



Wetlands Park *News & Views*

New Nature Center in 2009

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Information?

Call Wetlands Park
Information Center
455-7522



Artist conception of how the completed Nature Center will appear as viewed from the existing nature center paved trail. (picture courtesy CC Parks and Recreation)

Nature Center

With expected completion mid to late 2009, the 30,000 sq ft Nature Center is intended to be a regional recreational and educational site. The Center will be located just southwest of the existing nature center trail that starts at the temporary visitor's center. From an observation deck 14 feet above the ground level, visitors will have spectacular views of the surrounding mountain ranges overlooking existing wetlands and the Ducks Unlimited constructed wetland ponds.

The Center will have a 5,000 sq ft interpretive area with interactive exhibits and a gift shop. Visitors will

view a program in the auditorium showcasing the Park's plants, wildlife, the Las Vegas Wash with its erosion control structures, scenery and evidence of past occupants dating back perhaps as far as 10,000 years. The Center will also house a coffee shop with adjoining visitor comfort area, two classrooms and offices for staff.

The design for the Nature Center is nearly complete and is expected to break ground for construction next spring. Staff has been working closely with the exhibit planners for the interpretive exhibits for the gallery and is very excited about seeing the stories of the Park come to life!

Friends of the
Desert Wetlands Park

The mission of the FDWP is to cooperate with public and private entities to increase public awareness and contribute to the quality of life in the Las Vegas valley by: Supporting the Desert Wetlands Park; Preserving and enhancing the wetlands environs, and Promoting stewardship of the valley watershed.

Coordination Committee Annual Tour

The Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee (LVWCC) conducted its annual tour of the Wash in October. The LVWCC was formed and tasked in 1998 by the board of directors of Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) to develop and implement a comprehensive management plan for the Wash. The committee is comprised of local, state, and federal agencies, and citizen members, including the Friends of the Desert Wetlands Park.

The tour started with a visit of the newly completed Sunrise Trailhead on the east side of the Wash. The tour also visited some of the revegetation sites, weirs and ended at the Las Vegas Bay Overlook. Since inception, over 165 acres have been actively revegetated with nearly 40,000 native wetland, riparian, and upland plants.

The tour visited the existing Pabco Weir, the recently completed Power line Weir and the Bostick Weir. The Bostick Weir site had an interpretive garden and kiosk added last year. This past April, a Boy Scout project replaced the temporary fencing

with a split rail fence. The location is an excellent vantage point to view the birds and enjoy three different gardens surrounding the kiosk.

Of particular interest was the Upper Diversion Weir and channel construction site. This \$12.7 Million project is in active construction. We viewed the site from the northeast side of the Wash where we had a good view of the by-pass channel construction which will split the flow of the Wash at this point when all of the construction at this site is complete. Within the by-pass channel there were four separate concrete weirs being poured. The Upper Diversion Weir will also be the site of a new 511 foot-long bridge crossing the Wash connecting the Nature Center to the East side of the Park.

Gerry Hester, SNWA engineer for the project talked about the construction and the importance of containing the channel flow. He pointed out that not far from where we were standing, the channel has moved laterally 700 feet since 1970.

Archaeologist Heidi Roberts commented on some of the historical significance of the location of where we were standing. She stated that there have been several time periods over the last 2000 years during which the area was wet enough for maize farming. The earliest might have been as far back as 300BC to 20AD.



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Upper Diversion by-pass site construction at the location where the bridge crossing to the Nature Center will be built. Viewed from the northeast side of the Wash.

FRIENDS OF THE DESERT WETLANDS PARK ANNUAL MEETING

The Friends of the Desert Wetlands Park held its annual member meeting on September 15th and elected a new Board of Trustees, listed on page 2. Also during the meeting, Elsie Sellers, the County's Wetlands Park Coordinator, gave an overview and update of the current Park projects. The first meeting of the newly elected trustees was held immediately following the members meeting, electing a new panel of officers.

Our new Chairperson is Joan Lolmaugh. Joan recently retired, having been manager of Cultural Affairs Division for Clark County Department of Parks and Recreation for the past 15 years. Her background also included serving as director and assistant professor of a graduate arts management program at the University of Illinois, and is currently serving as a member of the Nevada Arts Council, Death Valley National Parks Advisory Commission, Lied Discovery Children's Museum, and the City of Henderson Senior Citizen Advisory Commission.

The other newly elected Board Members are Robert Fielden, Jess Holmes, Helen Mortensen, Betty Pardo, and Arthur Wolf. Robert Fielden was one of the original partners of JMA Architects, Inc. His work focuses on creating sustainable architecture that provides useful purposes exceeding 100 years—fostering redevelopment and aimed at creating family friendly neighborhoods within the valley's urban core.

