



**For Immediate Release**

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Contact: Lisa Harrison Smith

c. 801-913-9748

**Mayor Becker Issues Veto on City Council Plan for Parley's Historic Nature Park**

Mayor's Action Cites Lack of Protection for Water Quality and Sensitive Areas

SALT LAKE CITY – Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker issued the first veto of his administration regarding the Dec. 14 City Council decision the Mayor feels does not ensure a sustainable future for Parley's Historic Nature Park.

While Mayor Becker and the Council were able to reach agreement on many elements for a long-term plan to protect significant historic features and sensitive habitat and riparian areas in the 63-acre Park, the Mayor remains concerned that serious water contamination issues and widespread degradation are not adequately addressed in the Council's plan. In addition, the Council-approved Plan leaves no place in Parley's Historic Nature Park for people who want to enjoy the area without dogs running off-leash.

At issue is the Council's decision to continue to allow off-leash dog access on the south side of the Park – an idea that was rejected by ecological experts in evaluating best practices for balancing the needs of users with a plan that allows for rehabilitation of damaged habitat and the severely polluted Parley's Creek that runs through the city-owned property.

"The years of collective effort to develop a management plan for the park speak to our interest in a collaborative solution," said Mayor Becker. "With my decision to veto the Council's action, I look forward to putting in place interim management measures and working toward finding common ground needed to ensure the long-term health and enjoyment of Parley's Historic Nature Park."

A complete text of the Mayor's veto letter to the City Council and updated maps and information can be found at [www.slcgov.com/publicservices/parks/Parleys/parleysnaturepark.htm](http://www.slcgov.com/publicservices/parks/Parleys/parleysnaturepark.htm).

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