

CHAPTER TWO



EXISTING CONDITIONS



Floyd Lamb Park is located approximately 15 miles northwest of downtown Las Vegas in the Las Vegas Valley of the Mojave Desert. The Sheep Mountain Range is visible to the North, Red Rock Canyon is located to the west, and Mount Charleston, the highest peak in the Spring Mountains, can be seen to the far west beyond Red Rocks. The park is host to 200,000 annual visitors and is a rare oasis from urban life.

2.1 Overall Context

An estimated 200,000 people visit Floyd Lamb State Park annually primarily between the months of March and May and again in the fall until Thanksgiving. Easter Sunday is the peak visitation day of the year and Mother’s Day is the second busiest day. The park employees turn people away on most Easter Sunday’s allowing only one car in as another car leaves the park.

Daily visitors to the park are mostly local residents who walk dogs and hike and basically visit the park as a retreat from the pace of urban life in the city. The park offers five passes for park use:

- daily per car (\$6)
- daily walk/bike/horse into park (\$1)
- annual Floyd Lamb State Park pass (\$60)
- annual pass for all Nevada State Parks (\$90)
- senior citizens permit which gives free access to all Nevada State Parks but does not include fees for electric hookups at campgrounds (\$15)

According to the Nevada Commission on Tourism, Master Plan, (1987), Floyd Lamb State Park provides six out of eight activities that draw tourists to Nevada. These activities or elements include the following: historic sites, recreation sites, museums, special events, wildlife, and trails.

Note: This Chapter contains a summary of the existing conditions, operations and development that is found within Floyd Lamb Park. Nothing in this Chapter is a recommendation for what should happen to the Park. All recommendations are defined at the end of Chapter 3 and in Chapters 4 and 5.



Park Core. The Park Core includes four man-made lakes for fishing and wildlife, picnic facilities (far above) and historic ranch buildings such as the Water Tower.

BLM lands. The R&PP lands leased from the Bureau of Land Management encompass the largest area of the Park site. This particular view is facing north along Torrey Pines Road in the southeast corner of the Park boundary. Note the power line corridor in the distance which follows a future transportation corridor.



2.2 Division of the Site

For purposes of this study, the Floyd Lamb Park Master Plan will address four major components totalling 2,065 acres; the Park Core, the Bureau of Land Management Lands, the planned Equestrian Park on the northeastern edge of the boundary, and leased lands for other facilities such as the Department of Forestry Nursery, the Las Vegas Gun Club Shooting Range, the Nevada Zoological Society, and Humphrey's Horses which operates two equestrian facilities.

2.2.1 Park Core

The Park Core encompasses 680 acres formally recognized as Floyd Lamb State Park and includes recreation facilities, the historic Tule Springs Ranch, and two private equestrian facilities, operated by one equestrian company, which lease land for stables, fenced training areas, and offices.

2.2.2 Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Lands (Recreation and Public Purpose Lease Lands)

The 1,385 acres of Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) lands are leased from the Bureau of Land Management under a 25-year lease, which will expire in 2011. These lands, owned by the BLM but managed by State Parks, include the Conservation Transfer Area (CTA) (approximately 1,275 ac inside the study area) and are the largest contiguous amount of open space within the park boundary. The CTA was defined with the Las Vegas Valley Disposal Boundary Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to meet the requirements of the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) of 1998 and the Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002 (Clark County Act). The EIS studied the potential impacts of three alternatives of the disposal of federal lands to meet development needs of the Las Vegas Valley. The CTA follows the Upper Las Vegas Wash with the intent of protecting sensitive environmental resources. According to the EIS, no titles to lands within the CTA will be transferred to local or regional government agencies without the agencies first signing a Con-

servation Agreement, which would concentrate on the long-term protection of sensitive resources.

2.2.3 Equestrian Park (planned)

The Proposed Northwest Las Vegas Equestrian Park, planned for the northeast edge of the study area boundary includes 320 acres of facilities. This equestrian facility will host regional and national events and provide a wide range of arenas, trails, horse boarding facilities, RV parking with hookups, and ample vehicular parking. The park is designed to accommodate local equestrian traffic as well by providing additional trails throughout the open space surrounding the formal arena areas. Local equestrian trails connect to this planned park allowing local residents to access the facilities without having to drive.

2.2.4 Las Vegas Gun Club

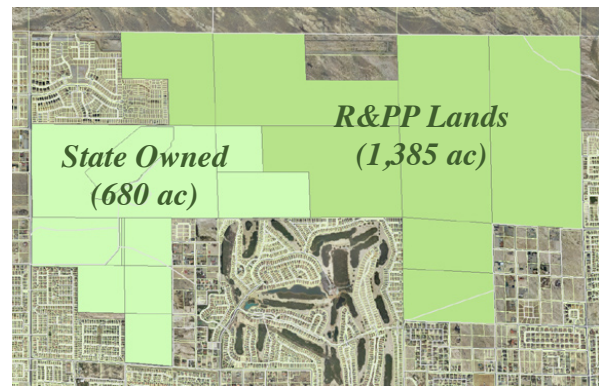
The Las Vegas Gun Club, formerly the “Mint Gun Club”, operates the shooting range adjacent to the west side of the Park Core covering 63 acres. The club offers trap, skeet, and sporting clays for amateurs and seasoned shooters, a Wednesday night trap shooting league, and a restaurant and bar. The Las Vegas Gun Club carries on the tradition of shooting that was popular when the Tule Springs Ranch offered a taste of the ranch life for visitors with shooting, carriage rides, and ranch chores. Their lease from the Park expires December 2008.

2.2.5 Division of Forestry Nursery

The Nevada Division of Forestry manages approximately 25 acres just east of the Park Core area. The nursery cultivates conservation plant materials which stabilize soil, improve water quality, and contribute to wildlife habitat. A variety of native and adaptive plants are grown and sold to local and regional organizations specializing in conservation projects such as in the Las Vegas Wash. Private land owners can also purchase plants from the nursery.



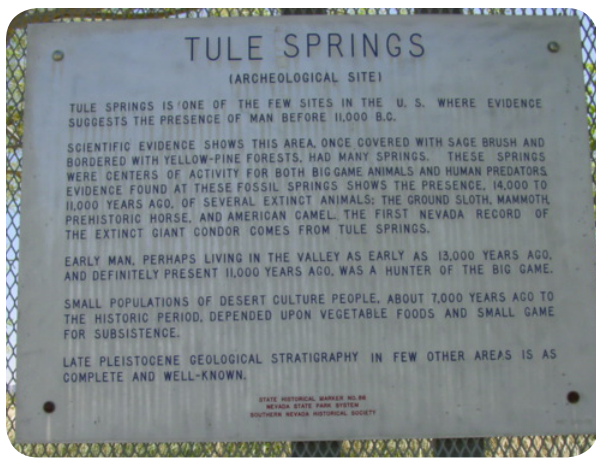
Department of Forestry Nursery. Native plant species are cultivated here for use in road construction projects.



Park Boundary. 2,065 acres are included in the Park Boundary including the 329 acre future Northwest Equestrian Park)

Equestrian Park. First-class equestrian facilities and miles of trail will be included in the 320 acre planned Equestrian Park. (Rendering courtesy of gh2 Gralla Architects).





