This trail is one of 17 paths or trails that deal with the issue of water and peace building between neighboring communities in the region that share a common water source. The routes were planned during 2007 in the framework of the “Good Water Neighbors” project in cooperation with community representatives as well as the municipalities.

The goals of the trails are to:
• Raise public awareness of shared water and environment concerns of the communities
• Promote cross border cooperation for solving environmental problems
• Develop the potential for local eco-tourism

The “Good Water Neighbors” project was established in 2001 by “EcoPeace / Friends of the Earth Middle East” in order to promote local cooperation efforts to protect the shared water and environment in the region.

“EcoPeace / Friends of the Earth Middle East” is a regional environmental organization that works to promote cooperative efforts to protect our shared environmental heritage.

For more information, please visit our website: www.foeme.org

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Specific information on the neighbors trails:
http://www.foeme.org/publications

Guided tours on the Neighbors Trails take place once every three weeks. To sign up, please write to: info@foeme.org

Background

The Tabkat Fahal municipality is a medium sized cluster of towns and villages incorporating the communities of Al Masharea and Sheikh Hussein, in addition to the smaller villages of Tel Arbain, Gleaat, Al Harawieh, Al Jessoura, Sheikh Mohammed, Zumalieh, Busseleh and Azaba, totaling approximately 25,000 residents.

It is located in the Jordan Valley, and has magnificent landscapes and buried treasures. Ruins from the Roman, Ottoman and Muslim periods can be found here. Friends of the Earth Middle East is promoting the Lower Jordan River Valley, including this area, for registration as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

The area is home to the important archeological site of Pella, one of the great Roman Decapolis cities. Additionally, the northern Jordanian - Israeli “Sheikh Hussein” Border Crossing, inaugurated following the 1994 Peace Treaty, is located in the area.

Tabkat Fahal is partnering with two communities on the western side of the River Jordan – namely, the Beit She’an Valley Regional Council and Beit She’an City. They have been working together to promote the protection of their shared ecosystems.
The Path’s Stations

1. **The Sharhabil Bin Hassneh Park**
The Sharhabil Bin Hassneh Park, developed in the framework of FoEME’s “Good Water Neighbor” project, is the first ecological open space in the community and includes an area of 216 dunams. The park has attractive features including walking trails, green areas, benches/tables, a wetland and a campsite. Most of the development was carried out with community participation.

2. **Sharhabil Bin Hassneh (Ziglab) Dam**
One of the cleanest water resources in Jordan, its crystal clear water is used for drinking and irrigation. The dam’s capacity is 4.3 MCM, with a catchment area of 106km². The area has a magnificent panoramic view to the east and west of the Jordan Valley.

3. **Information Center**
This will be the first environmental and eco-tourism information center in the Jordan Valley (presently under construction-rehabilitation).

4. **Pella Archeological site**
Pella is one of the ten Roman Decapolis cities and one of the most important archeological sites in the Jordan Valley. Across the Jordan River, one can find the Roman City of Beit She’an with its impressive amphitheater, buildings and walkways. Pella, however, is still largely uncovered but waiting to be discovered!

5. **Pella Restaurant and Residence**
A recommended tourist restaurant built with local materials featuring beautiful arches and stone walls. It resembles the Pella archeological site and has a magnificent panoramic view of the Jordan Valley.
For reservations + 962 79 557 4145

6. **Mashareh Park**
Mashareh Park is a medium size recreational area that includes swimming pools, playgrounds and a restaurant; for the enjoyment of local residents, tourists and international visitors.

7. **Jordan Valley Crossing Point**
Built in accordance with the 1994 peace treaty, this is the official northern international border between Jordan and Israel.

8. **Al Harawiyya**
Al Harawiyya is the closest residential neighborhood to the Jordan River and the border. The impoverished community is in need of attention and development.

9. **Al Jasoura**
This is a series of bridges that were built on the Ziglab stream. Today this area is in need of renovation as the stream has dried out.

10. **Municipality Garden**
A small community recreational garden with a children’s library.

11. **King Abdullah Canal**
This is the major irrigation water canal that transports over 220 MCM of water per year throughout the Jordan Valley. The canal continuously stores about 20 MCM of water. Regrettably, much water is lost from the canal due to high evaporation rates. It also poses a danger for youngsters who try and climb over the fence to swim in the canal.

12. **Waqas Shrine**
This is one of a series of shrines dedicated to the companions of the Prophet Mohammed in the Jordan Valley. Ammer Bin Aby Waqas was companion number 11 in Islam. He died in the year 636 in the Jordan Valley in the Yarmouk Battle. The Waqas community was named after him.