



PROVO RIVER DELTA

- + RECOVERING the June Sucker
- + RESTORING the Natural Ecosystem
- + IMPROVING Recreational Experiences



Spring 2020

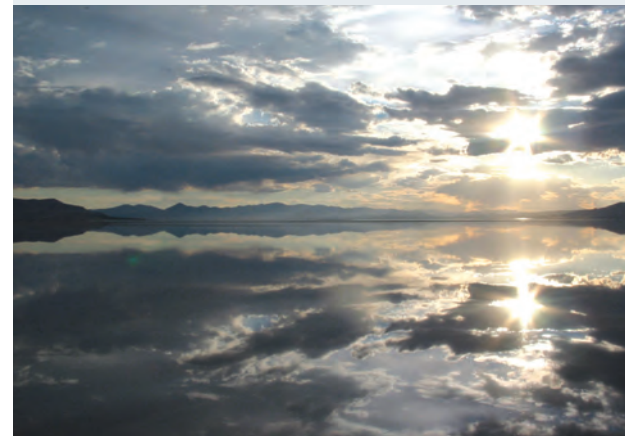
PROVO RIVER DELTA CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY

In a big milestone for a project that has been decades in the making, crews mobilized in early March to begin on-site preparation work. An important initial task involved setting up pumps near Skipper Bay Dike to help dry the project area for construction. Pumping has long been a common practice in the area because the low-lying nature of the land has often meant conditions would otherwise be too wet for ranching. With this year's high Utah Lake levels, pumping has been especially critical.
(See "Construction Schedule" continued inside.)



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WE'VE GOT A NEW LOOK!

For the most current and complete project information and maps, please check out our updated website at:

provoriverdelta.us



CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

(Continued from front page.)

The other big focus of our early construction efforts has involved importing road base material to build an access road along the southern project boundary. This road will eventually become a berm and trail. As of late April, the access road is substantially complete and work efforts are now focused on beginning to excavate delta ponds and channels.

ANTICIPATED PROJECT CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Construct Access Road/Berm (Phase 1)				
	Excavate Delta Ponds and River Channel			
Delta Gateway Park (Phase 1)		Lower Skipper Bay Dike		
		Divert River		
			Small Dam (Phase 1)	
				Small Dam (Phase 2)
			Final Construction of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversion Structure • Recreation Amenities • Aeration System • Berms and Trails • Delta Gateway Park 	

FUTURE HOME OF THE PROVO RIVER DELTA



We recently installed two signs — one at our construction entrance on Boat Harbor Drive and the other off of Lakeview Parkway at about 620 north — to identify the Future Home of the Provo River Delta. The delta project involves diverting the last mile and a half of lower Provo River north of its current location into a constructed system of braided waterways and wetlands that connect with Utah Lake. This will create habitat essential to survival of young June sucker hatched upstream. The project is needed to help the endangered June sucker recover and will also improve the ecosystem and recreational experiences in the area. Trails and a viewing tower will be constructed around the delta area. The existing river channel will continue to receive streamflow, with water quality and recreation improvements made. Bird monitoring and mosquito and weed control are ongoing project elements.

The local community will benefit from the enhanced outdoor recreation opportunities and protected open space, and all Utahns will benefit because the project helps ensure important water delivery projects linked to June sucker recovery stay on track.

HIGH LAKE LEVEL PROVIDES A PREVIEW

On April 6, Utah Lake reached an elevation of 4489' and we were reminded that the Provo River Delta project lies in what was once a bay of Utah Lake — Skipper Bay. With much of this area lower-lying than recent lake elevations, it has been inundated from ground water influenced by the high lake level. The aerial photo below was taken when Utah Lake was just a few inches below 4,489', and you can see that much of the area is covered by water, up to 4 feet deep in places!

While actual water depth in the constructed delta will vary seasonally and year-to-year depending on Provo River flows and Utah Lake elevation, the wet condition of the site this spring gives us a glimpse into what the Provo River Delta will look like after construction. The north half of Skipper Bay Dike, which was constructed to disconnect land east of it from Utah Lake, forms the delta project's western boundary. As part of the project, this portion of levee will be lowered and Utah Lake will freely flow into its historic bay and merge with Provo River water flowing out. This connection, along with other delta features, will provide the conditions needed for juvenile June sucker to grow and survive in Utah Lake.



Credit: Utah By Air

THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

The Delta Project is made possible by the cooperative partnerships that support it. Here are some recent highlights:



Need a Tall Pole Installed?

Provo City Power is the partner you need! A huge thank you goes to Provo Power for installing three new osprey nesting platforms on lands north of the delta to replace two platforms within the project area that were in the way of construction. Provo Power also placed several monitoring poles around the delta property that will be used to gather imagery of site conditions and document construction progress. Other partners in these efforts include Utah Lake Commission, Bureau of Reclamation, Division of Wildlife Resources, the Holdaway family, Central Utah Water Conservancy District, and Department of the Interior.

Fill Agreement Saves Big Money, Advances Provo Vision

Provo City has started design work for a Regional Sports Park — one of the “Visionary Projects” identified in the City’s 2013 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. A recently signed agreement with the Mitigation Commission will help translate that vision into reality. The partnership will enable excess material excavated from the Delta Project to be hauled to the nearby Sports Park site to help raise the ground to the required elevation, saving both partners potentially millions of dollars in material haul-off and import costs.

Dominion Energy

The natural gas pipeline relocation work that began in late January is nearing completion. This effort, funded by the Delta Project, was needed to ensure the pipeline was buried deeper underground where it traverses the delta property so that project features could be safely excavated.



COVID-19 SAFETY MEASURES

To protect the health of the construction crew and contractors working on the Delta Project, supervisors have prepared a COVID specific Job Hazard Analysis outlining routes of transmission, common symptoms, and protective measures to prevent community spread. These measures are reviewed with on-site workers and include:

- No carpooling/vehicle sharing en route to the project site
- Maintaining a safe distance apart when interacting on site
- Assigning operators to specific pieces of equipment
- Frequently disinfecting common contact surfaces
- Requiring self-reporting of any symptoms

