

## Logan City Partners with Utah Silver Jackets

### By the Utah Silver Jackets Team

The Logan Flood Resilience and Strategic Engagement project, a Utah Silver Jackets effort, initiated to provide flood risk education and outreach to the Logan community. The interagency team included members from the Utah Division of Emergency Management, Cache County, Logan City, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and National Weather Service. The project highlighted ways the city has preserved existing open spaces and spread awareness of the importance of an undeveloped floodplain as part of managing flood risk. Through the project, the interagency team published “good news” articles, created floodplain education signage, and developed other visual outreach tools to highlight non-structural ways to reduce flood risk in Logan. The community outreach encouraged recreation and long-range conservation of the Logan River, building upon the visionary Logan River Task Force Conservation Action Plan to “make the Logan River system a showcase of ecologically viable, socially beneficial river restoration” (<https://uwrl.usu.edu/lro/logan-river-task-force>.) The Logan Flood Resilience and Strategic Engagement project recently crossed the finish line, carrying with it several lasting outreach materials that will raise awareness of flood risk to the community.

One key element that helped ensure the project’s success was the broad support from the Logan community. Their participation included representation at project planning meetings from the City Council, City Engineer, Chief Building Official, Community Development, Emergency Management, Planning and Zoning, and Recreation Department. Among the achievements created through this successful partnership was the development of print media used for outreach. This included publishing two good news articles. The first article, “Logan’s Floodplain, a Resource for All,” highlights the way floodplains are beneficial to everybody. It explains how floodplains offer many resources including environmental benefits, flood risk management, and recreational uses. The article includes an example of Logan City taking steps to preserve its floodplain, so these uses can be enjoyed in the community for generations to come. The second article, “Rendezvous Park, a Treasure in Logan, Utah,” highlights the ecosystem restoration project in the Logan River floodplain. This area went from having very little flood protection and recreational use to a flourishing, diverse, and rich ecosystem. The articles tell Logan’s stories and help spread the word on how important floodplains are and why we must all strive to protect them. The articles are posted on Logan City’s website here:

[https://www.loganutah.org/government/departments/public\\_works/engineering/master\\_plan\\_and\\_studies.php#outer-11554](https://www.loganutah.org/government/departments/public_works/engineering/master_plan_and_studies.php#outer-11554) and were shared to Utah floodplain managers through the quarterly Utah Floodplain and Stormwater Management newsletter, *High and Dry*, <https://ufsma.org/content.php?page=news>.

In the coming months, educational signs will be posted along the Logan River “Blue River Trail.” These were developed in partnership between Logan City and USACE to highlight the flood history of the area. Five signs will be placed in the community and serve as hubs of information on the floodplain. Each of these signs contain information and designs unique to their location and to the Logan floodplain. Hikers, bystanders, residents, and anyone who passes will see these signs, further extending the reach of this information into the community.



Figure 1. Collage of Logan City Educational Signs

This project team also collaborated with USACE’s Sacramento District Public Affairs Office to develop two graphics that showcase the importance of floodplains and wetlands in the context of the western United States. The graphics display the region’s unique species and habitat. The educational signs also include a QR code link (<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/4c022c3979344da5b01f6c52893b7a11>) that takes viewers to a virtual storymap where they can find more information and the graphics “come to life.” The moving graphics are an exciting and accessible way to engage with the virtual floodplains and wetlands. These western-U.S. specific designs are applicable across the region and have been shared with Silver Jackets teams in Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, and Utah.



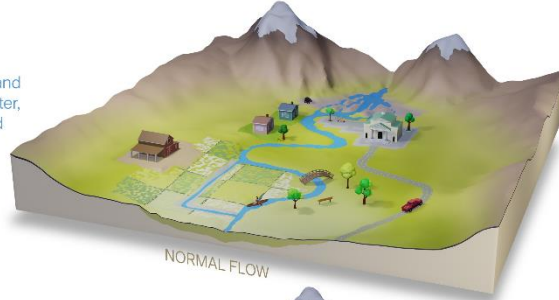
# THE VALUE OF FLOODPLAINS



1

**Natural Flood Management:**

Floodplains absorb and distribute excess water, reducing the risk and severity of floods in downstream areas.



2

**Biodiversity Hotspot:**

Floodplains support diverse ecosystems, offering habitats for many aquatic and terrestrial species, including several that are endangered.

3

**Water Quality Enhancement:**

Vegetation in floodplains filters pollutants from runoff, helping maintain cleaner water in rivers and streams.



4

**Recreational Opportunities:**

Many floodplains offer recreational activities such as fishing, birdwatching, and hiking, contributing to local tourism and quality of life.

