



Friends of the Desert Wetlands Changes Name and Scope

Last fall, the membership of Friends of the Desert Wetlands Park approved changing the name of the organization to the Desert Wetlands Conservancy. One of the original members of the Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee (LVWCC), Friends of the Desert Wetlands Park have been involved with the Las Vegas Wash for the past 15 years and have worked at increasing public awareness. It also played a significant role in getting the Clark County Wetlands Park established.

Upcoming Meetings

Operations Study Team

Aug. 5, 2009
8:30 a.m.



The new Desert Wetlands Conservancy vision will cover the Las Vegas valley watershed.

As implementation of the Clark County Wetlands Park Master Plan moves forward, the Desert Wetlands Conservancy determined that it was necessary to broaden its scope to the entire Las Vegas valley watershed.

With the name change, members also approved a new 5-year strategic plan which includes a vision, mission, goals and strategic priorities. The four goals focus on advocacy, organization, education and outreach, as well as establishing partnerships to achieve the vision of "a fully functioning Las Vegas valley watershed and wetlands ecosystem that enhances the quality of life and sustains the community. "

Although the 29 members of the LVWCC largely consist of public agencies and private companies, the influence and motivation of public advocacy groups including the Desert Wetlands Conservancy can not be over looked. The very formation of the LVWCC in 1998 was in large part stimulated by public concern regarding increased erosion, water quality and the decreased wetlands. For membership or other information on the Desert Wetlands Conservancy, visit DesertWetlandsConservancy.org or contact Peter Zavattaro by e-mail at pzwetlands@earthlink.net.

New Round of Reclamation Grant Funding

The Southern Nevada Water Authority Board of Directors has recently approved more than \$925,000 in grant funding from the Bureau of Reclamation.

This funding will support the modification of five existing projects and the approval of five new projects. The existing projects (that were modified) include biological resource studies, revegetation site design and monitoring, archaeological investigations, water quality monitoring and supplying an additional year of full-time security staffing from Clark County Park Police throughout the Clark County Wetlands Park.



New funding will help reconstruct this Las Vegas Wash historic structure at the Clark County Museum.

The new projects being funded include a small mammal monitoring study, staffing needs for meetings related to the Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee (LVWCC), water quality monitoring of the Ducks Unlimited and Nature Preserve ponds, a fourth round of bioassessment monitoring and further monitoring of threatened and endangered bird species. One more modification and three more new agreements are being finalized and are scheduled to be presented for approval at the next couple board meetings, providing an additional \$600,000 toward upcoming LVWCC projects.

Grant funding has played an essential role in almost all aspects of past LVWCC projects, a large portion of which has come from the Bureau of Reclamation. With the current economic downturn, the LVWCC has taken steps to reduce costs and secure more resources to supplement the coordination effort. This addition of funding will finance work conducted by the Las Vegas Wash Project Team through 2010.