

# THE CONSERVATION DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN NEVADA



2003-2004 ANNUAL REPORT

## ABOUT THE CONSERVATION DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN NEVADA

**T**he Conservation District of Southern Nevada (CDSN) is a subdivision of State government dedicated to natural resource conservation in Clark County, Nevada. Our mission is to provide leadership in identifying and meeting the resource conservation needs for citizens of both rural and urban areas within Clark County by providing technical services, education, information, planning assistance and coordination of services. All programs of the CDSN are offered on a free, nondiscriminatory basis.

The CDSN is administered by a Board of seven volunteer Supervisors; five elected, one appointed to represent the Incorporated Cities of Clark County, and one appointed to represent Clark County.

One of 28 Conservation Districts serving Nevada, the CDSN works with the State's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to implement conservation programs. The CDSN also maintains active membership in the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) and the Nevada Association of Conservation Districts, participating in conferences and national programs such as Backyard Conservation, the Conservation Teacher of the Year Award, Nevada Youth Range Camp, and the NACD Annual Poster Contest.

For more information, visit the Conservation District of Southern Nevada website at

[www.cdsn.org](http://www.cdsn.org)



**Conservation District  
of Southern Nevada**  
Serving Clark County

5820 S. Pecos Rd, A-400  
Las Vegas, NV 89120  
(702) 262-9047 ext .5

*Dear friends and conservation partners,*



As I sit at my desk this August evening, listening to the seasonal thunderstorm and enjoying the brilliant flashes that momentarily light up my room, I am reminded of what a truly spectacular place southern Nevada is. It is easy to forget this fact amid the growing congestion and urban jungle, but our desert is a wild place with Nature's beauty just waiting to be discovered.

Bringing that natural beauty into people's homes and making its conservation part of their lives is something the Conservation District of Southern Nevada has worked diligently at this past year. Through backyard conservation programs, enhanced public parks and free educational outreach the Conservation District and its partners are helping local residents discover how to enjoy and conserve our natural resources. An example of this is our Acacia Demonstration Gardens.

The Acacia Demonstration Gardens, our backyard conservation demonstration project with the City of Henderson, is nearing completion. Much progress was made at the Gardens this year with the help of community groups like the Boy Scouts of America and local businesses like MWH. Free educational workshops began in May, offering users a chance to learn about landscape plants, soil conservation and water quality protection, and the last touches are finishing the Gardens this fall with a Grand Opening anticipated in October 2004. Teaching people to care for nature inside their homes and yards is a start in assisting them to become an active partner in protecting the resources that surround us. I hope you enjoy reading this report and learning about chances to partner with the Conservation District to protect the beauty and natural resources around us in the challenging years ahead.

*Judy Currier*

Judy Currier  
Chair of the Board of Supervisors



## 2003-2004 CONSERVATION PROJECTS

### *Acacia Demonstration Gardens*

Much work has been accomplished at the Gardens this year. Trails, interpretive signs and kiosks, hardscapes, a dry riverbed and several individual gardens have been completed. Finished features include the Native, Near Native, Mediterranean, Cactus and Allergy Friendly Gardens, Wildlife Area, and the Streetscape, Composting and Turf Demonstration Areas. Work will continue this summer and early fall with the Grand Opening expected in October of 2004. In addition to the construction progress, educational programming at the Gardens began in May with free backyard conservation workshops offered to the public. The workshops were well attended and will be offered in the spring, fall and cooler summer months.

### *Air Quality Education*

CDSN worked closely with Clark County's Department of Environmental Resources and Air Quality Management (formerly Department of Air Quality Management) this year to launch an outreach campaign geared towards young people. The education campaign trains high school students as Air Quality Ambassadors to younger, elementary aged children.

Students learn about ways to protect our air quality through classroom visits, games and fun educational publications.

### *Clark County Wetlands Park*

CDSN continued supplying grantwriting services for the Clark County Wetlands Park. Projects funded this year included the Park's first public restrooms, trail building equipment, tree and shrub plantings and pond construction. The coming years will see expansion of the Park's trail system, increased wetland and riparian enhancements, and new day use recreation sites.