5

**Economic Benefits:** Floodplains support agriculture by providing fertile soils, and their natural functions can reduce the cost of artificial flood defenses.



US Army Corps of Engineers

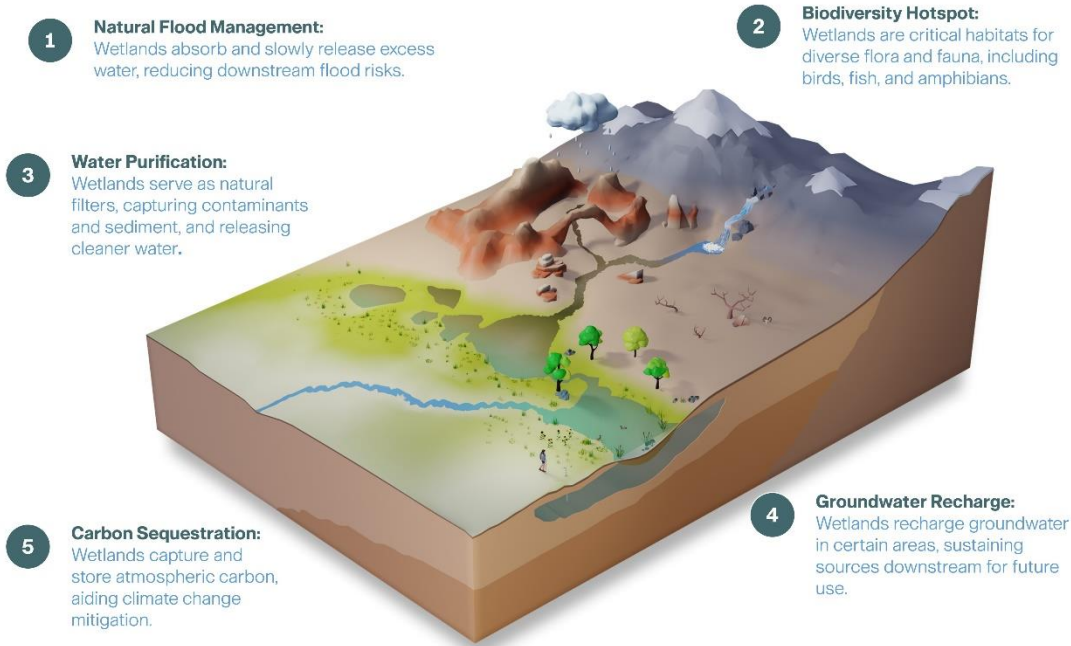
Learn More: [SPK.USACE.ARMY.MIL/FLOODPLAINS](http://SPK.USACE.ARMY.MIL/FLOODPLAINS)



Figure 2. Floodplains Graphic



# THE VALUE OF WETLANDS



Learn More: [SPK.USACE.ARMY.MIL/WETLANDS](https://SPK.USACE.ARMY.MIL/WETLANDS)



Figure 3. Wetlands Graphic

Similar to the river shown in the figures, the Logan River flows through the center of Logan City in Cache County, the wettest county in Utah. In the five-year period between 2019-2024, the county received an average of 27 inches of annual rainwater equivalent precipitation.

<https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/monitoring/climate-at-a-glance/county/rankings/UT-005/pcp/202401>.

When temperatures begin to rise in spring and early summer, rapid melting can create flood stages in the Logan River. To increase community awareness of to the possibility of floods, the Silver Jackets team developed base flood elevation signs for posting at five locations in the downtown area along the Logan River. Base flood elevation is the level surface water will likely reach during a base flood. Basically, it shows how high water may rise during a 100-year flood (i.e., a flood that has a 1% chance of happening in any given year).

By 2050, the population of Logan is expected to double. As the City develops its strategic plan to support development outside of the floodplain and continues to examine options to increase community resilience to future flood risk, engaging the younger generation will be part of the effort to increase community awareness. The City plans to launch a photo competition for high school and college students. The competition, *A River's Perspective*, will raise awareness and build appreciation for the Logan River and its floodplains. Emphasis will be on ways to recreate along the river (walking, bird watching, kayaking, etc.). Public outreach initiatives like the photo contest and the other project accomplishments directly support Utah Hazard Mitigation Plan (2019) 'Objective F: Ensure that information related to flood issues and programs are available in the state' and 'Action 2. Provide flood-related information through print and broadcast media.'

With all that this project has achieved, including community engagement and education, creating floodplain print media, and creating a City team that directly focuses on floodplain education and outreach, the City became eligible to earn 20 Community Rating System credits in FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program. Through the Logan Flood Resilience and Strategic Engagement project, the City has taken great strides in planning for its future development and educating the public at the same time.