

TRAILS

DESCRIPTION: This scenic component of the 180-acre Springs Preserve has been left largely undeveloped in an effort to preserve the abundance of significant archaeological and historical resources on the site. A series of trails introduces visitors to unique and historic features including a desert wetlands area (Cienega), a spring mound, two springhouses and other archaeological areas that offer a glimpse into the history and pre-history of the Valley. Waysides and ramadas (covered areas along the trails) offer interpretive elements on early adobe structures, well derricks, plants, animals, prehistoric artifacts and historical structures, among others.

The final phase of the Trails (Exploration Trail) is currently being developed.

SIZE: 1.83 miles (Phase 1); 2.83 miles upon completion of the Exploration Trail.

KEY FEATURES: **Crossroads Trail** - Interpretive signage near a historic springhouse provides visitors with an introduction to the cultural stories of the site. Features of the trail include historic adobe and derrick structures and plant recognition waysides, Big Spring Springhouse interpretive station and the Las Vegas Valley plant communities' ramada.

Spring Trail - The Spring Trail exhibits the various cultural communities that have occupied the site, the materials they relied on for survival and how they adapted to desert life. Elements include a prehistoric hearth interpretive station, an outdoor classroom, the Chicken Coop wayside, Boy Scout chimney and Caretaker's House, a shanty and settling basin, a historic dugout and a rare plant and animal wayside.

Cienega Trail - The Cienega Trail features a 7-acre, recreated desert wetland and provides visitors with opportunities to view wildlife in an immersive environment. This trail runs along the western edge of the wetland and includes a place for hiking, walking, demonstrations and wildlife observation.

Spring Mound Trail - This trail exhibits a 10,000 year-old spring mound and is one of the few remaining in the Las Vegas Valley. This important geologic remnant still holds numerous significant historic artifacts. Elements include a spring mound and a restored well house wayside.

Exploration Trail - Currently being developed, the 1-mile long Exploration Trail explores the farthest reaches of the Springs Preserve, allowing a visitor to imagine what the site was like 100 years ago. This trail will follow the northern perimeter of the Springs Preserve site and include interpretive ramadas that highlight the historic ranching era of Las Vegas and educate visitors on the historic routes that Native Americans and early pioneers used to access the springs.