



## Parley's Historic Nature Park Management Plan

Salt Lake City is in the process of developing a Management Plan for Parley's Historic Nature Park. The 88-acre nature park was established to protect historic and natural features. It has been identified for decades as a critical link in regional open space and trail networks.

This plan has four parts:

- *Baseline Conditions* - a review of existing conditions on the ground and of decisions, policies and stakeholders that have shaped the park's evolution and future direction.
- *Comprehensive Use Master Plan* - defining the goals for the park and the desired resource protection priorities and visitor experience.
- *Management Strategies* - a guideline for management, maintenance, monitoring and decision making that highlights Best Management Practices and site-specific strategies.
- *Improvements Plan* - an action plan of recommended capital improvements, maintenance and research needs to achieve these goals.

This summary, prepared for the March 18, 2010 public Open House, includes the recommended Comprehensive Use Plan and draft Management Strategies. After public review and comment, these recommendations will be forward to Salt Lake City Administration for their consideration. An Improvements Plan and associated cost estimate be drafted after the administration reviews, updates and approves a final plan.

## Introduction

Parley's Historic Nature Park (PHNP) is an 88 acre open space along Parley's Creek that is used by hikers, bicyclists, dog owners and their dogs, and nature lovers. PHNP is located near 2700 East 2700 South and is a critical link in regional open space and trail networks. PHNP will be the first open space park area that Salt Lake City has developed a master plan for. The intent of park management is to provide an enjoyable place to recreate for a diversity of visitors while protecting sensitive natural and cultural resources in the park.

To date, the project has:

1. Completed a Baseline Conditions Report detailing conditions of the natural systems and cultural/historical features,
2. Developed park goals and refined plans with a Stakeholder Committee,
3. Developed numerous park design alternatives in the Comprehensive Use Plan,
4. Wrote and refined park Management Strategies, to guide managing, maintaining, and monitoring conditions in the park, including the ecology, historic sites, user experience, easements, and impacts on neighboring properties,
5. Used these goals to refine and propose a preferred Comprehensive Use Plan from among the alternatives developed.

The proposed Comprehensive Use Plan and Management Strategies will be forwarded to Mayor Becker by the Public Services Division, who will make a recommendation based on professional judgment and best management practices. This is informed by:

1. Scientific study of water quality, riparian corridor, wetlands, wildlife, vegetation and weeds, soils, cultural features, and observations of recreation behavior,
2. Review and compliance with existing city, county, state and federal policies,
3. Best management practices for protecting, restoring and maintaining open space areas.

Recommended actions support its long-term sustainability, minimizing maintenance costs, and ability to enforce the plans. They will also uphold all adopted standards and policies, including:

1. Existing Parley's Park rules and rules for Off-Leash Dog Areas
2. Salt Lake City and County ordinances and Animal Control Ordinances
3. Salt Lake City Riparian Corridor Ordinance
4. Salt Lake City Open Space Lands Ordinance
5. Salt Lake County Water Quality Stewardship Plan
6. Salt Lake County Open Space Management Plan
7. Utah State Water Quality standards
8. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers guidelines for wetlands
9. U.S. Endangered Species Act
10. U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines for Historic Preservation

The last phase of the proposed PHNP master plan will include developing a Capital Improvements Plan. To learn more about the plan and its status, visit: <http://www.slcgov.com/PublicServices/Parks/Parleys/parleysnaturepark.htm>. (Staff contact: Emy Storheim at 801.535.7730 or [emy.storheim@slcgov.com](mailto:emy.storheim@slcgov.com)).



- Recommendations:**
1. Remove on-leash restriction from main entry trail.
  2. Create off-leash water play area and flood control basin.
  3. Improve BMX area to meet riparian corridor standards and park restoration goals or relocate.
  4. Relocate trails outside of Parley's Creek corridor and restore vegetation and habitat.
  5. Restore eroded user-created trails and culverts.
  6. Consider removing trails north of Parley's Trail.
  7. Protect wetland and historical area by limiting access and restoring features.
  8. Protect nature preserve area on south side of Parley's Creek by limiting access.
  9. Create fenced off-leash dog areas.
  10. Eliminate "shooting the tube."

