

1-19-2017

The Las Vegas Wash: Student Real-world Site Involvement

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Recommended Citation

Tietjen, Erica S., "The Las Vegas Wash: Student Real-world Site Involvement" (2017). *UNLV Best Teaching Practices Expo*. 45.

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The Las Vegas Wash: Student Real-world Site Involvement

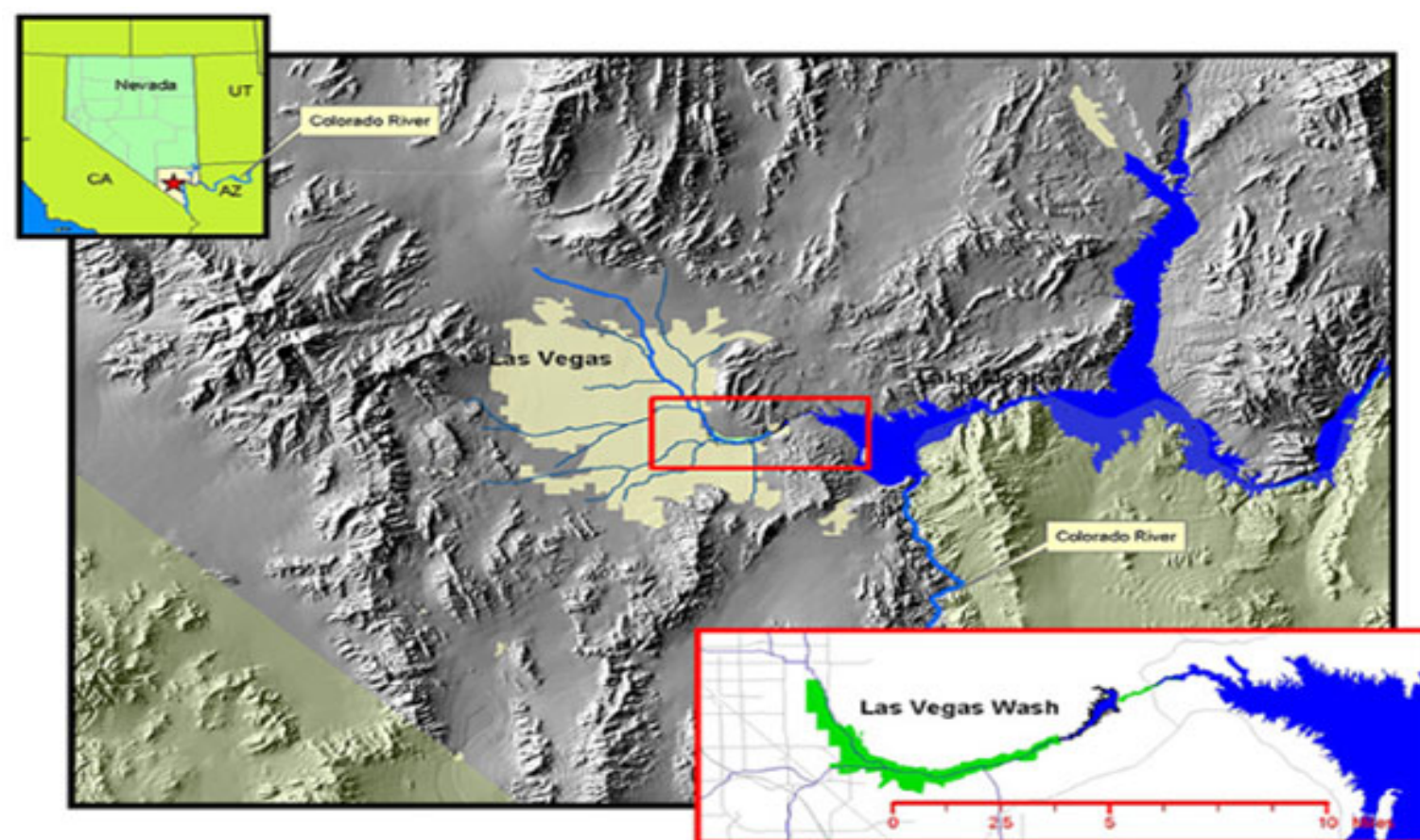
The practice and the need it addresses

What is/isn't the Wash?

Functions as the Las Vegas Valley's **receiving stream** for

- treated wastewater (~150 MGD)
- urban runoff
- shallow groundwater
- storm water

Supports wetlands at the **Clark County Wetlands Park (~2900 acres)** and enclosed **Nature Preserve (WPNP) (~210 acres)**



It **isn't** a "natural" system or a typical wadeable stream

But, its size, permanence, uniqueness and proximity to campus (~ 7 miles) make it an ideal natural classroom and laboratory

Demonstrates the **integration** of human water use across the valley as it culminates in this distinctive urban desert stream system

Evidence this practice benefits UNLV Students

UNLV Student Field Activities

ENV 360 (Environmental Assessment Methods) students have worked with **Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA)** biologists on projects including:

- Evaluation of revegetation ('Green-Up') efforts*
- Analysis of the Las Vegas Wash cottonwood revegetation area*



