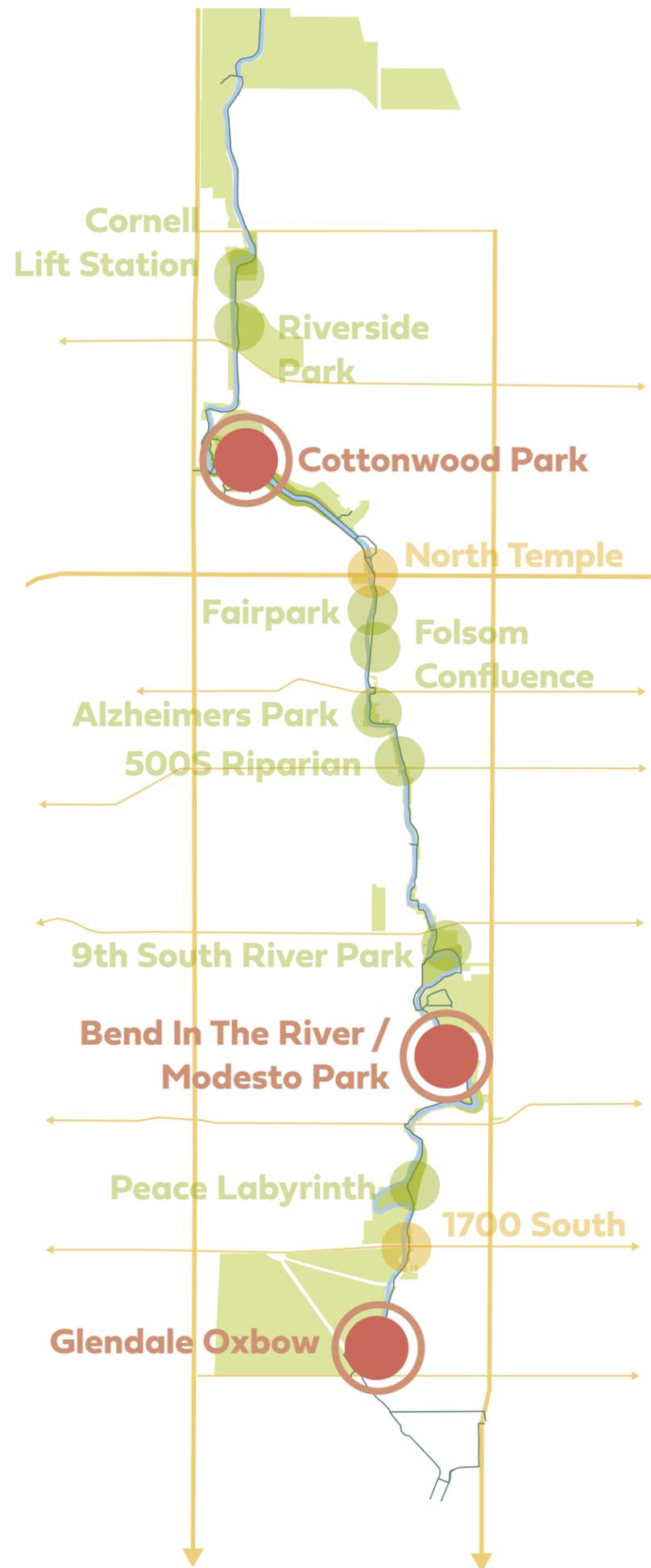


The next 3 years

# Phase One Priorities



*NOTE: Estimates include soft costs such as design fees, permitting costs, contingencies, and escalation.*



## Phase One Priorities

# Transformational Projects

Includes park, restoration, and trail work within transformational areas

### Cottonwood Park - \$4.5M

\$3M (Bond) + \$1.5M (Addl CIP)

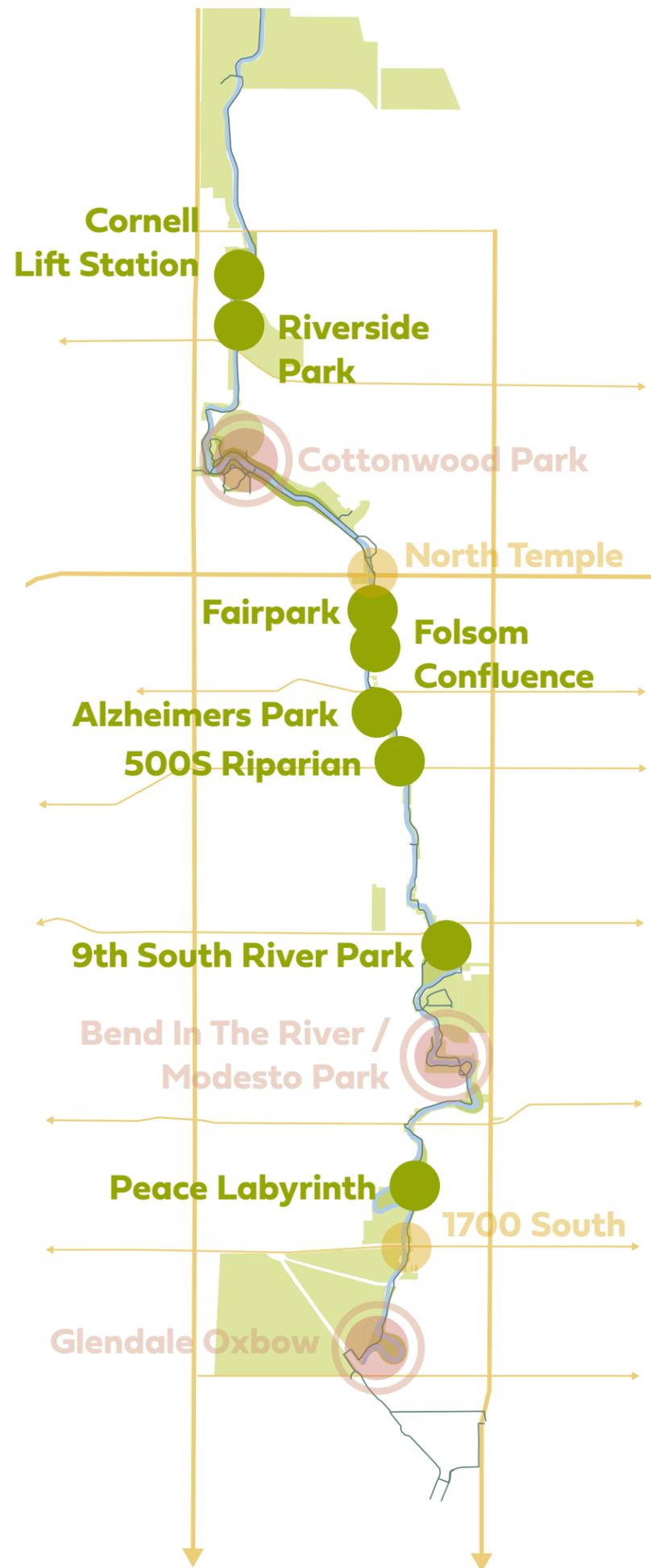
### Bend in the River and Modesto Parks - \$4M

