

Sent: Friday, February 21, 2014 5:25 PM
Subject: Riparian Restoration Project updates

Good Evening,

You're receiving this email because you've either participated in a public meeting or requested information related to Salt Lake City's Open Space restoration projects. The following is an update on the four restoration projects associated with Red Butte Mitigation Funds through the Utah Division of Water Quality in response to the 2010 oil spill in Red Butte Creek. The funds were designated specifically for restoration and enhancement projects that provide improved ecological, recreational, natural, cultural and historic benefits to the community.

900 South Oxbow

A major restoration and enhancement project, on the 900 South "Oxbow" along the Jordan River, will be underway this summer. The project will improve conditions for water quality, wildlife species (macro-invertebrates, fish, and birds) and their critical habitat, and the public experience along the Jordan River Parkway and 9-Line Trails. The public has played an integral role in the conceptual designs for this project. Public input has focused on protecting wildlife and restoring wildlife habitat, while simultaneously retaining recreational trail features that showcase the restoration area and maintain trail connectivity along and across the Jordan River.

Construction designs will be complete by the end of February, and the public is invited to review the final designs at a March 13th public meeting (more information below). Project work includes: (1) grading and drainage to accommodate a naturally-functioning wetland in the center of the Oxbow, (2) weed control and restoration of native wetland, riparian, and upland vegetation, (3) re-grading of certain bank areas to widen the floodplain-level river bench, and (4) construction of a wildlife viewing platform, outdoor classroom area, and crushed-rock trail skirting the south and west edges of the Oxbow. Trail location and design will minimize impact to restored wildlife habitat while maintaining connectivity of the Jordan River Parkway and 9-Line Trails, enhancing the trail-user experience, and providing ADA access to the Oxbow. Salt Lake County will be conducting some flood control activities at the site in early March.

The restoration and enhancement work is expected to occur between June and August, 2014; the Oxbow site will be closed to public use during this period (June-August, 2014) but the 9-Line and Jordan River Trails will remain passable. The project area will be monitored and native vegetation maintained over the coming years to ensure successful restoration.

[NOTE: The public is invited to attend a meeting where the 900 South Oxbow Restoration and Enhancement designs will be available for review, March 13th from 5pm -7pm at the Salt Lake City Parks and Public Lands offices, 1965 W 500 S.](#)

Jordan River Trailside

The Jordan River Trailside Restoration Project is currently underway along three sections of the Jordan River Parkway Trail between 1800N and 2500N. The specific purpose of the project is to restore areas of

degraded riparian habitat to support a healthy, self-sustaining ecosystem with natural function and a predominance of native species.

Project work supports a publicly-reviewed restoration plan, and consists of three components: (1) stabilization of actively-eroding river banks using soil lifts, removal of non-native trees, and riparian re-vegetation techniques, (2) trailhead improvements and native landscaping along the trail near Northwest Middle School, and (3) removal of dredge material and debris piles near the Davis County line.

Bank stabilization initiated in February 2014, with trailhead improvements, native landscaping, and debris removal scheduled for later in the spring. Work will require periodic closures of the Jordan River Parkway Trail between 1800N and 2500N from March through May, with project completion anticipated by June, 2014. The project area will be monitored and native vegetation maintained over the coming years to ensure successful restoration.

Liberty Lake

This summer Salt Lake City Parks and Public Lands is implementing an enhancement project at Liberty Lake. The purpose of the project is to improve habitat for wildlife by planting native species and improving the vegetative cover on the Lake islands and edges. This project will also include the installation of two floating islands in the Lake.

The public has played an integral role in the conceptual designs for this project. Public input has focused on improving wildlife habitat and enhancing the lake environment. Project work includes selective vegetation removal, installation of floating islands, grading and planting of native wetland species. The wetland plants will be protected from over grazing for at least one year after the project is complete to allow plants to establish.

Construction of this project will start in March and be complete by July. Access to the lake edge will be limited during construction but will not impede access to Liberty Park.

Miller Park Bird Refuge

The riparian restoration in the Miller Park Bird Refuge is an opportunity to bring a section of degraded riparian habitat back to a healthy ecosystem with natural function and a predominance of native plant and wildlife species and optimal conditions for improved public access to wildlife watching and passive recreation. Restoring the critical habitat zones and improving water quality will implement best management practices identified in the 2010 Riparian Corridor Study. The site has been a fixture in the local community functioning as an important pocket of green space within an otherwise urbanized city environment. The improvements will preserve the cultural amenities of the park and will provide the public with safe and enjoyable walking and wildlife viewing areas.

Work associated with the restoration of Miller Park Bird Refuge will begin the end of March and beginning of April and include the following major elements (1) invasive species control and the establishment of native trees, shrubs and plants, (2) streambed restoration and water velocity reduction

(3) stream bank stabilization, (4) and limited trail and signage improvements. The park will be closed during the restoration work and is expected to last until the beginning of September.

Non-native tree removal is a component of the planned work. Removals will focus on three of the eleven non-native species found on site, Siberian elms, Tree-of-heaven and Black locust. These species have been prioritized for removal because they are the most detrimental invasive species in the park as they are fast growing, weak wooded and have low habitat value. The removal of these three species will allow for the establishment of native riparian trees, shrubs and plants. This work will have many long term benefits to community and the environment. In the short-term this will bring change and an initial reduction in canopy cover which will allow for the native plant establishment. To mitigate for the visual impact of reducing the canopy following the removal of the three target species, the native trees specified for planting are larger size. After the restoration project is implemented, the Open Space Program will monitor and maintain the native vegetation and ensure the project investment and goals are achieved over the coming years.

This is part of a publicly-reviewed restoration plan. Over the next few weeks, the City will update the Yalecrest Community Council and the public as we receive bid information, select a contractor and come to a final decision on bid alternates.

Additional Information

For additional and on-going information visit slcparks.com under current items of interest.

Regards,

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