

Conservation District of Southern Nevada

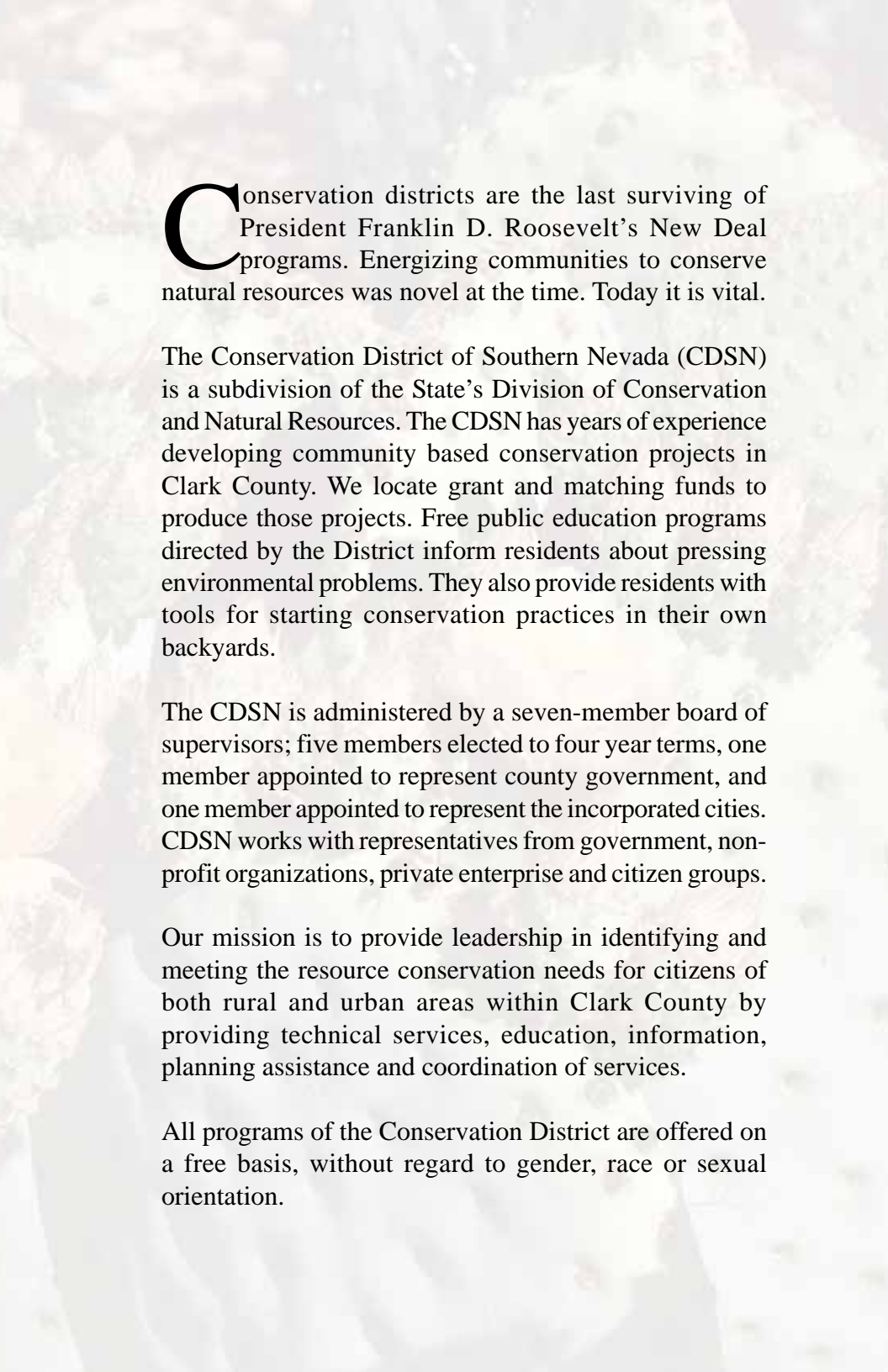


Making connections

Protecting resources

Creating partnerships

Building sustainable communities



Conservation districts are the last surviving of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs. Energizing communities to conserve natural resources was novel at the time. Today it is vital.