Tule Springs Archeological Sites. This educational sign describes the wildlife and man that inhabited the area because of the natural water source from the springs.



Caliche Stone Hut. John Herbert Nay, the first known owner of Tule Springs in recent history, constructed this caliche stone hut which is in dire need of preservation work.

Park Sign. This sign, on the outskirts of the Park, notes the significance of the springs to early travellers.



Existing Resources Inventory

2.3 Historical / Cultural Resources

2.3.2 Natural History

Thousands of years ago, Tule Springs was home to multiple natural springs and the surrounding mountains were forested, which provided a water source and habitat for wildlife and vegetation. The largest archaeological dig of Tule Springs occurred in the fall of 1962 to early 1963. Researchers found the teeth, jawbone and tusk of a Columbian mammoth and ancient human tools dating back as far as 13,000 years. There may be additional archaeological resources on the park site and surrounding BLM lands which have yet to be discovered. The potential sites should be further surveyed to locate and preserve any potential resources.

2.3.2 Settlement History

2.3.2.1 Native American

Nomadic Indian tribes were the first humans occupying the land around Tule Springs including the Paiute Indians. Rock rings with scattered shards of pottery, indicative of Paiute Indian pottery, were found in three locations in the southern area of the Park Core according to the 1987 Master Plan of the park.

2.3.2.2 Ownership

2.3.2.1 Working Ranch

John Herbert (Bert) Nay was the first person to apply for the water rights to Tule Springs in 1916. He established 10 acres of farmland and built the caliche stone hut, which, in poor condition, is still located on site. His family used the ranch as a retreat from the city but his children still attended school in the city. The park went through two other owners before being sold to Prosper Jacob Goumond in 1941. Goumond expanded the ranch lands to 680 acres and constructed many of the historic ranch era buildings in existence today. The first round of buildings were built for the operation of the ranch such as the cookhouse, the main residence, the water tower, chicken houses, and the generator to provide power enabling the ranch to function self-sufficiently. The ranch raised various farm animals including a special cross-breed of cattle called “Brangus”, chickens, turkeys, peacocks, pigs, and horses, produced alfalfa, tended a fruit orchard, and a large garden.

In the late 1940’s, Goumond allowed paying guests to visit the ranch and even constructed additional buildings and amenities for creature comfort. These include the guest houses, tennis courts, a swimming pool, and a fishing pond with a suspension



Generator Building and Swimming Pool.
The generator building was constructed to supply power to the ranch and make it a self-sufficient operation. The swimming pool, currently filled in, was one of the later comforts that Goumond added to the ranch to appeal to his paying clientele.

Families of Murder Victims Memorial Grove
An existing tree grove just south of Mulberry Lake was created for families to plant trees and remember loved ones. This memorial will remain in place after the City takes over ownership of Floyd Lamb Park.



will host public activities or otherwise be considered ‘public assembly areas’ to reduce the liability for the park. If certain structures will only have ‘visual access’, i.e. no one would be permitted inside the structure, limited rehabilitation such as cosmetic would be required.

According to the current park supervisor, the foundations of the buildings in the historic district were repaired 10 years ago as well as the flooring in all but two buildings. The buildings needing floor repairs include the water tower and the generator building. Additional repairs in various buildings are needed.

Several of the buildings have knotted pine walls, which require a finish for their protection. None of the dude ranch buildings currently have power or lighting, but lighting should be considered for security at night.

The Water Tower is one of the most prominent buildings in the historic area of the Park. It is the tallest structure and one of the first constructed during Goumond’s ownership of the ranch.

Another prominent structure is the hay barn. The 1987 Master Plan described using the hay barn as a visitor’s center, but was not implemented due to historic building issues conflicting with renovations required to meet the fire code.

2.1.2.3 Families of Murder Victims Memorial Grove

Approximately 15 years ago, a memorial tree grove was begun in Floyd Lamb Park, south of Mulberry Lake and east of Willow Lake, to serve as a place where families of murder victims could plant trees in memory of loved ones. The tree grove has been maintained by State Parks staff and by the families. An obelisk near a sitting area designates the location and significance of the tree grove. Small plaques near the planted trees recognize the names of the deceased. When the Park is transferred into city ownership, the memorial tree grove will continue to be maintained by the City of Las Vegas.

2.4 Earth resources

2.4.1 Topography

In general, the overall topography is relatively flat rising up from the south to the alluvial fan at the foothills of the Sheep Mountains in the north and the Spring Mountains to the west. The overall elevation change is approximately 100 feet from 2,485 feet above sea level in the northwest corner of the study area boundary to 2,395 in the south east corner.

2.4.2 Soils

Five different soil types are present in the Park Core and BLM lands. These include: Casaga, Dalian, Glencarb, Weiser, and Badland. Most of these are a combination of gravelly or very cobbly fine sandy loams. Three different geologic features determine the soils in the Park and surrounding BLM lands: lake sediment, caliche, and alluvial gravel.

The lake sediment was deposited millions of years ago when the Las Vegas Valley was covered with lakes. This sediment is highly erosive as is evident in areas where the storm runoff has cut through the layers of sediment to reveal erosion resistant caliche.

Caliche is the second geographic feature found in the Park lands and is essentially impermeable soil cemented by calcium or magnesium carbonates which remains after overland water flows. It is not subject to erosion and is often used as a subbase beneath structures because of its strength. In the Park it reaches depths of up to 3 feet.

The last geographic feature is the alluvial gravel which is found where stream or overland water sheet flowed. The gravel occurring where streams flowed is found in the eastern, central, and southern areas of the site and ranges from 1 to 8.5 feet in depth. The sheet flow gravel is only up to 1 foot in depth and is found mainly west of the Gun Club trap area between outcrops of caliche.

2.4.3 Air

No notable air pollution exists in the study area aside from dust particles stirred up during activities at the Park Core and from adjacent construction. Winds are predominantly from the south west during the summer and from the northwest during the winter.



Child and wildlife at Tule Lake. The largest lake in the Park is Tule Lake which provides water and habitat for various waterfowl.

2.5 Water Resources

Water is found in two forms in the study area; surface and groundwater. The Las Vegas Wash, floodplains, and the four man-made lakes in the Park Core comprise the surface water. The existing aquifer comprise the groundwater sources.

2.5.1 Upper Las Vegas Wash

The Las Vegas Wash drains the Las Vegas Valley and has been impacted by the surrounding development and channelization of water during storm events resulting in less area for water to filtrate and recharge the groundwater. The Upper Las Vegas Wash flows just north of the Park Core area through the Conservation Transfer Area and into the Las Vegas Wash which ultimately outlets into Lake Mead. During Pleistocene times, water flowed through the wash supporting a variety of plant and animal life and to this day there are probably numerous undiscovered archaeological resources located in and around the Wash.

2.5.2 The Lakes

The four man-made lakes located at Tule Springs total almost 10 acres of water and support various species of vegetation and wildlife. The bottom surfaces of the lakes are natural and therefore some seepage is expected. The water from the lakes supplies the extensive irrigation system. In addition to irrigation, water evaporates from the lakes and is replenished weekly through water pumped from two wells on site. These wells were dug in the original locations of the springs when the springs' water supply dried up, due to a lower water table.

