

New Trees Breathing New Life into West Jordan



(WEST JORDAN, UTAH) Dozens of volunteers spent the last few days of October planting thousands of young trees in West Jordan along the Jordan River. Ivory Homes donated 4,500 of those new trees, which volunteers planted one-by-one.

This stretch of the Jordan River Parkway is part of a huge restoration program called the Big Bend Habitat Restoration Project. For years The Sharon Steel Mill and Midvale Slag sites operated next to the Jordan River, heavily polluting the floodplain and wetlands. The waste had toxic impacts on the habitat within and around the River.

The Sharon Steel, Midvale Slag and Portland Cement sites were designated by the Environmental Protection Agency as Superfund sites because of the hazardous waste they were releasing into the environment. The “Superfund” is a federal government program that cleans up the most contaminated sites that may be dangerous to human health or the environment.



Restoration plans show the site will be home to a three to four-acre pond, managed as an urban fishery, along with other features including trails, boardwalks, overlook points and kiosks. The project also has a goal to restore 70 acres of habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife.

Years from now the trees planted by volunteers will shade portions of the restored river, which in turn will lower water temperatures and improve the habitat for fish. West Jordan City has been committed to the project since 1998, with the objective to create a place for people to visit and connect with nature.



For more information on the Big Bend Restoration Project, please visit <http://bit.ly/BigBendRestoration>