

# Utah Lake Authority Interim Report

10/16/24



# Staff

Sam Braegger



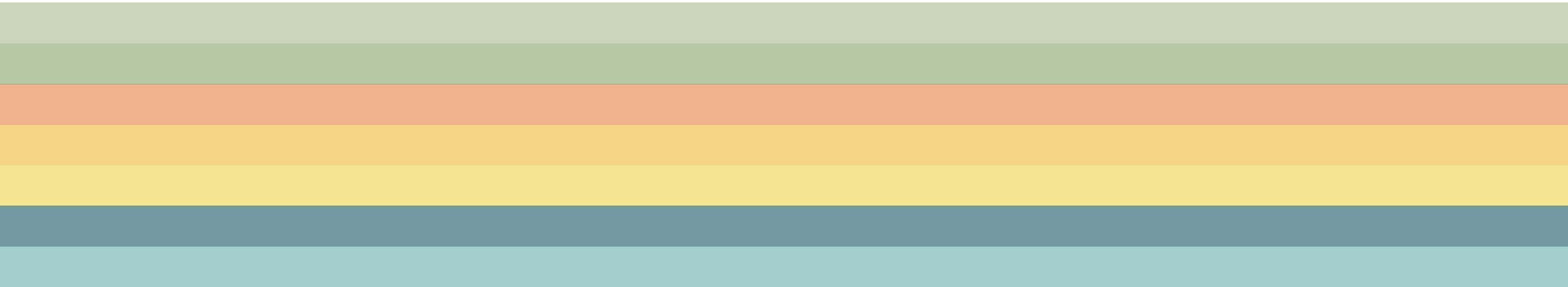
Addy Valdez



Anna Hall



Heather McEwen



# Thriving Ecosystems

- 1 **Improve water quality** to support recreation (fishing and swimming), wildlife (thriving native fish and waterfowl populations), and agricultural beneficial uses defined by the State of Utah.
- 2 Restore and support existing **robust and resilient fisheries** and wildlife in addition to populations of native and desirable fish and wildlife to Utah Lake.
- 3 Manage and collaborate on the restoration of **healthy and resilient populations of native and ecologically desirable vegetation** in and around Utah Lake to improve wildlife habitat, aesthetic appeal, and accessibility for compatible recreation.
- 4 Work with partners **to reduce and, when feasible, extirpate common carp** and other invasive fish species from Utah Lake.

