

# Logan River Restoration Project Residents Survey

January 2016

BIO-WEST sent surveys to all Logan City residences that share a border with the river or that are located across a road from the river (for example, Riverside Drive). For apartment buildings we sent surveys to the owner as well as to the tenants of each unit, and we also sent surveys to owners of vacant properties. We mailed the survey on December 2, 2015. A week later we dropped off a second copy of the survey at each residence, along with a copy of a [riparian planting guide](#) developed by the Logan River Task Force and Utah State University. Responses were received between December 7 and January 27. We did not track individual questionnaires, but color-coded the paper by the location categories used in the following tables. A copy of the questionnaire is provided in **Attachment A**. A few individuals wanted to be contacted regarding specific bank erosion concerns, and two residents provided detailed comment letters.

## Responses by Location

Location	Questionnaires Sent	Received	Response Rate
North of Center Street	101	76	75.2%
South of Center Street	75	43	57.3%
West of Main Street	82	29	35.4%
All Locations	258	148	57.4%

## How long have you lived near the Logan River?

	North of Center Street	South of Center Street	West of Main Street	All Respondents
Less than 2 years	9	5	9	23
2-5 years	5	10	9	24
6-10 years	11	7	5	23
11-20 years	5	7	1	13
21-50 years	33	12	2	47
More than 50 years	11	2	3	16
(blank)	2			2
All respondents	76	43	29	148

## Do you own or rent your home?

	North of Center Street	South of Center Street	West of Main Street	All Respondents
Own	66	40	17	123
Rent	8	3	12	23
(blank)	2			2
All respondents	76	43	29	148

## Does your property directly border the Logan River?

	North of Center Street	South of Center Street	West of Main Street	All Respondents
No	4	7	5	16
Yes	68	36	23	127
(blank)	4		1	5
All respondents	76	43	29	148

**Which of the following attributes of the Logan River have had a negative or positive impact on you or your household?**

Attributes and Locations	Strong Negative Impact	Negative Impact	No Impact	Positive Impact	Strong Positive Impact	(blank)	All Responses
<b>Sights and sounds</b>							
North of Center Street	2	2	1	11	58	2	76
South of Center Street	2			4	37		43
West of Main Street		2	2	8	16	1	29
<b>All Locations</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>148</b>
<b>Flooding</b>							
North of Center Street	8	14	48	2	1	3	76
South of Center Street	5	4	34				43
West of Main Street	2	2	23	1	1		29
<b>All Locations</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>148</b>
<b>Wildlife</b>							
North of Center Street		4	7	23	40	2	76
South of Center Street		1	1	6	32	3	43
West of Main Street	2	2	3	8	14		29
<b>All Locations</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>148</b>
<b>Public use of the river</b>							
North of Center Street	7	14	33	16	3	3	76
South of Center Street	6	13	15	6	1	2	43
West of Main Street	2	4	15	5	3		29
<b>All Locations</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>148</b>
<b>Bank erosion</b>							
North of Center Street	9	17	44	2	2	2	76
South of Center Street	8	11	21	1		2	43
West of Main Street		8	19	1	1		29
<b>All Locations</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>148</b>

Observations: Sights/sounds and wildlife associated with the river have a positive impact. Flooding and bank erosion are a concern to some but have no impact on most, likely depending on the circumstances of their location. Some have experienced negative impacts of public use of the river. Responses to the next open-ended question provide more information about what residents experience as positive and negative attributes of living near the river.

**What other attributes of the Logan River have had a positive or negative impact on your household? (open-ended question)**

Positive attributes of living near the river

Categories of Positive Attributes	North of Center Street	South of Center Street	West of Main Street	All Respondents
Aesthetics, amenity values, wildlife	20	12	6	38
Past flood mitigation project, positive	2	1		3
Recreation	5		1	6
(blank)	49	30	22	101
All respondents	76	43	29	148

Example comments:

- Positive soothing sound of the water. The shade of the trees in summer. Quite frankly I love all the aspects of the river.
- We could choose to live anywhere in Logan, or Cache Valley for that matter, if we wished. Living "on the river" has become part of the "fabric" of our lives. Water; it's movement, reflections, sounds, and life-giving sustenance is magic! (Especially in an urban environment!) Our children have now recognized this as they have grown and left what they once took for granted. Our home on the river will be a family institution for years to come!
- I like the scenic plants and animals that it attracts.
- The trees and water seem to make it cooler in the summer which is nice.
- Positive attributes too numerous to count. We enjoy the riparian vegetation, the wildlife, the sound of the river, the buffer the riparian zone provides so we don't see much of our neighbor's property across the river during the growing season, giving us quiet privacy.
- We enjoy seeing occasional fishermen working their way up the river, kids tubing down the river in the summer and kayakers in the spring and winter.

Negative attributes of living near the river

Categories of Negative Attributes	North of Center Street	South of Center Street	West of Main Street	All Respondents
Bank Erosion	5	3		8
Debris, flood concerns	3	3	2	8
Past flood mitigation project, negative	8	6	6	20
Recreation, undesired aspects	3	1	1	5
Other, not river related (blank)	2	3		5
	55	27	20	102
All respondents	76	43	29	148

Example comments:

- Our bank is eroding - is there something we can do? We love the Logan River. We would so appreciate some "help" with our bank that is being undercut by the river.
- No [forewarning] of changing river flow has been a problem in the past. Over the years the channel of the river has changed creating more pressure on [our] bank.
- Fear of flooding. We live in high flood plain and are not able to address it due to health and money. Fear of flooding overgrowth will fall in river and create a dam.
- Overgrowth - negative (should be trimmed more regularly). Ripping out trees without immediate replanting - negative.
- We live on the Golf Course Road side of the Logan River Trail. There is no parking and we get people parking in front of our house taking our parking. People litter a lot on the way to the trail head and also let their dogs poop in our yard with no cleanup. On the trail [need] more garbage cans and dog waste bags and cans.

**As you think about the portion of the Logan River near your home, rate each of these planning objectives from 1 (not at all desirable) to 5 (very desirable).**

Planning Objectives	1	2	3	4	5	(blank)	All Responses
<b>Reducing bank erosion</b>							
North of Center Street	9	8	13	11	28	7	76
South of Center Street	5	2	6	13	14	3	43
West of Main Street	2	5	7	3	7	5	29
<b>All Locations</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>148</b>
<b>Improving wildlife habitat</b>							
North of Center Street	7	3	13	19	28	6	76
South of Center Street	1	2	5	7	26	2	43
West of Main Street	2	1	7	6	9	4	29
<b>All Locations</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>148</b>
<b>Improving fish habitat</b>							
North of Center Street	5	1	17	16	30	7	76
South of Center Street	1	1	1	9	29	2	43
West of Main Street	2	1	7	5	9	5	29
<b>All Locations</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>148</b>
<b>Establishing a trail</b>							
North of Center Street	38	9	8	5	9	7	76
South of Center Street	25	4	4	4	4	2	43
West of Main Street	4	2	3	6	10	4	29
<b>All Locations</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>148</b>
<b>Reducing flooding potential</b>							
North of Center Street	10	9	14	11	26	6	76
South of Center Street	2	8	7	9	13	4	43
West of Main Street	3	1	8	6	7	4	29
<b>All Locations</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>148</b>
<b>Improving access for river recreation (boating, fishing, swimming)</b>							
North of Center Street	25	11	15	10	9	6	76
South of Center Street	21	6	8	3	3	2	43
West of Main Street	9	3	8	3	2	4	29
<b>All Locations</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>148</b>
<b>Preventing trespass</b>							
North of Center Street	8	5	15	11	30	7	76
South of Center Street	4	2	5	6	22	4	43
West of Main Street	3	1	10	6	4	5	29
<b>All Locations</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>148</b>

Observations: Improving wildlife and fish habitat rate highest as planning objectives, followed by preventing trespass and reducing bank erosion. Establishing a trail and improving public access were rated low by most that are located east of Main Street (North and South of Center Street). Reducing flooding potential is a concern to some. Note: Six respondents did not answer the questions on the back page of the survey (possibly they did not notice the questions on the back side of the two-page questionnaire).