\$3M (Bond) + \$1M (Addl CIP) = \$4M Total

### Glendale Oxbow - \$500k

\$500K (Bond)

**\$9 Million**  
Total Cost



## Phase One Priorities

# Restoration Projects

All bond funded; mostly implementable by Public Lands staff

Peace Labyrinth - \$150K

Riverside Park - \$200K

9th S River Park - \$200K

Cornell Life Station - \$125K

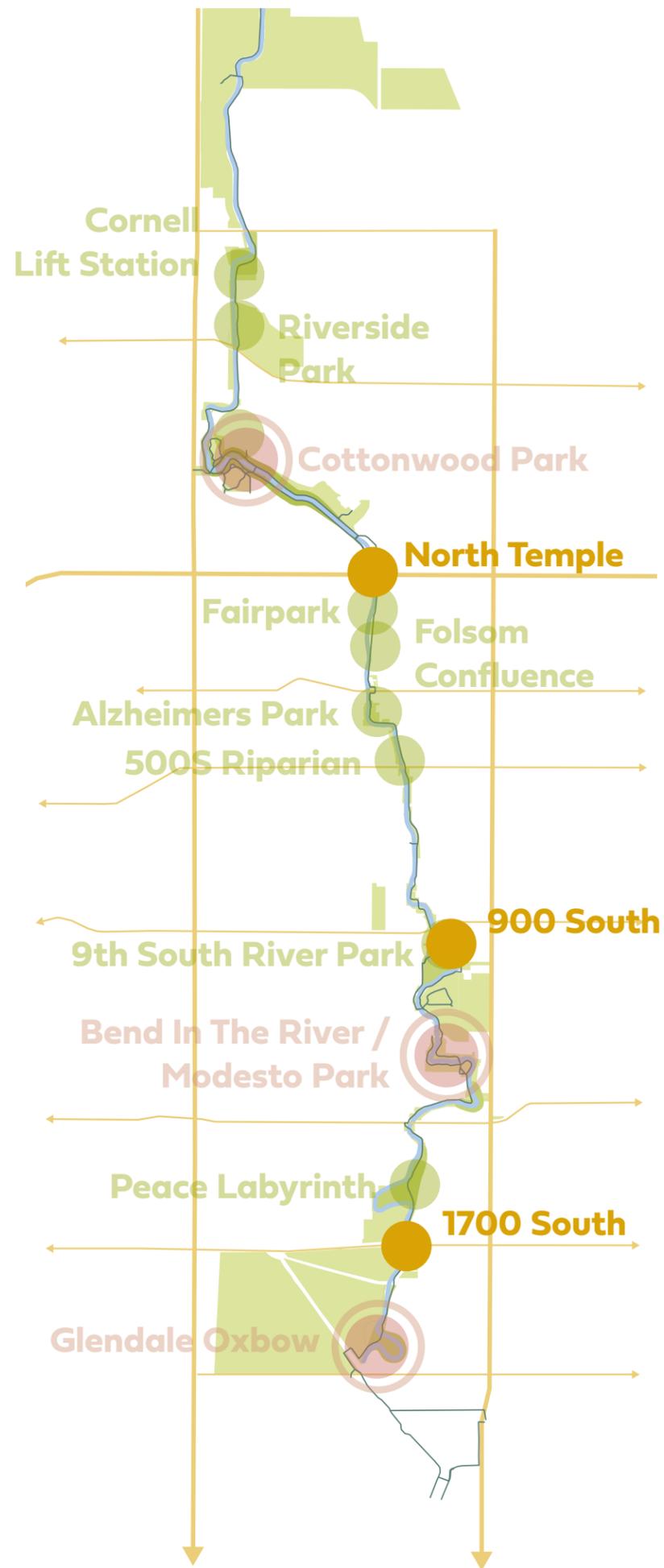
500 South Riparian - \$150K

Fairpark - \$50K

Alzheimers Park - \$100K

Folsom Trail - \$25K

**\$1 Million**  
Total Cost



*Phase One Priorities*