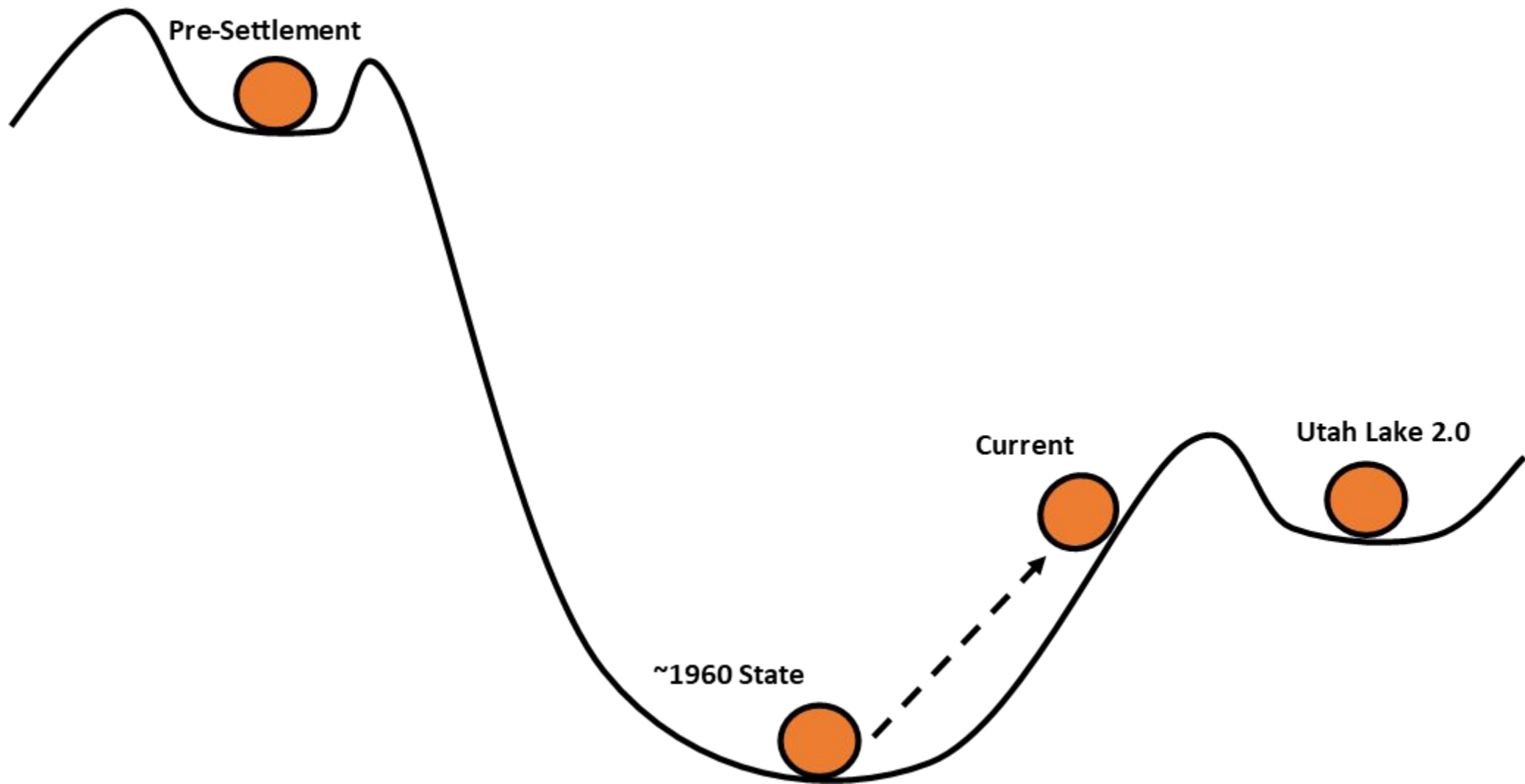
# World-Class Recreation

- 1 Coordinate and implement efforts to **improve Utah Lake access points** to ensure easy and affordable access and enjoyable visitor experience.
- 2 **Improve public perception and awareness** of Utah Lake and its recreational amenities.
- 3 Improve the quality and volume of **recreation experiences** at Utah Lake.
- 4 Attract, encourage, and retain more **recreation-oriented business** at Utah Lake.



# Vibrant Communities

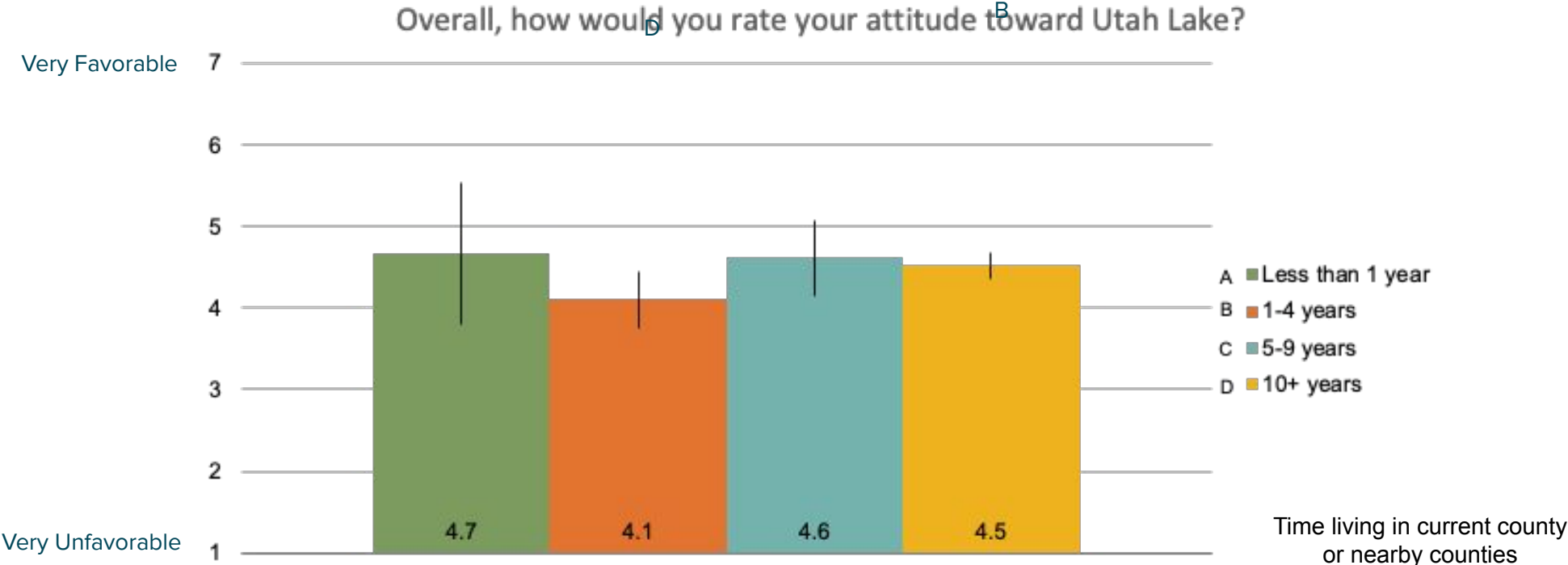
- 1 Promote and facilitate the growth of **sustainable lake-amenity development**, destinations, and businesses.
- 2 Increase the number and ease of accessibility of **physical connections between Utah Lake and regional mobility systems**, emphasizing active transportation and other zero-emissions forms of transportation, public transit, and other means.
- 3 Develop a **model regional stormwater plan** that identifies specific best practices and principles to improve water quality in Utah Lake and encourage its implementation.
- 4 Promote **public awareness of Utah Lake** for its cultural, community, and environmental value through events, education, and stewardship.



