

Desert Tortoise Habitat at the Las Vegas Springs Preserve

Project Number:
2007-LVVWD-719Q

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Project Description

- The project is being implemented at the Springs Preserve, located at 333 S. Valley View Blvd., Las Vegas, NV.
- The Springs Preserve and associated lands are owned and operated by the Las Vegas Valley Water District, and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978.
- Approximately 110 acres of the 180-acre property are managed as a natural or restored landscape that is indicative of early settlement eras.

Project Description

- The goal of this project is to create a desert tortoise habitat to serve as a refugium for a controlled population of desert tortoises which will increase public awareness and interest in desert tortoise recovery.
- To achieve this goal, an approximately 15-acre habitat located within the Springs Preserve will be built, up to six tortoises will be introduced into the site, and a trail will take guests through the project area where interpretive panels will be installed.

Project Description

- Contract awarded on March 18, 2014.
- Project kick-off meeting held on April 1, 2014 between DCP and Springs Preserve staff.
- Project planning and construction begin April 15, 2014.

Project Accomplishments

- Conducted a formal survey of cultural and biological resources within the proposed project area to ensure resources are protected and that potential hazards for tortoises are identified and addressed prior to introduction.
- Drafted the required documentation for Section 106 Cultural Resource review and submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).
- Prepared the construction contract package, including project scope of work, for the installation of the tortoise exclusion fencing on-site. This was included as part of the bid process for securing a contractor.

Project Accomplishments

- Received a written permit from USFWS regarding the acquisition of desert tortoise for the project area in late October 2014.
- Due to the closure of the Desert Tortoise Conservation Center in December 2014, Preserve Zoology staff acquired and continued to temporarily house the tortoises on-site at the Holding & Quarantine Facility ahead of the original schedule.
- Staff modified enclosures to provide appropriate heating and lighting requirements for the tortoises during the holding period.
- Acquisition of animals occurred in mid-November 2014.

