



## **CLARK COUNTY SHOOTING PARK QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

The following questions have been raised by concerned citizens at public meetings, in letters, phone calls, blogs and in the press. This "Q&A" is provided to answer those questions.

### **WHY A SHOOTING PARK?**

- Approximately 45% of the households in Clark County own at least one firearm. Yet, despite this large population of gun owners, there are no public shooting ranges. This creates an environment where many people target practice in undesignated and unsafe areas. Las Vegas valley is the largest metropolitan area in the country without a public shooting facility.
- Areas such as the Las Vegas Wash are often used as undesignated target areas causing the open desert to be littered with shooting debris and other trash. The problem has become so severe that much of the county around Las Vegas has been closed to shooting.
- The public need has been recognized for over twenty years and the public has been demanding a place to shoot.
- The Clark County Shooting Park (CCSP) offers a place for residents to practice shooting in a controlled environment that is monitored for safety and environmental impact.
- There is extensive citizen support for this project

### **WHERE IS THE SHOOTING PARK LOCATED?**

- The Clark County Shooting Park (CCSP) is located at the very north end of Decatur Boulevard. Its south boundary is Moccasin Road and East-Decatur. Its west boundary is Buffalo Drive.
- The Shooting Park's address will be 11357 N. Decatur Boulevard, Las Vegas, Nevada 89124 when opened.



## **WHEN WILL IT BE OPEN?**

- The projected opening date for the Public Module is June 2009. The shooting park is currently under construction.

## **WHAT ARE THE FEATURES OF THE SHOOTING PARK?**

- The Public Module consists of an education center, a public rifle and pistol center, a shotgun center, an archery center and administrative features.
- For more information on the module phases of CCSP development please see our Information Sheet available on our website: [http://www.accessclarkcounty.com/depts/parks/locations/Documents/Information\\_Sheet.pdf](http://www.accessclarkcounty.com/depts/parks/locations/Documents/Information_Sheet.pdf)
- The Shooting Park consists of 2,900 acres. The Public Module will build on 178 acres of desert. At full build-out 900 acres will be developed.
- The remaining 2,000 acres will be managed as a natural area. Its size was obtained in order to provide a buffer (both noise and safety) for the surrounding community.
- A Desert Wildlife Refuge borders the Shooting Park on its North and East. On its West the Park is bordered by BLM land, most of which is Las Vegas Formation. On the South the Regional Flood Control Structure borders the park.
- No homes will ever be any closer to the Shooting Park than they are now.

## **WHAT WILL BE ITS HOURS OF OPERATION?**

- The Shooting Park will be open during daytime hours. Clark County Code Title 30.08.030 defines daytime hours as 6 am to 10 pm.
- The proposed hours of public operation (rifle/pistol, trap/skeet, archery) are planned for 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday.
- The Park will be closed to public shooting on Mondays and Tuesdays for cleaning.
- In order to accommodate corporate events and special needs groups shooting may occur on Monday and Tuesday. These events will not be open to the general public and event schedules will be posted.
- Alternative or extended hours of operation (during daytime hours) may occur at the public rifle and pistol range, trap & skeet ranges, the



education center and/or the archery range in order to allow for greater flexibility in scheduling.

- League shooting and/or special training event shooting may occur once or twice a week and could occur until 10 pm.

### **HOW WILL YOU ENSURE THE SHOOTING IS SAFE?**

- Safety is the greatest concern. Trained Line Safety Officers will directly supervise all public shooting.
- Groups and events are required to provide safety officers to monitor shooters at all times.
- Persons not in compliance with safety laws will be cited and removed from the Shooting Park.
- All patrons are required to view a short safety video before being allowed to shoot on any CCSP public range.
- CCSP will be protected and patrolled by Park Police Officers. Current abuses of littering, off road travel, dust from off-road vehicles, wildcat shooting, and repository for stolen vehicles will be eliminated.

