

2013 Watershed Symposium Field Trip

Ecological Restoration in the Red Butte Creek Watershed: Where We Are Today

Friday, October 25, 2013—8:15am-1:00pm

Trip Leaders

Eric McCulley, *Intermountain Aquatics*

Lynn Berni, *Salt Lake County Watershed Planning & Restoration Program*

Bob Thompson, *Salt Lake County Watershed Planning & Restoration Program*

Overview

Efforts to restore the biological condition and function of Red Butte Creek are significantly constrained by both natural and human caused forces. The chemistry of the rocks and configuration of the watershed create the basis for all processes occurring in this ecologically significant riparian corridor. Climate change over time coupled with human use of the water in the stream has created an unsteady and unnatural flow regime along some reaches in Salt Lake City. Impacts to the riparian ecosystem from the 2010 crude oil release have further complicated restoration efforts. Improvements in the condition of the stream are incremental, but gradual improvement of the aquatic and riparian ecosystems improve the societal benefits of natural areas imbedded in the urban matrix. Planned and ongoing restoration efforts in the Red Butte Creek corridor will be discussed.

Time	Description
8:15am-8:30am	Check-in, meet and greet at Tracy Aviary parking lot in Liberty Park
8:30am	Vans depart from Liberty Park
9:00am-9:45am	Stop 1 Red Butte Reservoir
10:15am-11:15am	Stop 2 Restoration sites on the University of Utah/Research Park reach Site Leaders: Lynn Berni & Bob Thompson, Salt Lake County Watershed
11:30am-12:30pm	Stop 3 Miller Park
1:00pm	Return to Liberty Park

Trip Notes:

- Meet at the Tracy Aviary parking lot in Liberty Park, Salt Lake City
 - Use the park entrance on 900 South, between 500 and 700 east, the Aviary parking lot is shortly past the tennis courts
- Vans will leave promptly at 8:30am
- Dress for outdoors, with appropriate footwear and outerwear
- Bring your own food and drink
- Salt Lake County requires all field trip attendees to sign a waiver form



Field trip offered as part of the 7th Annual Salt Lake County Watershed Symposium,
October 23-25, 2013 <http://www.watershed.slco.org/symposium/index.html>

Stop 1: Red Butte Reservoir

Discuss the watershed and historical changes over time for water use and a broad overview of the importance of headwaters to humans in the Salt Lake Valley.