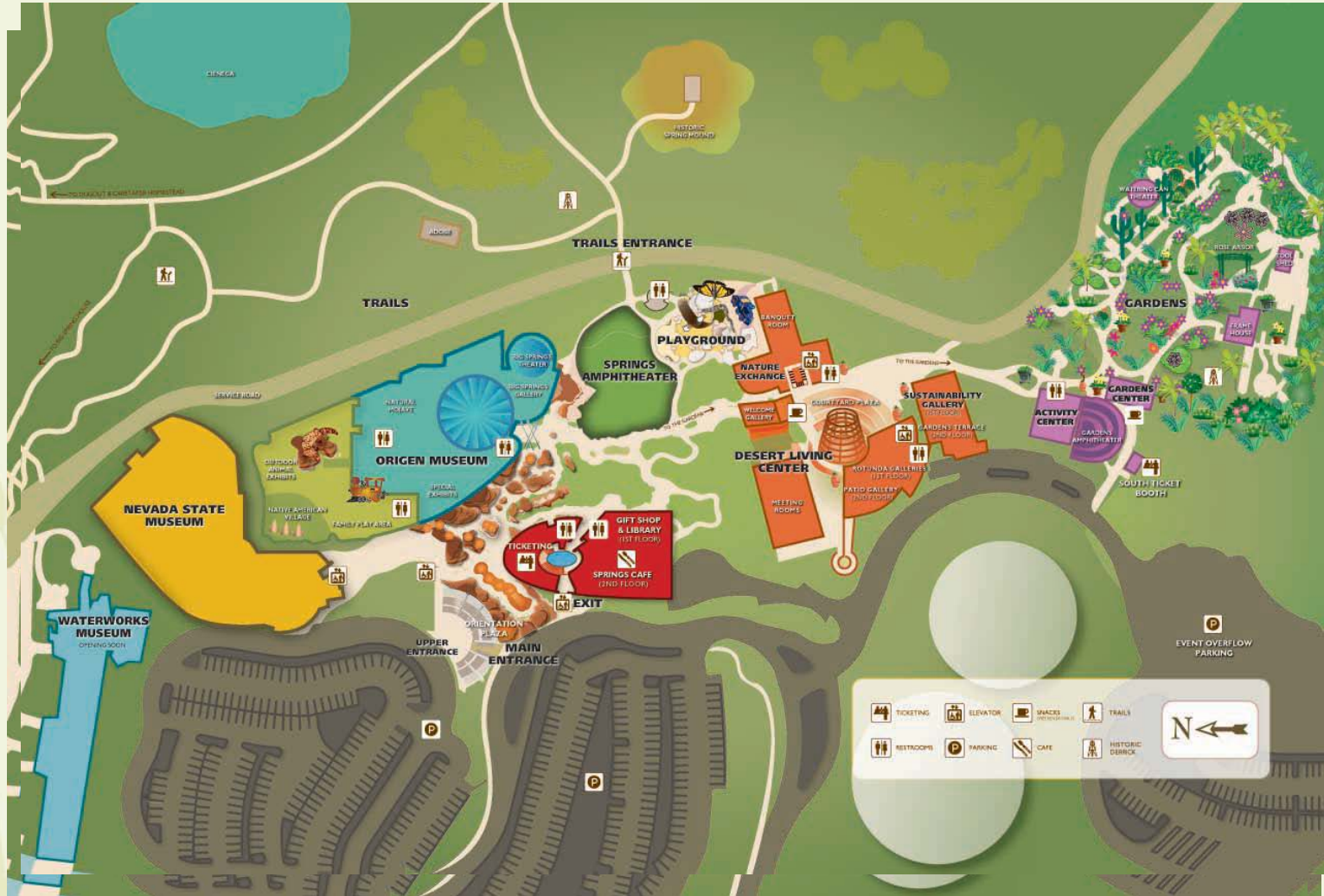
Project Accomplishments

- Conducted a pre-construction meeting with the fencing contractor in February 2015 to discuss construction timeline and operational expectations.
- Performed a final pre-construction site survey with Springs Preserve staff and identified areas of cultural significance as well as main irrigation lines for vegetation along existing trails system. The contractor flagged the final perimeter to prepare for soil trenching work.
- Cultural Resources staff coordinated with awarded contractor to perform construction oversight on-site to ensure permit compliance.

Project Accomplishments

- Completed installation of the tortoise exclusion fencing on-site at Springs Preserve in spring of 2015.
- Drafted interpretive panel content to discuss the basic natural history information as well as the conservation challenges for the species to the general public. The final draft is currently being formatted to include graphic design and will be reviewed by all stakeholders prior to fabrication (Springs Preserve and DCP).