Tule Springs Lake. The expansive 5 acres of Tule Lake contribute to the "oasis" feel of Floyd Lamb State Park. Note the view of snow-capped Mount Charleston on the distance.



The largest and southern-most lake, Tule Springs Lake, is 5 acres of surface water with a depth of 17 feet at its deepest point. Mulberry Lake is the second largest lake and located the furthest north. It contains 2.7 acres of surface water and is 15 feet deep at its deepest point. This lake has the most developed edge of any of the lakes, composed of concrete benches and platforms, which allow visitors to walk slightly out over the water.

Both Cottonwood Lake and Desert Willow Lake are less than 1 acre of surface water, and they are also hydraulically connected to smaller drainage areas. These small ‘pocket lakes’ fill up during storm events from overflow creating islands between the lakes.

2.5.3 Floodplain

The floodplain includes land in the vicinity of the Upper Las Vegas Wash. As surrounding urban development increases, and there is less open land for water to flow over and filter back into the groundwater, the larger the floodplain will become.

2.5.4 Groundwater

Water is supplied to the Las Vegas Valley by two sources: Lake Mead through the City water system and individual wells. Due to increased development and subsequent use of individual wells, the water levels in the underground aquifer have been decreasing. New development is required to tie into the City water system. Depending on the water rights, as new development reaches close proximity to existing properties, well-users with revokable water rights are forced to cap their wells and tie into the City of Las Vegas water system. This will help the aquifer to recharge.

Floyd Lamb Park owns the water rights to its property and utilizes two on-site wells. One is the primary well for refilling the lakes after they are depleted for irrigation. The other well serves as a backup should problems arise with the first well. The Park owns the water rights on the property and continues to use 830 acre feet of water annually.



Mulberry Lake. The developed edge of Mulberry Lake enables visitors to gather at the lake’s edge without causing damage to soils or vegetation.



Chuckwalla Lizard.



Merriam's Kangaroo Rat.



Desert Woodrat. Photos courtesy of www.birdandhike.com

Desert Tortoise. Photo courtesy of Gerald and Buff Coral, California Academy of Sciences and CalPhotos.



2.6 Biological Resources

The study area is host to four different plant communities: Mojave Creosote Bush Scrub, Mojave Wash Scrub, Desert Saltbush Scrub, and a semi-native Riparian plant community. The three main factors that dictate which plant communities exist and flourish are: soil types, elevation, and water availability.

The southeastern water run-off out of the Spring Mountains and resulting sediment deposit formed large alluvial fan 'fingers'. The end of this alluvial fan meets up with northwest corner of Floyd Lamb Park. Formations called bajadas are formed by the lateral merging and blending of these alluvial fans. These Bajadas extend from the base of the Spring Mountain range out onto the floodplain, also known as northwest Las Vegas Valley. Evaporates from runoff commonly contain chlorides, sulfates, nitrates, carbonates, and borates. These salts create a very alkaline environment. Soils with high alkalinity are favored by the Desert Saltbush Scrub plant community.

2.6.1 Desert Saltbush Scrub Ecosystem

The aspect and character of the Desert Saltbush Scrub plant community is often defined by a nearly uniform stand of shrubs approximately 1 meter tall. This forms a more complete cover than in Creosote Bush Scrub. Four-winged saltbush, *Atriplex canescens* var. *Linearis*, and screwbean mesquite, and *Prosopis glandulosa* var. *torreyana* are common associates. *Atriplex canescens* is more dominant in dryer, coarser soils and occurs throughout the saltbush scrub habitat. *Prosopis glandulosa*, the Honey Mesquite, reaches greater development in lower-elevation areas with a shallow water table or capillary fringe. *Haplopappus acradenius* ssp. *Eremophylus*, the Alkali Goldenbush, is common in areas where *P. glandulosa* is dominant.

2.6.2 Creosote Bush Scrub

The Creosote Bush Scrub plant community is relatively tall and broad compared with other Mojave Desert plant communities. Although the Creosote Bush is absent around playas because of high salinity, its height, makes it visually dominate even when it is not very dense. The size and rigor of the Creosote Bush is strongly influenced by water availability. The largest individuals are characteristically found along the edges of washes and roads. Other shrub species occurring most commonly with creosote bush are spiny hopsage, winterfat, wolfberry, golden cholla, beavertail (*Opuntia basilaris*), Mormon tea (*Ephedra nevadensis* and *E. californica*) and Acton daisy (*Encelia actonii*).

2.6.3 Mojave Desert Wash Scrub Ecosystem

The Mojave Desert Wash Scrub plant community occurs as narrow ribbons of vegetation in ephemeral water drainages. A very distinctive set of plant species can occur in washes in the Mojave Desert. Distinctive wash plants in the middle and upper portion of the wash are sandpaper plant (*Petalonyx thurberi*), Mojave indigo bush (*Psoralea argophylla*), California tea (*Ephedra californica*) and paper bag bush (*Salazaria mexicana*).

The Mojave Desert is home to one of the most extreme climates in the United States. When combined; temperatures ranging from under ten to over 115 degrees and strong seasonal winds from 25-75 M.P.H. create a climate that requires significant adaptations from both its flora and fauna. These adaptation requirements make for a diverse cross-section of native animals. Some animals native to Desert Saltbush Scrub, Creosote Bush Scrub, and Mojave Desert Wash Scrub plant communities are listed in the table to the right.

The presence of water and variations in elevation in the Las Vegas Valley make this portion of the Mojave the most diverse in plant and animal life. Ironically, some of the climatically toughest have suffered substantial blows in the last decade. The poster plant and animal for this decline have been the Las Vegas Bearpoppy and Desert Tortoise. The onslaught of development in the Las Vegas Valley has encroached upon a large area of habitat for both of these species and many others. Because very specific adaptations are required of the plants and animals in the Las Vegas Valley, many of these animals become dependent on a precise environment and ecosystem. Any abnormal disturbances in this environment set off sometimes fatal chains of reaction.

The realization that species like the Desert Tortoise and Las Vegas Bearpoppy are declining in numbers has created a shift in the development of the Las Vegas Valley. Land trades are being re-thought in some key habitat areas.

