

The Salt Lake Tribune

The Thumb

Opinion

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THUMB UP: Saving the Jordan • The long-neglected Jordan River has been the butt of jokes for years because of its murky waters and history as a sewer and garbage dump. But efforts to turn the river into a sparkling corridor for recreation took a big step when Salt Lake, Utah and Davis counties formally launched the Jordan River Commission last week. Three cities — West Valley, North Salt Lake and Sandy — also have joined. Others should soon. The goal is to create regional planning for the river and give it a full-time steward. That way, local governments should be better able to cooperate in acquiring private land along the river and transforming it into a watery playground and scenic green space connecting the most populous areas of the state. It's a worthwhile voyage that has been too long in coming.