

Executive Summary

Valley of Fire State Park

General Management Plan 2010

Plan Concept Provides Vision for Future

The following Park Concept will serve as Valley of Fire's vision for the next 15 years:

The Valley of Fire State Park offers some of the most unique natural landforms, archeological and paleontological resources and scenic values in the state of Nevada. Sensitive areas in this desert ecosystem are protected for future generations while allowing for compatible recreational use; public access is controlled through designated trails, roadways and recreation areas. The Park provides extensive interpretation and educational programs and amenities with an emphasis on engaging youth. Valley of Fire State Park will continue to be an outdoor classroom through research partnerships that support the conservation and protection of resources. All facilities in the park, including signs and interpretation, are designed to be unobtrusive, visually compatible with the natural landscape and consistent with scenic highway aesthetic standards.

This vision and related guidelines were developed through a collaborative planning process, which began with extensive data collection and analysis of existing land use, natural and cultural resources. A user survey, completed by UNLV, provided information related to visitor preferences. Public participation included surveys, public meetings and collaboration with community groups and key stakeholders, which were used to develop alternatives and the final plan.

General Management & Development Guidelines

Design Guidelines: Examine ways to incorporate green technologies in new facilities. Create designs that are consistent with the "desert ecosystem and paleolithic" theme. New trails or facilities will not impact rock formations and be consistent with the State Scenic Byway standards for aesthetics.

Visitors Center: Continue updating existing visitor center to address current educational needs and environmental treasures of the park and region. Continue to provide informational and educational books, pamphlets etc. related to natural history. Continue collaboration with school groups and classes.

Park Land Protection: The Park is encumbered under federal law which prohibits conversion of park lands into non-recreational/conservation use.

Geo-caching: Allowed by permit only and is managed under statewide policies.

Hunting: Not permitted due to public safety concerns in the park's many congested areas.

Safety Improvements: Install public safety kiosks and signs at trails that are long-distance, flash flood prone or where other dangers are known.

Park Entrances and Fee Collection: Add fee booth at east entrance.

System-wide Trail Enhancements: Define parking areas and add trail signs. Pursue partnerships grants and alternative funding sources to complete trail enhancements.



Issue Specific Guidelines

Utilities and Park Infrastructure

The utilities in the state park are mostly original. Many of the facilities for visitors have been upgraded or renovated except for a few restrooms. Constant maintenance with multiple delays in water and electrical service occurs. Due to the lack of projected general funding, the renovation of the basic infrastructure to park utilities, with service the park staff and visitors is the priority of this Development Plan (*see back page*).

Natural Resource Management

- Continue to work cooperatively with the Nevada Department of Wildlife & US Fish and Wildlife Service to manage plants and animal habitats under the Clark County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan.
- Continue weed abatement especially on tamarisk.
- Continue collaboration with Nevada State Parks Cooperative Association (NSPCA) on informational and educational books, pamphlets etc. related to natural history. Continue collaboration with school groups and classes.

Cultural and Paleontological Resources

- Protect and interpret the historic, cultural and paleontological resources
- Continue partnerships with professional groups and UNLV to complete comprehensive surveys.
- Continue interpretive planning and upgrade or add educational displays at all significant sites as determined needed and appropriate.
- In areas where the significance of the find, or the level of vandalism is extraordinary; management may include prohibiting access to resources with the use of barriers, fences, obscuring areas, or bury in situ if needed.

Northern Management Area (NMA)

Includes Logandale Motorized Trails within the State Park.

Motorized use will be allowed on designated trails only associated with the Logandale trail system. Strive to find and designate one connector trail through north end of park through future cooperative efforts with BLM and Clark County.

- Use of the area should be under annual state park permit, or park day use fee.
- Signage and public education must be significantly increased through partnerships with local clubs, BLM, and grants.
- With the exception of designated Logandale trails in the northern management areas, motorized use is limited to street legal vehicles on designated roads.

NMA Special OHV Events

- The number and type of special OHV events to be permitted in NMA is contingent upon state park policy. Special OHV events require permits.
- Install signs designating exact trail route(s). GPS these routes and make available for download from park website. Designated trails are open to the public.



Planning Partners

Bureau of
Land Management

Clark County

National Park Service

Lake Mead National
Recreation Area

Land and Water
Conservation Fund

Rivers, Trails &
Conservation
Assistance (RTCA)

Nevada Natural
Heritage Program

Partners in
Conservation (PIC)

UNLV Landscape
Architecture &
Planning Research
Office



Increased protection of cultural sites through fencing or other means will protect these resources for future generations.

Issue Specific Guidelines

NMA Non-Motorized Trails

- Allow equestrian use on same trails as motorized OHV. However, there will be no official designations for equestrian trails or equestrian trailhead development on those trails.
- Investigate non-motorized trails (pedestrian and equestrian) in the north that are separate from motorized trails.
- Identify equestrian parking/trailheads in collaboration with BLM, Clark County, Moapa Valley and Overton; work cooperatively with stakeholders to designate and sign these trails.

NMA Camping

Identify and designate primitive camp areas to be used by permit only and fee based. These would be dry camping sites/areas and fire rings and sanitary facilities would be installed if feasible.