# Safety & Connectivity Projects

All Bond funded

**Wayfinding Improvements - \$700K**

**North Temple Street Intersection and Trail Connection - \$700K**

**1700 South Trail Intersection - \$50K**

**900 South Trail Intersection - \$50K**

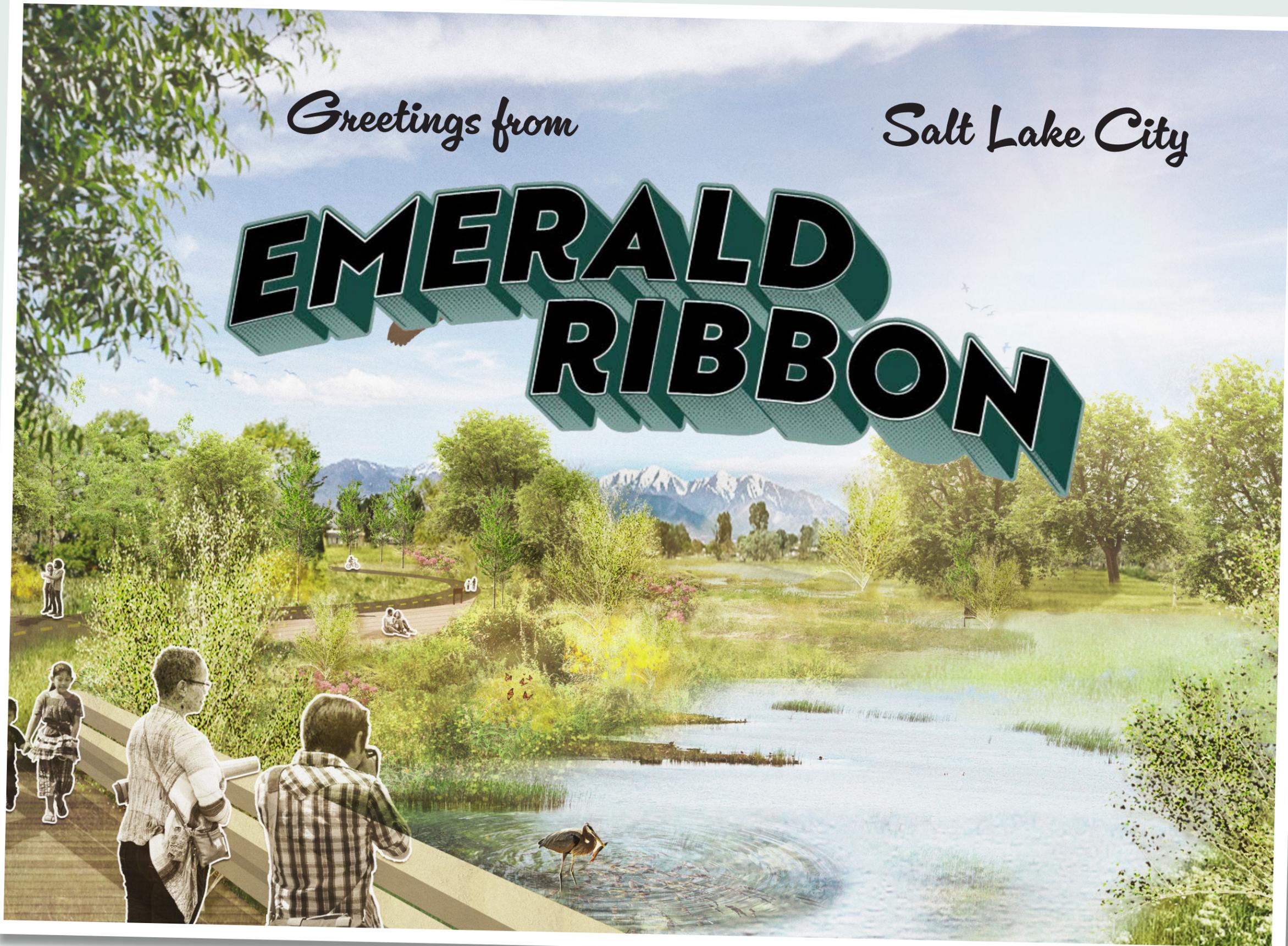
**\$1.5 Million  
Total Cost**



*Greetings from*

*Salt Lake City*

# EMERALD RIBBON





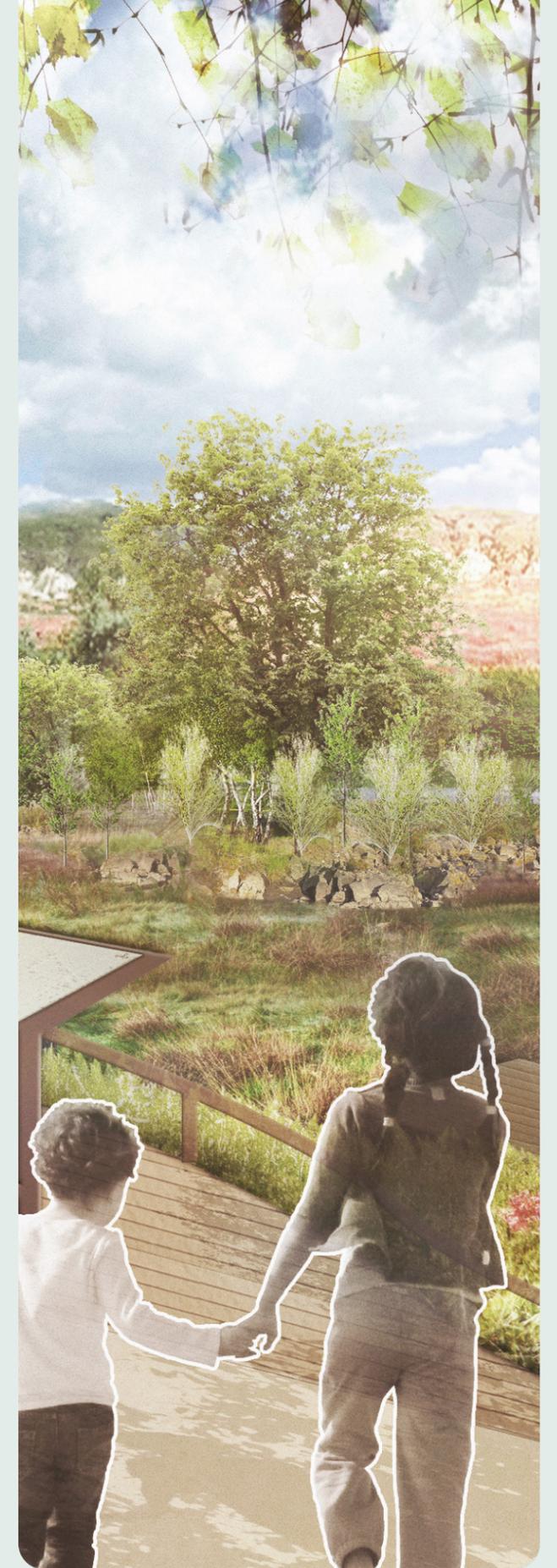
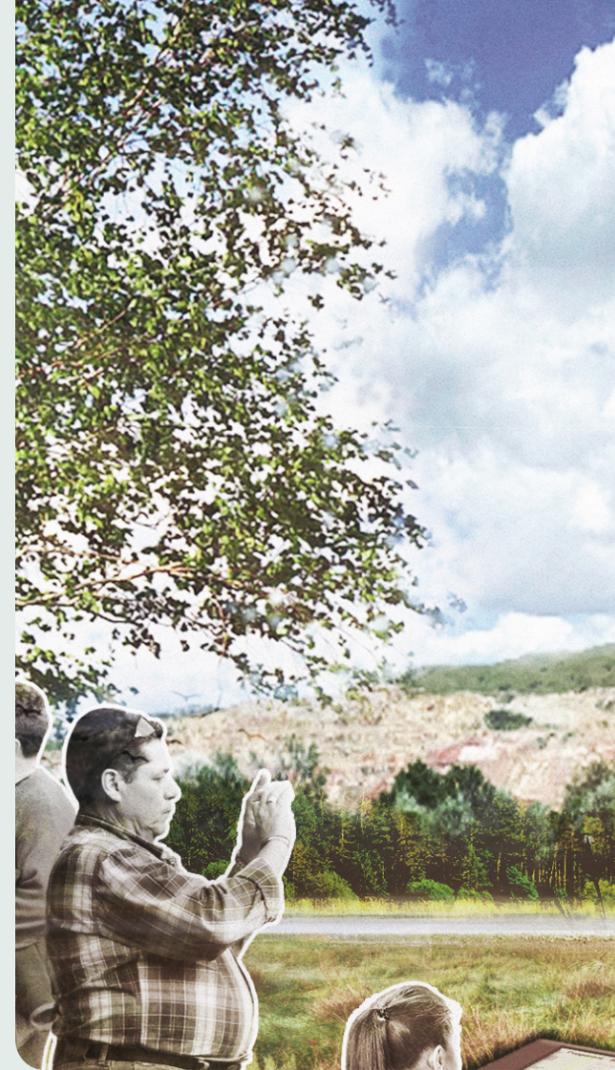
**Emerald  
Ribbon**  
Action Plan



**Thank you!**

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

# Appendix



## Capital Cost Estimates

# Cost Benchmarking



Glendale Park  
Salt Lake City

**Park Space**  
\$2.5 Mil / Acre

River's Edge Park (Council Bluffs, IA)  
New Park at 47th & Telluride (Denver, CO)  
Glendale Regional Park (Salt Lake City, UT)



Clear Creek Restoration,  
Tacoma, Washington

**Restoration Areas**  
\$150K / Acre

Clear Creek (Tacoma, WA), marsh creation (New Orleans, LA), riparian restoration projects (Hamilton City, CA)



