The Las Vegas Wash: Student Real-world Site Involvement

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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)

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

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/Pages/cc-wetlands-park-homepage.aspx
Contact: Ben Jurand, Education Program Supervisor
ben.jurand@clarkcountynv.gov

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

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!