### *Clark County Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA)*

Working with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the CDSN solidified formation of a CWMA for Clark County. The group is made up of local, state and federal agencies, as well as organizations from the private sector. The CWMA has developed an Annual Work Plan addressing local issues and needs, and has secured its first grant, which allocates funds for a part-time Weed Coordinator starting at the CDSN this fall.

### *Special Events, Public Outreach & Education*

CDSN continued disseminating educational materials such as the *Southern Nevada Soil and Nutrient Management Brochure*, *Water Resources Guide* and *Urban Forestry Poster* at outreach events including the Southern Nevada Water Authority's "Day With the Experts" and the Clark County Fair. The CDSN is also working with local and national experts to design and conduct a tree irrigation study, monitoring root development and tree health under different watering conditions. Board Supervisors attended the Nevada Association of Conservation District and National Association of Conservation Districts Annual Meetings. The CDSN also sponsored a Clark County high school student at Nevada's Youth Range Camp.



## 2003-2004 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

### *OBJECTIVE 1: Obtain and maintain adequate finances for District operations*

- Goal A: Pursue funding from federal, state, and local governments.
- Goal B: Research and pursue fundraising opportunities for operating expenses.
- Goal C: Pursue and implement new plans for generating discretionary operating funds.

### *OBJECTIVE 2: Coordinate and promote environmental education programs*

- Goal A: Provide for and participate in community environmental education programs.
- Goal B: Sponsor environmental education programs within the Clark County School District.

### *OBJECTIVE 3: Provide District administrative and operational activities*

- Goal A: Ensure the District is fulfilling the requirements of NRS 548 through its programs and practices.
- Goal B: Employ staff and designate committees to provide services needed to achieve CDSN mission.
- Goal C: Participate and assist in State, Regional, and National meetings.

### *OBJECTIVE 4: Assist in the development and implementation of conservation plans and programs*

- Goal A: Assist community partners in developing, managing, and promoting environmental plans, programs, and demonstration projects.
- Goal B: Support the NRCS in their efforts to assist landowners with conservation needs and with meeting the provisions of the Farm Bill.
- Goal C: Identify and pursue projects that fulfill a unique conservation niche.

### *OBJECTIVE 5: Build, promote, and facilitate partnerships among stakeholders*

- Goal A: Maintain and enhance partnerships with federal, state, and local agencies.
- Goal B: Participate in and assist with the environmental efforts of grassroots organizations, local businesses, and the general public.
- Goal C: Identify what other organizations do and reorganize current and future District projects according to their viability, relevance, and service to the community.

### *OBJECTIVE 6: Promote Conservation District efforts through public outreach*

- Goal: Communicate District's efforts to the community.

## 2003 - 2004 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

### INCOME

Acacia Demonstration Gardens	
<i>Bureau of Reclamation</i>	\$ 20,000.00
<i>Land &amp; Water Conservation Fund</i>	
<i>(Reimb. by City of Henderson)</i>	\$ 40,804.47
<i>Nevada Division of Environmental</i>	
<i>Protection (NDEP)</i>	\$ 27,253.40
<i>Nevada Division of Forestry</i>	\$ 2,210.00
Clark County Operating Grant	\$ 59,202.38
Clark County Department of Air Quality Management	
	\$ 91,617.14
Clark County Wetlands Park Grant Writing Services	
	\$ 16,003.45
Compost Bin Retail Program	\$ 1,560.00
Interest Receipts from Dean Witter Account	\$ 918.02
Interest Receipts from Wells Fargo Checking Account	
	\$ 25.93
Miscellaneous	\$ 1,412.79
Nevada Shade Tree Council - Wetlands Park Planting	
	\$ 1,000.00
State of Nevada Grant Appropriation	\$ 5,000.00
Volunteer Program Donations	\$ 50.00
Wetlands Park Trail - Nevada Division of State Parks	
	\$ 1,244.00
Wetlands Pond and Kiosks - NDEP	\$ 22,030.88
Wetlands Southern Expansion - NDEP	\$ 841.09