The Conservation District of Southern Nevada (CDSN) is a subdivision of the State's Division of Conservation and Natural Resources. The CDSN has years of experience developing community based conservation projects in Clark County. We locate grant and matching funds to produce those projects. Free public education programs directed by the District inform residents about pressing environmental problems. They also provide residents with tools for starting conservation practices in their own backyards.

The CDSN is administered by a seven-member board of supervisors; five members elected to four year terms, one member appointed to represent county government, and one member appointed to represent the incorporated cities. CDSN works with representatives from government, non-profit organizations, private enterprise and citizen groups.

Our mission is to provide leadership in identifying and meeting the resource conservation needs for citizens of both rural and urban areas within Clark County by providing technical services, education, information, planning assistance and coordination of services.

All programs of the Conservation District are offered on a free basis, without regard to gender, race or sexual orientation.

***"The Conservation District
of Southern Nevada
takes on projects with vigor and
enthusiasm and sees the projects
to successful completion.
The "Do Your Doody" campaign
was a successful and creative
campaign/project to educate residents
to pick up pet waste and how that
benefits the environment."***

***- Leslie Long, P.E.
Technical Services Manager
City of North Las Vegas , Utility Department***



Making Connections

When you connect someone with the environment, you create a steward for the Earth's resources. Conservation District projects strive to make connections that leave people thinking how their actions affect their environment. Simple acts like controlling sprinkler overspray, mulching trees and picking up pet waste have significant positive impacts on our local natural resources.

Public outreach efforts like the successful “Do Your Doody” and “Plaque Attack” campaigns educate residents about protecting water quality by controlling pollution at home.

Programs like the Student-to-Student Program engage youth to protect air quality in Clark County. The program has been recognized by the EPA, University of Nevada, Las Vegas and the Clark County Board of Commissioners.

The District works with local experts to create free educational materials to teach residents about backyard conservation techniques for the home. Detailed guides like “Preserving Our Water Resources”, “Residents Guide to Air Quality” and “Backyard Conservation” provide readers with tips to reduce pollution, save water and energy and enjoy our desert environment. An annual conservation calendar and series of themed posters, such as the “Composting ABCs”, are distributed at outreach events and workshops. Documentaries like the “Clear Blue Line” and the award winning “Water Rules” have aired on local Public Broadcasting Stations and in Clark County classrooms.

Protecting Resources

Contrary to popular belief, the desert is more than sand and heat. A surprising diversity of plant and animal life is waiting to be discovered in Clark County. Protecting the natural resources found here is our mission. Water and air quality protection are priorities.

Through educational campaigns and on-the-ground conservation projects, the Conservation District works with government agencies to protect water resources in Clark County. A successful seven year partnership with the County's Department of Parks and Community Services has helped restore hundreds of acres of wetland habitat along the Las Vegas Wash. The Wash is a vital link in our watershed, filtering and cleaning urban runoff and stormwater on its way to Lake Mead.

