



Upcoming Meetings

Las Vegas Valley
Watershed Advisory
Committee
August 19, 2008
2:00 p.m.

And...Action! Filming of Wetlands Park Begins

Clark County Parks and Recreation is currently working with a production crew from Portland, Oregon, to expand its public outreach efforts. Northshore Productions has been filming at the Clark County Wetlands Park for the last several months and will be capturing all of its changes over the next year, through the four seasons. To date, the crew has filmed a plethora of wildlife scenes, the construction process, community involvement and other exciting activities in the area to help tell the stories of the four interpretive themes identified in the Clark County Interpretive Plan.



The resulting footage will be incorporated into eight final video productions. Four 30-minute productions will be developed to air on the local cable channel 4 to reach Southern Nevada residents. Another production will air at the Nature Center to welcome visitors to the area. To accommodate both English and non-English speaking visitors, this video will contain minimal dialog, allowing music and nature footage to tell the story.

photo right >>
A film crew captures the enthusiasm of some young scouts at the Spring Green-Up.

The production crew will also develop a video directed towards elementary school children to serve as an introduction to the Clark County Wetlands Park, which will help prepare them for upcoming field trips to the area. Additionally, secondary school children will be targeted by another video that can be viewed in the classroom, as their diverse class schedules tend to restrict the opportunity for trips away from school grounds. Finally, a 60-minute production will be created for the Public Broadcast Service (PBS), introducing the Clark County Wetlands Park to a national audience. All of the music used in each production will be original scoring.

Engineers Take Part in Bendway Weir Study

Las Vegas Wash project engineers have been sought out by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers', Research & Development Center's Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory to take part in a study looking into the effectiveness of a bank stabilization strategy referred to as bendway weirs.

A bendway weir is significantly smaller than the current weirs constructed at the Las Vegas Wash. Rather than spanning the entire width of the channel, bendway weirs extend only about 12 feet into the channel, which helps disrupt water flow, decrease velocity and therefore reduce the potential for bank erosion.



DRI hydrologists monitor water flows at the bendway weir study site.

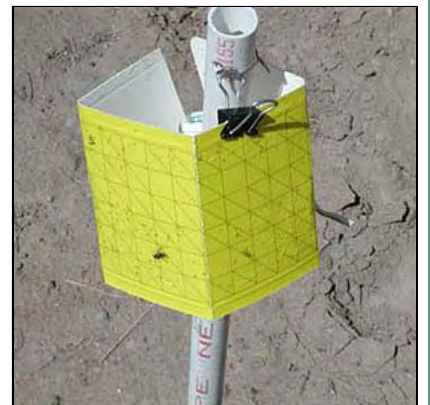
Representatives from the Desert Research Institute (DRI) obtained baseline measurements of existing bank protection areas in April. After completing the baseline measurements, approximately 900 feet of bank protection was reshaped and 11 bendway weirs were constructed. The bendway weirs were installed by U.S. Bureau of Reclamation construction crews in May.

The goal of the DRI study is to evaluate the effects of smaller weir designs, which may prove a more cost effective method of stabilizing the banks along the Las Vegas Wash. Results of this study may eventually be applied to other urban streams in arid southwestern areas. The DRI will continue to monitor flows over a 12-month period and they anticipate catching at least one minor flood event over the course of the study. The project site is located along the Las Vegas Wash just east of Sam Boyd Stadium.

Did You Know?

What Bugs You

Recently the bugs at the Las Vegas Wash have been really stuck on themselves. Well, not so much on themselves, but rather stuck on strategically placed traps around the Las Vegas Wash. Biologists from the Southern Nevada Water Authority and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation have teamed up to monitor the terrestrial invertebrate communities -- commonly referred to as bugs -- to help determine the effectiveness of the revegetation areas in providing food biomass for the avian community. Ten locations were selected along the Las Vegas Wash; five sites in areas dominated by non-native vegetation, such as salt cedar and common reed, and five sites in revegetation areas dominated by native plants. The traps are set for a 24 hour period and consist of a sheet of yellow sticky paper to which the insects become stuck. These traps are collected and taken back to the laboratory where they are classified and further analyzed. Two rounds of sampling have already occurred, with a third and final round scheduled in the fall.



Sticky trap used to monitor terrestrial invertebrate community at the Las Vegas Wash. >>