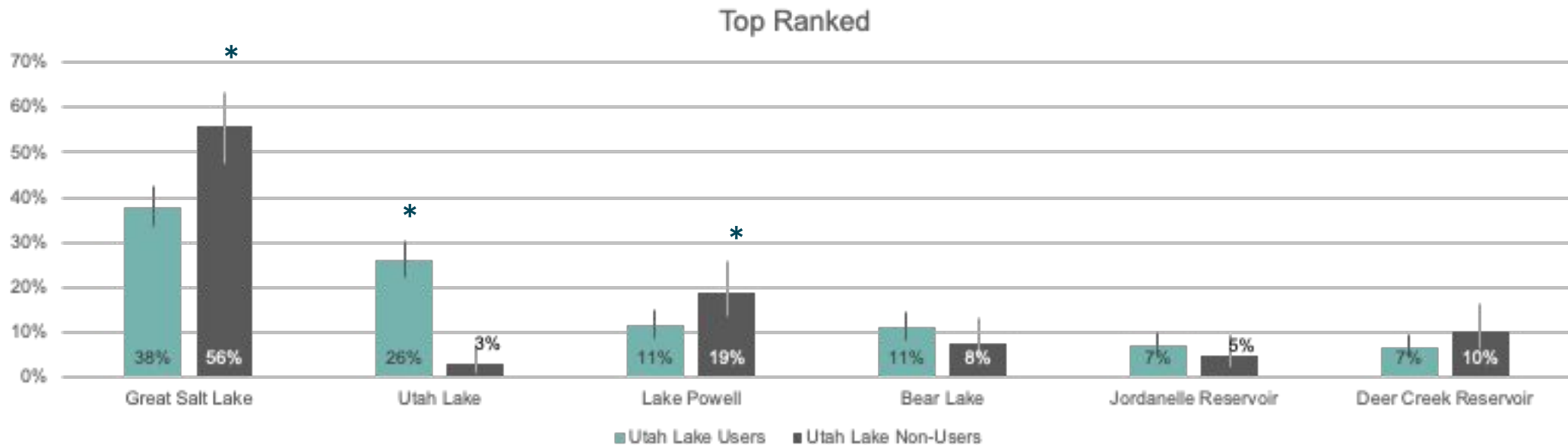
# Top concerns compared to other lakes

|   | Utah Lake | All Other Lakes | Bear Lake | Lake Powell | Great Salt Lake | Deer Creek Reservoir | Jordanelle Reservoir |
|---|-----------|-----------------|-----------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Water quality   | 50%       | 5%              | 2%        | 5%          | 18%             | 4%                   | 3%                   |
| Algal blooms  | 44%       | 9%              | 7%        | 7%          | 18%             | 10%                  | 6%                   |
| Bugs  | 44%       | 20%             | 17%       | 17%         | 34%             | 19%                  | 20%                  |
| Crowds  | 25%       | 40%             | 47%       | 40%         | 18%             | 39%                  | 46%                  |
| Too many invasive species of fish in the water (e.g., carp) | 23%       | 6%              | 7%        | 6%          | 6%              | 4%                   | 3%                   |
| Too many non-game fish in the water (e.g., junk fish)       | 19%       | 7%              | 3%        | 5%          | 21%             | 7%                   | 6%                   |
| The wind makes it unsafe to be on the water                 | 17%       | 9%              | 10%       | 6%          | 15%             | 7%                   | 6%                   |
| Not enough parking spaces                                   | 16%       | 20%             | 20%       | 16%         | 6%              | 26%                  | 37%                  |
| Cost of admission   | 14%       | 21%             | 26%       | 18%         | 11%             | 19%                  | 26%                  |
| Inconvenient location                                       | 12%       | 16%             | 20%       | 23%         | 3%              | 10%                  | 9%                   |
