

## UTAH DIVISION OF FORESTRY, FIRE & STATE LANDS

With the help of the community, the city of Ogden, UT is cleaning up a 1.1 mile stretch of the Ogden River. Using Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) grant funds, the project plans to remove invasive species and restore native tree and shrub cover.

In early 2018, the community of Ogden City felt a need to clean up a particularly bad section of town that included a stretch of the Ogden River. The city wanted to increase access to the river and raise awareness among the citizens that the river is an asset to the community and not a liability. This river restoration effort included the removal of invasive species, the re-establishment of riparian appropriate vegetation, and education and outreach.

An important first step of this project included a heavy focus on invasive species suppression, targeting species such as Siberian elm, Russian olive, common reed, whitetop, and Japanese knotweed. The treatment focused on a low-stump cut and stump spray method for trees, and spot spraying and mechanical removal of herbaceous weeds.

The next step focused on restoring stream health and function, including restoring vegetative cover through trees, shrubs and riparian plants, as well as willow cuttings and large caliper trees. Tree species chosen included cottonwoods, river hawthorn, peachleaf willow, boxelder, and netleaf hackberry. Additional trees that are commonly planted in urban areas, but not native to the area, will also be planted in more managed areas. The replaced forest canopy will add shade, aiding in the fisheries redevelopment.



**Example of bank stabilization and vegetation installation.** *Photo Credit: Jeran Farley.*



**Rebuilt promenade linking Ogden River to downtown Ogden.** *Photo Credit: Jeran Farley.*

Next was green street development to increase access to the river. The 2018 project added dedicated bike lanes, a double alley of street trees, locations for educational signage, and user amenities such as benches and drinking fountains.

The project also included additional trail signage to help explain the important role forests play in riparian systems. Two signs have been installed along the trail with additional signs being drafted and reviewed for installation.

The final step in the river restoration project included educational outreach. Local youth provided much of the labor through the Utah Conservation Corp, and volunteers have played a major role in weed pulling, river cleanup activities and tree planting. Further, the 1.1 mile stretch of the restored Ogden River has been divided into 13 "Adopt a River" sections. Currently, all 13 sections have been adopted by local community groups and businesses.

To ensure success moving forward, the City's maintenance program has incorporated invasive species control and will continue to eradicate undesirable species. The public will continue to be engaged year-round, through volunteer involvement, community meetings and school projects.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Utah Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands, Urban and Community Forestry Program  
<https://ffsl.utah.gov/>