

DESERT LIVING CENTER

OVERVIEW: The Desert Living Center (DLC) opened on June 8, 2007 and comprises seven buildings featuring 43 exhibits, classroom and meeting space, and gardens that explore sustainable solutions to environmental issues. The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) has given the DLC Platinum certification, the highest LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) level. The structures that comprise the DLC are designed, constructed and operate above the standards set forth by the LEED program. Exploration of environmentally sound features and practices are the focus of the DLC exhibits and buildings.

ARCHITECT: Lucchesi, Galati Architects, Inc. (Las Vegas, NV)

EXHIBIT DESIGN: Aldrich Pears Associates, Ltd.

KEY AREAS:

Information Center and Gift Shop/Welcome Gallery - The DLC Welcome Gallery and Information Center is located at the heart of the Springs Preserve and is a convenient spot where visitors can purchase class tickets, sundries, souvenirs and refreshments. Visitors can pick up a map and talk to the knowledgeable staff about membership, activities, exhibits and making the most of their visit.

Nature Exchange – Kids can identify, trade in and learn more about natural items found in their environment at the Nature Exchange. The Nature Exchange is part of an international program that allows young collectors to trade naturally found items such as shells, rocks, bark, pinecones and more, for which they earn points that can be used for trading out other items.

Activity Center – Visitors of all ages can learn about gardening, nature and much more. A truly green building, the center features rammed-earth walls, passive cooling towers and solar-generated power.

Gardens Center – The hub for activities and programs in the Springs Preserve Gardens. In addition to selling snacks, drinks and desert-friendly plants, the center also provides a place where visitors sign up and meet for classes. Visitors can bring sick plants, a photo or a description of what ails their garden to the Gardens Center on select days (see website for times) and "Dr. Green Thumb" or one of the many Master Gardeners will strive to provide a free diagnosis and cure.

Sustainability Gallery – Visitors can learn about topics as diverse as eco-friendly building materials, alternative fuels, green cleaning products, recycling, composting and much more via playful displays. Visitors of all ages are engaged through interaction with sight, sound and touch. Kids will enjoy playing in the Compost Crawl and Garbage Truck Theater. Discover how to save both money and the environment with our Smart Shopper kiosks and Sustainable House displays.

Dialogue Center/Patio Gallery/Gardens Terrace – Sustainable, picturesque rental areas available for group gatherings, corporate meetings and weddings.

SUSTAINABLE FEATURES Window placement maximizes natural daylight use / Passive cooling and renewable heating of buildings / Bio-filtration ponds reclaim on-site wastewater / Electrical energy created by a photovoltaic array / Straw-bale insulated walls / Carpet made from recycled soda bottles / Certified sustainable lumber / Rammed earth walls / Computer controlled building operations systems / Low volatile organic compounds (VOC) paints, furniture, fabrics and wood composites