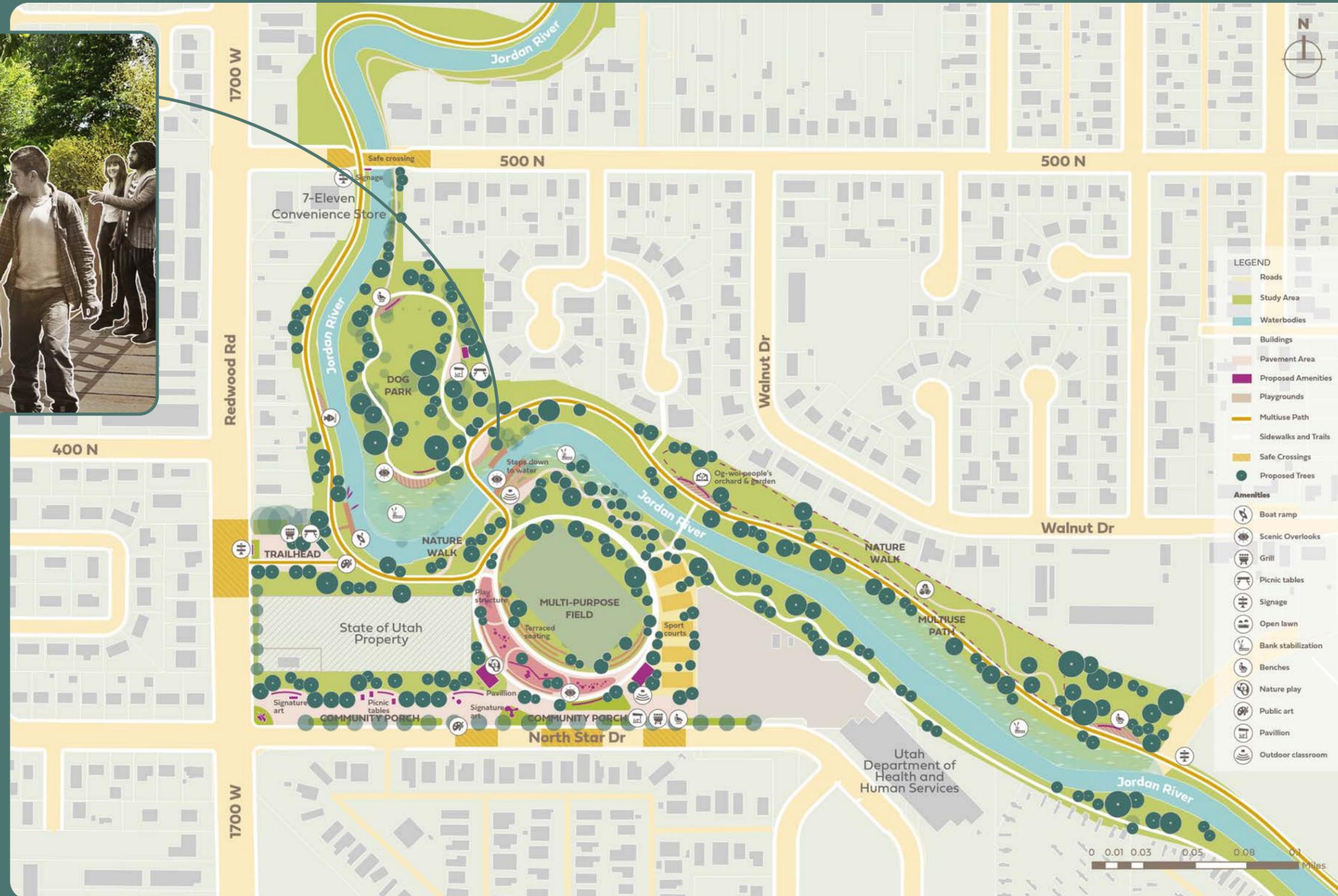
Carolina Thread Trail  
Charlotte, North Carolina

**Trails & Greenways**  
\$3.5M / Mile

Carolina Thread Trail (Charlotte, NC), Path400 (Atlanta, GA), Marquette Greenway (IL)

# Cottonwood Park

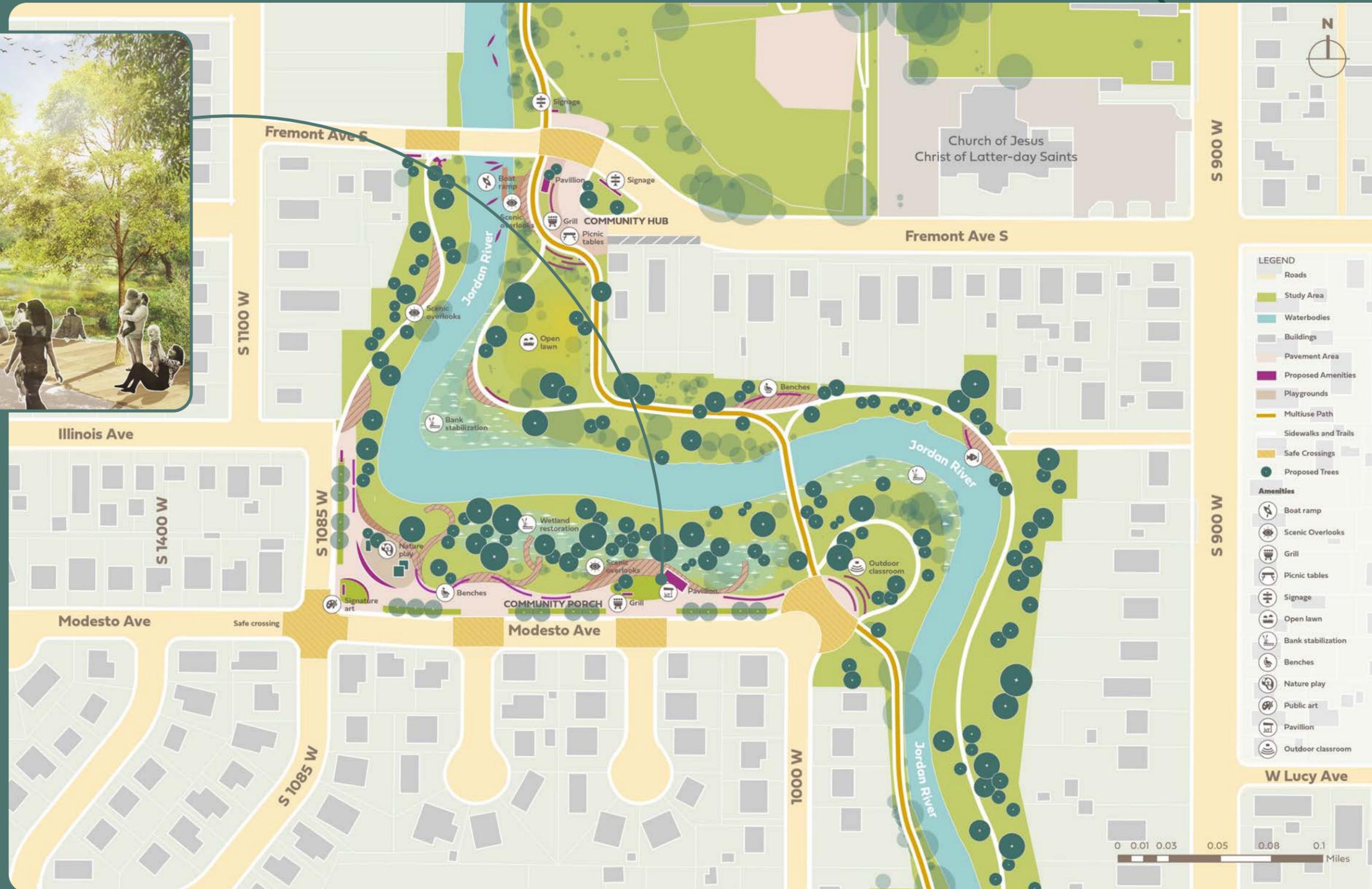
“Enhanced connections between the community, park and the river”