Common Name	Scientific Name
<i>Perognathus longimembris</i>	Little Pocket Mouse
<i>Peromyscus maniculatus</i>	Deer Mouse
<i>Chaetodipus formosus</i>	Long-tailed Pocket mouse
<i>Dipodomys merriami</i>	Merriam's Kangaroo Rat
<i>Dipodomys panamintinus</i>	Mojave Kangaroo Rat
<i>Onychomys torridus</i>	Southern Grasshopper Mouse
<i>Reithrodontomys megalotis</i>	Desert Harvest Mouse
<i>Neotoma lepida</i>	Desert Woodrat
<i>Sylvilagus audubonii</i>	Desert Cottontail
<i>Vulpes macrotis</i>	Desert Kit Fox
<i>Canis latrans</i>	Coyote
<i>Athene cucularia</i>	Burrowing Owl
<i>Myotis californicus</i>	California Myotis
<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	Pallid Bat
<i>Eumops perotis californicus</i>	Great Western Mastiff Bat
<i>Callisaurus draconoides</i>	Zebra-tailed Lizard
<i>Scaphiopus sp.</i>	Spade-foot Toad
<i>Gophers egassizii</i>	Desert Tortoise
<i>Crotalus scutulatus</i>	Mojave Green Rattlesnake
<i>Heloderma suspectum</i>	Gila Monster
<i>Lynx rufus</i>	Bobcat
<i>Vulpes macrotis</i>	Kit Fox
<i>Euderma maculatum</i>	Spotted Bat
<i>Lepus californicus</i>	Black-tailed Jackrabbit
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Golden Eagle
<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	Red-tailed Hawk
<i>Sauromalus ater</i>	Chuckwalla Lizard
<i>Crotaphytus bicinctores</i>	Chuckwalla Lizard

Native Animals. *Animals native to the Desert Saltbush Scrub, Creosote Bush Scrub, and Mojave Desert Wash Scrub plant communities.*

Las Vegas Bearpoppy. *Photo by Susan Cochrane Levitsky for the Nevada Natural Heritage Program.*





Killdeer. Photo courtesy of www.spurr.pls.uni.edu



Cormorants. Photo courtesy of Dave Ingram at www.surfbirds.com.



Yellow-headed blackbird. Photo courtesy of www.rdonath.com.

Riparian ecosystem. Non-native riparian vegetation around Tule Lake.



2.6.4 Desert Riparian Ecosystem

The element of water is one of the things that distinguishes Floyd Lamb Park from many areas throughout the Las Vegas Valley. Although the original springs have long since been depleted, four well-fed lakes support a host of vegetation and animals both native and exotic. The area around the lakes was once slated to become an arboretum. To support this arboretum idea, many non-native trees were planted these trees include: Mulberries, Elms, and Weeping Willows. Some of the more native trees growing in this area are Desert Willow and Cottonwoods. Cat-tails grow in and around the water as well.

Floyd Lamb Park lakes also draw a host of animals, the most obvious being birds. A few of the birds that have been seen around the core of the park are: Killdeer, Ruddy Duck, Kestrel, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Yellow Warblers, and Tree Swallows. There is also a healthy population of migratory water fowl including: Mallard Ducks, Pintail Ducks, Wood Ducks, Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets, and Cormorants. Many of these birds are brought to these lakes not just by the water but by what is in the water, fish.

There are no known native fish living in the lakes at Floyd Lamb Park, but these lakes are faithfully stocked in the winter with Rainbow Trout and in the summer with Channel Catfish. There are also some self-maintaining populations of: Large Mouth Bass, Blue Gill, Green Sunfish, Carp, Red-eared Sunfish, and Bull Head Catfish.

2.7 Auditory Resources

Throughout the Park Core area, sounds of nature abound. The call of the peacock is the most prevalent along with sounds of other domestic animals such as chickens and horses in the background. Due to the water source found in the four man-made lakes, wildlife habitat surrounding the four man-made lakes supports a great number of bird species including the Killdeer, Kestrels, Tree Swallows, and duck species among others. The songs of the various birds in the large hardwood trees are almost overwhelming around the east side of Mulberry Lake.

Closer to the park entrance, the leaves of the large hardwood trees and the Cat-tails and tules around the lakes create a pleasant rustling sound when the wind blows across from the west.

Along with the natural sounds found throughout the site, the presence of man is heard. Gunshots fired from the Skeet Shooting range can be heard at Mulberry Lake and the surrounding picnic facilities. Construction noise is also heard in the background around the perimeters of the site. The pleasant sounds of people picnicking and kids playing can be heard around the picnic facilities.

2.8 Visual Resources

There are four types of views to consider when studying the views of Floyd Lamb State Park; approach views, internal views, views to the exterior and surrounding lands, and night views. Views should be a priority in the master planning process since views typically found in and around the Park are becoming more rare as development becomes more common.



Peacocks. The calls of the peacocks are almost overwhelming in the Park Core as these birds have free reign over the property and can be found walking around the historic area and perching on machinery.

Views near and far. The Sheep Mountains rise above the treeline looking north across Tule Springs Lake.





Mt.. Charleston. From this picnic area, Mt. Charleston rises above the riparian vegetation and existing hardwood trees.

2.8.1 Approach Views

Approaching the park from the south, one is hardly aware of the green Park Core area until at the park entrance gate due to the dense residential developments rising over two stories from the horizon.

2.8.2 Internal Views

Once inside the park boundaries, it is very obvious where the oasis created by the four man-made lakes is located. The green of the vegetation supported by the lakes stands out in stark contrast to the brown palette of the surrounding desert landscape. The vegetation creates a type of boundary between each individual lake and between the lakes and the surrounding picnic and park support facilities. Tall grasses in Tule Springs Lake even obstruct views from certain angles. Views from the surrounding BLM lands are much more open and expansive. However, even with the over 1,000 acres of open space in the BLM lands, one begins to feel a sense of enclosure as a result of the encroaching residential development surrounding the park boundaries.

2.8.3 Views to the Exterior

From the park boundaries, there is an almost 360 degree view of mountains in the far distance. The Sheep Mountains are to the north and Spring Mountains are to the west with the snow-capped Mount Charleston easily seen. In the foreground, however, these views are tainted with the roof lines of the surrounding residential development.

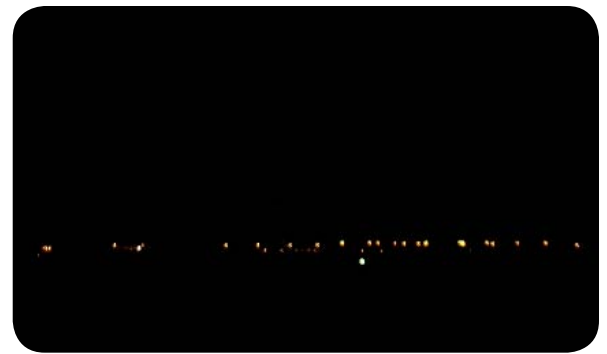
Encroaching residential development. Looking west, the Silverstone Golf Community can be seen in the foreground of the Spring Mountains.



2.8.4 Night Views

After the sun sets, Floyd Lamb Park makes it easy to forget about the city and enjoy some peace and quiet. Aside from a random far off siren, the only noises heard after dark are the resident peacocks and the rustle of the Cottonwood leaves in the breeze. The water is calm and a night visitor really has to look along the periphery to be distracted by residential and city lights. Jack Rabbits and Desert Cottontails skitter back and forth while owls and bats hunt for food. The Park Supervisor mentioned that Coyotes and Bobcats frequent the park during the night.

The peace and quiet of the Park makes it an ideal location for overnight camping. Campsites located in the Park Core would be easiest for Park staff to patrol and maintain.



Night lights. Looking southeast and southwest, the lights from the residential developments dot the horizon but do not impact the experience at the Park which has ample open space available.





Greenspace. The lawn areas of the Park Core, the man-made lakes, and the surrounding BLM lands compose the greenspace and openspace of Floyd Lamb State Park which is enjoyed by both humans and wildlife. Horse facilities and a trap and skeet shooting range are operated separate from the Park, but lease Park land.



2.9 Land Use

Floyd Lamb Park's Park Core and the surrounding BLM lands host various uses ranging from greenspace or openspace to unintended land uses. The majority of the land is considered greenspace.