**In the past, have you made changes to your property related to the fact that you are located on or near the river? (open-ended question)**

Categories of past actions	North of Center Street	South of Center Street	West of Main Street	All respondents
Landscaping, property improvements	11	4	3	18
Boulders, walls, berms	10	5	--	15
Other stabilization, restoration	9	6	--	15
Other	1	--	1	2
None mentioned	45	28	25	98
All respondents	76	43	29	148

Example comments:

- Decreased bank erosion by using native boulders and rocks; planting shrubs and ground cover; installing concrete curbing.
- We brought in over 100 tons of rocks to create a new retaining wall to protect our property from erosion.
- Every year we get bare-root riparian trees and shrubs from the Blacksmith Fork conservation sale for planting along our bank, easily 20 a year for a total of over 100 starts.
- We have had to remove trees along the bank as it has continued to erode. We had to build up the bank and reinforce it in various spots during some of the recent high water years.

**Do you have any near-future plans for changes to your property related to the river? (open-ended question)**

Categories of planned actions	North of Center Street	South of Center Street	West of Main Street	All respondents
Bank stabilization	5	5	--	10
Vegetation	3	2	--	5
Other improvements	4	1	1	6
None mentioned	64	35	28	127
All respondents	76	43	29	148

Example comments:

- We need a more permanent solution to our bank erosion problem.
- We need recommendation to repair river bank to prevent flooding.
- We will continue planting vegetation to help stabilize our bank and improve habitat. Potentially build easier, more stable access to the river from our property.

- First, we have a small area, about 50 feet of riverbank near the river level, that we would like to stabilize to reduce continued erosion during the annual spring runoff. Second, we are going to continue to encourage river friendly plants and flowers along a rocky section of the riverbank.
- Preventing visitors to river from using private property areas for parking and walking through; preventing graffiti.

**What Logan City actions would you like to see happen to the river in the vicinity of your home? (open-ended question)**

Categories of Logan City actions	North of Center Street	South of Center Street	West of Main Street	All respondents
Bank stabilization	11	12	2	25
Flood control and debris removal	7	7	3	17
Address issues with past projects	12	3	1	16
Improve access (bridge, trail, fishing)	5	1	5	11
Don't want the city to do any actions	6	4	--	10
Other recreation improvement	2	2	4	8
Natural river restoration	1	1	2	4
Fish habitat improvement	3	1	--	4
None mentioned	32	15	14	61
All responses*	79	46	31	156

\* more than one action was mentioned by some respondents

Example comments:

- Cleaning out some of the dead trees and brush along the sides of the river.
- More debris removed from banks, dead trees and branches removed, banks secured against erosion, more natural foliage.
- Concrete removal on bank across from us. Need assistance from city to protect a cottonwood tree, and assistance with undesirable tree removal but want to be actively involved in the decision-making.
- I don't love the concrete slabs used for bank erosion, probably a long time ago. It would be nice to have them removed and get something more natural. Don't cut down so many trees and bushes!
- We would like to see measures taken to eliminate flooding threats and bank erosion. Also, install more permanent solutions to the meandering channel bottom.
- Making Riverside Drive nicer. Curb/gutter and sidewalk along river or at least other side. Some larger trees and more natural look there.

- Unfortunately, it is probably too late to have the river "fixed" along Riverside Drive, however, we would like to see appropriate revegetation of the river in the area for aesthetics, for recreational use, and for the privacy of the people living on the east side of the river.
- Restore the river to as natural and free-flowing a state as possible.
- Improve fish habitat by creating pools. Stop turning the river into a ditch!
- I am alarmed at how little water passes down the Logan River downstream of the diversion for the canal at Sumac/Willow Park. The fish need more water.
- New bridge going into Sumac-Thrushwood area. New bridge going across Riverside Dr./Crocket Canal bridge.
- A foot bridge between the [Crockett] diversion and the Hydraulics Lab would be helpful.
- Develop trail corridor from Logan River Golf Course east through Riverwoods, Stewart Nature Park, to River Park.
- Install a surf wave.
- Create a kayak play park between 100 North and Center Street. Rebuild the diversion bridge at Crockett with no chain link. Please allow kayaks a through way (as it had been).
- We do not need any "improvements" and definitely no walking trails or public access.
- It is fine the way it is right now.