| I can't do the activities I'm interested in at Utah Lake    | 12%       | 4%              | 4%        | 0%          | 8%              | 6%                   | 0%                   |
| None  | 10%       | 25%             | 18%       | 29%         | 31%             | 30%                  | 23%                  |
| Not getting to encounter wildlife                           | 8%        | 5%              | 7%        | 3%          | 8%              | 4%                   | 3%                   |
| I don't like the water temperature                          | 7%        | 9%              | 14%       | 6%          | 2%              | 13%                  | 3%                   |
| I don't like to do outdoor activities at lakes              | 4%        | 2%              | 1%        | 0%          | 2%              | 6%                   | 3%                   |
| Encountering wildlife                                       | 4%        | 2%              | 1%        | 0%          | 5%              | 3%                   | 3%                   |
| Other   | 2%        | 3%              | 3%        | 5%          | 3%              | 1%                   | 6%                   |

# Infectious Attitudes



# Non-users value conserving GSL the most



56% of Non-Users thought that the Great Salt Lake was the most important lake to conserve, which was significantly more than Utah Lake users. This is because its environmental issues are more well known. 26% of Utah Lake Users ranked Utah Lake as the top lake to conserve.

NNonUsers=106; \*Statistical significance ( $p < .1$ )

# Eco-Counter Project

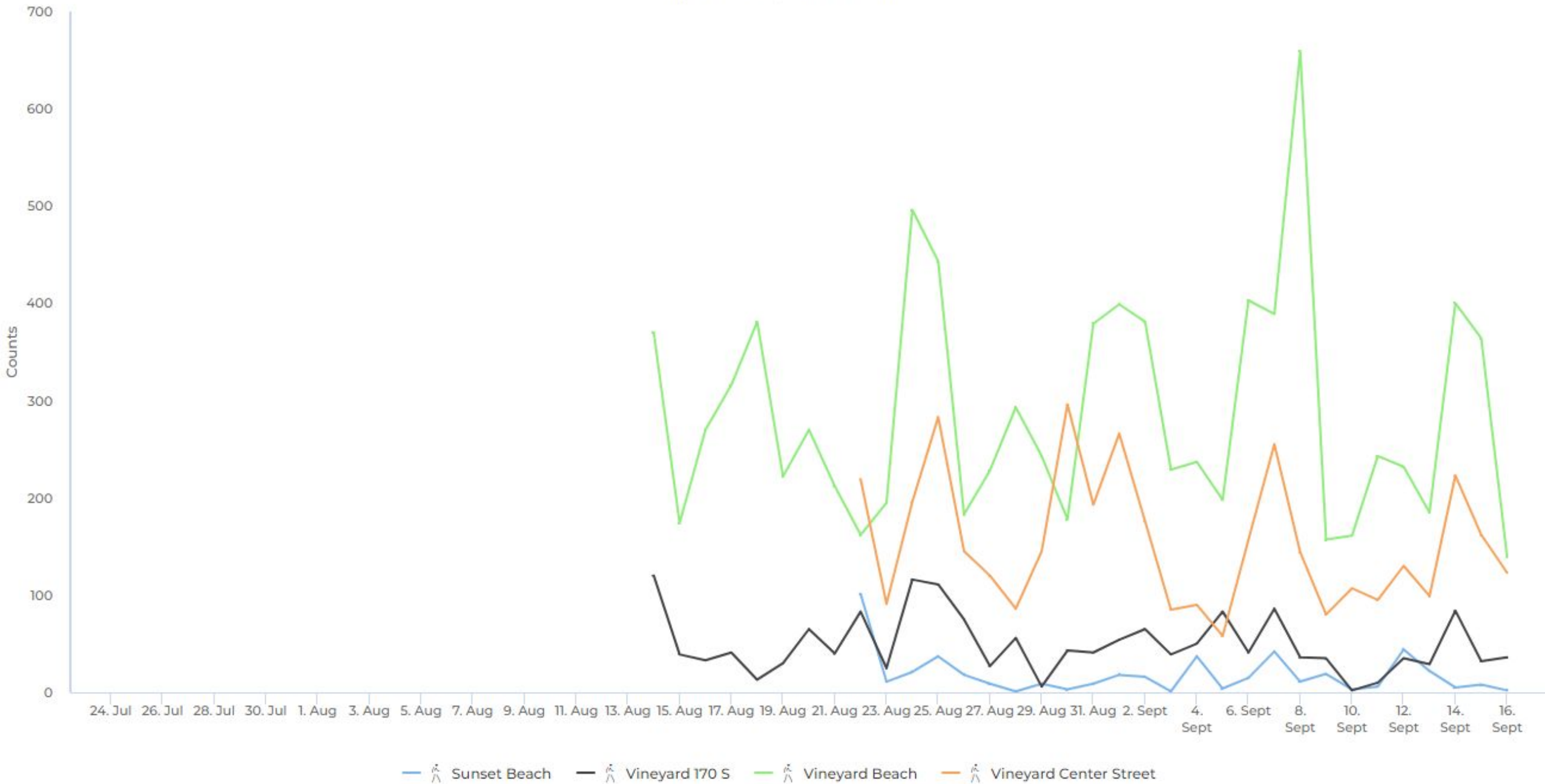
- 19 out of 28 counters installed
- Expected completion: October - November 2024
- Data collection has begun