2.9.1 Greenspace

Greenspace is the major land use on the Floyd Lamb State Park. This includes space for active recreational activities such as skeet shooting and horse back riding and passive recreational activities such as hiking, fishing, and picnicking to occur which are found primarily in the Park Core area.

2.9.2 Agricultural

The Nevada Department of Forestry Nursery is the only agricultural land use area within the park boundary. The nursery cultivates native and adapted plant species primarily for use in conservation projects.

2.9.3 Residential

Floyd Lamb State Park is surrounded by rapidly encroaching single-family residential development on the south, east, and west which affects the views from within the park. Some existing smaller homes on larger lots do still exist. Many of these residents originally moved into the area to be able to board and ride their horses from their homes.

2.9.4 Infrastructure

Infrastructure land uses include water, sewer, roads, rights of way, future transportation corridors, buildings, detention ponds, and trails.

The Park Core is served by two wells, one primary and one backup, which provide potable water and water for irrigation. Currently, the Park is served by on site septic tanks for sanitary sewer waste.

The Park has one main paved access road (Tule Springs Road) with several other dirt and gravel roads, primarily maintenance access roads, spurring off of it. Tule Springs Road acts as a channel for water during storm events. The Park is served by telephone and electric power.

A proposed transportation corridor is located along the northern property boundary where currently large electric power lines and structures are located. This road, if constructed, would negatively affect the surrounding BLM lands by causing habitat fragmentation for species in the Upper Las Vegas Wash. Construction vehicular activity would also increase noise and air pollution in the area.

Over 20 existing buildings are in the historic area of the Park Core. In addition, there are multiple picnic structure and associated restroom facility buildings. All of these buildings need constant maintenance and some buildings, particularly in the historic area, need significant upgrades (see Ownership – Working Ranch section of the document).

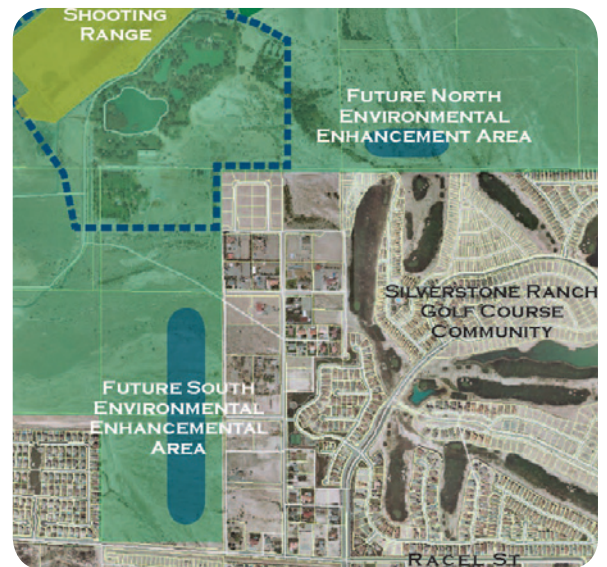
Two Environmental Enhancement Areas, one 28 acres in the northeastern portion of the Park (Tule Basin) and another 69 acres in the southern portion of the Park (Brent Basin), are currently in the design phase. Landscape planting, educational, and recreation opportunities are being explored as part of the design of these basins.

Trails make up the last component of the infrastructure land use category. A variety of pedestrian and equestrian trails are located within the Park Core and the BLM lands. These trails connect park visitors to the Park Core amenities such as picnic areas and the lakes as well as to the historic area and the large expanse of open space, which can be experienced by horseback in the BLM lands.



Park entrance road. *Tule Springs Road serves as the entrance and main connector road to the Park as well as a storm water channel for water during storm events. Increased development around the Park causes water to overflow the road during recent years.*

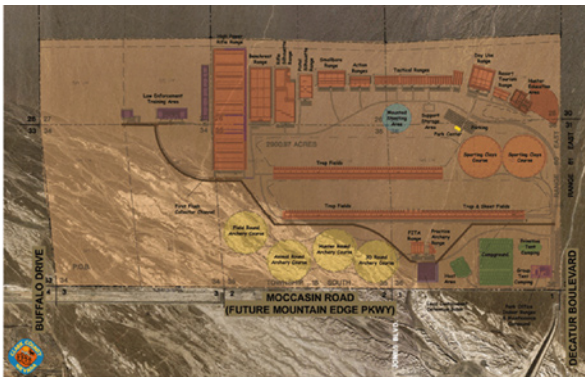
Flood management. *The city proposes to install new Environmental Enhancement Areas within Floyd Lamb Park that will address management of rainstorm flooding events that impact Northwest Las Vegas communities.*





Illegal dumping. Construction debris clutters the view of the Spring Mountains. A defined boundary to the Park lands would increase awareness of the Park and reduce illegal activity.

Clark County Shooting Park. 2,900 acres of land are master planned for a world-class public shooting facility which includes a cowboy shooting group where participants dress in cowboy attire and shoot while horseback riding. (Master Plan image courtesy of the Clark County Parks & Recreation website. Photo courtesy of Don Turner, project manager for the Shooting Park).



CLARK COUNTY SPORT SHOOTING PARK
CONCEPTUAL MASTER PLAN



2.9.6 Unintended Land Use

Due to the expansive nature of the BLM lands, several unintended land uses are occurring including unregulated shooting, ATV riding, paintball, and illegal dumping. Unregulated shooting is a big concern for equestrians. Not only does the noise spook the horses, but stray bullets can be dangerous to horses and humans making horseback riding uncomfortable. With the construction of the planned Clark County Shooting Park, locals will have more opportunities to shoot safely. ATV riding trails and facilities should be considered for this Master Plan as well as paintball. Establishing a more definitive Park boundary will probably reduce the amount of illegal dumping (see Issues segment).

2.9.7 Adjacent Land Use

Floyd Lamb State Park is surrounded primarily by residential developments and also land planned for a public shooting facility.

2.9.7.1 Clark County Shooting Park (planned)

The Clark County Shooting Park is a planned 2,900 acre state-of-the-art multi-use facility just north of the Floyd Lamb State Park boundary. This park, planned to start construction in 2007, will provide facilities which include a hunter education center, an indoor range, public day-use ranges, tactical ranges, rifle and pistol silhouette ranges, a cowboy mounted shooting arena, and a 1,200-yard high-power rifle range (per The Range Report – Winter 2006 by C. Douglas Nielsen). The Shooting Park will also provide facilities for law enforcement training as well as an International Archery Federation approved archery range and three field courses.

The Shooting Park will provide 100 public RV camping hook ups as well as an additional 500 full RV hookups reserved for shooters at the trap and skeet shooting fields. Access to the Park will be at the corner of Decatur Boulevard and the future extension of Moccasin Avenue.

Local gun clubs will be able to rent ranges for a fee by following the Shooting Park's registration process since the Shooting Park will be operated by Clark County Parks & Recreation Department on a fee basis.

2.9.7.2 Silverstone Ranch

Silverstone Ranch is a Golf Course Community developed by Pulte Homes located south of the Park boundary approximately between Buffalo and Rainbow Streets.



