

# PARK MAP



For your next visit  
Here are some things you can  
do on your return visit to the  
park:

1. Write a story about what you did at the park.
2. Write a poem about the park.
3. Create a field guide with photos, clippings, drawings and sketches about your visit to the park. Bring it with you on your next visit. Go to [www.lasvegasnevada.gov](http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov) to learn about more fish, wildlife and historic buildings in the park.

## FLOYD LAMB PARK AT TULE SPRINGS

### Study/Activity Guide for Families and Students



#### Activities:

1. Imagine you are living and camping by the lake and living off the land. What would you eat, what would you wear and where would you stay at night? How would you survive? How would you entertain yourself? What games might you play and with whom? What animals would you have with you?

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## HISTORY OF THE PARK

**Floyd Lamb Park at Tule Springs** has been a work in progress for literally thousands of years. With signs of life dating to prehistoric times, the park has become a true oasis in the desert within the city of Las Vegas.

Fossil remains of early mammoths, bison, horses, camels and other Pleistocene fauna have been found documenting creatures that roamed the area long before humans. Early human habitation has been documented to have been in the park as many as 11,000 years ago. The Paiute Indians were known to have lived in the area hunting, fishing and planting using the land for their survival in this dry climate. Tule Springs was the source of water supplying their daily needs. Prospectors, travelers and the stage coach line stopped here because of the water as they traveled across the desert.

In the early 1900's, 10 acres in the area were purchased and cultivated by a man named John Herbert Nay. He sold his property in 1929 and the property remained vacant until 1941 when Prosper Jacob Goumond began to transform this desert into a working ranch. The working ranch became self-supportive raising livestock and growing all types of vegetables for the ranch hands who worked at Tule Springs. Gradually, it became a guest ranch accommodating several visitors who sometimes participated in the daily chores of the ranch. Over the years the property grew to 880 acres.

A group of businessmen purchased the property from Mr. Goumond's granddaughter in 1959 and leased it as a working cattle ranch until the city of Las Vegas purchased the property in 1964 for use as a city park and renamed it in honor of State Senator Floyd Lamb. The park was acquired by the state of Nevada by legislative action in 1977. On July 2, 2007, it was officially transferred back to the city of Las Vegas at which time the park was renamed Floyd Lamb Park at Tule Springs.

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Ricki Y. Barlow, Bob Coffin, Bob Beers



# THINGS TO SEE AND DO AT THE PARK

**HISTORIC RANCH** • Twenty-three buildings are clustered in the historic area of the park. On your first visit try to see the following prominent buildings:

**Ranch House:** Previously called the Foreman's House, the Ranch House has recently been restored and is the new Visitors Center for the park. See the exhibits inside.

**Adobe Hut:** It is the oldest building in the park. It is estimated to have been constructed as early as 1900 although some reports say 1916. It is made of caliché, crusted calcium carbonate formed on certain soils in dry regions. The building may have been used as a home or blacksmith shop.

**Power Building:** This was the sole source of power for the entire ranch and made it a self-sustaining location.

**Water Tower:** This tower was recognizable for miles and was the conservator of the ranch's water supply. The second level provided a wonderful panoramic view of the area and the nearby mountains and included an apartment for the staff.

**TULE SPRINGS LAKE** • Take a stroll around Tule Springs Lake. Look at the tall tule reeds in the lake. This tall plant grows in freshwater marshes like the lake here in the park. A tule duck was a decoy for fishing and hunting made from the reed. You can look for fish in the lake.

**Rainbow Trout:** This species of fish is native to the Pacific Ocean and especially the western United States. Genetic studies have shown that these trout are genetically close to Pacific salmon. The life span of a Rainbow Trout is between one to two and a half years. They are predators eating any smaller fish. Rainbow Trout are popular in Western cuisine. Don't forget to see the other lakes in the park: Cottonwood, Willow and Mulberry. You can also fish in the lake but remember a license is needed.



- Activities:**
1. Draw a picture of Tule Springs Lake. Include as many elements as you saw while strolling around the lake.
  2. Become an eco explorer learning how animals and plants live together.
  3. Plan a hike from some point in town and plan to arrive at the park as your final destination. Spend the day touring the park and enjoying a lunch.