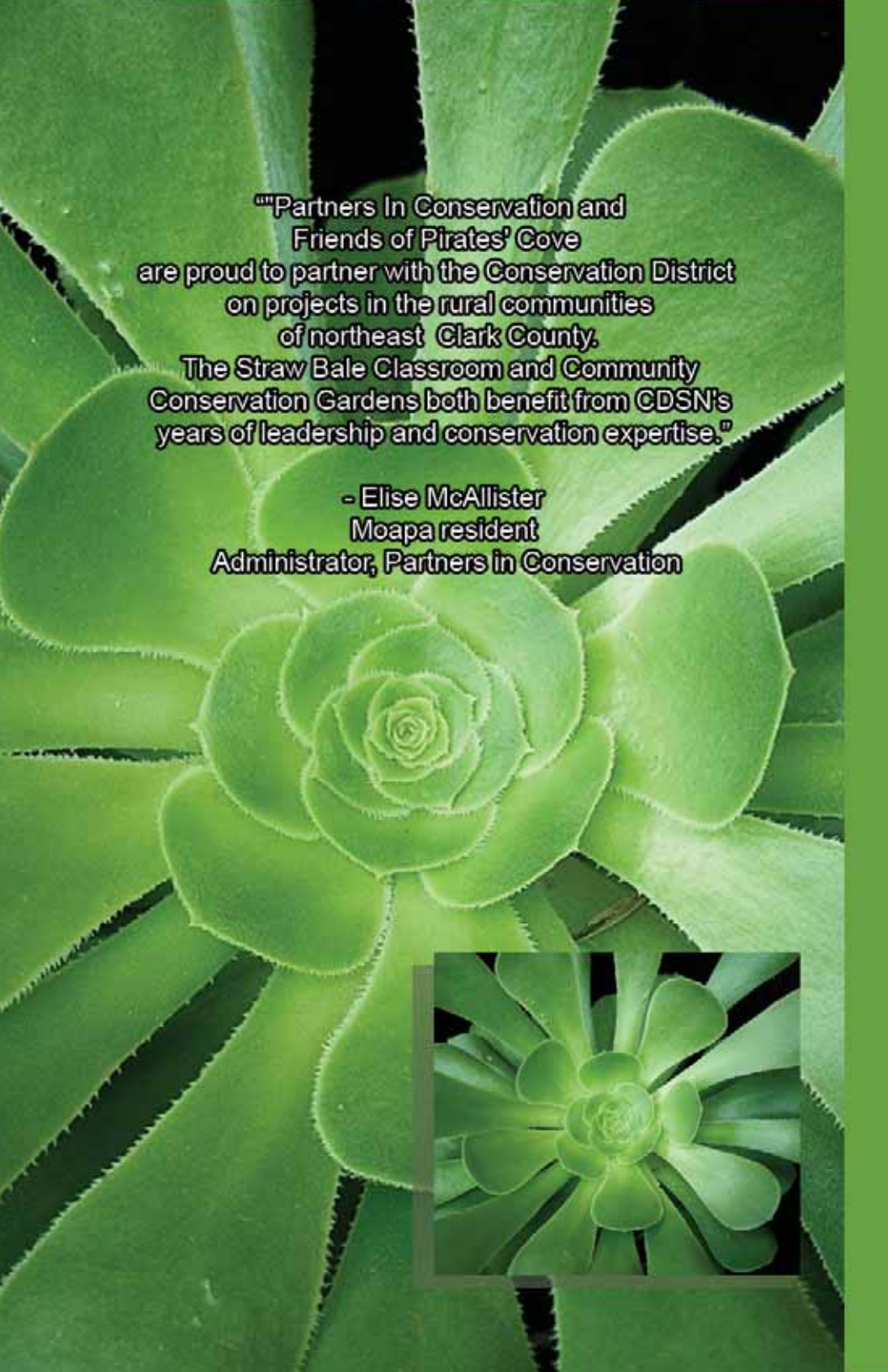
Teaching residents to protect stormwater and urban runoff before it even reaches the lake is the goal of the popular "Plaque Attack" campaign. Led by the CDSN, "Plaque Attack" is a multi-agency effort to mark storm drains throughout the County with informational plaques, reminding residents that what flows into the drain, will eventually flow from our faucets.

Although our air quality has historically been among the highest in the country, recent rapid growth has created a few challenges for residents. The serious health threats posed by dust and ozone pollution spurred the County and EPA to develop pollution control plans. CDSN programs have been instrumental in improving our air quality. An award winning education program and series of print materials helped the County meet its goals to enlist residents to do their part and protect the air we share. The District even ran a Small Business Assistance Program to assist local businesses in maintaining compliance with air quality regulations.