Jess Holmes is also an Architect, recently retired from Dekker/Perich/Holmes/Sabatini, Ltd. Jess is a full-time visiting lecturer at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas School of Architecture. Jess is a holder of many architectural design awards.

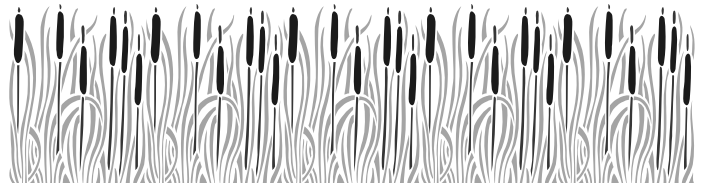
Betty Pardo is an artist and educator, most recently involved in special education administration. Betty has exhibited paintings in New York City, Los Angeles and Las Vegas.

Helen Mortensen is co-founder of the Archaeo-Nevada Society and a resident of Las Vegas since 1966.

Arthur Wolf is Principal of Las Vegas based Wolf Consulting, which provides services to museums and cultural organizations in the Western U. S.. Art was co-founder of the Nevada Museum Association, the founding director of the Atomic Testing Museum, and is currently Vice-Chair of Nevada Humanities

The members recognized and honored Jack Harvey for his leadership and tenure as our past Chairman. The Friends organized as a non-profit in 1996. Founding members still on the board are Norma Cox, Jack Harvey and Therese Werst. Initially, Norma served as interim chairperson until Jack was elected chairman in November 1996. At that time, Joan Lolmaugh served as a Technical Advisor, along with Vernon Bostick and others.

Jack is a long time resident of Las Vegas, originally with the Summa Corporation. He continues to be active with UNLV and other community related issues.



Share Our Vision!! Membership Application
Name:

Preferred Mailing Address:

City: State: Zip:

Phone: Fax:

E-Mail:

May we show your name on our membership list?

Yes No

Check here if you wish to be contacted for volunteer projects

Membership Options:

Individual Member:	\$15
Senior/Student:	\$10
Family Member	\$25
Non-Profit Org.	\$50
Corporate Member	\$100

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Silver Circle Benefactor	\$250-499
Golden Circle Assoc.	\$500-999
Platinum 100	\$1000 +

Please mail to FDWP,
PO Box 28017, Las Vegas, NV 89126
For Membership information, call:
457-8867

Our Thanks To...

New and Renewing Members: Bill Laub, Joan Lolmaugh, Bernard Murphy, Jess Holms, Betty Pardo, Patricia Kepner, Helen Bagstad, Ferrell & Deanna Gerland, Dekker/Perich/Sabatini, Gene Segerblom, Pat Lappin, Lorraine Murphy, John Wanderer, Bruce & D'Ann Reynolds, Toby Sulenski, Holly Chaffee, Arthur Wolf

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

The Park is a place to enjoy! Have you visited the Park recently? The temporary Visitor Center is at the very end of Wetlands Park Lane. Cross Boulder Highway and travel 1 mile east, then look for the Wetlands Park sign, just where Tropicana turns into Broadbent Ave. If it has been a while since you've visited the Park, you will be amazed at the changes and improvements that have taken place. The Park is for your benefit, come and enjoy it!

There are many opportunities to get involved and to show your support-not only through membership in the Friends, but by contributing funds or labor for needed physical improvements, and educational materials. If you have put off renewing, remember your membership ends one year from the date you paid your dues. **PLEASE CHECK THE EXPIRATION DATE ON YOUR MAILING LABEL TO SEE IF IT IS TIME TO RENEW!** If you have not yet taken the plunge to join, please do so now. You will demonstrate that you want to help in the development of new features in the Park for our community!

PARK SECURITY

By Elsie Sellers, Wetlands Park Project Manager

Thanks to a generous grant from the Bureau of Reclamation to the Southern Nevada Water Authority, a partner of the Wetlands Park, law enforcement coverage is now devoted specifically to the Wetlands Park forty hours each week until January 2009. Clark County Park Police Officers Santoni and Thompson split the forty-hour shift by each covering two ten-hour shifts Friday through Monday.

They have been a tremendous asset to the Park responding quickly when assistance is needed, and their presence has been a deterrent to illegal activities. Be sure to say hello to them while visiting the Park.



Officer Thompson on the left and Officer Santini on the right. (LVWCC photo)

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**Friends of the Desert Wetlands
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