



FOOTPRINTS

SEASONAL IMPRESSIONS OF CLARK COUNTY WETLANDS PARK



Photo by Esteban Godinez

SPRING 2019

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Clark County Wetlands Park preserves and enhances **natural** and **cultural** resources and provides **educational, recreational,** and **research opportunities** for the **public**.

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Cover photo *"Call of the Wild"* entry submitted by Esteban Godinez.

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A PLACE FOR EVERYONE

Clark County Wetlands Park has many ADA accessibility features intended to allow visitors of all abilities to have a successful experience in the Park. There are over 16 miles of paved accessible walking trails located throughout the Park. These paved trails are suitable for walking, wheelchairs, walkers, canes, and motorized wheelchairs/scooters. Maps showing the locations of the paved and non-paved trails and amenities of the Park can be found at the Nature Center. Visitors should be mindful of sharing the trails with others on foot or those who require an assistive device.

The Nature Center not only offers an ADA accessible Exhibit Hall filled with fun and interactive displays, there is also a large accessible outdoor observation deck with panoramic views of the park and surrounding mountains. The videos presented in the Auditorium feature captioning for the hearing impaired.

A variety of programs for youth, adults, and families are also available. Classes include arts and crafts, guided walks, special events, and volunteer opportunities. Sign up for our mailing list to receive the most current information on our programs. Our newsletter is now

available in an accessible PDF document that is optimized for screen readers and other assistive devices used by persons with disabilities. Clark County will also provide accommodations such as sign language interpreters for programs. A minimum two week advance notice is needed for program accommodations.

For more detailed information on programs, events, tours, and trails with interactive maps of the park, visit our website: www.ccwetlandspark.com or follow us on Facebook and Twitter. 🐾



Photo by Kathryn Jones
Talia Gyori instructs Wetlands volunteers on basic animal sign language.

SEASONAL FLORA & FAUNA FORECAST

Spring is a big burst of life. It is a time of emergence, migration, breeding, nesting, and reproduction. It brings longer days and warmer temperatures. Buds are popping and animals are on the move. Here is a sampling of what you may encounter in the Park this time of year:

FLORA: Look for plants to bloom, such as salt heliotrope and creosote. Look for tree buds to swell and bloom into new green leaves on the Fremont cottonwood and catclaw acacia. Look for aromatic green arrowweed and new growth of common cattail and alkali sacaton.

FAUNA: Look to the **ground** for Gambel's quail, greater roadrunner, ants, and crickets.

Look to the **water** for American coot, common gallinule, mallard, Canada goose, white-faced ibis, great blue heron, and green heron. Don't forget to listen

for the bullfrog.

Look to the **trees and the sky** for northern harrier, yellow-rumped warbler, verdin, Say's phoebe, and turkey vulture. Keep your eyes open for both the honey bee and carpenter bee pollinating trees, shrubs, and flowers. 🌱

JUVENILE COMMON GALLINULE



Photo by Sheila Glennie

SALT HELIOTROPE



Photo by Sheila Glennie

PHENOLOGY PHUN

Phenology Phun is an one hour, once a week, citizen-science bird count at the Big Weir Bridge. The focus group is made up of 24 specific birds. By gathering data for the past 3 years, we have a good idea what birds will be seen in the each season.

Top 5 Spring Spottings

American Coot

Mallard

Gambel's Quail

Common Gallinule

Yellow-rumped Warbler



Gambel's Quail Photo by Sheila Glennie

NATURE CLOSE-UP: SCAT AND TRACKS

Have you ever come across a track and wondered who it belonged to? When we are outdoors we do not always have the good fortune of seeing animals in action; seeing them usually takes luck, patience, silence, and time. There are many ways of seeing wildlife without actually seeing the animal.

There are many signs around (like scat and tracks) that tell us what animals are in the area and what they are doing. Tracks and scat will tell a story if we learn to read them. They can tell us stories of escape, survival, and even friendship. Tracks are one of the easiest signs for all of us to find and understand.