**\$4.5M**  
for Phase  
One

# Bend in the River & Modesto Park

"A community porch overlooking restored nature"



**\$4M**  
for Phase One

# Glendale Oxbow

"A great place to give space back to nature along the river"



\$500K  
for Phase  
One

# Center Nature and Activate Public Space in the New Power District and Fairpark

“Safe and comfortable connections in a changing district”

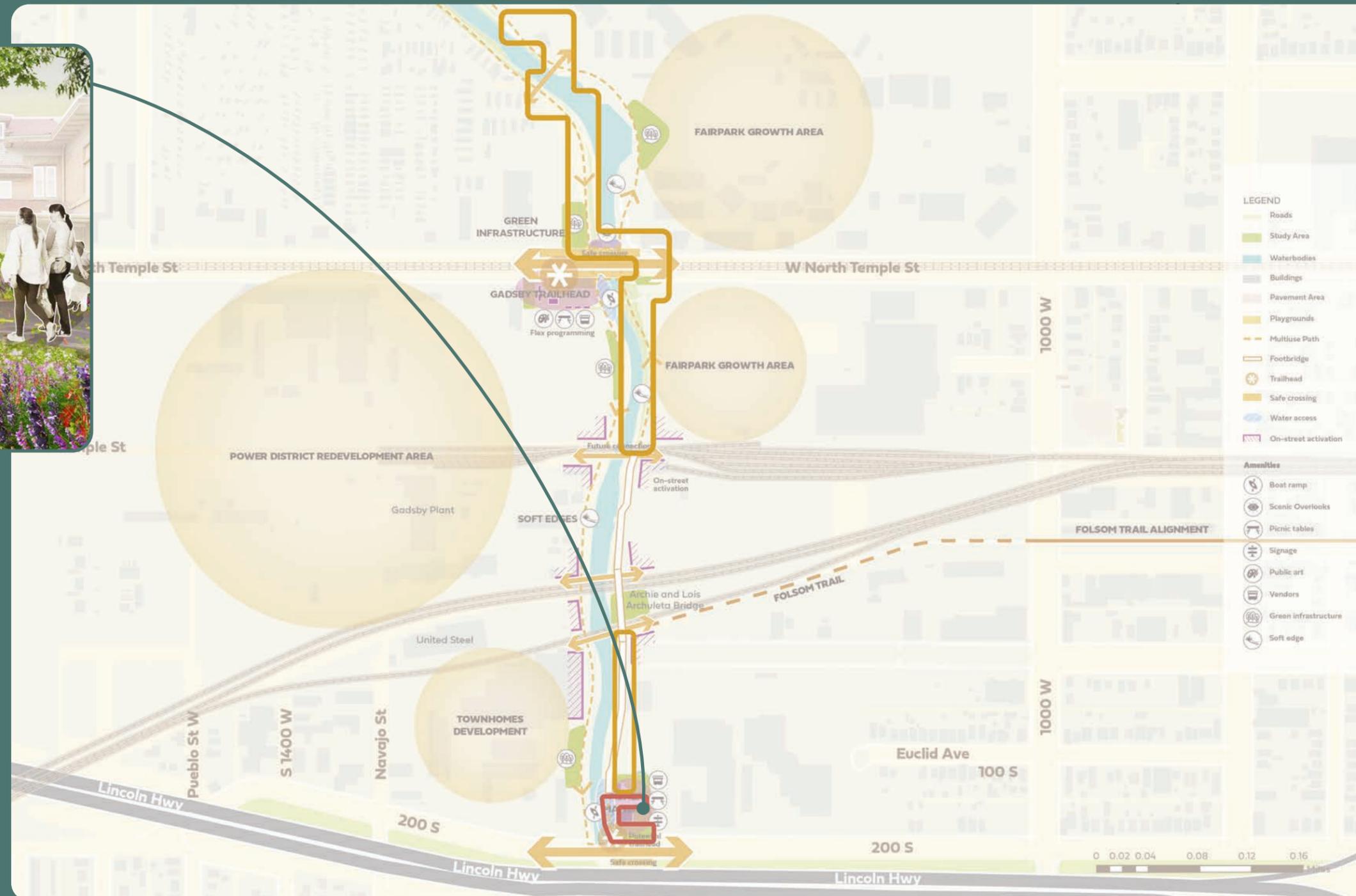


## PHASE ONE PRIORITIES:

Create a trail-facing flex programming space at Fisher Mansion  
est. \$1.5mil

Consider policy updates to protect the river  
est. \$0

Complete missing segment of trail at North Temple St  
est. \$1.7mil



# Develop a New Nature Park near Rose Park Golf Course

“Transitioning an underutilized place into an ecological asset”