# Daily traffic

July 23, 2024 - September 17, 2024

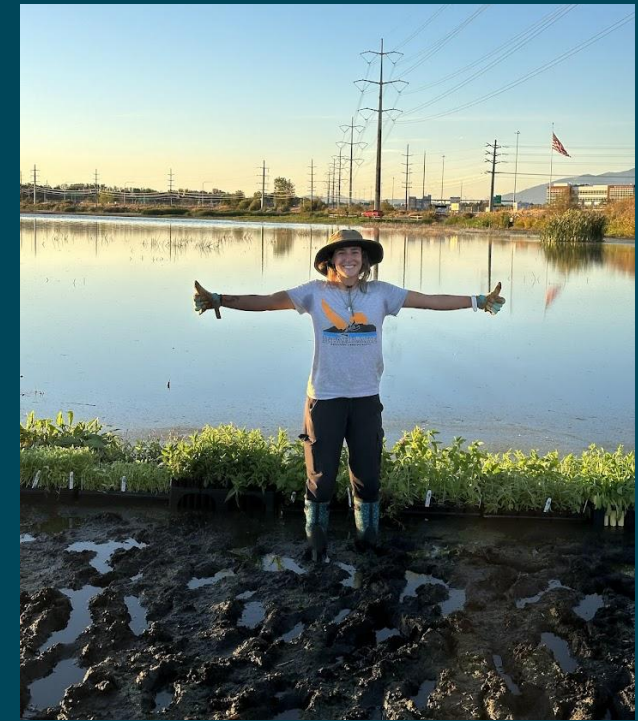




**Creating a Sense of Place .**

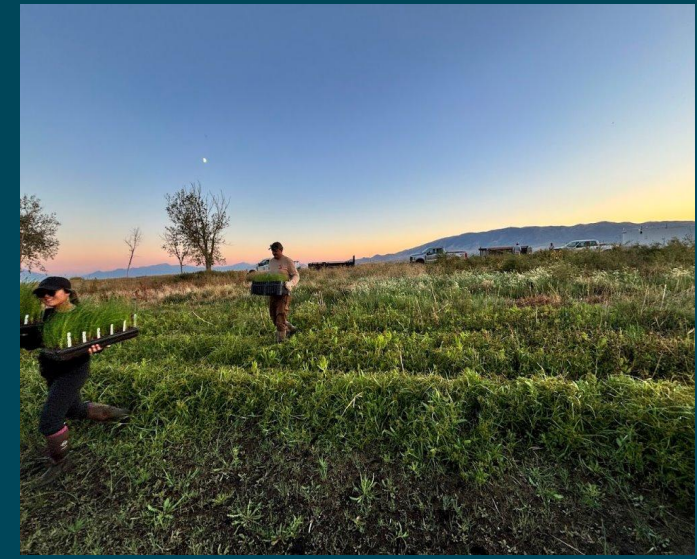
# Restoration

- **Phragmites coverage down by 80%**
- **Planting Party Success**
  - 11 Events
  - 425 Volunteers
  - 25,000 plants

