



Desert Wetlands *News & Views*

Name Change

By Peter Kingman, Board Member

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At our annual meeting in September, the membership voted to approve changing the name of our organization from the Friends of the Desert Wetlands Park (FDWP) to the Desert Wetlands Conservancy (DWC).

conserve 12.3 million acres of wetlands habitat in North America. As an advocacy organization, FDWP contributed the long historical and deep technical perspective of its membership that had developed over several decades to this shared vision.

Information?

Call Wetlands Park
Information Center
455-7522

Founding members of the FDWP have been involved with the concept and planning of the Park even before the County published its first Wetlands Park Master Plan in 1982. For the past 15 years, the FDWP has participated in focusing the interest of the Las Vegas community on the importance of and need to create an area in the Las Vegas Wash to restore the valley's historic wetlands. Originally greater than 2,000 acres in size, the wetlands were substantially reduced as a result of development to less than 200 acres by the mid-1990s.

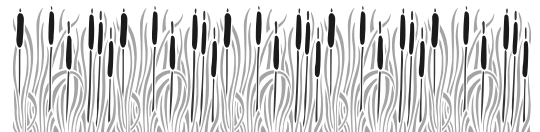
Now that the Desert Wetlands Park is becoming a reality, we, as an organization, have determined that it is necessary to broaden our scope from our earlier role as a largely advocacy organization into what now will be a permanent conservancy relating both to the Las Vegas Wash and the Las Vegas Valley Watershed, an area of approximately 1600 square miles, and encompassing all of the sources of the Las Vegas community's natural water, including the water drawn from Lake Mead and from other sources. As a 501(c)(3) Exempt Organization, operating under its new name Desert Wetlands Conservancy, the organization will continue to be active with its broader focus pursuant to the new Strategic Plan that was also approved by members at the Annual Meeting. The full scope of the Strategic Plan is described more fully on page 2 of this newsletter.



Desert Wetlands
Conservancy

The mission of the DWC is to influence policy, create partnerships, and initiate activities in advocacy or the Las Vegas Valley Watershed, including the Desert Wetlands Park.

The FDWP was instrumental in securing the support and involvement of Clark County and the Southern Nevada Water Authority to assemble and set aside approximately 3,000 acres within the Wash for the purpose of a Desert Wetlands Park. We also attracted the interest of Ducks Unlimited to undertake a wetlands restoration project in the Wash. Ducks Unlimited is an organization of approximately 800,000 members that since 1937, invested \$2.7 billion to



Desert Wetlands Conservancy Strategic Plan

By Joan Lolmaugh, Chairperson, DWC

In keeping with our desire for a change in direction and focus, the Desert Wetlands Conservancy's Board of Trustees spent several intense sessions with a professional facilitator to develop a new five-year strategic plan. The process included a SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats), a vision statement, a mission statement, goals, objectives, and strategic priorities. To that end, the following vision and mission have been developed.

Desert Wetlands Conservancy's vision – *“A fully functioning Las Vegas Valley watershed and wetlands ecosystem that enhances the quality of life and sustains the community.”*

Desert Wetlands Conservancy's mission – *“Influence policy, create partnerships, and initiate activities in advocacy for the Las Vegas Valley Watershed, including the Clark County Wetlands Park.”*

Four goals focused on advocacy, organization, education and outreach, and partnerships have been established.

- Goal I – Advocate for actions to protect and restore the Las Vegas Valley Watershed and Clark County Wetlands Park, and restore them to a fully functioning ecosystem.
- Goal II – Create and maintain an effective organization
- Goal III – Provide public recognition of the critical importance of a healthy, fully functional watershed through outreach and education to the community.
- Goal IV – Create cooperative partnerships to advance the organization's mission.

The objectives include but are not limited to increasing membership; forming partnerships to increase community support and effectiveness; creating a Desert Wetlands Conservancy website; and changing organization name to more accurately describe its vision and mission. The objectives are too numerous to list here.

The strategic priorities include:

- Change organization's name
- Increase Board membership
- Create and distribute 2008 Strategic Plan
- Increase organization's membership
- Conduct a public event to share strategic initiatives with community
- Build links to internalize expertise – UNLV, DRI, SNWA
- Establish public fundraisers for supporting program and specialized speakers on the park/watershed
- Appoint trustee representation on each of the three study teams of the Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee

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Green-up

By Nick Price, SNWA

The crowds braved unseasonably warm temperatures and came out in large numbers to the Las Vegas Wash for the 13th Wash Green-Up event on Saturday, Sept. 27. The event - associated with the newly completed Upper Diversion Weir and Bypass Channel across from Clark County Parks and Recreation's Nature Preserve. The site encompassed an area of 12.5 acres along the eastern side of the Las Vegas Wash and included an island isolated between the new bypass channel and the main waterway. A total of 595 volunteers - the largest number to date - worked together to plant 4,690 plants, representing 11 different species of trees and shrubs. *(continued on page 3)*

Green-up *(continued)*

Considering that prior to construction, the area consisted primarily of non-native tamarisk, the increased vegetative diversity will serve as a valuable resource for many wildlife species. With temperatures in the 90s and relatively high humidity, site supervisors were busy trying to keep their volunteers well hydrated and ensuring that their enthusiasm didn't eclipse their stamina. As this newly revegetated area matures over time, it will serve as an inviting gateway to the northern side of the Clark County Wetlands Park, from either the north via Hollywood Boulevard or the west from the newly installed pedestrian bridge.

Because of the work of volunteers, planting went smoothly. Biologists will monitor the site in the coming months to ensure growth and to plant another 10 acres around the weir. For more information about the Wash, continue to visit www.lvwash.org.



Volunteer selecting a tree for planting. With the largest variety of plants ever, the colored coded flagging system for matching plants to their holes was more important than ever. (photo courtesy of Nick Price, SNWA)



Upper Diversion bridge as seen just off the Nature Center trail running along the wash. The planting area can be seen on the right hand side of the image.



A small section of the planting area with some of the plants set out next to prepared holes. Note the irrigation lines that will be kept in-place until the plants are established. (photo courtesy of Nick Price, SNWA)

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:	\$25
Senior/Student:	\$15
Family Member:	\$50
Sustaining Family Member	\$200
Non-Profit Org:	\$100
Small Business	\$150

Corporate Sustaining Member

Osprey:	\$500
Great Egret:	\$5000
Great Blue Heron:	\$10,000+

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

Our Thanks To...

*New and Renewing Members: Pam Nickels,
James Carter*

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

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!

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.

LVWCC 10th Anniversary Tour

This year's tour of the Wash by the Las Vegas Wash Coordinating Committee commemorated the 10th anniversary of its existence with a special event. The tour started in the Nature Center. Elsie Sellers pointed out the site for the new visitors center, which will soon be breaking ground, and the construction underway for the Ducks Unlimited constructed wetlands. The group then crossed the new Upper Diversion Bridge to a site where a commemorative plaque has been placed (see photo below). In a tent set up for the commemoration, Pat Mulroy opened the event, recounting the many accomplishments of the past 10 years and introduced honored guests who spoke to some of the recent past history. After lunch, members of the Committee planted native shrubs around the plaque.

The tour continued on the North side of the wash, the first stop was on a hill overlooking the Bostick Weir. Gerry Hester said that 11 out of 22 erosion control structures have been completed and 6 more are in the works. We also received an update on water quality monitoring. We also stopped at Pabco Road Weir and received an update on revegetation activities



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**Desert Wetlands Conservancy
Newsletter**

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