

## TIPS

Check the weather before your visit.

The best time to view wildlife is at dawn and dusk when most animals are active.

For the best experience:

- Take your time! Allow children the opportunity to stop frequently to observe insects, tracks, plants, and animals.
- Be as quiet as possible on the trails to improve chances of seeing wildlife.
- Stay on the trail for safety and to protect the Wetlands.
- Do not collect or damage plants, rocks, or other items. Everything has a purpose!
- Do not touch, capture, or injure insects or other animals.
- **Do not feed** animals or leave food scraps behind.
- Never leave litter behind.



Include time to visit the Nature Center. Staff and volunteers will gladly answer questions and help identify what you have spotted on your walk.

The Exhibit Hall and Wetlands Park movies offer opportunities to learn more about plants, animals, and the Las Vegas Wash.

Learn more about discovering nature with your children at [kids.ccwetlandspark.com](http://kids.ccwetlandspark.com).

## YOUR WALK

### Suggested short routes for families with young children:

#### **ROUTE A: Boardwalk** 1/3 mile round trip

Visitors often see turtles, fish, birds, and dragonflies from the accessible viewing platform.

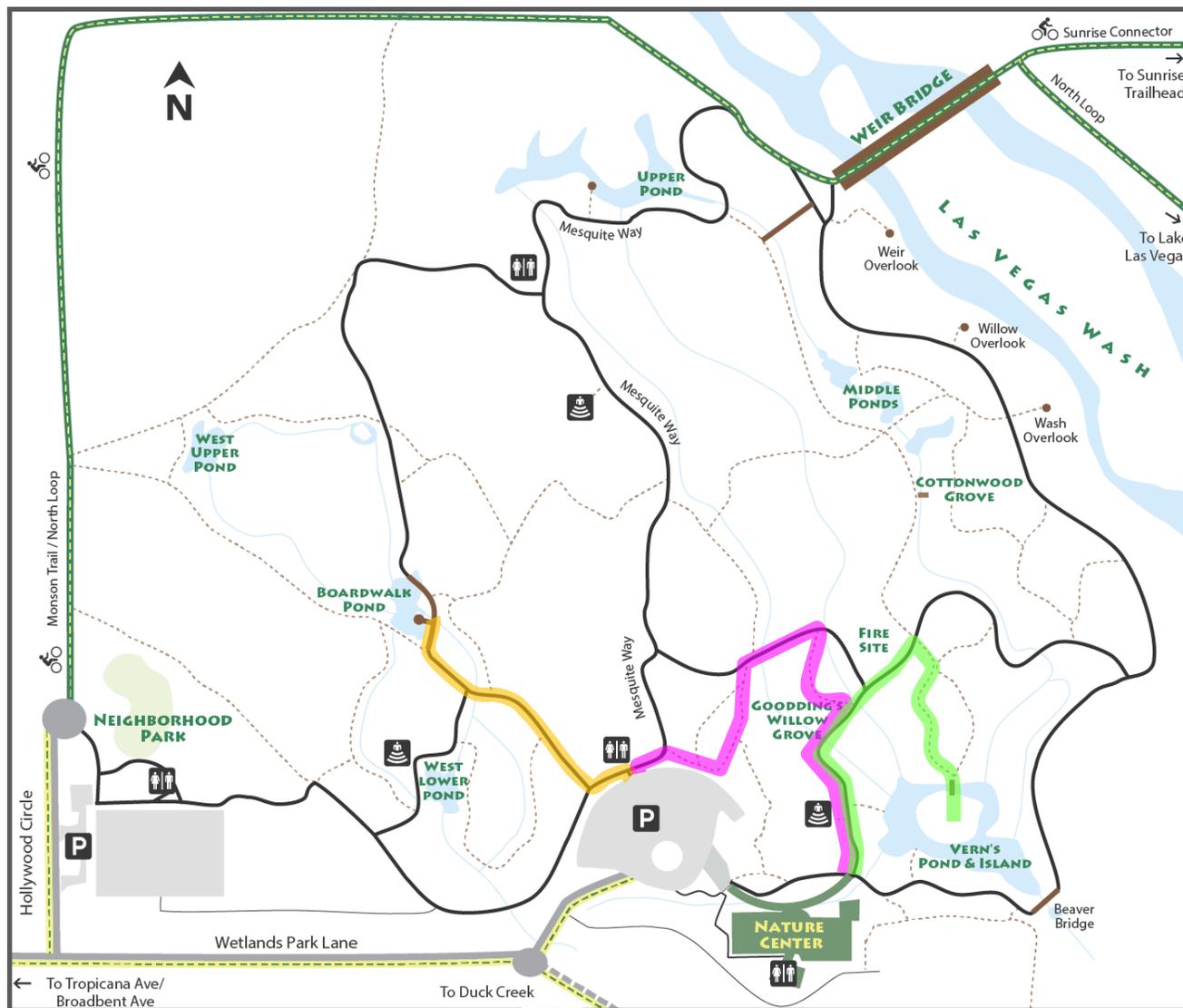
#### **ROUTE B: Goodding's Willow** 1/3 mile loop

Leave the paved trail to explore around an ancient, sprawling Goodding's Willow near a stream.

#### **ROUTE C: Island** 1/2 mile round trip

Visitors will see evidence of beaver, and often cottontail rabbits and water birds. Part of the route is unpaved.

**Ready to walk longer?** The **Weir Bridge** is about .75 mile one-way and overlooks the rushing Las Vegas Wash. The **Cottonwood Grove** is another great spot for kids, about \_\_ miles from the Nature Center.



## EXERCISES

You don't need to be an expert to help your child discover nature!

### Plants:

- Ask your child: is it a tree, bush, or grass?
- Look for flowers, seed pods, berries, thorns, and cocoons. (Please leave them where you find them.)
- Do any plants have a distinctive smell?
- Compare the shapes of the leaves of several different plants.
- Compare color(s) and textures of leaves, stems, or bark.



### Animals:

- Stop and close your eyes. Ask your child to identify three different animal sounds. Ask your child: do you think they are insects, birds, or mammals?
- As you walk, look for animal tracks. If you find them, ask your child what direction they think the animal was going. Challenge your child to come up with a story explaining what happened.
- Look for animal scat. What can you tell about an animal from its droppings?
- What evidence do you see or hear that tells you animals have been present? You may see nests, burrows, trees that have been chewed on by beaver, hear rustling in the underbrush, or find a feather.



Plant/Animal Art: Sharon Schafer

## WHAT TO BRING

- **Water!** Each visitor should carry drinking water, *children, too!*
- Sturdy closed-toe shoes
- Hat with brim
- Sunglasses
- Long-sleeve shirt
- Insect repellent
- Sunscreen
- Camera

### SUGGESTED ITEMS

- Binoculars
- Magnifying hand lens
- Guide books to identify plants, birds, and other wildlife

*Ask about borrowing a Family Backpack at the Nature Center Exhibit Hall for the use of the above items at no charge.*

Share your Wetlands Park stories!

 [facebook.com/wetlandspark](https://www.facebook.com/wetlandspark)

### Clark County Wetlands Park

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[www.ccwetlandspark.com](http://www.ccwetlandspark.com)

**Park Hours:**  
Dawn to Dusk

**Nature Center Hours:**  
9:00 am to 4:00 pm

## VISITING WITH KIDS



# VISITING WITH KIDS

An aid for parents with young children for exploring the Wetlands Park Nature Preserve

*"If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement, and mystery of the world we live in."*  
- Rachel Carson