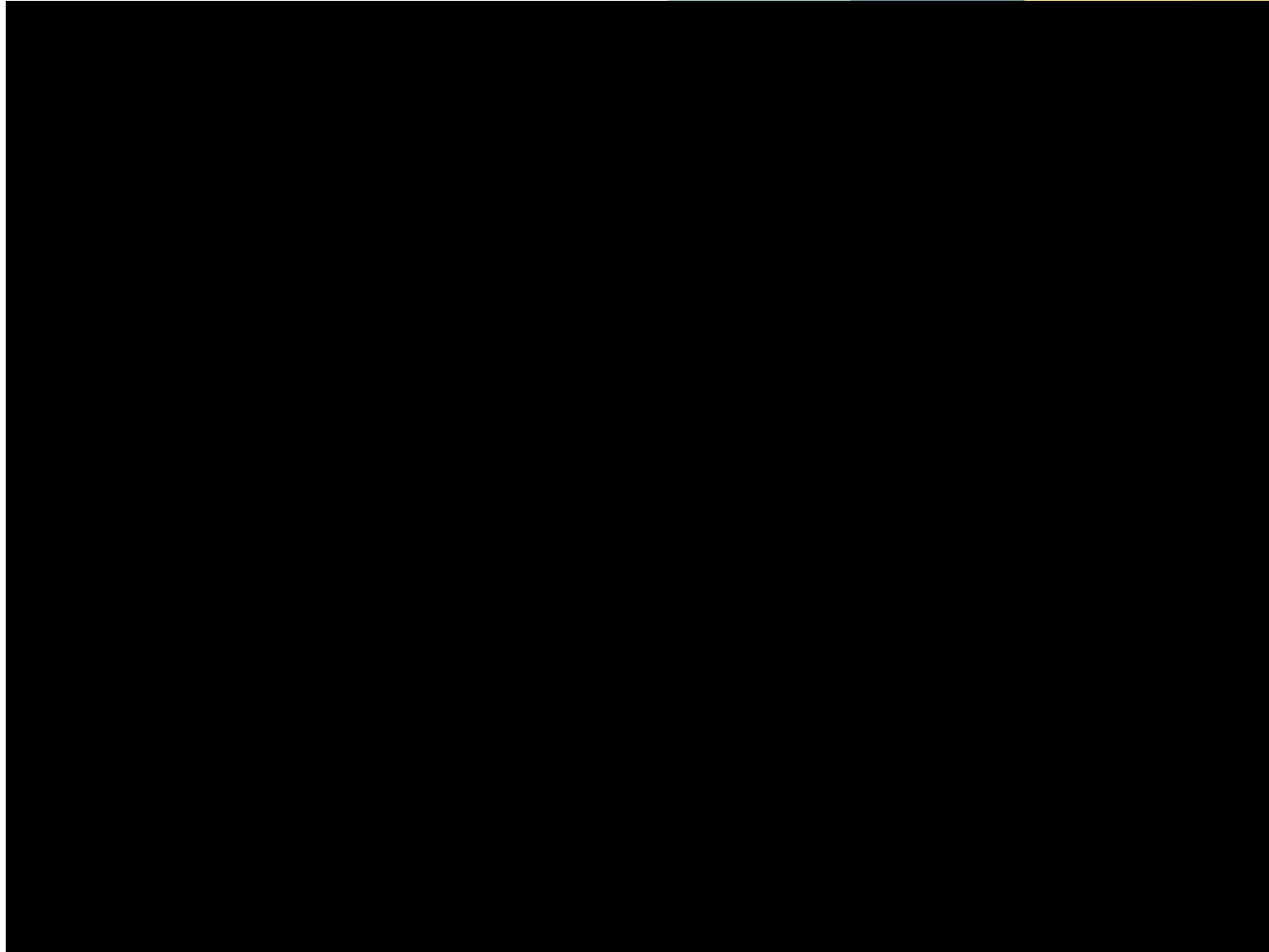


# Next Year

- **\$1.5 Million & More**
- **Potential Projects**
  - Revegetation Increases
  - Invasive Species Removals
  - Conservation Easements
  - Pilot Projects
  - Bird Watching Classes
  - Pollinator Habitat Corridors
  - Stormwater Seminars
  - Many More!!



# What Utah Lake Is and Can Be



# Symposium

Oct. 21 - 22

