

# This presentation premiered at WaterSmart Innovations

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**CITY OF HENDERSON**  
**DEPARTMENT OF UTILITY SERVICES**



# **Acacia Demonstration Gardens**

A Unique Conservation Resource  
Created by Successful Partnerships

Co-Presenters: Sherri Collier & Sue Regan

# Presentation Outline

- City of Henderson Dept. of Utility Services
- Drought Impacts
- Acacia Demonstration Gardens
- Development Partnerships
- Conservation Continued Education
- Contact Info

# City of Henderson

- 104 square miles
- Population
  - 1989: 60,000
  - 2008: 269,826 (County 1,996,542)
  - 2030: 517,000 (Projection)



# Department of Utility Services

- Department Employees: 277
- Primary Services: Water, Wastewater and Reclaimed Water
- City department - not independent



# Conservation Considerations

- Located in the Mojave Desert
- Extreme daily temperature variation
- Average annual precipitation around 4”
- New residents unfamiliar with desert gardening
- 60% Southern NV water use is outdoor



# Water Resources in Southern NV

- 90% of Southern Nevada's drinking water comes from the Colorado River
- Resource has been devastated by prolonged drought



1983



2007

# Landscape Restrictions

## New Construction

- No turf permitted in front yards
- <50% turf permitted in back yards
- No turf permitted in commercial developments



## Existing

- Turf installation prohibited in front yards
- Replacement of xeriscaping with turf prohibited



# Acacia Demonstration Gardens

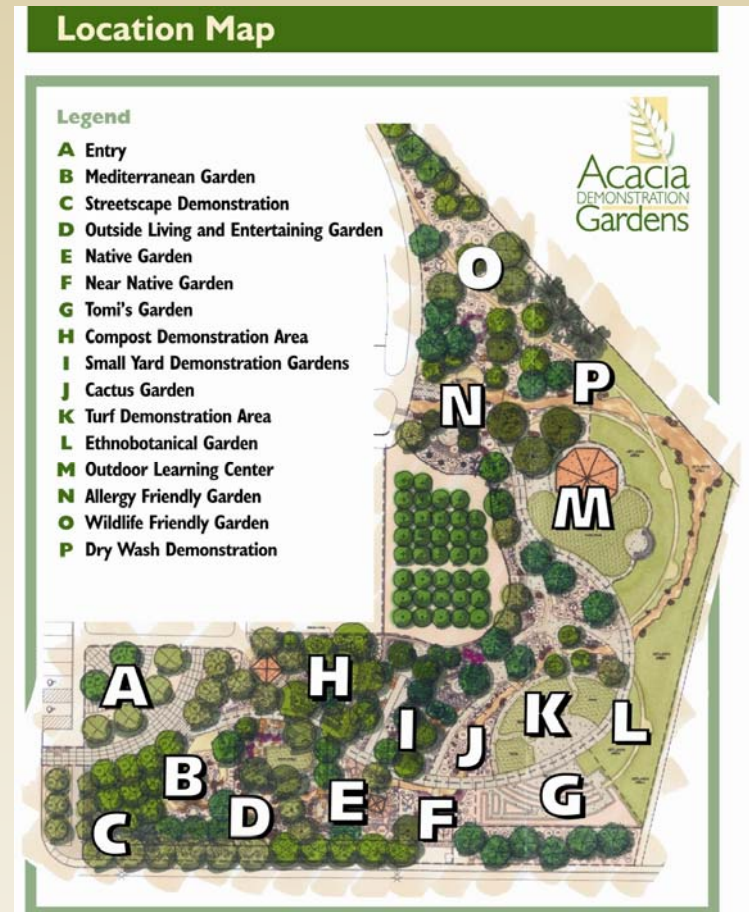
- Opened November 2004
- 2.8-acre garden site (part of 18-acre Acacia Park)
- Near intersection of I-5 I5/US-95
- Development result of strong public and private partnerships
- Working examples of desert landscape
- Education Opportunities



# 16 Distinct Water Efficient Gardens

Visitors choose a path to begin a journey on conservation education :

- Allergy Friendly Garden
- Cactus Garden
- Outside Living and Entertaining Garden
- Dry Wash Demonstration
- Mediterranean Garden
- Native Garden
- Near Native Garden
- Gardens for Small Yards
- Wildlife Friendly Garden
- Turf Demonstration Area
- Outdoor Learning Center



# Water Efficient Gardens



**Wildlife Friendly Garden**



**Small Yards Garden**



**Compost Demonstration**



**Turf Demonstration**

# Water Efficient Gardens



**Native Garden**



**Mediterranean  
Garden**



**Allergy Friendly Garden**

# Public & Community Partnerships

- 2.8-acre parcel set aside for future development from larger 18-acre park site
- Henderson Planners contacted Conservation District of So. Nevada to jointly develop
- Public Outreach Began



## ■ Inter-Local Agreement



### Conservation District of Southern Nevada

- Obtain funding
- Provide site conceptual and construction plans for review
- Assist in facilitation of volunteers
- Train and coordinate technical expertise



## ■ Inter-Local Agreement



### City of Henderson

- Assist in pursuing funding
- Develop plans
- Construct project
- Provide ongoing maintenance



# Involving the Community

- Public meetings for residents' input
- Input encouraged at ground breaking/grand openings for other new parks and facilities
- Consensus confirmed desert demonstration garden welcomed and supported
- Project received hundreds of dedicated volunteer hours
- Local landscape businesses participated





# Public Agency Partners

- Conservation District of Southern Nevada
- City of Henderson departments including:
  - Parks and Recreation, Utility Services, Public Information
- Partners in Urban Resource Environment Council
- Southern Nevada Water Authority
- University of Nevada Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners
- Nevada Division of Forestry
- High Desert Resource Conservation & Development Council

# Private Partners

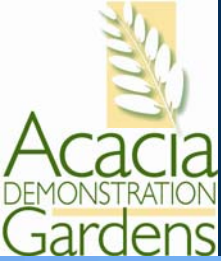
- J.W. Zunino & Associates, Landscape Architecture
- Eagle Scouts
- Local Landscape Businesses
- Private donors
- Volunteers from the public



# Conservation Education

- Continues to evolve and serve the public:
- Master Gardeners Guided Tours
- Interpretive Display Signage
- Sprinkler Clock Demonstration
- Gardening Courses
- Outdoor Science Labs for Schools
- “Meet the Expert” Event
- Turf Conversion Classes
- Irrigation Classes





# Acacia Demonstration Garden

A Unique Conservation Resource Created by Successful Partnerships



## Contacts:

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