Adjacent residential development. The clubhouse at the Silverstone Ranch Golf Course Community is one of the structures surrounding the boundary of the Park. (Photo courtesy of www.MillieFine.com)

New construction on the horizon. New homes compete with the surrounding mountains for the skyline.





Riding into the sunset. Park visitors can schedule riding tours of the surrounding BLM lands and carriage rides (see photo below) with one of the two horse facilities leasing land from the Park. Notice how close new construction activity is to this eastern edge of the Park boundary.



Shooting sports. The Las Vegas Gun Club operates a public shooting range which hosts shooting leagues. (Image courtesy of www.lasvegasgunclub.net)



2.10 Recreational Resources

Floyd Lamb Park and the surrounding BLM lands offer a variety of active and passive recreation opportunities, most of which are concentrated in the Park Core area.

The expansive open space of the BLM lands lends it to activities requiring a lot of land to occur such as equestrian trails.

The majority of recreation facilities are located in the Park Core area. Two active recreation activities, the skeet shooting range and the horse stables, are considered ‘private concessions’ and operated by organizations leasing property from the State of Nevada.

2.10.1 Active Recreation Facilities

The skeet shooting range, operated by the Las Vegas Gun Club, formerly the ‘Mint Gun Club’, is open to the public five days a week and hosts trap shooting leagues on Wednesday evenings. It is located on the western edge of the Park Core and is accessed by car through Durango Boulevard.

Another active recreation facility is the horse facilities on an area leased by Humphery’s Horses and operated by Humphery’s Horses and Sagebrush-Ranch. These facilities provide horses for horseback riding lessons and riding tours. In addition to these on-site stables, visitors can park their horse trailers at the southern edge of the Park Core and access horse trails. With the completion of planned equestrian trails in the surrounding residential development, locals will be able to ride their horses into the park instead of trailering them.



2.10.2 Passive Recreation Facilities

Passive recreation activities are the more prevalent facility type in the Park Core area. Picnicking, fishing, and trail use are the primary activities.

2.10.2.1 Picnicking

Picnicking is a popular activity at Floyd Lamb Park. The Park has 64 picnic sites including roughly 90 total picnic tables. Some of these tables are located in the two large group areas while others are scattered amongst the lakes and the lawn at the historic area and are coupled with a grill located close to each table. During times of heavy use such as Easter and Mother's Day, visitors picnic on lawn areas causing damage to the lawn. There are at least eight more sheltered picnic areas surrounding the lakes allowing visitors to enjoy a picnic sheltered from the sun while sitting close to the lakes.

The two group areas in the park can accommodate 575 people total. The large group picnic area (#5 - the Grove) holds 500 people and the smaller (#3 - Cottonwood) holds 75 people. The #5 group picnic area is separated from the main circulation

Group picnics. The two group picnic areas are popular for reunions, corporate functions, and weddings. Individual tables are located with grills throughout the park. The expansive BLM land hold opportunities for expanding group picnic facilities which in turn could provide additional revenue for park maintenance and improvement projects.





Tag! You're it! Members of a group picnic play games next to Group Area #3. Group rates vary from \$75 for the first 100 people to up to \$500 for 500 people.



Park office sign. This sign speaks for itself.

Fishing at Floyd Lamb. Fishing clinics for the public and school groups are coordinated with the Wildlife Department and hosted on the lakes at Floyd Lamb.

patterns in the park and has its own parking area, making this group area easy for park staff to patrol. Group picnic area #3, the smaller group picnic area, is sandwiched between the edge of the lakes and the adjacent shooting range, allowing other park visitors to mingle through the group picnic. Gunshots can also be heard here from the Skeet Shooting Range, as well as the natural noises heard in the park.

The park requests groups of 50 or more make reservations well in advance. Reservations can be made beginning January 2 of each year and the prime reservation times are between late March through May. Reservations are made for company picnics, family and school reunions, weddings, scouts and various other groups. According to the park supervisor, the park turns away at least 100 groups requesting reservations due to lack of current park facilities. The group reservation rates are dependant on the number of people in the group and are in addition to the park entrance fee.

2.10.2.2 Fishing

In addition to picnicking, many park visitors travel to the park to fish in the man-made lakes, one of the few public fishing locations in Las Vegas. A Nevada State fishing license is required for adults and only shore fishing is allowed. Swimming and boating activity is prohibited in the lakes. The Nevada Department of Wildlife stocks Tule Springs Lake with catfish in the summer and rainbow trout in the winter. Fishing clinics are coordinated with the Nevada Department of Wildlife and are held for the public as well as school groups. Currently one group of senior citizens visits the park daily to fish.

2.10.2.3 Hiking / Biking Trails

Recreational trails provide circulation paths for visitors on foot, bike, or horse. There is variation in material and level of for-





mality of trails. There are formal concrete paths with stone aggregate accents between the structures in the Historic Area however the path adjacent to the parking lots in the Historic Area is less formal and constructed of compacted gravel. The paths around the lakes vary from dirt to compacted gravel to asphalt and concrete, with the majority of surface material being compacted gravel. The western edge of Mulberry Lake has the most developed edge. Consisting of concrete platforms with seating, this edge gives visitors the illusion of walking on the lake. One disadvantage of the concrete surface is the amount of bird droppings remaining on the concrete, which, are typically washed away on other trail surfaces.

Guided tours of the historic area can be scheduled and are led by Park seasonal employees. Due to the decreasing number of staff members however, guided tours are not conducted as frequently as in the past.

Biking trails are not noted as exclusively for biking, however, the trails located in the Park Core lend themselves to slower biking speeds due to their meandering nature and variation in surfaces.

Nice day for a walk. The Park offers various trails to allow visitors to walk, jog, and bike safely around the lakes and the historic area (below). Surface materials vary from high maintenance dirt and gravel to low maintenance asphalt and concrete. Equestrian traffic is discouraged from using these trails and a separate equestrian trail system is located in the BLM lands.

Paths in Historic Area. To access to the Spring House and Well (with stone base), a Park visitor must step off of the existing concrete path and onto the bare soil. A more definitive connection to the structures in the Historic Area would help limit possibly damaging traffic in sensitive areas.





Equestrian Trails. Equestrian trails can be accessed at the end of the entrance road near parking for Picnic Group Area #5.

2.10.2.4 Equestrian Trails

Horse and rider are welcome in Floyd Lamb Park, but upon arrival are very much left to their own device. Visitors with horse trailers pull into the first parking lot on the right shortly after entering. There are no formal equestrian facilities. Riders begin by heading northeast, they then head east along the southern perimeter of the park. The trail is native soil and is flanked on one side by a barbed wire fence preventing them from entering the actual park and on the other side by residential development and a golf course. No signage is provided but a few log road blocks have been set in an attempt to limit motor vehicles. Before heading out along the south perimeter horse and rider encounter a small shade shelter, a few horse pens, and a horse watering station. As people move further east the park fence ends and horse and rider are free to move out into open desert.

The open area north and east of the park presents horse and rider with fairly good footing, not too rocky and interesting topography. The topography gets more exaggerated as people move further north. Although this experience with mountain views to the west and north is a pleasant one, there are things to consider. Because this open area is not under park jurisdiction horse and rider share the land with ATV riders which can prove challenging. In addition to motor vehicles, equestrians should also be aware that extensive unauthorized shooting takes place in this area.

