



## Fall Wash Green-Up Event Breaks Participation Record



A young volunteer carefully handles a plant at the 13th Wash Green-Up.

### Upcoming Meetings

#### Operations Study Team

Nov. 5, 2008  
8:30 a.m.

#### Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee 10th Anniversary Celebration Tour

Nov. 17, 2008 • 9 a.m.  
*Please RSVP to 702-822-3390 by Nov. 3*

#### Las Vegas Valley Watershed Advisory Committee

Nov. 18, 2008 • 3 p.m.

The crowds braved unseasonably warm temperatures and came out in large numbers to the Las Vegas Wash for the 13th Wash Green-Up event. The event – associated with the newly completed Upper Diversion Weir and Bypass Channel across from Clark County Parks and Recreation’s Nature Preserve – took place on Saturday, Sept. 27. The site encompassed an area of 12.5 acres along the eastern side of the Las Vegas Wash and included an island isolated between the new bypass channel and the main waterway. A total of 595 volunteers – the largest number to date – worked together to plant 4,690 plants, representing 11 different species of trees and shrubs. Considering that prior to construction, the area consisted primarily of non-native species of tamarisk, the increased vegetative diversity will serve as a valuable resource for many wildlife species.

With temperatures in the 90s and relatively high humidity, site supervisors were busy trying to keep their volunteers well hydrated and ensuring that their enthusiasm didn’t eclipse their stamina. As this newly revegetated area matures over time, it will serve as an inviting gateway to the eastern side of the Clark County Wetlands Park, from either the north via Hollywood Boulevard or the west from the newly installed pedestrian bridge.

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## History Unearthed

As final preparations were being made for an upcoming construction project, managers discovered a suspicious collection of rocks protruding from the soil. Archaeologists spent the majority of the summer excavating the area and sifted out a missing chapter of Las Vegas Wash history. Crews unearthed a stone structure – that likely served as a root cellar – complete with stairs that descended to a cement floor approximately four feet below the historic floodplain. Some of the items preserved in the bottom of the structure included several drinking glasses – one of which was dated 1907 – an unused bag of flour, canning jars and a few broken plates.

Upon completion of the cellar, archaeologists soon began to unearth the likely foundation of the residence. Among the stones on which the above ground structure would have laid, archaeologists found pieces of jewelry, children’s toys, window glass and cigarette tins. The site appears to have been a long-term establishment that housed a whole family believed to be connected with the Bishop family, which used the area for ranching.



Looking toward the stairs leading out of the stone structure

This newest discovery, combined with the many other cultural sites that have been identified within the Clark County Wetlands Park, reinforces the valuable resource that the Las Vegas Wash has served as throughout time. The Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee (LVWCC) works closely with federal and local agencies to best preserve each site as well as educating the public on the past so that we can best plan for the future.

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## Reclamation Contributes Two New Grants

Grant funding has played a major role in enabling the variety of research and construction projects undertaken by the LVWCC. Of the contributing agencies, the Bureau of Reclamation has been one of the most supportive. Two additional grants have recently been authorized to the Las Vegas Wash program. The first grant is \$50,000 for bird surveys. The second grant includes \$299,000 that will go towards purchasing rock that will be used to further line the Las Vegas Wash to protect the banks against erosion.