

## August 15, 2014 Riparian Restoration Project Updates

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](http://SLCParks.com).



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# Miller Park Bird Refuge and Nature Preserve Restoration and Enhancement Project

## August Update

Restoration project is underway (see Project Schedule). The streamside riparian restoration in the Miller Park Bird Refuge and Nature Preserve is a multiple benefit project of cultural, recreational, historic, and ecological importance which implements improvements identified in the adopted "Red Butte Creek Riparian Corridor Study." This project will improve a section of degraded riparian habitat into a healthier ecosystem with natural function and more watchable wildlife.

Project Schedule	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
Construction site prep.	100%	-	-	-
Stream restoration comp.	10%	50%	100%	-
Tree work complete	-	100%	-	-
Irrigation complete	-	40%	100%	-
Planting complete	-	30%	70%	100%
Trail work complete	-	30%	70%	100%

For more information, visit the project website [slcgov.com/miller](http://slcgov.com/miller) or contact Todd Reese, Parks and Public Lands Director at 801 972-7809.

## 900 South Oxbow

**Update:** Restoration and enhancement work for this project is now underway, and is expected to continue into November. Residents near the project site on 1100W, American Avenue and Hayes Avenue will observe truck traffic for several weeks while excess material is hauled off-site to make space for the wetland. Contractors will complete this work as quickly as possible to limit impacts to residents. The Oxbow site will be closed to public use through the end of the year, but the 9-Line and Jordan River Trails will remain passable. Trail users are encouraged to remain alert when traveling past the site as construction vehicles are present.

**Background:** The 900S Oxbow Project is a major restoration project slated for 2014 that 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 project is occurring along a natural “oxbow bend” in the Jordan River. 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 passive recreational trail features that showcase the restoration area.

Construction 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) stabilization of eroding bank areas, 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. The project area will be monitored and native vegetation maintained over the coming years to ensure successful restoration.

## Jordan River Trailside

**Update:** The contractor has completed work on the Jordan River Trailside Restoration Project; river bank stabilization areas have been holding up well to elevated river flows. Crews will be returning in the fall to replace planted shrubs and trees that did not survive the summer heat, and to remove or treat weeds from the project area. Regular weed treatments are planned for the next several years to systematically control and eliminate the weed growth that commonly follows soil disturbance.

**Background:** The Jordan River Trailside Restoration Project supports a publicly-reviewed restoration plan, and consists of three components: (1) stabilization of actively-eroding river banks, (2) river bank re-vegetation using plants native to the area, and (2) trailhead improvements and landscaping at trailhead and in river bank stabilization areas along the trail. The project area will be monitored and native vegetation maintained over the coming years to ensure successful restoration.

## Liberty Lake Enhancement

**Update:** Construction at Liberty Lake resumed on August 4, 2014 with in-lake grading to complete the creation of emergent benches and site work on the habitat island to remove non-native species. Grading will be complete by August 23, 2014 and will be followed by the planting of trees, shrubs and wetland plants. Project construction will be complete by the end of August. Access to the lake edge will be limited during construction but will not impede access to Liberty Park. Plant protection fencing will remain in place for one year following construction completion.

**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.