

## Las Vegas Family Church Shine City Project: Wetlands Park (Duck Creek)

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On March 7, 2020, Shine City Project shined at the Wetlands Park! The Clark County Wetlands Park is an area covering 2,900 acres along the Las Vegas Wash, and it has an important role of filtering the water that collects from Las Vegas on the way to Lake Mead. Though the Wetlands Park is in the Mohave Desert, it is home to over 70 species of mammals, reptiles, and amphibians, and over 310 species of birds!



On this Saturday morning, our Shine City Project volunteers arrived at Wetlands Park where we were greeted by Katie, a Girl Scout working hard to earn her Gold Award. The Gold Award is the highest achievement that a Girl Scout can earn, and it requires research, planning, approval, and completion of a service project in an area of the Girl Scout's interest. A minimum of eighty hours is also required in the planning and execution of the project by the Girl Scout herself, as well as a project advisor.

For her Girl Scout Gold Award, Katie has chosen upcycling as her area of focus. Upcycling is the process of transforming discarded materials and products into materials and products of higher quality and environmental value. Girl Scout Katie has been working with Tara Pike-Nordstrom, UNLV's recycling manager and sustainability coordinator, as her advisor for her project. While keeping Wetlands Park clean, Katie will be using and transforming the litter collected from the morning's cleanup at Wetlands Park into a work of art that will educate and show the beauty of upcycling.

To help out with the service project, Shine City Project had twenty-one volunteers representing our

group! A couple of our volunteers were joining us for their first or second time while several others were making their return after being away for some time. Our honorary faculty advisor, Tara Pike-Nordstrom, and her family, also came to help out with the cleanup!



Dividing into small groups, we cleaned up and picked up litter around Duck Creek Trailhead at Wetlands Park. Some of our volunteers were able to find some unusual items, while others often found bottles and broken pieces of glass. In the end, with all of the volunteers who helped out, more than a dozen bags of trash were filled in two hours! It was a beautiful morning at the Wetlands Park, and we were happy to help out Katie and her Gold Award project!