Springs Preserve Site Map

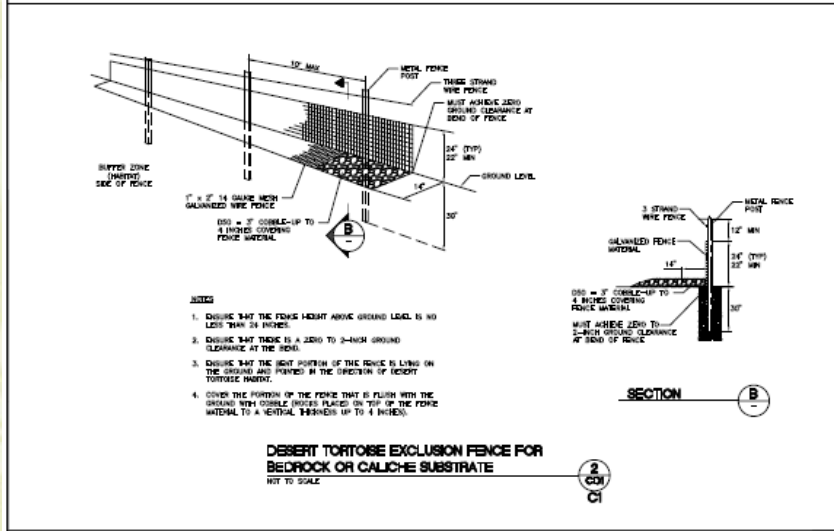
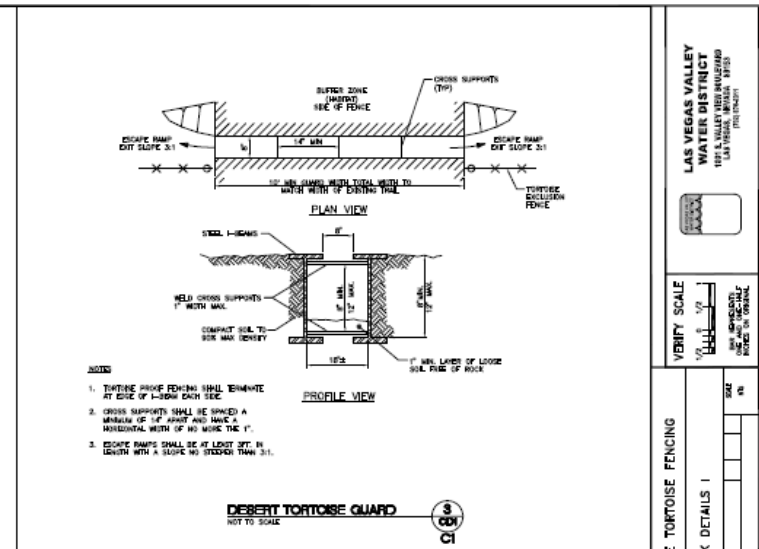
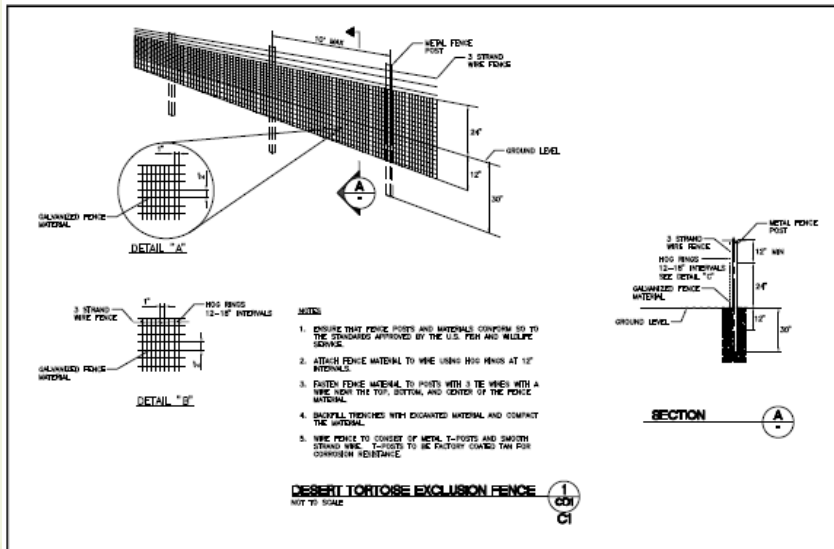


Springs Preserve Trails Map





Project Fencing



LAS VEGAS VALLEY
WATER DISTRICT
1000 VALLEY VIEW BLVD
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89133
PROJECT



VERIFY SCALE
1" = 10'
1" = 10'
1" = 10'

SPRINGS PRESERVE TORTOISE FENCING
SITE WORK DETAILS 1

DATE: _____
SCALE: _____
DRAWN BY: _____
CHECKED BY: _____
DATE: _____

SELF-INSURANCE BY
Call
INSURANCE FOR
OVERHEAD
1-702-277-2329

CONTRACT NUMBER
CXXXX
DRAWING NUMBER 001
SHEET 1 OF 1











Project Status

- Finalize interpretive panel content and install at trail heads of project area by October 15, 2015.
- Perform final site survey prior to animal introduction this fall.
- Introduce desert tortoises to project area by October 15, 2015.
- Project scheduled to end on January 20, 2016.

Conclusion

- Once complete, the approximately 15-acre desert tortoise habitat will serve as a refugium for a controlled population of desert tortoises which will increase public awareness and interest in desert tortoise recovery.
- Two trails will take guests through the project area, where interpretation materials will be sited. Educational signage will inform guests of the presence of desert tortoises, stress their federally protected status, and the need to stay on trails and refrain from disturbing active tortoises or their burrows.
- Entry into the project area for guests will be provided during regular operating hours (10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.).