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## Media Advisory

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### ***Blueprint Jordan River's Preliminary Vision***

Based on the input of nearly 1300 residents and local technical experts, Envision Utah is releasing a draft vision for the Jordan River corridor on Wednesday, Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>. The public is encouraged to evaluate the vision, and its accompanying recommendations, at one of three open houses, each held from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.:

Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>      Utah Cultural Celebration Center (1355 West 3100 South) in West Valley City

Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>      Lehi Legacy Center (123 North Center Street) in Lehi OR  
Gale Center (10300 Beckstead Lane) in South Jordan

Alternatively, the public can provide input through an online survey at [www.blueprint.slco.org](http://www.blueprint.slco.org).

**Exciting computer-generated photo montages of how the Jordan River corridor can develop if the recommendations are adopted will be available on Tuesday, Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>. These will be sent electronically to local media outlets.**

Blueprint Jordan River is a year-long process facilitated by Envision Utah and led by a Steering Committee of local community leaders. Salt Lake County is the primary sponsor of *Blueprint Jordan River*. Public feedback will shape the final vision and recommendations. *Blueprint Jordan River's* goal is to create a vision document that reflects community values and hopes for the Jordan River and its corridor.

### **Based on the public feedback, what are the “Big Ideas”?**

1. **The Jordan River Natural Corridor** - The “centerpiece” of the Blueprint, the Jordan River Natural Corridor, is a linear nature preserve, stretching over 20 miles and encompassing hundreds of acres of open space and natural parks. It illustrates the importance of the entire corridor, with unique opportunities along its length. This linear preserve would be a monumental achievement and a natural wonder to rival the Wasatch Mountains as a draw for recreation, relaxation and enjoyment of our State's natural beauty.
2. **Regional and Neighborhood “River Centers”**- Commercial uses within the corridor could be clustered into “River Centers” to reduce the impact on the natural environment and create synergistic commercial benefits. River Centers could incorporate mixed-use development concepts and include businesses that are supportive of recreational uses or enjoyment of the River. Regional Centers could be larger existing areas, such as the Fairgrounds and Thanksgiving Point, while Neighborhood Centers would represent redevelopment of smaller commercial nodes in residential areas.
3. **Continuous “Blue-Green” Trail from Utah Lake to the Great Salt Lake** - The Blueprint includes the completion of the multi-use surface trail for pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians, and for the removal of the remaining barriers to lake-to-lake boating for kayaks, canoes and other non-motor boats.

4. **Rowing in the Canal** – A large diversion dam feeds water into a wide straight surplus canal that travels out by the Salt Lake City International Airport. This canal, which was constructed for flood-control purposes, provides an excellent opportunity for rowing clubs to practice on a relatively smooth and wide course. Rowing clubs already use the portion of the River south of SR-201. A clubhouse and boat storage facility would make this concept a reality.
5. **Kayaking in the Jordan Narrows** – Canoeing and kayaking have a strong following along the Wasatch Front but few recreational opportunities. One promising site for a whitewater play area is in the Jordan Narrows area, where steeper elevations and other geographic characteristics may support a suitable kayaking site.
6. **Regional Trails** - Regional trails connecting residents to the River directly from their neighborhoods show promise for increased usage and viability of the River trail system, and they will help to build a vital constituency that supports efforts to revitalize and protect the River. New trail connections can connect communities, reinvigorate neighborhoods, improve health and recreation opportunities, and connect residents to surrounding water-bodies and mountains, which will enhance our regional quality of life.
7. **Public Transportation and TODs** - New rail stops near the River represent multiple opportunities for the River's future and the future of our Region. Frontrunner and TRAX stops open up the River corridor to residents from the Greater Wasatch Area and tourists arriving via the Salt Lake International Airport. New rail stops also provide ways for residents to enjoy the River without having to drive and use limited parking facilities that impact the natural environment. In addition to transporting people, rail stops provide a development opportunity as nodes of activity are naturally intensified around fixed transit routes and stops. These “transit-oriented” developments (TODs) are natural centers for river-related businesses, such as restaurants, recreational shops, rental facilities, and visitor centers. Catching a train to visit the Jordan River may be a popular pastime in the foreseeable future.
8. **River Habitat Preservation and Restoration Opportunities** - The *Blueprint* recommends a flexible framework for policies that take varying current conditions of the River into account. Generally, the river and surrounding land fall into three categories of environmental opportunity: Gold, Silver, and Bronze, playing off of our hosting the recent 2002 Winter Olympics. Each “opportunity level” has an associated list of species that can currently or soon be part of the river corridor in a given area, and a set of policy recommendations to ensure the stability and enhancement of each.
9. **Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District Demonstration Garden & Facilities** - represents a strategic center for educating citizens about the importance of water quality, watersheds and the nexus between the built and natural environments. These facilities provide critical education about water-wise landscaping and other water management practices that affect our long-term survival as a mountain-desert metropolitan area. Located next to the Jordan River in West Jordan, the JWCD center and demonstration garden embody the place-based, environmental education philosophy advocated through the Blueprint Jordan River Vision.
10. **Equestrian Trails** – Equestrian trails are intended to accommodate equestrians and their horses, but also serve as an alternative path for pedestrians and cyclists on wilderness terrain bikes. Equestrian trails are always unpaved, soft surface trails, and therefore restrict the use of in-line skaters and cyclists on road bikes by design. Equestrian trailheads have similar requirements as the multi-purpose trailheads, with the additional needs for parking to accommodate horse trailers and the trucks that are pulling them. Other desired facilities are loading/unloading platforms and ramps, tie-up areas, access to fresh water for horses, and small corrals as site constraints allow. Signage should clearly indicate trailheads that accommodate equestrian use.