



Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve Gets Upgrade

The City of Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve will soon undergo a major upgrade to its facilities. Currently in the public meeting stage of the planning process, the proposed enhancement includes several construction projects that will serve to further improve the birding experience.

Upcoming Meetings

**Las Vegas Valley
Watershed Advisory
Committee**

June 9, 2009 3 p.m.



A snowy egret fishes in the shade of the Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve.

The first project will be a redefined visitor entrance to the preserve. Entry into the preserve is currently accessed through the gates of the City of Henderson's Kurt R. Segler Water Reclamation Facility at Pabco Road near Sunset Road. The new entrance will be located off Galleria Drive and will be specific to the Bird Viewing Preserve, allowing visitors to bypass the current access process, which can be confusing to a first time participant.

Once inside the preserve, visitors will enjoy several elements that will facilitate a quality birding experience. Two bird blinds will shield visitors from view and allow closer interactions. The construction of a raised platform overlooking three of the ponds, as well as a constructed boardwalk over another pond will provide unique perspectives and more bird viewing opportunities. The project also will include an outdoor classroom and added signage to provide opportunities for educational outreach. The \$892,000 enhancement project is scheduled to begin in August.

The Bird Viewing Preserve just celebrated its 10-year anniversary, complete with a well-attended open house event. The preserve has hosted more than 70,000 visitors since its inception, including both local residents and visitors from 66 different countries around the world. With more than 250 documented species of birds, the Bird View Preserve—and its neighbor, the Las Vegas Wash—will serve as valuable resources for birds and birders alike.

Ducks Unlimited No. 2 Weir Construction Nears Completion

The 12th erosion control structure, or weir, is quickly approaching final completion. The Ducks Unlimited Wetlands No. 2 Weir, located downstream from the Visitor Center Weir, is one of the smaller erosion control structures to be installed at the Las Vegas Wash. Once completed, the rock riprap structure will have a width of 310 feet and a length of 160 feet with a drop of seven feet.

Wiser Construction began the project last fall after being awarded the \$3.5 million contract. Wiser Construction's bid was substantially lower than the original cost estimate. The weir was named due to its proximity to the Clark County Ducks Unlimited Wetland ponds, located west of the weir.



Construction crews work on the final details of the Ducks Unlimited No. 2 Weir.

The completion of the Ducks Unlimited Wetlands No. 2 Weir puts the Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee past the half way point of the expected 22 weirs that are necessary to control erosion along the Las Vegas Wash. Water quality data has shown that the constructed weirs and associated bank protection have already reduced the amount of sediment in the Las Vegas Wash by nearly 50 percent. The Ducks Unlimited Wetlands No. 1 Weir, which is located just downstream from No. 2, is currently in the final design stage and should be ready for bid this summer.