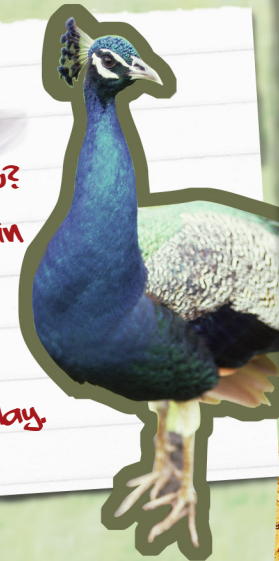
- Activities:**
1. Follow the paths and read the signs. See if you can list six other different buildings here.
  2. Tell in your own words what it would be like to have lived on the ranch.

**WILDLIFE IN THE PARK** • You saw the fish in the lake but there are many other examples of wildlife in the park. You might spot a jackrabbit, wild geese or at night see foxes or coyotes, but the wildlife you will see most frequently in the park is something you will never forget.

**Peacock:** It is very large with bright tail feathers of blue and green with eyelike circles in various colors. It is a type of pheasant although no one would think of eating them. They roost in the trees in the park at night and gather in groups during the day for one of their peafowl parties. They eat insects, vegetation and small mammals and lizards. Their distinct sound is unmistakable in the park but stay away from them. They are not good pets as they are abrasive and can be testy both with other pets and humans. Be careful not to pet these creatures as they would rather be left alone.

## Activities:

1. What animal in the park speaks the loudest to you?
2. What wildlife did you see in the park today?
3. Follow one of the wild animals around the park and document what he/she does during the day.



**BIRDS & WATER BIRDS** • As you walk throughout the park look around to see how many types of birds you can find. The killdeer, kestrels, tree swallows, yellow warblers and the ruddy ducks (or great egrets or cormorants) have all been seen in the park. You may also see red-tailed hawks or falcons. Many of these migratory birds come to the lake not only for the water but to feed on the fish.

**Yellow-Headed Blackbird:** With a length of eight and a half inches and a sharply pointed bill, this bird is easily identified by its bright yellow head and breast in contrast to the rest of its body. It frequents marshy habitats like the Tule Lake in the summer and often flocks with other species of blackbirds.

**Mallard Duck:** The most recognizable of all ducks is the male because of its distinctive, green head, black rear end and a yellowish orange bill tipped with black. The female is light brown. The male has a nasal call; the female has a quack typically associated with ducks. They, like the yellow-headed blackbirds, frequent wetlands feeding on plant food.

**Burrowing Owl:** This special owl lives in the park. Do you see any in the trees? This owl is a small, long-legged creature found in grasslands, rangelands, agricultural areas, deserts or any other areas that are dry and with little vegetation. They nest and roost in burrows like prairie dogs. They have bright yellow eyes with yellowish, greenish beaks and legs without feathers and are grayish in color. Its face is flat with prominent white eyebrows and a white chin patch.



## Activities:

1. Take a photo of one of the birds in the park and see if you can identify the name of the bird.
2. Make today part of a bird study and document all the different types of birds you saw in the park today. Research each one to learn more.

**NATIVE AMERICANS** • The earliest inhabitants were nomadic Indian tribes. They called themselves "tudini" which means "desert people." The most recent inhabitants were Native Americans known as the Southern Paiutes, descendants of the "tudini." They took advantage of the seasons and the water supply at Tule Springs. Tule Springs was a natural watering hole and even in the winter months they stayed near Tule Springs in what were temporary shelters made from mesquite branches, shrubs and tules. Articles such as turquoise ornaments, pottery pieces, knife fragments and scrapers were found as evidence of the "tudini" having lived in the area. In the spring they would grow vegetables including corn, beans and squash, and harvest them for storing for the fall and winter seasons. They would hunt and store the meat such as rabbit for stew in various preservatives so it would be available for consumption during the long cold winter. They used the pelts for blankets. They would pick the pine nuts to use in cooking and the mesquite for firewood. They would collect materials such as Tule reed for making baskets, clothing and other things.

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