



# PRESS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Salt Lake City Welcomes New Open Space Lands Program Manager** *New position will help further public access to natural areas and trails*

SALT LAKE CITY – The Public Service Department’s Parks and Public Lands Division is proud to announce the recent appointment of Leslie Chan as the new Open Space Lands Program Manager.

Chan, who was hired in July, takes over this position after serving nearly five years at the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority in Southern California, where she began as a project manager and later assumed the role of Deputy Chief of Urban Projects and Watershed Planning. As deputy chief, Chan worked to acquire, protect, restore and enhance park land and open space.

In her new position as Salt Lake City Open Space Lands Program Manager, Chan focuses on open space acquisition, conservation and restoration of natural areas and enhancing public access to natural areas and trails. Some of her duties include restoring native habitat, implementing solutions to improve water quality and improving trail experience and open space connectivity. Chan’s program manages over 1,200 acres of natural lands in and around the City.

“I feel lucky to have this exciting opportunity to expand and restore our highly beneficial asset – the City’s natural lands – and to help provide for the public a high-quality experience in our natural recreation areas,” Chan said.

With a busy year ahead, Chan is already working on several restoration projects that are expected to be underway in spring of 2012. Projects include Wasatch Hollow Open Space, Ensign Peak and the greenway along the Jordan River.

Chan received a Bachelor of Arts degree with an emphasis on in-field natural resource management from the University of California, Los Angeles, in 2005. During her spare time, Chan enjoys attending live music shows, exploring the great outdoors, camping and hiking with her beagle, Zoe.

*Photo available on request.*

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