Expert trackers pay attention to three elements; the single print, the track pattern, and soil movement. With a little practice, anyone can learn how to track. If you encounter a track, go back and forth between these three elements as you work to identify the print. This

can become second nature and lead to an understanding of the animal's mood and body language. Trackers do more than just identify the animal, they have a "conversation" with it. Why did the animal cross the trail here? Where are they going? Why are they traveling alone? Why did they bypass some perfectly good food? Follow the trail as far as you can or settle down to read every detail of the track.

Scat, a.k.a. animal poop, can tell us about the animal's diet. The next time you see scat along a Wetlands Park trail, look closely. Can you see any seeds in it? If it looks like dog poop but has seeds in it, it might be coyote scat. Coyotes eat seeds from trees found within the Park, such as honey mesquite seeds and screwbean mesquite seeds.

Remember that the opportunity to observe the animal you have discovered, whether it is a lizard or beaver, is special and sacred. The animal passed this way

only once and left behind the signs of its body language, signs of choices about food and travel, evidence of when it rested, and where it ran. To bypass the opportunity to read the story of prints and scat is to miss a good story! 🌱



Photo by Jan Steinbaugh

Tracks found here at Wetlands Park.

BUILDING WITH BIG BROWN BOXES

The holidays were so much fun. But what to do with all these boxes? Is it best to save them, use them in the garden, toss them in the garbage, or recycle them? Wetlands Park staff came up with a creative solution for all those unwanted boxes: use them for fun AND recycling.

From Black Friday to Boxing Day, Wetlands Park collected brown boxes, hundreds of boxes, big and small. All of them were shipping boxes that might have ended up in a landfill, blowing across the desert, or polluting the water as it flows through the Las Vegas Wash, Wetlands Park, and into Lake Mead. But these boxes didn't have that fate because on December 26 and 27, over 80 people



Photo by S. Glennie

Kids of all ages having fun with big brown boxes.

came to play with and in the boxes. There were great grandparents and toddlers, teens and little kids, babies in strollers and aunts and uncles, and everyone played and created. There were forts, castles, trains, towers, obstacle courses, and tunnels built. There were stacking contests and lots of running and laughter.

When one family was building a tower in a corner and was one box short of the

ceiling, one of the dads lifted the whole tower and wedged the last box at the bottom, with the biggest smiles everyone yelled, "Brilliant!" Creative problem solving and imagination were in abundant supply!

At the end of the event, some families even stayed to help break-down the boxes for transport to the nearest recycle center. In all, over 340 pounds of Big Brown Boxes were recycled but not before they had a chance to experience some fun and excitement! 🌱



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Volunteer Karen Lewis at Wetlands Park.

Passionate volunteers are priceless. They are the heart and voice of Wetlands Park. Karen Lewis is one such volunteer. We were able to catch up with her to find out what it is that keeps her coming back year after year.

What is your background?

I have lived in Las Vegas for more than half my life. I have 3 sons, 3 daughter-in-laws, 6 grandchildren and another one due in a month. As you can tell I am very family oriented. I own my own business and am currently working part-time as a fundraising specialist, as well as various volunteer activities within the community.

How did you come to volunteer at the Park?

I just happened to be running in the Park one day and picked up the brochure, went on-line, and then attended volunteer training.

In what capacities have you been volunteering at the park?

I have been a team leader for the Wetlands Hands On program where volunteers of all ages participate in outdoor stewardship projects. I also am a Wetlands Watcher and Exhibit Hall host.

What kinds of things do you do during a typical volunteer shift as a Wetlands Hands On team lead?

I share the importance of safety with my group as well as provide educational information about the wetlands plants, animals, and the ecosystem. I have continued to learn from reading, making observations, and connecting with others of knowledge at the wetlands. And then towards the end of our clean up I ask the group if they want to take a picture and ask them what they learned today.

Why do you like volunteering at the Park and what advice would you give someone thinking about volunteering?

The Park is full of nature and is always changing. Communication and community complete the experience of our wetlands.

