



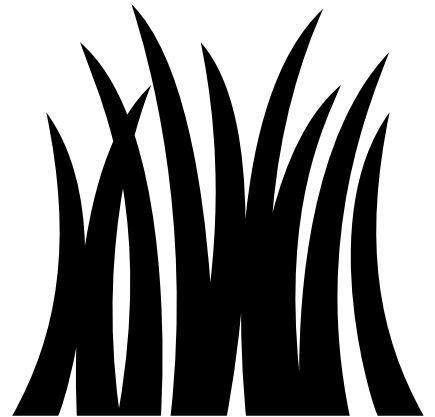
COTTONWOOD SPRINGS WATER STEWARDS

LET'S TALK ABOUT GRASS

What's your view on grass? Life-Giver or Water-Sucker? The truth is that grass is both, and in this issue we hope to help you understand and choose the conservation technique that's right for you.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Community grass areas reduce the need to have grass on personal property.
- The grass in Blue Diamond County Park covers **2 acres**, and the grass in The Village Park covers **3.67 acres**. That's enough to produce oxygen for more than **360 people per day!**
- The irrigation system in Blue Diamond County Park was recently upgraded to include **high-tech sensors** which detect and respond to natural precipitation.
- The watering schedule in both parks adheres to the **SNWA seasonal water restrictions**.



CONSERVATION SPOTLIGHT: A SOLUTION FOR GRASS

We all love the look and feel of real grass, but irrigating it in our dry climate is not only difficult, it's wasteful. If you're looking for a solution for irrigating grass, you might consider a subsurface irrigation mat, like this **EcoRain USA** one that the Willardsen's will be installing in their yard. **It uses 70% less water, is 100% LEED-compliant, and saves you 30% in energy costs.**

Joe and Audree had an iMAT in their previous residence, and here's what they loved most about it

- **The grass was never wet on the surface.** Because the iMat irrigates the roots directly, no excess water got on their grass, or their outdoor furniture.
- **It's safe for kids and pets.** Fake grass or alternative desert landscaping can pose safety hazards for their kids and dogs, so they preferred having real grass if possible.
- **It helps keep the area cool.** Having grass helps regulate outdoor temperatures and increase O₂ in the air, so having a sustainable way to irrigate it was a no-brainer.



To learn more about the iMat technology, visit EcoRainUSA.com

GRASS REMOVERS HALL OF FAME

Some of you have decided that the best way for you to cut your water use was to remove your grass. This is a big job and we sincerely thank those of you who are making or plan to make this effort.

*Email us at water@saveredrock.com for acknowledgement if you have or are planning to remove your grass.

Sheila, Trent, Bruce, Shari, Charlie, Michelle





The Cottonwood Springs Water Stewards is volunteer committee of Save Red Rock. For more information on their mission and projects, visit saveredrock.com/water



UPGRADING OUR WATER SYSTEM



The Water District has approved more than \$10M to upgrade the Blue Diamond Water System. Funding was initiated by our wonderful County Commissioner Justin Jones. The multi-year, 3-phase plan includes replacing old pipes, upgrading for fire prevention, increasing the size of our water tanks, a review of a tiered water payment system, and the potential drilling of a back-up well. If you missed the meeting and want to see the details of their plan, email us at water@saveredrock.com or visit our website. The next meeting addressing water tiers will be at the **RRCAC meeting on May 26 at 7 p.m. in the Rec Hall. See you there!!!**

BLUE DIAMOND BUILDS MONARCH BUTTERFLY WAY STATION

Laura Glismann has secured a sponsorship from the Great Old Broads for Wilderness to plant a pollinator garden in The Village Park, building a **Monarch Butterfly Way Station** that can help **protect and increase the rapidly declining population of the species**. According to data from Xerces Society, there were an estimated 4.5 million Western Monarchs in the 1980s, and the latest counts show less than 30,000 or **under 1% of the population left**. Neonicotinoids like those found in commercial weed killers is one of the leading causes of this decline, making the **use of natural weed killers like the one the Stewards delivered on Earth Day** of the utmost import as we build this pollinator habitat. In partnership with local botanists and water experts, Laura has begun planting near the intersection of Cerrito and The Village Park. Please visit the area to see a variety of native pollinator species, including milkweed, where Monarch butterflies lay their eggs. Apache Plume, Desert Marigold, Evening Primrose, Mojave Aster and many other plant species can be seen in the garden. To learn more, or to plant your own pollinator garden, email Laura at ztgglis@gmail.com.



TAMARISK-Y BUSINESS

The Lower Cottonwood Spring, which supplies water for Blue Diamond Village, has become overgrown with water sucking tamarisk. Over the last several years, Save Red Rock and its committee the Cottonwood Springs Water Stewards have been looking for a solution to remove the tamarisk.

This spring a grant from NV Energy was awarded to fund a massive project for the removal of tamarisk and dead trees by fire fighters with the Nevada Division of Forestry to reduce fire risk in the area and improve the health of the spring. As of today, we are so proud to tell you that the Division of Forestry has **removed tamarisk from approx. 36 acres of riparian land, keeping thousands of gallons of water per day in the underground aquifer that serves Blue Diamond**. As a next step, we will be working closely with a team of biologists to develop a long range plan which restores the Spring to its proper functioning condition.

If you want to help us or learn more, email water@saveredrock.com



RED ROCK EXPANSION

Save Red Rock is proud to support the 50,000 acre expansion of Red Rock Canyon proposed by Senator Catherine Cortez Masto.

The Southern Nevada Economic Development and Conservation Act (SNEDCA) is being touted as **the largest conservation act in Southern Nevada History**. Save Red Rock was proud to work with Senator Cortez Masto to draft the Red Rock expansion portion of the legislation. If passed, the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area will expand by 50,000 acres! With more opportunities for hiking, biking, horseback riding, and climbing, we believe recreation enthusiasts will be drawn out of unofficial recreation areas like Blue Diamond and Calico Basin.

You can help us show support for SNEDCA today! Simply email your letter of support to news@saveredrock.com. We will share your note with public officials, including Senator Cortez Masto, Congresswoman Susie Lee, and Congresswoman Dina Titus.