2.10.2.5 Camping

Since the Floyd Lamb State Park is currently a day-use facility, camping is prohibited. However, groups making special arrangements, such as boy scout troops, have been allowed to camp on site. There are currently no electric or water hookups for RV camping. However, RV hookups are located at the Las Vegas Gun Club. These are not only off-site, they are reserved for Gun Club visitors during special events. The Floyd Lamb Park office receives hundreds of phone calls each year requesting camping facilities from out of state visitors who are traveling



to Las Vegas. Consideration should be made for developing camping facilities as a form of revenue for park maintenance and improvement projects.

2.10.3 Recreational Support Facilities

In order to support both active and passive recreational facilities, Floyd Lamb Park has existing parking, restrooms, water fountains, trash receptacles, lighting, and security elements in place.

2.10.3.1 Parking

Parking for the Historical and Park Core areas is found close to these areas and to park entrance. The park contains a total of 223 paved parking spaces including 14 handicapped spaces. For the busiest days, several dirt overflow lots can also be used allowing the park to accommodate over 700 total cars. These parking areas are constructed of asphalt and gravel parking with timber wheelstops and concrete curb in some places. Handicapped parking spaces are identified with signs and paint markings and located at the southeast and the northwest corners of the Historic Area. Additional parking for the larger group picnic facilities is found along the main road through the park, Tule Springs Road.

2.10.3.2 Restrooms

There are 5 public restroom facilities throughout the park at the picnic areas. Four of these facilities are identical and are composed of 4 unisex stalls with an individual toilet and sink in each. The fifth restroom facility is located in the large group picnic area with 6 unisex stalls. All of the electric hand-dryers in the restrooms need to be replaced according to the Park Ranger.

2.10.3.3 Water Fountains

8 water fountains are scattered around the site. One fountain located on the back of the main ranch house needs repairs.



Typical restroom facility. Most restroom facility house 4 unisex bathroom stalls with individual sinks and toilets. The bathroom building at Group Area #5 has 6 stalls. The three signs shown below are located on every restroom building.

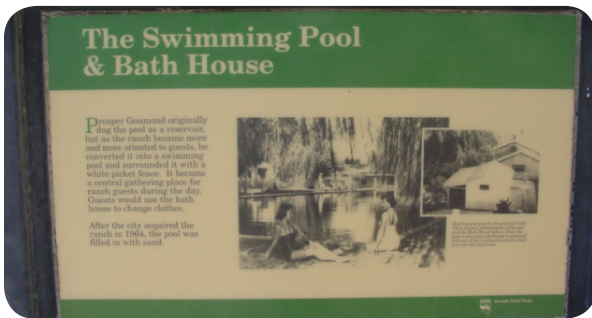


Parking and other support facilities. On a typical day, existing parking is adequate for the number of Park visitors. However on high volume days such as Easter and Mother's Day weekends, the Park welcomes more people and cars than it can often safely handle.





Informative. The only entrance to the park is delineated with this sign and a gate house. Pond regulations are outlined in the sign below which is located close to the lakes.



Interpretive signs. Signs explaining the historical significance of buildings (above) are located in the historic area. Signs identifying plant species (below) are almost hidden in the ground. More noticeable signs would increase awareness of vegetation and wildlife.



2.10.3.4 Trash

Trash receptacles are located throughout the picnic areas typically in round metal containers on concrete pads. Approximately 65 cans area checked twice daily and emptied when 1/2 full. Refuse is taken to a 20 cubic yard dumpster which is picked up weekly.

2.10.3.5 Lighting

Since the Park is a day use facility, lighting is limited to two key areas. Pole lighting at the lakes casts a low blue hue. Emergency exit signs in the Foreman’s House emit an eerie red glow. Stars are easily seen throughout the park as a result of the low level of night lighting.

2.10.3.6 Security

The law enforcement park employee position was recently eliminated and patrolling is now performed by the park maintenance staff. As a result of the ‘manned presence’ at the park in the past 10 years however, crime is at a minimum with only one felony arrest in 2004. Maintaining a well-trained and permanent staff is critical to the future success of Floyd Lamb Park.

2.10.4 Signage

A variety of signs are found on Park property including informative, directional, and interpretive signs.

Informative signs such as entrance and pond/park regulation signs provide information key to safe park use. Directional signs provide maps and directions to Park facilities. Interpretive signs are located in conjunction with their subject matter and can include historical information and plant species identification.

2.10.5 Programming / Special Events

The Park hosted one large special event last year with a ‘Special Use Permit’. This event, the Las Vegas Celtic Society, brought 7,100 visitors over 2 days. In 2004, 6,800 people visited the park to attend 17 special events including the American Bulldog Dog Show, a fund raiser for the Greyhound Pets of America, and Girl Scout and Boy Scout day camps. 1,700 people attended 33 interpretive programs offered by the Park in 2004.

2.11 Circulation

2.11.1 Vehicular

The official entrance to the park is located off of Tule Springs Road where visitors must pass by a guarded gate house to pay the park entrance fee. A two-lane asphalt road provides access to the west and northwest edge of the park core however, visitors must ultimately turn around and drive out the same way they entered. Only maintenance vehicles are allowed through the Park on the gravel road along the eastside of the Park Core.

Various parking lots are scattered along the road providing parking for the picnic facilities. There is no designated location for horse trailers (see Equestrian Trails section) however, most horse trailers are parked at the first parking lot to the right of the entrance gate of the Park.

2.11.2 Equestrian

As mentioned in the Equestrian Trail section, formal equestrian facilities are lacking in the Park. The existing equestrian trails are located throughout the BLM lands but should be used with caution as activities such as unregulated shooting and off road vehicle riding often take place in these areas.

2.11.3 Bike/Pedestrian

Pedestrian trails are limited to the Park Core area and do not include trails specifically for biking.

A series of concrete and gravel trails lead visitors through the Historic Area of the Park Core. A separate paved trail circles Tule Springs Lake. Additional paved, gravel, and dirt trails lead visitors between parking areas and sheltered picnic facilities, and between the lakes. There is no formal pedestrian connection between the Historic Area and the more naturalized lake areas. There is also no trail system between individual sheltered picnic areas.



Pump backflow pipe. *The pump system which replenishes the lakes from on site wells backflows into Tule Springs Lake. The irrigation system is supplied by the Lakes. The Park full-time maintenance staff are responsible for maintaining the pumps and irrigation system among other duties.*

2.12 Operations and Management Procedures

Floyd Lamb State Park utilizes full and part time employees and an annual budget of approximately \$450,000.00 for park maintenance and operations.

Traditionally, the park has had three full-time maintenance employees , a park supervisor and a law enforcement officer, in addition to 4-5 seasonal employees who work a staggered schedule April through December.

The park supervisor lives on site and has duties ranging from managing the day to day operations of the park and maintenance and seasonal employees to managing the overall Park budget and project specific budgets.

The full time maintenance employees are responsible for maintaining the park grounds and associated equipment and restroom and picnic facilities. The park maintains a fleet of 10 vehicles including 2 riding lawn mowers, 3 trucks (5 cubic yard dump truck and patrol vehicles), 2 turf vehicles (for riding on turf), and 2 tractors (small Kabotas), and one backhoe.

