



Wetlands Park Friends

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WETLANDS PARK FRIENDS ORGANIZATION MAKES ITS DEBUT AT CLARK COUNTY WETLANDS PARK VOLUNTEER FETE

New Nonprofit 501(3)c Agency's Is "Supporting Nature Close to Home"SM

LAS VEGAS, NV (January 25, 2020) . . . Wetlands Park Friends (Friends), a new nonprofit 501(3) organization, made its formal debut tonight at Clark County Wetlands Park's Volunteer Appreciation Dinner held at the Park's Nature Center. Friends, which aims to promote conservation, awareness, and appreciation of the Park through its educational programs and activities, is actively recruiting members and donors while providing new ways for the Park to achieve its overall goals.

"Wetlands Park Friends is the result of over five years of determination, commitment and hard work from its founding Board members, who have a combined 70 years of dedicated and compassionate involvement with the Park, including executive administration, staff positions and voluntary roles," said Friends Board President Chris Leavitt. Leavitt was assigned to work on the Wetlands Park Master Plan as part of her duties as Curator of Education at the Clark County Museum in 1993. She continued to work with the Park until her retirement in the fall of 2014. She now volunteers at the Park in multiple capacities. "We are excited to augment the efforts of the Park and enhance the visitor experience that is truly unique to Clark County Wetlands Park. The Park lies next to Las Vegas' southeasternmost boundary, so it truly is a great place for area residents and tourists to visit. Our slogan, 'Supporting Nature Close to Home' says it all."

In addition to Leavitt, Friends Board Members include Linda Wiltberger, Vice President; Pam Radke, Treasurer; Gail Raffel, Secretary; Constance "CC" Carlson, Director of Communications; and Suzann Pruitt, Director of Membership.

Elizabeth Bickmore, Clark County Wetlands Park Senior Program Administrator, noted "We are thrilled to officially make Wetlands Park Friends part of our family. The Friends Board of Directors have the expertise to run the organization and make it successful. There are so many areas that Friends can support us, through grants, donations, programs and other areas."

Unlike many managed wildlife areas in the area, Clark County Wetlands Park doesn't have an entrance fee. Entry to its Nature Center Exhibit Hall and many of its family-friendly events and activities are delivered to the public at no charge. These include the acclaimed educational programs for Clark County School District students, special guest lectures, and popular events. Many can benefit from additional funding and support. Likewise, this unique biological, cultural and educational resource can benefit from support to preserve it for years to come.

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At 2,900 acres, Clark County Wetlands Park is one of the largest urban wetlands in the Southwest and serves as a popular destination for hikers and bird watchers. More than 300 species of birds and 70 species of mammals and reptiles have been spotted in the park, including beavers, coyotes, bobcats and snakes. The park features more than 20 miles of trails, including six miles within the Nature Preserve. Clark County Wetlands Park is open from sunrise to sunset each day. The Nature Center at 7050 Wetlands Park Lane is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

Wetlands Park Friends is a nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization dedicated to promote conservation, awareness, and appreciation of the Park through its educational programs and activities. Its office is located inside the Park's Administration Building in the Nature Center; 7050 Wetlands Park Lane, Las Vegas, NV 89122. Its phone number is 702-806-6852. For more information, please visit: www.wetlandsparkfriends.org.

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