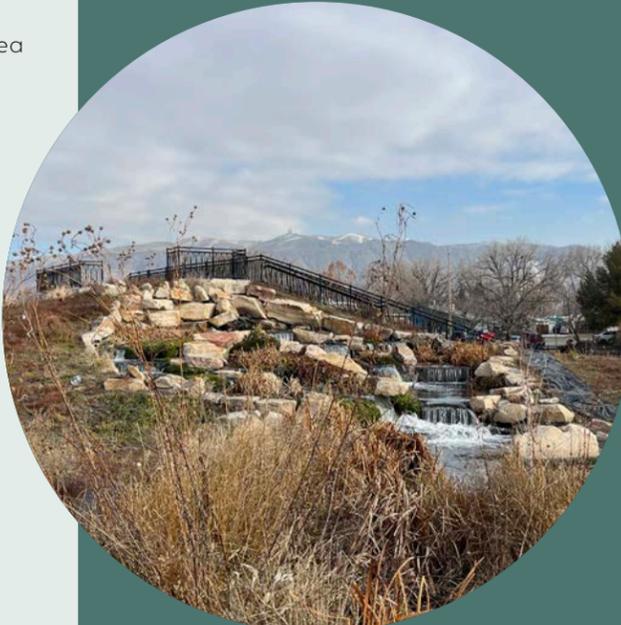
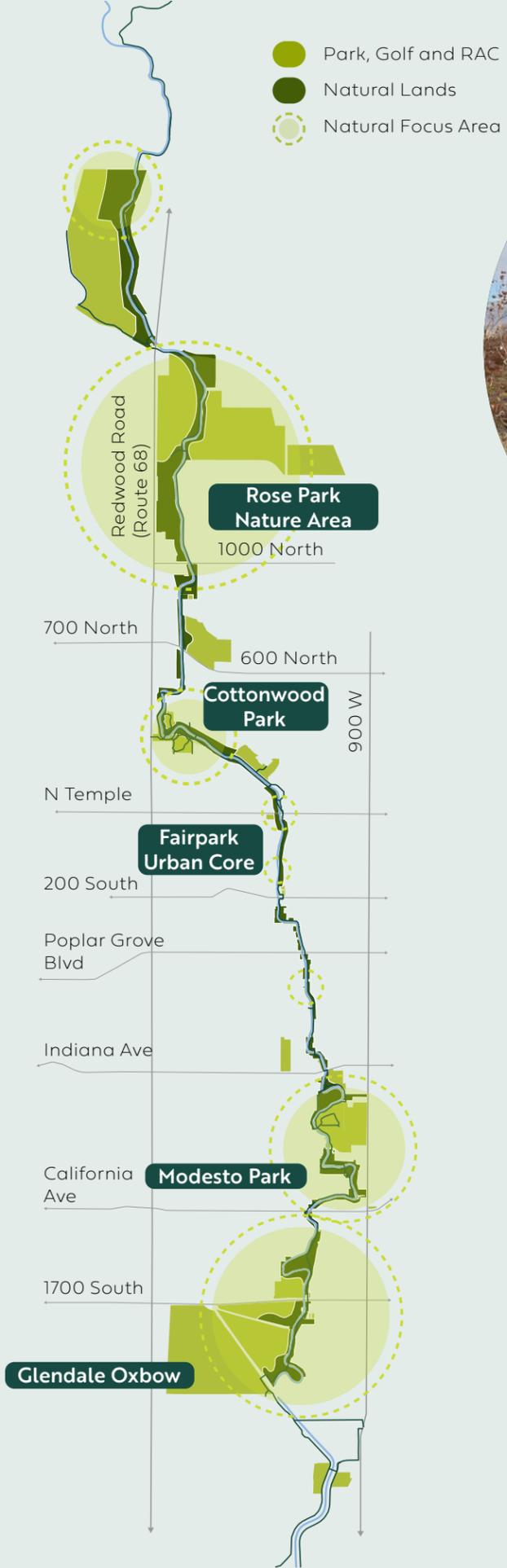


## PHASE ONE PRIORITIES:

Feasibility study to assess proposed realignment of the existing levee  
est. \$300-500k

Note: the map at right highlights the zones of change in future phases of work dependent on the results of the feasibility study.

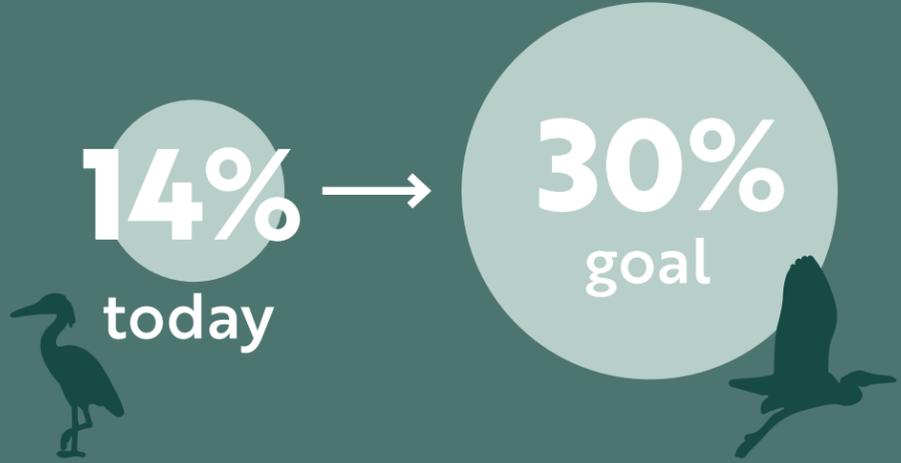




# Nature

Focus on the restoration of native species, creation of new wetlands and natural habitats, and the design of nature experiences for people.

