



Midvale Slag Superfund Site Jordan River Riparian Project

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY • REGION 8 • SEPTEMBER 2010

The pedestrian/bike path between 6400 South and 7800 South will be closed from October 2010 through January 2011. Signs will be placed at the trail announcing the closure, and attempts will be made to alert the public of the closure via notices in the local papers and on the Midvale City website.

Introduction

The Jordan River Riparian Improvement Project is underway along the Jordan River. Since 2008, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (UDEQ), Salt Lake County, Midvale City, and others have been working together to stabilize the Jordan River riverbank along the Midvale Slag Superfund Site. This is the final element of the Midvale Slag Superfund Site cleanup and will ensure that the Jordan River does not erode its bank and release contaminants buried at the site into the river.



Update 2010

Fieldwork for the final phases of this project is being conducted from September 2010 to January 2011, from 6400 South to 7800 South. EPA is providing grant money to Salt Lake County to construct graded slopes along the riverbank, called emergent benches, above

EPA is dedicated to developing innovative cleanup strategies and using principles of “green remediation” wherever possible.

This project meets many objectives of “green remediation” by reseeding the riverbank with native vegetation and removing invasive species; minimizing soil and habitat disturbance; purchasing soil, rocks, bushes, and plants locally; and using recycled products including recycled steel and recycled concrete.

The primary goals for this project are to:

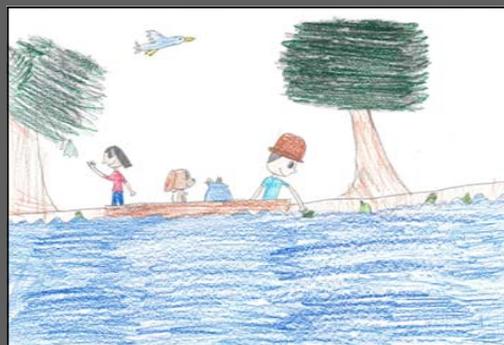
- *reduce the potential for riverbank erosion;*
- *maintain the current river grade; and*
- *ensure the project is visually pleasing.*



previously-placed rock armoring and elsewhere along the riverbank.

Salt Lake County will then plant the emergent benches and other areas with native and riparian wetland vegetation. This work will meet the goals of the project by removing invasive plants and trees; stabilizing the riverbank and constructing planting areas; revegetating using native, wetland and drought-tolerant plants; creating floodwater storage and providing improved fish habitat.

In addition to the work by Salt Lake County, EPA has contracted with JE Hurley, Inc. to concurrently install all remaining riverbank armoring, water control structures, and riparian plantings. This will involve connecting some features of the new development on the Midvale Slag site, such as storm water ponds and bridges, to the Jordan River project. EPA's contractor will construct abutments for two, new pedestrian bridges that the City of Midvale is planning to build across the Jordan River in the area between Winchester Road and 7800.



In April 2010, EPA and Salt Lake County sponsored a fourth grade art contest at participating Midvale elementary schools to complement the Jordan River Riparian Improvement Project. The challenge was to draw about children and the Jordan River's natural and historic resources. The winners from Copperview Elementary are shown above from top to bottom. The children's work was displayed at the Salt Lake Countywide Watershed Symposium in August 2010.

Overall Project

The Jordan River Riparian Improvement Project is the final component in the Midvale Slag Superfund site cleanup. A portion of the site cleanup called for soils contaminated with heavy metals to be left in place and capped to eliminate exposure to them. This project seeks to stabilize and reinforce the banks of the Jordan River as it flows past the site to eliminate erosion of the banks, potentially depositing buried contamination into the river. As described above, this is being done with many goals in mind, including aesthetics, recreation, habitat, and innovation.

The Jordan River Riparian Improvement Project is being conducted in four phases. Phase I was conducted in the fall/winter of 2008/2009. During this phase, EPA removed from the river a damaged sheet pile dam which was a relic of past mining activities and installed a new dam structure to stabilize the riverbed slope and prevent potential riverbank erosion. This phase also included stabilizing certain areas along the riverbank with boulder and rock and installing flow control devices in the river downstream of the new structure.

Volunteer Opportunity!

EPA is looking for volunteers to help remove invasive plants along the Jordan River in an effort to revegetate the areas where we are working. This will clear the way for planting specially selected small plants and trees. The new vegetation will meet project goals by replacing existing invasive plants with native, wetland or drought tolerant varieties, preventing soil erosion of the riverbank, and providing improved habitat. EPA has a donation from John Deere Water and a volunteer commitment from Utah State to install an innovative, temporary irrigation system in an area that is to be newly planted. If successful, the thin irrigation tape will have many benefits, including being less expensive than a permanent irrigation system. If you or your group are interested in volunteering, please feel free to contact the EPA representatives listed in the contacts section of this fact sheet.



Phase II was conducted in May through August 2009. The focus during this phase was to improve riverbank stability by placing nearly 9,000 tons of boulders and rocks north of the 7800 bridge and along the riverbank near the new dam structure. EPA's contractor also cast in place two, new concrete culvert boxes, one for inflow and one for outflow of Jordan River water as it enters and exits a wetlands area at Jordan Village Pond. This will allow for better water storage and will slow down the Jordan River flows as they pass by the Midvale Slag Superfund site. Slower water flows are less apt to erode the riverbanks

Background

The Midvale Slag Superfund Site comprises 446 acres, roughly 12 miles south of Salt Lake City

along the Jordan River in Midvale, Utah. Metals smelters operated at the site from 1871 through 1958, leaving lead, arsenic, cadmium, antimony, and other contaminants in soils and shallow groundwater. The site was declared a Superfund site in 1991 due to heavy metal contamination, and since that time, EPA, UDEQ, Midvale City, Citizens for a Safe Future for Midvale, and others have worked together through the Superfund process to address the environmental contamination.

The cleanup effort included removing hazardous debris, replacing residential soils, capping 180 acres of contaminated soils, and providing for future land use controls. These land use controls were developed such that the City of Midvale could adopt them into their city code. This was a major factor in transforming the once blighted property into a vibrant, new, mixed-use redevelopment. Today, the site hosts businesses providing approximately 572 jobs, collects \$1,423,459 in annual property tax revenues, and has experienced a \$104,687,034 increase in property value.

Contacts

For more information, please feel free to visit our website at:

www.epa.gov/region8/superfund/ut/midvale

Or, contact one of the following representatives:

Jennifer Chergo
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8
(303) 312-6601 / (800) 227-8917, ext 3126601
chergo.jennifer@epa.gov

Erna Waterman
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8
(303) 312-6762 / (800) 227-8917, ext 3126762
waterman.erna@epa.gov

Dave Allison
Utah Department of Environmental Quality
(801) 536-4479/dallison@utah.gov

Tony Howes
Utah Department of Environmental Quality
(801) 536-4283/dhowes@utah.gov

Ray Limb
Midvale Site Coordinator
Midvale City
(801) 567-7287
rlimb@Midvale.com

Or, visit one of our site information centers:

Tyler Branch Library, 8041 South Wood,
Midvale, UT 84047, (801) 944-7641

Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Environmental Response and Remediation,
195 North 1950 West
Salt Lake City, Utah 84110, (801) 536-4400

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8
Records Center, 1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, CO 80202, (800) 227-8917, ext. 3126681



Workers placing a protective cover over contaminated soils as part of the Midvale Slag Superfund Site cleanup (above). The Midvale Slag site being redeveloped into a thriving, mixed-use redevelopment (below).