What is your favorite spot in the park?

I like to run on the trails and see the ever changing wetlands. I enjoy watching the smiling faces of people and interacting with them as well as seeing the buds, blooms, and babies of the wetlands. 🌱



Karen Lewis getting participants to sign pledges during the International Coastal Cleanup event.

WETLANDS WALKERS ON THE MOVE

Walking is good for one's physical health, and a walk in nature is even better!

Wetlands Walkers, a group of 60 health and nature oriented individuals, track their miles whenever they walk Park trails and earn rewards at various milestones. As a group, their mileage is tallied to reach a yearly goal matching the migration distances of one of the Park's visiting species. In 2019 the Walkers are recognizing the northern

flicker and have a collective goal of trekking 5,000 miles. To date, the walkers have traveled **654 miles**.



Photo by R. Bailey

To learn more about the Wetlands Walkers program and the northern flicker, stop by the Exhibit Hall in the Nature Center.

Northern Flicker Fun Facts:

- The relative size of a northern flicker is somewhere between a robin and a crow.
- Their wingspan ranges from 16-20 inches.
- The undersides of the wing and tail feathers are red/salmon for western birds, which is referred to as red-shafted. Eastern birds are yellow-shafted. 🌸

HELP KEEP WETLANDS PARK CLEAN

Have you ever seen an unsightly pile of trash on the side of the road? Would you like to help keep Wetlands Park and the surrounding neighborhoods clean and looking beautiful?

If you see illegal dumping in progress, do not confront the violator. Call 311 to report the activity to the local police non-emergency number. If possible, get the make and model of the vehicle, license plate number, and a description of those involved. Reports can be anonymous, but

it's helpful for staff to have your name and number for investigation follow up.

You may also call the Southern Nevada Health District's Environmental Health Division at 702-759-0600 or after hours at 702-759-1000 to report illegal dumping anywhere in Clark County. Complaints can be filed online as well. The Health District serves as a clearinghouse for dumping related complaints throughout southern Nevada and will follow up on complaints received or refer them to the appropriate jurisdiction. When

making a report, try to get a description of the discarded items, the location including cross streets, date and time you discovered the site, and include any photos.

Any person providing information leading to a conviction of an illegal dumper may receive a \$100 reward upon payment of the full penalty by the offender. Not to mention that a first offence violator may be required to clean up the site and face a fine of \$500 to \$5,000 per day. 🌿

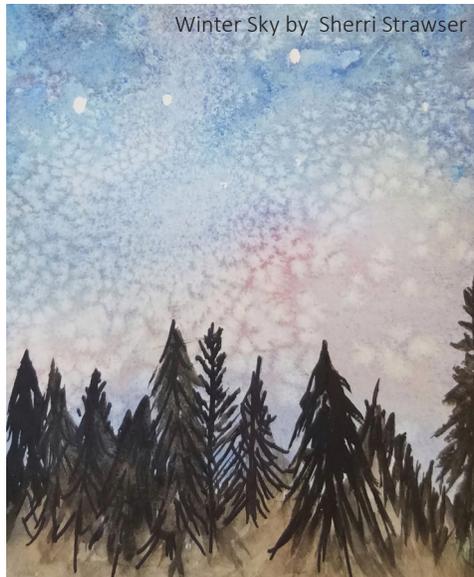
CALL FOR WETLANDS PARK PHOTOS!

Want to see your Wetlands Park photo featured in an upcoming newsletter?

Photo Subject: "Color in Nature"

Submit your high resolution photo(s) to: wetlands@clarkcountynv.gov by 5pm on May 15, 2019 to be considered. Include your name, date, and location of the photo.

Winter Sky by Sherri Strawser



CALL FOR WETLANDS PARK ARTWORK!

Have you created artwork in one of our Studio WP Art Programs that you would like to share? Want to see your artwork featured in an upcoming newsletter?

Submit your high resolution artwork(s) in digital format to: wetlands@clarkcountynv.gov Include your name, date and the Studio WP art program in which the piece was created.



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