



Parley's Historic Nature Park Fact Sheet

Recommended Comprehensive Use and Management Plan
December 27, 2010

Introduction:

Parley's Creek and the land that surrounds it at the mouth of Parley's Canyon has a special place in Utah history as a crossroads, a center of industry, and an important natural corridor. Parley's Historic Nature Park (PHNP) is one of the largest and most diverse natural open spaces in the Salt Lake valley and contains one of the most natural and contiguous riparian corridors in the City. The park is continuously growing in popularity for recreational uses such as dog walking, BMX biking, nature appreciation, biking and walking along the Parley's Trail. Salt Lake City is currently refining the park's first Resource Management Plan to help balance this diversity of recreational uses with the need to protect sensitive natural and cultural resources in the park. Over 16 facilitated and well attended public meetings have been conducted regarding the PHNP. This fact sheet outlines the main objectives of the plan.

The recommended Resource Management Plan:

- Seeks to simplify and enforce current Park rules for greater long term sustainability
- Upholds local, state and federal regulations to protect clean water, streams, wetlands and springs
- Fulfills Salt Lake City Council mandated requirements to research impacts of recreation on the park and environmentally sensitive areas.
- Seeks to protect natural and cultural resources
 - Of the 28 acre restoration identified in the Interim Use and Management Plan, approximately 5 acres emphasizes riparian restoration and protection.
 - Protects springs, wetlands and historic structures.
- Provides long term plan to protect multiple uses (hiking, walking, off-leash dog walking, cycling, bike jumping, nature watching and water recreating)
- 13 acres of off-leash play areas in the Interim Use and Management Plan and 15 acres of off-leash play areas in the Comprehensive Use and Management Plan
- 1.1 miles of off-leash trails
- 1.38 miles of on-leash trails (including Parley's Trail)
- 0.6 miles of preserve trails with no dogs allowed (in preserve area)
- 2 off-leash creek access areas along Parley's Creek at east and central locations

Goals of the resource management plan aim to:

- | | |
|---|--|
| • Protect and restore natural and cultural resources | • Uphold management responsibilities |
| • Restore damaged areas | • Formalize monitoring and adaptive management |
| • Maintain and enhance multiple users with minimal conflict | • Establish and enforce rules |
| • Identify additional off-leash locations | • Develop consistent funding |

Salt Lake City is committed to providing off-leash dog parks and protecting and increasing sustainable open space. With approximately 30 acres in 9 off-leash areas throughout the City, Salt Lake City offers numerous resources for residents and visitors to use with dogs.

For more information, visit [www.slcgov.com/publicservices/Parks/Parleys/Off leash dog sites in SL County.pdf](http://www.slcgov.com/publicservices/Parks/Parleys/Off%20leash%20dog%20sites%20in%20SL%20County.pdf)

Top Ten Questions and Answers about dogs and Parley's Historic Nature Park

1. Can I still take my dog to Parley's Historic Nature Park?

Yes. Off-leash dogs (and their human friends) are welcome in the park. The Comprehensive Use and Management Plan proposes 1.1 miles of off-leash trails and 3 off-leash play areas totaling **15 acres**.

2. Can my dog and I still play in Parley's Creek?

Yes. People and their dogs are able to wade, splash and play in the creek in the two most popular access areas at the east end of the park in the big pond where the culvert enters the park, and at the bridge at the bottom of the main entry trail.

3. Can I use Parley's Trail?

Yes. Parley's Trail will be open to hiking, biking, rollerblading/skateboarding and walking dogs using a leash. It is not technically ADA accessible because it is steep in some areas, but it is also open to wheelchairs.

4. Can I play fetch and let my dog run free in Parley's Historic Nature Park?

Yes. Fetch and unlimited play are allowed in designated off-leash areas and on the pathway area of off-leash trails.

5. Have any park rules changed?

All of the existing park rules will be enforced. In addition, one new rule is proposed:

"People and dogs should stay on designated trails and in designated off leash areas."

This will make it easier to uphold several other existing park rules including:

Handler must accompany dogs at all times

All dogs must be visible and under voice control

Handler must pick up your pet's feces

Handler must ensure dogs do not dig or disturb wildlife and sensitive environmental areas

6. Where can I enter the park with my dog?

Dogs and owners may enter at:

Main entry from Tanner Park east parking lot with dog on-leash in parking area until the park boundary is reached. The Park may also be accessed through Parley's Trail, which is an on leash facility.

7. Can I volunteer to help keep the park clean and safe?

Yes. Interested parties may contact the City's Division of Parks and Public Lands to plan an event or schedule a project that is compatible with the Resource Management Plan.

8. Why are parts of the park being closed to off-leash use?

It has been brought to the City's attention that Parley's Creek water quality has been identified as impaired and has high levels of e-coli. Therefore water quality issues and resource protection merit a new management approach for this park. Many parts of the park suffer from erosion, damaged vegetation, and impacts to historic features. This is primarily due to heavy recreation use. Parts of the park will be closed for restoration or will have more limited recreation to help protect the most sensitive areas including the riparian area, wetlands and springs. In addition, different parts of the park give priority to different types of recreation users so that everyone can enjoy the park safely and have the experience they want. PHNP supports multiple uses and was created for people to enjoy its natural beauty, its historic sites and to recreate.

9. Is there a problem with dog poop in the park?

Even though most people are very conscious of picking up their dog's feces, there is still a lot left behind. When it rains, the water running off trails and play areas carries bacteria and toxins from this waste into the creek and creates dangerous water quality. Three things will help prevent this from happening:

1. Enforcing rules that encourage people and pets to stay on trails
2. Restoring the plants around the creek to absorb impacted water before it reaches the creek; and
3. Building catchment basins and increasing vegetation downhill from heavily-used areas to filter pollutants, slow stormwater runoff and protect water quality.

10. What other options do I have to take my dog off-leash?

Salt Lake City has 9 off-leash areas and there are a number within Salt Lake County. A map of these off-leash areas can be found at:

[www.slcgov.com/publicservices/Parks/Parleys/Off leash dog sites in SL County.pdf](http://www.slcgov.com/publicservices/Parks/Parleys/Off%20leash%20dog%20sites%20in%20SL%20County.pdf)

For more information on this plan and PHNP visit:

<http://www.slcgov.com/publicservices/parks/Parleys/parleysnaturepark.htm>