Maintenance employees are responsible for mowing the turf and for maintaining the turf irrigation system. During the peak lawn season, they mow an average of 32 hours per week, which means they are constantly mowing in some area of the park.

The park's irrigation system is 20 years old and composed of 13 irrigation time clocks with 16-22 stations per time clock. All time clocks were replaced with new Rainbird time clocks in 2004. The irrigation system begins spraying at 8 pm and cycles through the system until 9:30 am. Water for the irrigation system is pumped from the lakes by a 3-pump system capable of a rate of 900 gallons per minute. The lakes, in turn, are replenished with water from two wells on site. One primary well is used about once a week, its pump is turned on manually, and it takes 2-3 days to refill the lakes from water lost through irrigation and evaporation. Another well serves as a backup, should the primary well fail. Both wells were drilled on the former sites of the original springs, which have since dried up.

The seasonal employees are responsible for manning the park entrance station and maintaining the park facilities such as restrooms and picnic areas. For example, during a busy day, one employee may spend all day driving around emptying trash receptacles while another employee cleans and restocks the restrooms.

The typical annual park budget of **\$450,000** includes:

- \$264,000*** for full-time employee salaries
(*Does not reflect the recent 2 employees lost)
- \$90,000** for seasonal employee salaries
- \$50,000** for utilities and trash collection
- \$46,000**** for operating budget
(**\$26,000 of operating budget for water taxes on the 830 ac/ft per year used in the park)

In addition to the annual budget, additional funding can be allocated for specific projects. Most recently, funding was allocated for:

- \$8,000 to replace carpets in several buildings
- \$7,000 for roof repairs to various buildings
- \$8,000 for electrical upgrade
- \$15,000 for HVAC renovations

Alternative funding and volunteer labor has enabled the park to successfully complete smaller scale projects throughout the park especially in the historic area.



Park staff. Maintenance of the Park vehicles is also a duty of park staff. The Park office is located inside the Caretaker's House (above).





Former Ranch Entrance. This entrance is along the western edge of the Park boundary and includes a carved wood sign (below).



Park Sign. This sign, on the outskirts of the Park, denotes the original Park entrance and historical significance.



Issues

There are a number of issues currently and potentially affecting the redevelopment of Floyd Lamb Park which should be considered during the master planning process.

2.13 Identity

Floyd Lamb State Park is located at the site of the former Tule Springs Ranch. This often confuses would-be park visitors who are looking for Tule Springs. Perhaps a revised name of the Park could be 'Floyd Lamb State Park at Tule Springs' (as in the old sign shown below left) to better orient visitors.

2.14 Connectivity

Years ago when the Tule Springs Ranch was in operation it was isolated from downtown Las Vegas and required self-sufficiency. In recent history the Park seems closer and closer to downtown however, many locals and visitors to Las Vegas do not know it exists. Along with the Park's identity being an issue, the Park lacks connectivity with Las Vegas and the region.

2.14.1 Visual

At one time the Park's dense tree vegetation was visible while approaching it from downtown Las Vegas however, the Park is no longer visible due to increasing development which blocks views.

2.14.2 Physical Connectivity

The Park is somewhat difficult to find when heading from the south. Signs along the approach are rare and due to the lack of visibility, visitors do not have a sense that they are approaching a Park.

The Park is not accessible from the north since visitors must exit the interstate south of the Park and circle around to enter.

2.15 Boundary

A clearly defined boundary to the Park would increase awareness of the Park and lead to more respect for the lands and facilities associated with it. Currently the unirrigated areas of the Park, including the BLM lands, appear as 'no-mans' land' and many unintended land uses occur such as dumping, off-road vehicle riding, and unregulated shooting.

2.16 Land access for future adjacent land development and infrastructure

Consideration for access through the entire Park boundary should be made during the master planning process. In addition to easements for the Division of Forestry on site, additional easements may be needed for infrastructure such as water pipelines since the Park currently uses water from wells on site.

2.17 Flooding

Flooding is an increasing concern at the Park. Surrounding development has reduced the amount of land serving as drainage areas for storm water to filter back into the subsurface system. The main entrance road serves as a channel for storm water during storm events and is often completely underwater.

2.18 Reasons for unimplemented 1987 Master Plan

Exploration of the reasons recommendations in the 1987 Master Plan were not implemented should be analyzed in the 2006 Master Planning process

2.19 Lack of visitors' center

A visitors' center should be considered for the redevelopment of the Park. A 'Visitor Center Conceptual Plan' was produced by Consortium West in 1996 with recommendations for using the Foreman's house as a non-traditional visitor center. For example, the plan designed the visitor center as an exhibit space for historical interpretation of the Tule Springs Ranch. Information about park facilities was not proposed here.

Even before the 1996 plan, the 1987 Master Plan proposed using the Hay Barn as a visitors center / large gathering space.

A full service visitor center is needed at Floyd Lamb. There are significant historical, environmental, and recreational resources to preserve and experience throughout the Park. Options for renovating and utilizing an existing building or constructing a new building to serve as a visitor center should be explored.

2.20 Crime prevention

Gang related crime was in issue during the 1980's when the State first took over management of the park. With the increase of a manned presence in the park, and the establishment of a manned entrance gate, crime has basically been eliminated. The cost of entrance into the park helps cut down on unwanted activity thus providing a sense of safety for park visitors.



Park access road flooding. Flooding is more common with the increased development surrounding Floyd Lamb Park. Land that once served as surface area for storm water filtration is being developed and storm water flow is increasingly more channelized resulting in greater amounts of water travelling at high speeds. These are examples of flooding at the Park. (Photos courtesy of Park Supervisor Steve Santee).



2.21 Northern edge property

One privately owned parcel is needed to complete the northern Park boundary. The City of Las Vegas will need to work with this property owner to determine if this parcel of land can be brought into the Park.

2.21 Accessibility

2.21.1 Overall access to site and trail surfaces

Not all areas of the Park are easily accessible on foot, horse, or car. Additional paved trails and roads may be needed for easier access between areas such as the Historic area and the naturalized picnic areas between the Historic Area and Tule Springs Lake.

An opportunity for connection to the planned Equestrian Park exists either through the CTA (possibly) or along the northern edge of the existing Silverstone Ranch Golf Course Community.

2.21.2 Handicap access to Park Core facilities

Slopes on trail should not exceed 5 percent in any area designated for pedestrian traffic. Recreational support facilities such as restrooms, picnic tables, and water fountains should conform to ADA standards. Handicapped accessible fishing piers could also be introduced to enable more visitors to enjoy fishing on the lakes.

2.22 Hazardous materials

The water, soil, and air in the Park project boundary should be professionally tested to insure public safety. Numerous dead fish have been sighted in Tule Springs Lake but cause of death was not determined. Since the public is allowed to keep what they catch in the lakes it is even more important to insure good water quality for fish habitat.

2.23 Water Rights

Water is an important resource in the Park and surrounding area. The State currently owns the water rights to the wells on the Park property which supply 830 acre feet of water per year to the Park and to the Division of Forestry Nursery.

Future water needs should be considered in the master planning process for any proposed facilities.