



Wetlands Park Friends

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WETLANDS PARK FRIENDS RECEIVES FIRST GRANT FROM REI CO-OP

New Nonprofit Earmarks Funds for Clark County Wetlands Park's Community Stewardship Program; Additional REI Emergency Funding to Be Used To Support Friends Goals During the Covid-19 Pandemic

LAS VEGAS, NV (August 26, 2020) . . . The Board of Directors of Wetlands Park Friends (Friends) announced today that the organization has received its first foundation grant along with additional emergency funding from outdoor retailer REI Co-op.

"Wetlands Park Friends couldn't be more pleased to be recognized by REI for its growing role in in the Las Vegas community," said Friends Board President Chris Leavitt. "REI's grant will be used to support Clark County Wetlands Park's community stewardship programs. The Friends organization couldn't be more grateful to receive additional emergency funding from REI to support its efforts under the cloak of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Funding allocated for the Park's award-winning stewardship programs will go toward equipment, supplies, and volunteer appreciation efforts. Emergency funding will go toward helping our organization adapt during these uncertain times." Leavitt added that due to the pandemic, all of Friends planned membership drives and events were either cancelled or postponed, requiring the organization to create and implement new strategies. "Having launched our organization in January 2020, there was less than a month to acquire members before the pandemic took hold."

Elizabeth Bickmore, Clark County Wetlands Park Senior Program Administrator, noted "We are delighted to be the beneficiary of the grant funding Friends has received from REI. Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, there are so many areas that Friends and its resources can support the Park."

As a member-owned co-op, REI invests deeply in stewardship of the outdoor places its members know and love. REI actively works with nonprofits across the country to steward and maintain local trails and public lands and connect people to the outdoors. To learn more about REI's investment, click [here](#).

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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.

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Park trails, trailheads, and restrooms are open daily dawn to dusk. Nature Center Auditorium is open Tuesday – Sunday, 9 am - 2 pm, closed Mondays. Programming has been temporarily suspended.

Wetlands Park Friends is a nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization dedicated to promoting 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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