

Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2014 3:51 PM
Subject: FW: Riparian Restoration Projects Update 2

Date: July 14, 2014

Re: Status of Riparian Restoration Projects funded through Utah State Division of Water Quality Red Butte Creek Mitigation Fund Grants

Salt Lake City's Open Space Lands Program has four restoration projects associated with Red Butte Creek Mitigation Funds. These funds were awarded 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. A brief background and status update for the Open Space Lands Program's four restoration projects is below and available on-line at SLCParks.com.

Jordan River (1800N) Trailside Restoration

Background: This ~\$440,000 restoration project is located along the Jordan River Parkway north of 1800N. 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, and (2) trailhead improvements and native landscaping at the trailhead and soil stabilization areas. The project area will be monitored and native vegetation maintained over the coming years to ensure successful restoration.

Update: The Jordan River Trailside Restoration Project is nearly complete; the contractor should meet substantial completion requirements within the next several weeks. Stabilized banks are holding up well to higher flows in the Jordan River. Native vegetation has been planted and is expected to increase in density with several seasons of regular growth, maintenance, and weed control.

900 South Oxbow Restoration and Enhancement

Background: This ~\$700,000 restoration project is located on the Jordan River at 900 S. Project work supports a publicly-reviewed restoration plan that 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 stabilize the floodplain-level river bench, and (4) construction of recreation and education amenities including a trail and outdoor classroom area. The project area will be monitored and native vegetation maintained over the coming years to ensure successful restoration.

Update: The excavation component of the project is currently out to bid. Restoration is expected to commence in July and conclude in November 2014. The Oxbow site will be closed to public use during the construction period, but the 9-Line and Jordan River Trails will remain passable. Salt Lake County conducted flood control activities at the site in March and April, and PPL conducted pre-construction weed treatments in April and May.

Liberty Lake Enhancement

Background: This ~\$250,000 restoration project is located in Liberty Park. Project work supports a publicly-reviewed restoration plan which involves: (1) installation of transitional shoreline habitat, including the planting of native wetland species and trees, (2) selective vegetation removal, and (3) installation of floating islands. The project area will be monitored and native vegetation maintained over the coming years to ensure successful restoration.

Update: Construction of this project is 80% complete. Final restoration activities are currently on hold until wildlife biologists confirm that nesting birds have left the site, after which restoration work will resume. Project completion, including installation of vegetation, is expected no later than the end of August. Access to the lake edge will be limited during construction but will not impede access to Liberty Park.

Miller Park Bird Refuge Restoration and Enhancement

Background: This ~\$1.06 million restoration project is located at Charles Lee Miller Park, also known as Miller Bird Refuge and Nature Park. Project work supports a publicly-reviewed plan with restoration activities including these major elements: (1) streambed restoration and water velocity reduction, (2) stream bank stabilization, (3) establishment of native trees, shrubs, and plants and control of invasive species in phases, (4) and limited trail and signage improvements. The project area will be monitored and native vegetation maintained over the coming years to ensure successful restoration.

Update: Restoration work will begin the third week of July and will continue into the fall. The park will be closed to the public during this time. Due to project delays and associated costs, the project no longer has sufficient funding to construct a lower alternative trail alignment supported by some adjacent residents. Based on professional recommendations from Dr. Ty Harrison (Botanist and Faculty Emeritus Westminster College), Meredith Perkins (Urban & Community Forestry Coordinator Division for Forestry Fire and State Lands and Parks Natural Lands and Urban Forestry Board member), Dr. Marc Coles-Ritchie (Ecologist and Parks Natural Lands and Urban Forestry Board member) and Tony Gliot (Salt Lake City Urban Forester), vegetative establishment and control will take place in two major phases within the next eight years to respond to public input. Close collaboration between the project consultants and regulatory agencies ensures that all federal, state, and local laws are followed to achieve the restoration goals.