



Mabel Hoggard Outreach Program Follows Water that 'Goes Down the Drain'

Recent expansion in the Mabel Hoggard Elementary School outreach program now includes a tour of the City of Henderson Water Reclamation Facility, where students are guided along a 45-minute walking tour and provided a tutorial of how the area's wastewater undergoes four levels of treatment before the clean water is released into the Las Vegas Wash. Although aromatic at times, this new tour element has already provided the students with a popular visual and sheds more light on the Las Vegas Valley's water cycle and water quality issues.

Upcoming Meetings

Las Vegas Valley Watershed Advisory Committee

Dec. 14, 2010, 3 p.m.

The Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee (LVWCC) has sponsored the three fifth grade classes at Mabel Hoggard Elementary School, a science and technology magnet school, for more than 10 years. The tour agenda was recently expanded from one day to two days to allow students more time at each location.



A City of Henderson employee demonstrates the final treated product before the water is released into the Las Vegas Wash.

Students participating in the tour spend a full day on the Forever Earth Houseboat, the floating water and environmental science laboratory operated by UNLV's Public Lands Institute. The other day is spent at the Clark County Nature Preserve, the City of Henderson Water Reclamation Facility and the Las Vegas Wash, where students learn basic wildlife monitoring techniques and are introduced to some of the area's native plant species.

Wetlands Park Nature Center Construction Begins

After several years of planning, designing, and permitting, Clark County Parks and Recreation recently initiated construction of the new Nature Center at the Nature Preserve.

Once completed, the Nature Center will sit elevated above the reeds and cattails, allowing visitors a panoramic view across the wetlands. Clear flooring panels will also present views down directly into the wetlands for glimpses of elusive wildlife. The new Nature Center will be full of interactive displays and kiosks to educate visitors about the complex elements of wetland environments. The building will also contain meeting rooms, a room dedicated to showing videos that highlight the intrigue and beauty of the Wetlands Park, and a gift shop.

The Nature Preserve's current information center has been temporarily relocated to the intersection of Wetlands Park and Hollywood lanes until construction is complete. Parking is now accessible using Hollywood Lane on the west end of the Nature Preserve, adjacent to the playground area. The new parking area allows access to the recently constructed network of trails and ponds throughout the western 80 acres of the Nature Preserve. Once constructed, the new Nature Center will stand as the crowning jewel of the Wetlands Park and help spotlight the rehabilitation of the Las Vegas Wash.



Young explorers venture along a trail through the western end of the Nature Preserve.