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## PRATT plans to construct two major trail segments this year

by Erin McShay

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For over nine years, the Parley's Rails, Trails, and Tunnels Coalition, a community-based non-profit 501c3 organization, has been dedicated to developing the Parley's Creek Trail, a trail running from the Bonneville Shoreline Trail to the Jordan River Parkway. The coalition will soon be able to see the fruits of their labor when construction begins on two major segments of the trail this year.

“We’re very excited, it’s been much anticipated,” said PRATT’s Co-Chair Juan Arce Larreta. “For many of us it’s been a real learning process having to deal with land owners and government agencies. We started plans for the I-215 crossing in 2000 and we didn’t cut ribbon until the fall of 2007. We’ve learned a lot through the process; things are going much more smoothly

now.”

PRATT accomplished a great deal in 2008. They completed the Environmental Study for Phase III of the trail through Parley’s Historic Nature Park to Tanner Park, and made final design and construction documents for the Sugar House Park Trail, which will begin at 1700 East and meander through the park ending at 1300 East where the Sugar House Draw will begin.

The coalition completed designs for Draw and hired artist/engineer Patricia Johanson and architect Steve Gilbert of ArcSitio Design for the segment that will connect Sugar House Park to the Hidden Hollow nature preserve. The Sugar House Park Trail will not begin construction in 2009, but the Sugar House Draw will start later this year.

Also, soon to be under construction is a segment of the trail running through Parley’s Historic Nature Park to Tanner Park. PRATT received federal funds through the Utah Department of Transportation and needed to abide by federal regulations to look at the environmental impacts of the trail.

“Some impacts were the trees, cultural resources like the old historic wine cellar and the old historic wall,” said Laynee Jones, consultant with Lochner Engineering and project trail manager. “They should begin construction this

spring.”

Salt Lake City owns the Parley’s Historic Nature Park and Salt Lake County owns Tanner Park, which is currently undergoing a study for the overall master plan to determine long-term uses for the park.

The third area of the Parley’s Trail to begin construction is the Sugar House Rail Corridor and the Roper Yard Trail Bridge. The building of the trail bridge over the Roper Rail Yard is currently under construction along with the construction of Utah Transit Authority’s TRAX Bridge.

“You can imagine how difficult this would be to do without partnering with UTA,” said Robin Carbaugh, co-vice chair of trail development. “It’s amazing this has become such a multi-party project combining the efforts of South Salt Lake, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, UDOT and UTA all working together to make this trail happen.”

Another goal for PRATT is to raise funds for the segment of the trail from 1700 East to 1300 East

“We’re not sure how much funding will be available with these tough economic times,” said Arce Laretta. “Grants are getting more and more competitive. We asked for stimulus package funding. This is an expensive difficult project.”

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