And on small group/class projects at the **Clark County Wetlands Park:**

- Qualitative site assessment of terrestrial and wetland sites*
- Evaluation of soils and hydrology*



Resources and where to find them

Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee

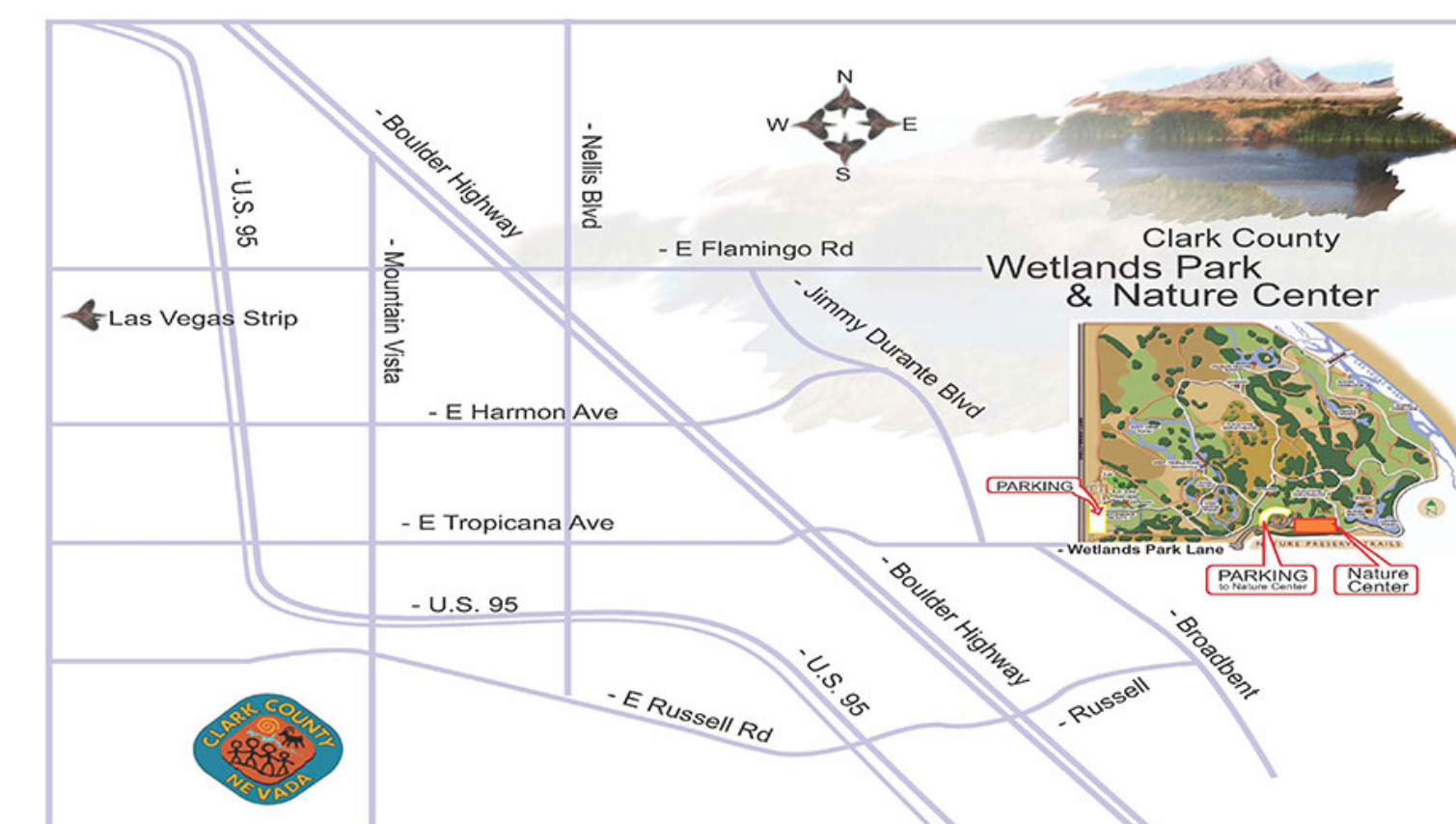
Website:
https://www.lvwash.org/html/what_index.html

Contact:
Jason Eckberg, SNWA Biologist II
jason.eckberg@snwa.com

Clark County Wetlands Park

Website:
<http://www.clarkcountynv.gov/parks/Page/cc-wetlands-park-homepage.aspx>

Contact:
Ben Jurand, Education Program Supervisor
ben.jurand@clarkcountynv.gov



How other UNLV teachers might adopt this practice

Applicability and Value to Students

Students from all disciplines (not just Environmental Science) can gain experience with and appreciation of their local natural resources, through:

- Extension of STEM skills learned indoors/classroom to an outdoor/hands-on-minds-on application
- Mentored projects in natural sciences with local agencies and organizations
- Field and lab experiences in a wide range of local ecosystems (terrestrial, wetland, riparian, aquatic)
- Deeper involvement with their community
- Exposure to professional scientific endeavors



Students are always surprised by the apparent attractiveness of the LV Wash and Wetlands Park!