Stop 2: Restoration sites on University of Utah Campus/Research Park reach

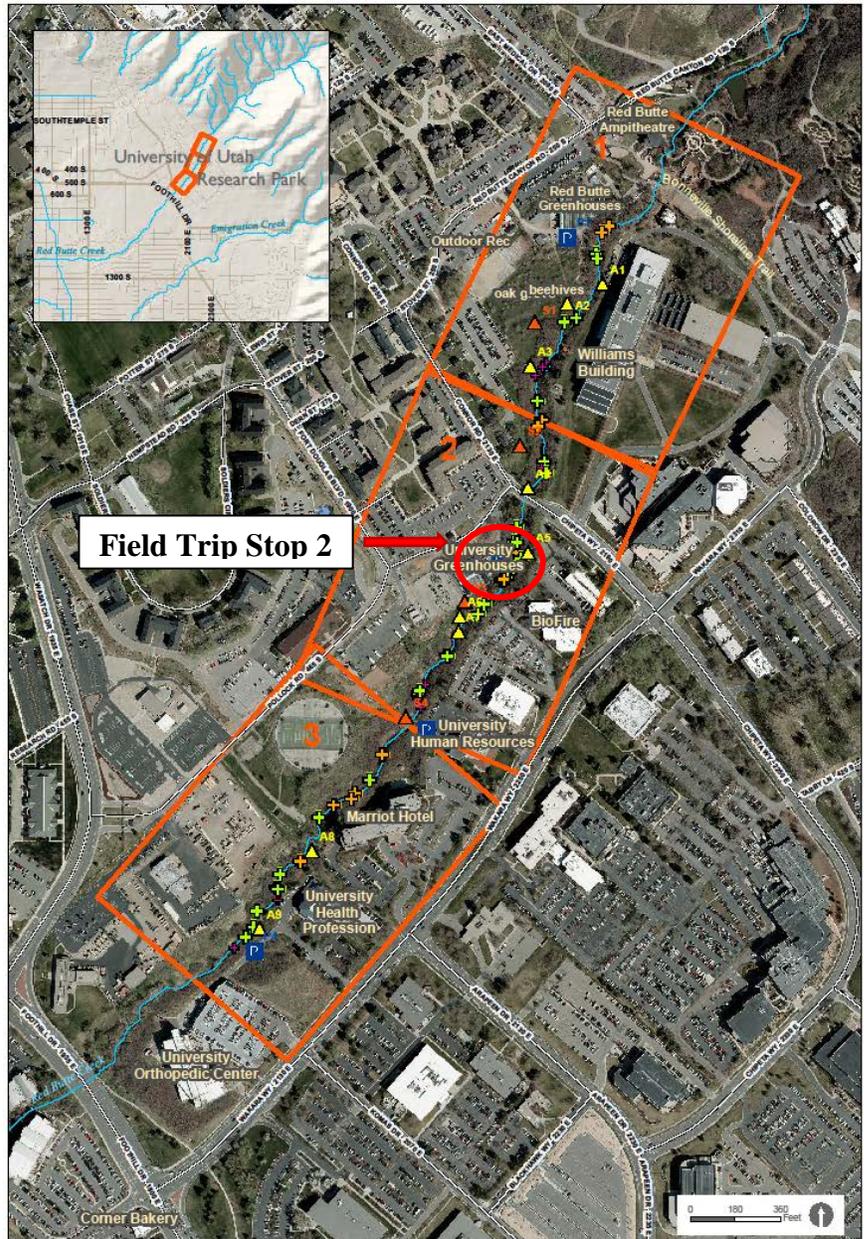
The riparian ecosystem of Red Butte Creek sustained serious damage as a result of the crude oil spill in 2010, whether from direct contact with toxic substances, or as a result of the subsequent cleanup activities. In 2012 Salt Lake County Watershed Planning & Restoration was awarded funding to restore vegetation in the stretch of creek that runs through the University of Utah Campus and Research Park—just below Red Butte Garden to above Foothill Drive.

A variety of streambank bioengineering techniques were utilized to revegetate and restabilize streambanks with minimal impact on the ecosystem. Installation was completed in April 2013, with 42 sites (approx. 775 linear feet) receiving one or more of the following restoration techniques: instream rock work, live stakes (aka dormant cuttings, pole plantings), conifer revetment, fascine, vertical bundle, brush mattress, and brush spur. Given the difficult creek access and the desire to minimize any further impacts in the stream corridor, all work was done by hand with the help of Utah Conservation Corps crews.

Monitoring is currently in progress.

NOTE: The trail down to the creek is short but steep, and may be slippery/muddy. Also, poison ivy is present!

Bring wading boots if you would like to get into the creek to take a closer look!



Riparian Restoration on Red Butte Creek

Bioengineering Installation with Chris Hoag & Utah Conservation Corps—March 2013

Map prepared by Lynn Berni, Salt Lake County, March 15, 2013
Data Sources: Salt Lake County (2012 Aerial), Blowest

SLCo Watershed:	Access:	Other:
Hoag1	Type	
Bioengineering UCC	Project Parking	
Other UCC	Staging Area	
Plantings (later date)	Stream Access	



Field Trip Stop 2
 Bioengineering treatments include:
 fascine, revetment,
 instream rockwork,
 live stakes, vertical
 bundles

Riparian Restoration on Red Butte Creek
 Bioengineering Installation with Chris Hoag &
 Utah Conservation Corps—March 2013

Map prepared by Lynn Berni, Salt Lake County, March 15, 2013
 Data Sources: Salt Lake County (2012 Aerial), Blowers

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| SLCo Watershed: | Access: | Other: |
| Hoag1 | Type | ⊗ Piezometer |
| ⊕ Bioengineering UCC | P Project Parking | ○ Chevy/Blowest Resto |
| ⊕ Other UCC | ▲ Staging Area | |
| ⊕ Plantings (later date) | ▲ Stream Access | |

Stop 3: Miller Park

In this section of the field trip, we will look at the physical and societal issues related to restoration of wildlife habitat in highly built environments. We will discuss the historical human alteration of this reach and how ecosystem function will be improved with restoration of aquatic and riparian ecosystems.