



## **For Immediate Release**

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### **Liberty Lake Cleanup Activities Completed**

Grand re-opening slated for *Celebrate the City* event on May 14

SALT LAKE CITY – After months of construction, the chain link fencing around Liberty Lake is coming down and Salt Lake City residents and visitors will again be able to enjoy this public gem in the southeast corner of Liberty Park.

On May 5, the Unified Command team, overseeing the remediation and restoration of Red Butte Creek, completed a final review of the cleanup activities performed by Chevron at Liberty Lake. The Unified Command concluded that the cleanup of the lake was successful, and that the lake can be returned to normal public use.

In June 2010, a Chevron crude oil pipeline released 32,000 gallons of crude oil into Red Butte Creek adjacent to Red Butte Garden on the University of Utah. The City acted quickly to divert all Red Butte flows into Liberty Lake, effectively capturing the oil in the lake and preventing further migration of the spill to the Jordan River or Great Salt Lake. Liberty Lake became a key safety net in the months following the spill while cleanup activities were underway. As Chevron crews proceeded to flush and clean Red Butte Creek, Liberty Lake acted as the final point where any oil that was released into the creek could be stopped and recovered.

Once the major cleanup of Red Butte Creek was complete, Chevron began the remediation and restoration of Liberty Lake. The lake was drained in October 2010, and Chevron crews began removing the accumulated sediments from the pond bottom and hauling them away for proper disposal. Soils around the edges of the pond were also excavated and hauled away, and the old concrete ring that surrounded the lake was removed due to damage sustained during the response action. Following the removal of impacted material, Chevron took confirmation soil samples of the lake bottom and around the edges of the lake to evaluate the success of the cleanup. Based on these results, the Unified Command agreed that Liberty Lake can be returned to normal use by the public. Anyone interested in

more information on the Liberty Lake cleanup, or other the data associated with Red Butte Creek and the oil spill, can go to: <http://www.deq.utah.gov/Issues/redbuttespill/index.htm>

Due to the rainy, cold spring, new sod and seed are only now in place around the lake, and are becoming established. To ensure the long-term beauty of the lake area, the City will have some areas of new sod and freshly seeded lawn roped off with green restoration fencing to allow the new grass time to get well established. Other than these areas, the public is encouraged to enjoy the lake and the surrounding Liberty Park, including all the Lake-area concessions and amenities. The newly restored park will host this year's Celebrate the City on May 14, beginning with a parade at 2 pm.