### EXPENDITURES

Acacia Demonstration Gardens	\$ 105,879.18
Air Quality Outreach Promotions	\$ 4,352.64
Bank Fees	\$ 51.00
Compost Bin Retail Program	\$ 972.00
Conferences	\$ 883.41
Donations (NvACD)	\$ 400.00
E-mail & Website	\$ 686.75
Employee Expenses	\$ 144,051.81
Equipment Maintenance & Purchase	\$ 3,138.92
Membership Fees	
<i>National Association of Conservation Districts</i>	\$ 775.00
<i>Nevada Association of Conservation Districts</i>	\$ 500.00
<i>High Desert RC&amp;D</i>	\$ 100.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 366.00
NACD Educational Poster Contest Awards	\$ 90.00
North Las Vegas Garden Project	\$ 2,000.00
Office Supplies	\$ 1,885.30
Petty Cash	\$ 75.00
Postage	\$ 621.84
Printing & Promotions	\$ 4,794.50
Storage	\$ 245.47
Telephone	\$ 460.46
Training	\$ 129.99
Travel/Mileage	\$ 1,265.56
Wetlands Park Interpretive Waysides Project	
	\$ 27,847.73

**TOTAL INCOME**

**\$291,173.55**

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES**

**\$301,572.56**

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

### **Judy Currier**

*Chair*

Management Analyst, Southern Nevada Water Authority;  
B.A. Political Science

### **Dirick Van Gorp**

*Vice Chair*

*Incorporated Cities Representative*  
Landscape Architect, Stantec  
B.S. Horticulture/Landscape Design

### **John Hunt**

*Secretary/Treasurer*

Retired, City of North Las Vegas

### **Christina Gibson**

*Clark County Representative*

Management Analyst II, Clark County  
Desert Conservation Program  
M.S. Public Administration  
B.S. Business

### **Joseph Fortier**

*Supervisor*

Irrigation Consultant/President,  
Mojave Water Management;  
ASIC, CID, CIC, CGIA, CLIA

### **Elise McAllister**

*Supervisor*

Administrator, Partners in  
Conservation

### **Jon Wardlaw**

*Supervisor*

Assistant Planning Manager, Clark County;  
M.S. Land Use Planning Policy  
B.S. Geography

## STAFF

### **Kim Vilt**

*Grant Administrator*

B.A. Integrated Studies,  
Earth Systems Science & Visual and Public  
Art

### **Wilisha Daniels**

*Conservation Assistant*

M.S. Public Administration  
B.A. Communications

### **Gretchen Huie**

*Conservation Intern, Americorps Volunteer*

M.S. Sustainable Forestry and Land Use  
Management

B.S. Environmental Soil and Water Science

### **Katie Bliven**

*Conservation Intern*

Student



# CONSERVATION DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN NEVADA DONORS AND PARTNERS

## INDIVIDUALS

Leo & Margaret Connolly

Greg Currier

## CORPORATIONS AND FOUNDATIONS

Dura Plastic Products, Inc.

DW Landscaping

Eastman Kodak Company

Ecco Equipment

GC Wallace Engineering

Gothic Landscaping

High Desert RC&D

JW Zunino & Associates

Mojave Water Management

Mountain States Wholesale Nursery

MWH

National Association of Conservation  
Districts

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Nevada Association of Conservation  
Districts

Nevada Power

Nevada Shade Tree Council

Parson Brothers Construction

Partners in Conservation

Rainbird

Sloan Quarry

Southern Nevada Arborist Group

Southern Nevada Water Authority

Star Nursery

The Conservation Fund

TJ Krob Consulting Engineers, Inc.

Valley Blue Print

Valley Crest Landscaping

## GOVERNMENT

Bureau of Land Management

Bureau of Reclamation

City of Henderson

City of North Las Vegas

Clark County

Clark County Health District

National Park Service—Rivers, Trails and  
Conservation Assistance Program

Nevada Division of Conservation Districts

Nevada Division of Environmental  
Protection—319 Water Quality Grant  
Program

Nevada Division of Forestry—Urban &  
Community Forestry Program

Nevada Division of State Parks—Land &  
Water Conservation Fund

Nevada Division of State Parks-  
Recreational Trails Program

Nevada Division of Wildlife

Regional Flood Control District

State of Nevada

USDA Natural Resources Conservation  
Service

US Forest Service

## OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

University of Nevada, Reno Cooperative  
Extension