## Key Metric



Area managed as natural lands

## Sample Nature Goals:

- Enhancing Nature Experiences (1.1)
- Creating Biodiverse Habitat (1.2)
- Making Room for the River (4.1)
- Improving Water Quality (4.2)
- Expanding Natural Lands (4.3)



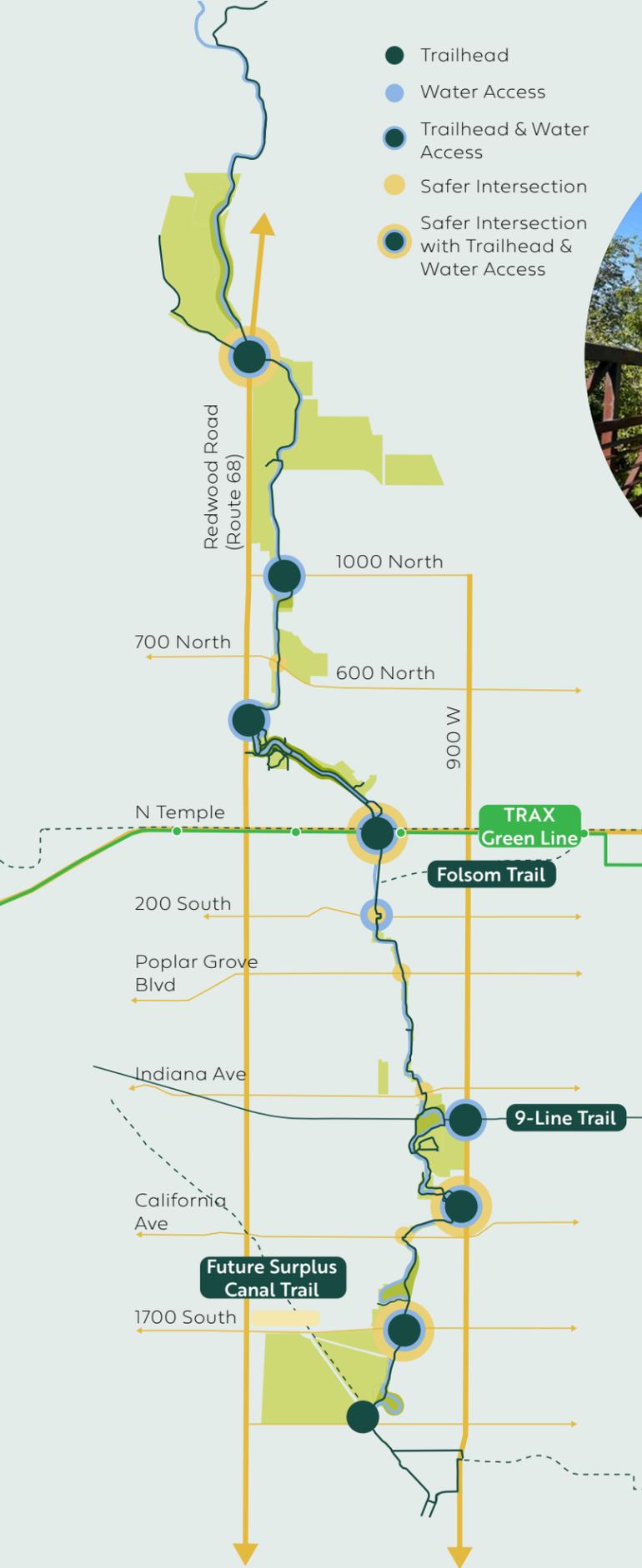
# Culture

Increase investment in community resources and invest in new public amenities throughout the corridor.

## Sample Culture Goals:

- Expand Public Art Programs (1.3)
- Celebrate & Support the Culture of the West Side (1.4)
- Bring Programming to the River and River's Edge (5.1)
- Support Small Businesses and Commercial Activation (5.2)
- Create Flexible Event and Gathering Spaces (5.5)





# Connectivity

Improve the trail network on the corridor, optimizing for all user types and better connecting into both neighborhoods and other trails.

## Sample Connectivity Goals:

- Create Safer and More Visible Intersections (2.1)
- Improve Neighborhood Connections (2.2)
- Expand Trail Widths and Separate Paths Where Possible (2.3)
- Improve Wayfinding and Signage (2.4)
- Bring Programming to the Water and Waters Edge (5.1)
- Improve Trail-Side Amenities (5.4)





## Care

Improve the trail network on the corridor, optimizing for all user types and better connecting into both neighborhoods and other trails.



### Sample Care Goals:

- Develop Clear Public-Facing Guidelines for Care (3.1)
- Partner with the Community to Steward the Corridor (3.2)
- Leverage Policy to Protect and Enhance the River (4.4)
- Develop a Multi-Pronged Approach to Public Safety (5.3)

