EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Salt Lake City's urban creeks and their associated riparian corridors are unique and important natural resources. To recognize the importance of these resources, Salt Lake City passed a Riparian Corridor Overlay Zone (RCO) ordinance in 2008. In conjunction with passage of the ordinance, the City Council authorized the Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities (DPU) to conduct stream corridor studies to assess baseline conditions on the above-ground portions of City, Emigration, Parleys, and Red Butte Creeks within Salt Lake City's municipal boundaries.

This Parleys Creek Riparian Corridor Study Management Plan document introduces the study and describes the importance of riparian functions (Chapter 1), presents the methods (Chapter 2 and Appendix A) and results (Chapter 3) of baseline assessment of stream and vegetation conditions, describes various recommended techniques to improve riparian conditions (Chapter 4 and Appendix B), presents the vision for the desired future condition of the corridor as determined from public and stakeholder input (Chapter 5), provides maps and recommendations for specific stream reaches within the Parleys Creek riparian corridor (Appendix C), and includes approximate cost estimates for recommended projects (Appendix D).

Study findings indicate that tree cover and shading are generally good throughout most of the corridor, and that community members value and appreciate the corridor for its recreational, aesthetic, and ecological values. Common issues affecting riparian function include litter, invasive plants, streamside mowing practices, lack of shrub and understory cover, foot compaction, eroded access trails, storm drain outfall erosion, low bank/root zone erosion, and fill encroachment. Recommendations include stream cleanup and adoption, invasive plant removal/control, establishment of no-mow buffers, storm drain outlet protection, revegetation of streambanks, reach-scale streambank stabilization, installation of toe protection and grade control features, reach-scale access control and trail stabilization, bank protection retrofitting, and measures to reduce impervious cover and improve watershed condition and water quality.

This document is intended to be used as a tool to help guide and inform future efforts to enhance riparian conditions within the Parleys Creek stream corridor and achieve the vision statement for the corridor. It is also intended to be used as a resource for DPU staff administering and reviewing permits under the RCO ordinance. Chapter 4 provides information on permitting requirements (Table 4.5), costs and benefits (Tables 4.6 and 4.7), maintenance and monitoring considerations (Table 4.8), and grant resources (Table 4.9) for different types of improvement projects. This information can be used in combination with reach-specific recommendations and objectives (Table 5.1, Table 5.2, Table 5.3, Appendices C and D) to plan for funding and implementation of improvement projects. The tools in this document are intended to be flexible and useful for a variety of implementation approaches, including corridor-scale approaches that target a specific issue (e.g., planning for phased upgrades to storm drain outfalls throughout the riparian corridor) and reach-specific approaches that apply a variety of improvement measures to a specific section of stream (e.g., bank stabilization, invasive plant removal, and trash cleanup within a 1,000-foot-long stream reach between road crossings). Managers of specific portions of the corridor can also use resource references in the document (sidebars in Chapter 4) to help select appropriate improvement techniques, obtain necessary materials, and contact appropriate agencies/organizations for guidance and support.

Various action items are recommended for implementation (Chapter 5), including a recommendation to establish a riparian corridor working group. This entity may help identify more detailed funding approaches, leadership, and schedules for individual projects. Dependent on available funding and to the extent possible, DPU's implementation efforts will be balanced among the City's four creeks (City, Red Butte, Emigration, and Parleys) and the Jordan River.

Cost estimates for the identified improvement measures are summarized in Table ES1. These cost values are highly approximate. Site-level design work and engineering are required for many projects, and cost estimates may vary substantially once detailed designs are prepared for a given study reach. In addition, the proposed improvement measures are not intended to be exhaustive, and as site-specific designs are completed, additional improvement measures may be included. Appendices C and D provide additional details about the recommended projects and cost estimates.

Table ES1. Summary of estimated approximate costs for improvement measures by reach.

REACH NUMBER	REACH DESCRIPTION	REACH LENGTH (feet)	APPROXIMATE COST ESTIMATE FOR INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION OF IMPROVEMENT MEASURES [a]
UPC_R16A	Upper Suicide Rock	667	$152,630 [b]
UPC_R16B	Lower Suicide Rock	832	$44,840
LPC_R01A01B	Upper Parleys Park	1,487	$196,700
LPC_R02	Middle Parleys Park	1,659	$175,950
LPC_R03	Lower Parleys Park	815	$92,130
LPC_R04A	Country Club - Above 2300 East	1,681	$130,420
LPC_R04B	Country Club - Below 2300 East	1,748	$224,070 [c]
LPC_R04C	Country Club - Above 2000 East	1,285	$132,800
LPC_R04D	Country Club - Below 2000 East	1,661	$91,810
LPC_R04E	Country Club - Above 1700 East	731	$189,430
LPC_R05A	Upper Sugar House Park	619	$149,340
LPC_R05B	Sugar House Park - Near Highland High Track	793	$132,290
LPC_R05C	Middle Sugar House Park	1,147	$738,150 [d]
LPC_R05D	Sugar House Park - Below Pond	176	$44,950
LPC_R06	Hidden Hollow	803	$90,830
	TOTAL FOR PARLEYS CREEK CORRIDOR		$2,586,330

[a] Estimated cost values include materials and installation and 30% contingency for design, permitting, right of way, legal, administrative, etc., expenses. Values do not include annual monitoring or maintenance costs.
[b] Cost for this reach includes $110,500 for replacement of flume/pedestrian bridge; see Table 5.2 and Appendix D for details.
[c] Cost for this reach includes $111,150 for replacement of two stream crossing structures; see Table 5.2 and Appendix D for details.
[d] Cost for this reach includes $508,950 for replacement of two stream crossing structures; see Table 5.2 and Appendix D for details.