Southern Management Area (SMA) - Trails

- Formally design/build, designate and sign current trails. Trail system includes both constructed trails and routes.
- Upgrade all trailheads to include interpretive and safety kiosks.
- Mediate problems with “migrating parking areas” with defined borders of rock/curbing and/or pavement where needed based on soils stability and natural environment. Install barriers where needed for protection of resources. Add the Duck Rock equestrian route and trailhead, Fire Wash trail and equestrian trailhead.
- Close road located past Fire Canyon Vista to motorized vehicles; open only for marathon, pedestrian and administrative use.

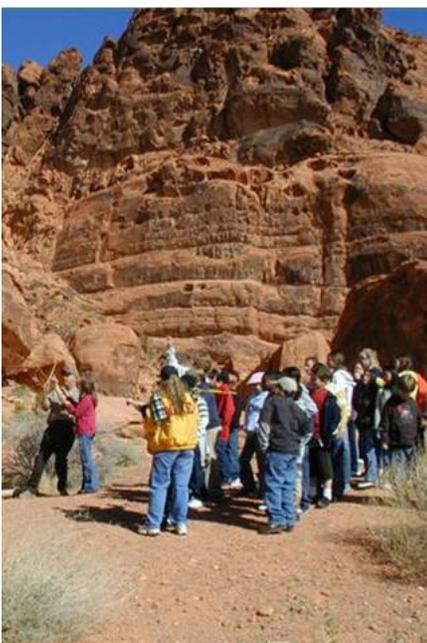
Biking and Marathon Trail

- Expand shoulders to improve safety for cyclists. Define and mark pull-outs.
- Work with neighboring agencies to plan potential extensions of the expanded roadway shoulder in the future.

Camping in Southern Management Area

- Maintain current sites and add walk-in tent sites.
- Determine where to implement tent and car camping “non-generator” sites at Arch Rock.

As a result of the Master Plan, over 33 miles of existing trails are designated. Planned facilities include the Fire Canyon Wash and the Duck Creek Trails and roadway improvements for cyclists. Additionally, existing social trails are planned to be restored.



An amphitheater is planned for Atlatl Rock, a popular destination for school field trips and educational programs.

Issue Specific Guidelines *(continued)*

Day Use Picnicking (SMA)

- Improve facilities including upgraded restrooms, interpretive signs, parking and roads, BBQ grills and shade structures.
- Redesign Beehives area to accommodate additional use and provide drinking water where feasible.
- Pave roads and parking areas where needed based on soils stability and natural environment. Install barriers where needed for protection of resources.
- If water development becomes feasible, upgrade water developments in all areas as affordable. Otherwise, manage as dry sites.

Staging Area for Movies and Special Events

- Re-grade unpaved parking area and add drainage improvements.
- Design staging area to be lower than road, hidden from view of Visitors Center and scenic byway.
- Do not provide comfort facilities or water unless water development becomes feasible.

Atlatl Rock Picnic Area and Proposed Amphitheater

Upgrade/replace restrooms, signs and kiosks. Develop an amphitheater to seat 50-100 people based on architect's design and redesign of parking area. Follow design guidelines to blend structures in with rock and natural environment.

Weddings

- Specific areas for weddings by permit only. Four existing areas: Visitors Center, Rainbow, Seven Sisters and Cabins.
- Maximum of 2 weddings per site per day.
- Monitor sites for damage and close/rehab as needed. New areas can be opened to meet demand or increased per day with addition of permanent full-time staff needed to manage workload.

Land Acquisition Plan

State Parks continues to explore opportunities to consolidate management boundaries and connect park lands. Continually investigate opportunities for acquisition of private lands that link north end with south end. Dispose of or consider trades for outlying park parcels in order to consolidate park lands for increased recreation viability and management efficiency.

Interpretation and Education

- Strive to find funding to increase interpretive/education.
- Increase focus on education of children in the outdoors.
- Strive to find funding to hire one FTE interpreter.
- Develop partnerships with local communities and regional partners to take Valley of Fire interpretive messages to the community.

Development Plan

Available funding and funding opportunities will drive the priority of implementing the following upgrades and improvements:

Utilities: Replace dilapidated electric line and conduit, waterline and tanks, and telemetry systems. Continue to explore water availability. Upgrade toilets where needed using green technology if feasible.

Fire Wash Trail: Design, layout and construct Fire Wash trail, trailheads, parking and signs. Add water source and design and construct equestrian trailhead if feasible.

Access Points: Redesign parking areas at trailheads and scenic vistas. Delineate parking areas with structures.

Signs: Renovate/replace old signs and kiosks. Install public safety kiosks and signs at trails that are long-distance, flash flood prone or where other dangers are known. Place directional signage on all trails and routes as needed.

Restore: Re-seed and naturalize social trails in all areas of the park that are not designated trails or routes.

Behives: Redesign and re-develop parking area and road to group use area.

Atlatl: Designate or develop tent sites at Atlatl Campground.

Duck Rock: Design and construct new trailhead parking.

Fire Canyon Scenic Vista: Design and construct new parking area and interpretive kiosks.

Fee Booth: Add fee booth at East Entrance.



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