	Goal	Management Strategy
1	Protect and restore the riparian corridor.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Limit development per Riparian Corridor Ordinance.</li> <li>B. Limit creekside activity to designated trails and access points.</li> <li>C. Restore and protect riparian corridor.</li> <li>D. Allow Parley's Creek to meander.</li> </ul>
2	Improve water quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Restore Parley's Creek water quality to meet Utah State water quality standards.</li> <li>B. Protect and restore wetlands and springs.</li> <li>C. Minimize impact of culverts and outfalls on Parley's Creek water quality.</li> </ul>
3	Protect and restore natural resources and biodiversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Protect and enhance wildlife habitat for a diversity of permanent and seasonal wildlife</li> <li>B. Protect all plant communities.</li> <li>C. Reduce noxious weeds.</li> <li>D. Restore vegetation to eroded areas, including hillsides, springs, user-created trails and near stream access points.</li> <li>E. Protect a healthy forest and restore natural forest processes.</li> </ul>
4	Protect and restore cultural and historical resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Restore cultural and historic features and landscapes.</li> <li>B. Encourage compatible adaptive reuses that further restoration.</li> </ul>
5	Maintain and enhance multiple uses with minimal conflict.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Support access to park as long as cultural and natural resources are maintained in a sustainable condition. Limit access as needed to protect resources and improve visitor experience.</li> <li>B. Update and enforce posted park rules, including incorporating "Leave no Trace" ethics.</li> <li>D. Adopt and enforce Parley's Trail rules and restrict bicycling in the park to Parley's Trail.</li> <li>E. Allow BMX in an appropriate location subject to a use permit and stewardship agreement.</li> <li>F. Eliminate "shooting the tube."</li> <li>G. Designate multiple-use trail loops and single-purpose trails for different uses, including off-leash dog walking, on-leash dog walking and no-dogs.</li> <li>H. Designate preserve areas for wildlife watching, nature appreciation and education and provide sufficient buffer between recreation and preserve areas.</li> <li>I. Improve signage, interpretation and communication to increase understanding of rules and appreciation for their purpose.</li> <li>J. Establish employee ranger and volunteer steward education programs and to educate visitors about park rules and stewardship goals.</li> <li>K. Identify additional park and open space locations to provide users an alternative for off-leash. dog recreation in Salt Lake City and Salt Lake County.</li> </ul>
6	Uphold management responsibilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Maintain, monitor and uphold park management plan.</li> <li>B. Hire and train staff to manage natural lands.</li> <li>C. Limit park impacts on neighboring properties and impacts of neighbors on park.</li> <li>D. Establish a conservation easement on the park property.</li> <li>E. Request County to zone the park to match park purpose and explore possible annexation.</li> <li>F. Uphold applicable policies, ordinances, and regulations.</li> <li>G. Designate emergency and maintenance access.</li> <li>H. Support flood control while minimizing its impacts.</li> <li>I. Write a fire mitigation plan.</li> <li>J. Understand the city's liability and potential hazards, including BMX, trail and creek.</li> </ul>
7	Broaden community stewardship and appreciation for the park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Formalize park partnerships, stewardship and volunteers and establish a park Partnership Board.</li> <li>B. Establish a city park and open space foundation with 501(c)(3) status to maximize donations and contributions.</li> <li>C. Increase interpretation and education about natural and cultural resources in the park.</li> <li>D. Restoration Projects, Monitoring and Clean-ups.</li> </ul>

## Water Quality Standards

The Board as required by Section 19-5-110, shall group the waters of the state into classes so as to protect against controllable pollution the beneficial uses designated within each class as set forth below. Surface waters of the state are hereby classified as shown in R317-2-13.

Parley's Creek and tributaries, from 1300 East in Salt Lake City to Mountain Dell Reservoir are classified: 1C, 2B, and 3A.

**Class 1** -- Protected for use as a raw water source for domestic water systems.

Class 1C -- Protected for domestic purposes with prior treatment by treatment processes as required by the Utah Division of Drinking Water

**Class 2** -- Protected for recreational use and aesthetics.

Class 2B -- Protected for infrequent primary contact recreation. Also protected for secondary contact recreation where there is a low likelihood of ingestion of water or a low degree of bodily contact with the water. Examples include, but are not limited to, wading, hunting, and fishing.

**Class 3** -- Protected for use by aquatic wildlife.

Class 3A -- Protected for cold water species of game fish and other cold water aquatic life, including the necessary aquatic organisms in their food chain.

*Source: UT Admin Code R317-2. Standards of Quality for Waters of the State. June 1, 2009* <http://www.rules.utah.gov/publicat/code/r317/r317-002.htm>

## Leave No Trace Ethics

### 1. Know Before You Go

- Remember to bring a leash for your pet and plastic bags to pick up your pet's waste.
- Learn about the areas you plan to visit. Read books, check online and talk to people before you go. The more you know, the more fun you'll have.

### 2. Stick to Trails

- Walk and ride on designated trails to protect trailside plants.
- Do not step on flowers or small trees. Once damaged, they may not grow back.
- Respect private property by staying on designated trails.

### 3. Trash Your Trash and Pick Up Poop

- Pack it in, Pack it out. Put litter—even crumbs, peels and cores—in garbage bags and carry it home.
- Use bathrooms.
- Use a plastic bag to pack out your pet's poop to a garbage can.
- Keep water clean. Do not put soap, food, or human or pet waste in the creek, springs or wetlands.