“Quote here”

*- Elsie Sellars
Principal Park Planner
Clark County Wetlands Park*



**“Partners In Conservation and
Friends of Pirates' Cove
are proud to partner with the Conservation District
on projects in the rural communities
of northeast Clark County.**

**The Straw Bale Classroom and Community
Conservation Gardens both benefit from CDSN's
years of leadership and conservation expertise.”**

**- Elise McAllister
Moapa resident
Administrator, Partners in Conservation**



Creating Partnerships

As an active member of the environmental community, the Conservation District sustains partnerships with numerous committees and organizations. These partnerships help the District remain familiar with the community's natural resource conservation needs and align projects with federal, state and local agency goals.

County contracts administered by the CDSN make cost effective use of limited funds to protect our local resources. Over the past seven years, the CDSN and Clark County Department of Parks and Community Services have maintained a highly successful relationship for the Clark County Wetlands Park. Grant writing and project administration services provided by the Conservation District have brought millions of dollars to the Park. These funds have been used to help improve hundreds of acres of wetland and riparian habitat and educate local residents about the wetlands.

A similar contract between the District and Clark County Department of Air Quality and Environmental Management created the County's public outreach and education campaigns for dust reduction.

In addition to service contracts with our partners, CDSN maintains membership in local, state and national organizations. Community groups like the "Friends of Pirate Cove" adopt local project and ensure long-term community involvement. As a member of the Nevada Association of Conservation Districts, CDSN helps shape the state's environmental policies and procedures.