For more information about the survey of Logan River residents, contact BIO-WEST:  
 (435)752-4202  
 info@bio-west.com



## iUTAH Surveys and Interviews

In a separate project not related to the Logan River Restoration Project, researchers at Utah State University affiliated with the iUTAH program (Drs. Douglas Jackson-Smith and Courtney Flint) surveyed neighborhoods in various parts of Cache Valley and other Utah locations about their perspectives on water issues. The iUTAH surveys were conducted in the summer of 2014. For the Island and Cliffside neighborhoods in Logan, the iUTAH survey included some questions about the stretch of the Logan River near their neighborhoods. Drs. Jackson-Smith and Flint shared their results and questionnaires with representatives of the Logan River Task Force, and their questionnaire was used as a starting point for developing the questions asked in the survey of river residents that was administered by BIO-WEST and reported in the previous pages.

In the iUTAH survey results, a majority of residents from both the Island and Cliffside neighborhoods indicated having spent time in or near the Logan River near their neighborhoods. A majority indicated positive impacts on their households from living near the river in terms of sights and sounds, a place to visit and walk, and habitat for wildlife. Two respondents specifically mentioned fishing and one mentioned kayaking.

In terms of concerns that people had about the river, around 1 in 3 respondents indicated some level of concern about flooding potential and safety concerns, while fewer than 1 in 5 indicated concerns about smells and nuisance wildlife/insects. One or two respondents specifically noted that there was limited access to the river.

The iUTAH researchers also conducted qualitative interviews with people at recreation sites in Logan and Logan Canyon. Interview locations in Logan were First Dam, River Hollow Park, Merlin Olsen Central Park, and Willow Park. Canyon locations were Second Dam and Third Dam. In these open-ended discussions, interviewees spoke of the recreational and aesthetic values of water associated with these recreation locations, but also recognized broader values for the river to the community, including importance to household use, agriculture, and ecological values. Safety and hazard issues were also frequently mentioned.

More information is available from the iUTAH program website, [utahepscor.org](http://utahepscor.org).



# Logan River Restoration Project Residents Survey

This brief survey is being distributed to households located on or near the Logan River, between First Dam and 100 East Street. Please complete only one survey for your household.

**How long have you lived near the Logan River?**

<input type="radio"/>	Less than 2 years
<input type="radio"/>	2–5 years
<input type="radio"/>	6–10 years
<input type="radio"/>	11–20 years
<input type="radio"/>	21–50 years
<input type="radio"/>	More than 50 years

**Do you own or rent your home?**

<input type="radio"/>	Own
<input type="radio"/>	Rent

**Does your property directly border the Logan River?**

<input type="radio"/>	Yes
<input type="radio"/>	No



**Which of the following attributes of the Logan River have had a negative or positive impact on you or your household?**

ATTRIBUTE	STRONG NEGATIVE IMPACT	NEGATIVE IMPACT	NO IMPACT	POSITIVE IMPACT	STRONG POSITIVE IMPACT
Sights and sounds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Flooding	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wildlife	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public use of the river near my home	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bank erosion	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**What other attributes of the Logan River have had a positive or negative impact on your household? (If none, please write “none.”)**

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As you think about the portion of the Logan River near your home, rate each of these planning objectives from 1 (not at all desirable) to 5 (very desirable).

PLANNING OBJECTIVES	NOT AT ALL DESIRABLE					VERY DESIRABLE
	1	2	3	4	5	
Reducing bank erosion	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Improving wildlife habitat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Improving fish habitat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Establishing a walking/biking trail	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Reducing flooding potential	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Improving access for river recreation (boating, fishing, swimming)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Preventing private property trespass	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Other: _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

In the past, have you made any changes to your property related to the fact that you are located on or near the river? (Write "none" if you have made no changes.)

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Do you have any near-future plans for changes to your property related to the river? If yes, please describe briefly, or write "none."

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What Logan City actions would you like to see happen to the river in the vicinity of your home? (If none, please write "none.")

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*Please place your survey in the postage-paid envelope provided and drop it in the mail.*



Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts with us!