### 4. Leave It As You Find It

- Leave plants, rocks and historical items as you find them so others can enjoy them.
- Treat living plants with respect. Carving, hacking or peeling plants may kill them.

### 5. No Fires

### 6. Keep Wildlife Wild

- Observe wildlife from a distance and never approach, feed or follow them.
- Human food is unhealthy for all wildlife and feeding them starts bad habits.
- Protect wildlife and your food by securely storing your meals and trash.

## 7. Share Our Trails and Manage Your Pet

- Be considerate when passing others on the trail.
- Keep your pet under control to protect it, other visitors and wildlife.
- Listen to nature. Avoid making loud noises or yelling. You will see more wildlife if you are quiet.
- Be sure the fun you have outdoors does not bother anyone else. Remember, other visitors are there to enjoy the outdoors too.

### City park rules

1. No smoking, alcohol or drugs.
2. Park open from dawn until dusk.
3. All dogs must be on-leash (except in designated off-leash parks) and owners must pick up their waste.

### Parley's Trail Rules

1. Non-motorized only, including biking, skating walking.
2. Dogs on leash.
3. Open from dawn to sundown
4. Speed limit 15 mph
5. Bikes yield to all other users.

### Parley's Historic Nature Park - posted Dog Area Rules

1. Handler must accompany dogs at all times. Handlers must be in possession of a dog leash no longer than 6 feet.
2. All dogs must be visible and under voice control of the handler at all times, in all park areas.
3. Remove your dog from the area if it becomes hostile or out of control. Dogs and owners creating a problem must leave.
4. You are required by law to pick up your dog feces. Dispose of them in designated trash cans.
5. All dogs using this area must be licensed and vaccinated for rabies. Dogs must wear licensing tags.
6. Puppies under four months of age are not allowed in this area.
7. Use this area at your own risk. Handlers are responsible and liable for the actions and behavior of their dogs at all times.
8. Dog handlers must take precautions to ensure their dogs do not disturb wildlife and sensitive environmental areas like streams, ponds and historical areas.
9. No digging! Dog handlers must fill holes created by dogs.
10. Owners must quiet dogs that bark, howl, or whine excessively.
11. Dogs in heat are not allowed in this area. Be a responsible pet owner and spay and neuter your dog.
12. Dogs with communicable diseases are not allowed in this area at any time.
13. No more than two dogs per handler are allowed off-leash at any time.
14. Permits are required for organized activities.
15. In case of park emergency, call Salt Lake City Public Service at 535-6999.

When leaving this area, dog owners must leash their dogs and continue to observe all park and local animal control laws. Please respect neighboring property owners.

## WHAT DO THE REGULATIONS MEAN FOR PROPERTY OWNERS IN THE RCO DISTRICT?

The Salt Lake City Council has adopted a program that currently consists of different restrictions in three areas. Existing structures are "grandfathered" as legally complying development.

A Riparian Protection Permit may be needed for certain development activities or uses in the three overlay areas. This permit is required in addition

to standard construction building permits and can be obtained from the Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities.

Property owners contemplating property improvements or new construction should refer to City zoning regulations and contact the City's BUZZ Center at (801) 535-7700 for assistance.

*Here is a summary of what is presently allowed in each RCO area. These regulations are under review and public comment is encouraged.*

### Area A:

**The No Disturbance Area,** covers 0 to 25 feet from the Annual High Water Line (AHWL) and is the most restrictive, prohibiting most types of new construction. Activities allowed in this area *without* a Riparian Protection Permit include removal of storm debris and trash, maintenance of property and existing fences and structures, and planting of native non-invasive vegetation (approved list may be obtained from City Public Utilities or the City Urban Forester). *With* a permit, property owners may develop outdoor projects that do not require the use of heavy equipment, such as stairs or paths between different elevations of the property, fencing, open patios and decks, and low-impact stream crossings. Property owners may also shore up stream banks, with a permit, to control erosion of property as long as the project meets certain requirements.

### Area B:

**The Structure Limit Area,** covers 25 to 50 feet from the AHWL and delineates where construction (landscape walls, additions, accessory structures or new construction) can occur. Activities allowed in this area *without* a Riparian Protection Permit include all of those allowed in Area A, plus yard debris composting and new construction, such as fencing and open patios and decks with height restrictions. *With* a permit, property owners may replace existing structures with structures that are similar in size and type, as long as they comply with City zoning regulations.

### Area C:

**The Buffer Transition Area,** covers 50 feet to 100 feet from the AHWL. Activities allowed in this area include all development projects permitted by City zoning regulations and those activities allowed in Areas A and B, with a few exclusions such as leach fields, storm water retention ponds, detentions basins or commercial parking lots.

Property owners along all stream corridors may own pets and the ordinance does not limit pet activities in any way. The ordinance also does not prevent dog-walking in Miller Park.

## 100-foot Riparian Corridor