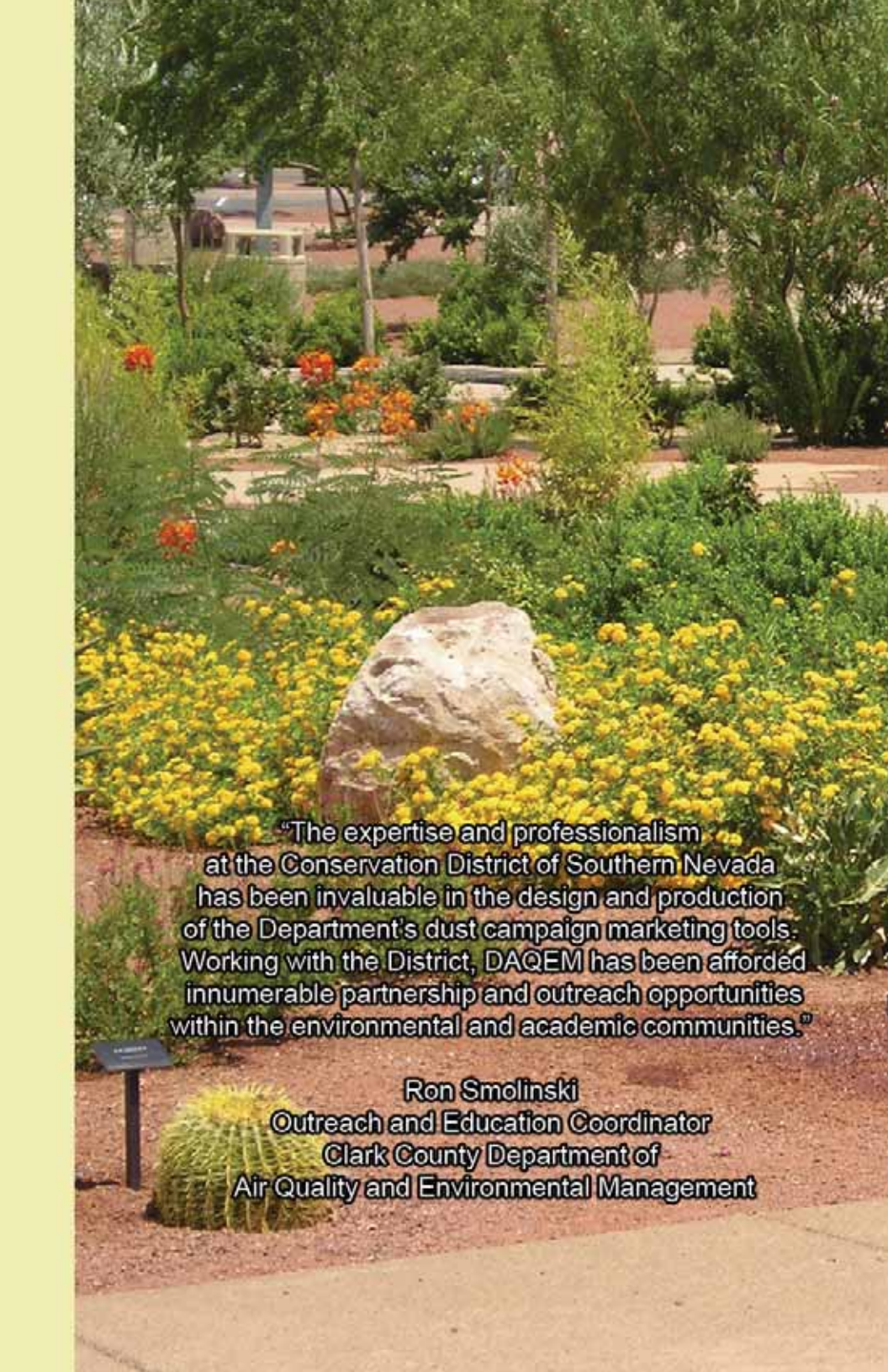
Building Sustainable Communities

To build a sustainable community you need working examples. Conservation District projects provide those examples. From water efficient landscapes to green building techniques, CDSN has demonstrated conservation practices throughout the county.

The Acacia Demonstration Gardens is a 2.8-acre water saving landscape in the City of Henderson. Themed garden sites, such as Wildlife, Allergy-friendly and Native Plant gardens showcase drought tolerant landscape options for yards of all shapes and sizes. Visitors can walk through the Gardens on a self guided interpretive path and attend free seasonal workshops offered by local experts. Workshop topics include home composting, plant selection and irrigation design. The District partnered with the City of North Las Vegas to create a similar garden at the North Las Vegas Civic Center.

To demonstrate sustainable building materials, CDSN obtained a grant from the EPA to build a straw bale classroom at Moapa Valley High School's agricultural farm. The building was designed by the Las Vegas based architecture firm Lucchessi Galati. School faculty is overseeing student construction of the project, which will serve as a meeting room and demonstration center for outdoor lessons. A small desert demonstration garden will surround the building.

CDSN promotes the development of our urban forest through several grants obtained from the Nevada Division of Forestry. The District has organized a number of community tree plantings at local schools, parks and public areas. In the late 90s, the Conservation District managed the first inventory of our urban forest canopy in the Eco-Analysis project.

A photograph of a desert garden. In the foreground, there is a large, light-colored rock surrounded by a dense patch of small yellow flowers. To the left, there are several bright orange flowers. The garden is set in a desert environment with reddish-brown soil and various green shrubs and trees in the background. A concrete sidewalk is visible at the bottom of the frame.

"The expertise and professionalism at the Conservation District of Southern Nevada has been invaluable in the design and production of the Department's dust campaign marketing tools. Working with the District, DAQEM has been afforded innumerable partnership and outreach opportunities within the environmental and academic communities."

**Ron Smolinski
Outreach and Education Coordinator
Clark County Department of
Air Quality and Environmental Management**



Serving Clark County

Conservation District of Southern Nevada

5820 S. Pecos Rd., A-400

Las Vegas, NV 89120

702.262.9047 ext. 5

www.cdsn.org