



2009 Spring Green-Up a Sprouting Success



Crews dig holes for plants to prepare area for upcoming Green-Up.

Upcoming Meetings

Research and Environmental Monitoring Study Team

April 1, 2009 • 10:30 a.m.

Administrative Study Team

April 16, 2009 • 1 p.m.

Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee

April 28, 2009 • 9 a.m.

On a recent picture-perfect spring morning, hundreds of volunteers recently drove out to the Sunrise Mountain Picnic Area to participate in the 14th semi-annual Wash Green-Up planting event. The event took place on Saturday, March 21 and attracted more than 300 local volunteers to revegetate the area just downstream of the Pabco Road Weir on the north side of the Las Vegas Wash.

After a tasty barbecue meal under the big tent, local green thumbs fanned out across nearly eight acres, and in a matter of just a couple of hours, planted more than 2,000 native trees, shrubs and grasses. Once the volunteers had planted all of their broom baccharis, honey mesquites, globe mallow, Fremont's peppergrass and brittle bush, they sprinkled a seed mixture across the sites to encourage even more growth.

The site also includes approximately three acres of native salt grass that were salvaged last fall from a Clark County Parks and Recreation construction project. The plan is to use this salt grass as a nursery resource for future revegetation areas once it establishes itself and begins to spread.

The Wash Green-Up events have blossomed into a wonderful partnership between the Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee (LVWCC) and the local community. The events are becoming even more popular as more companies encourage their employees to participate in green-initiative programs. One of the biggest challenges has been to prepare areas large enough to meet the growing demands in order to avoid having to turn away eager participants. You may want to "Save the Date" for the fall Wash Green-Up this coming October. By registering with the [volunteer sign-up page](http://www.LVWash.org) at www.LVWash.org, you'll receive notifications as more information becomes available. The LVWCC has coordinated with the Clark County Water Reclamation District in clearing more than 30 acres of non-native tamarisk. The fall planting event will be one for the record books, as approximately 1,000 volunteers will be needed to plant thousands of trees and shrubs on the largest site in Green-Up history.

Las Vegas Wash Revegetation Makes the Grade

Since 1998, the LVWCC has worked closely with fifth-graders attending the Mabel Hoggard Math and Science Magnet School. This partnership took another step forward in February when students in the Gifted and Talented Education Program ventured out to the Las Vegas Wash and filled more than 100 containers with cuttings of arrowweed, a large shrub that can reach over six feet tall. The cuttings were transported to Mabel Hoggard and placed into a nursery where the students will care for and nurture the plants over the next several months. Along with watering and nurturing, students also will monitor the plants for insect problems, adjust watering schedules and transplant the plants into larger containers. The nursery was constructed using funds provided by the Bureau of Reclamation and the costs of this harvesting round are funded by a grant from the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection.



Cultivated plants grow in the Mabel Hoggard nursery.