### **WHAT ABOUT FIREARMS SAFETY? WE KEEP HEARING HOW UNSAFE RECREATIONAL SHOOTING IS.**

- The following table compares the most common types of accidents in the U. S. As you can see, firearms accident fatalities are approximately 0.7% of the total and are significantly less than motor vehicles fatalities at 41%:

#### **U.S. POPULATION ACCIDENT STATISTICS\***

<u>UNINTENTIONAL FATALITIES</u>	<u>109,277</u>	<u>%</u>
Motor Vehicles	44,757	41.0
Poisoning	19,457	17.8
Falls	17,229	15.8
Misc. accidents	10,391	9.5
Choking	4,272	3.9
Fires, Flames, Smoke	3,369	3.1
Drowning	3,306	3.0
Mechanical Suffocation	1,307	1.2
Natural Heat/Cold	893	0.8
Struck by Object	809	0.7



Air Transport	742	0.7
Firearms	730	0.7
Machinery	640	0.6
Water Transport	573	0.5
Rail Transport	426	0.4
Electric Current	376	0.3

Unintentional Fatalities age 14 and under

Motor Vehicles	2,408	45.6
Drowning	782	14.8
Mechanical Suffocation	687	13.0
Fires	469	8.9
Misc. accidents	463	8.8
Choking	172	3.3
Poison	130	2.4
Falls	113	2.1
Firearms	56	1.1

Total U.S. Population 290,850,000

\*National Safety Council 2003

**WHAT IS CCSP ALCOHOL/DRUG POLICY? WILL THERE BE A BAR ON PROPERTY?**

- Alcohol is strictly prohibited on all shooting and/or archery ranges.
- Any person who is discovered shooting while under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be cited and immediately removed from the property.
- Event managers will disqualify any persons who may have consumed any alcohol before shooting.
- All glass containers are prohibited.
- There is no bar on property.
- The public rifle/pistol range will have a convenience store where patrons may purchase water, juice, coffee, and soft drinks.
- The Shotgun Center will have a cafeteria that will be operated by Nevada Blind Industries.
- All illegal drugs are strictly prohibited at CCSP



## HOW WAS THE SHOOTING PARK PLANNED?

- Since before 1984 the citizens of Clark County have demanded a public shooting range
- Las Vegas is the largest metropolitan city in the country without a public shooting range.
- It is estimated that 45% of the households in Clark County own at least one firearm.
- In 1996, after the accidental fatal shooting of a Metro police officer by a 13-year-old girl target shooting with her father, concerned citizens convinced the City of Las Vegas to begin planning a public shooting range.
- A detailed chronology of the Clark County Shooting Park can be found on the Information Sheet of the Clark County Shooting Park Webpage:  
[http://www.accessclarkcounty.com/depts/parks/locations/Documents/Information\\_Sheet.pdf](http://www.accessclarkcounty.com/depts/parks/locations/Documents/Information_Sheet.pdf).
- In 2002, the Board of County Commissioners appointed a 30-person Citizen Advisory Committee to develop a Conceptual Master Plan, a Financial/Business Plan, and Marketing Plan for the Shooting Park. This committee supported by staff from the County's Parks & Recreation Department
- The Citizen Advisory Committee determined the Shooting Park's features and services. Each committee person was selected for his/her knowledge of shooting and as a member or officer of a shooting or public organization.
- The Clark County Shooting Park is a member of the National Association of Shooting Ranges and a Club Member of the National Rifle Association. Both groups have "best management practices" for shooting ranges.
- The National Association of Shooting Ranges has a "five star" rating system, which the CCSP has been designed to achieve.
- The Clark County Shooting Park has committed itself to Environmental Stewardship with a pledge to maintain environmental integrity.
- In August of 2008, the Shooting Park received the prestigious EPA "Certificate of Recognition" for the development of its Environmental Stewardship Plan and Best Management Practices.



## **WHAT TYPES OF PUBLIC NOTICES HAVE BEEN OFFERED REGARDING THE SHOOTING PARK?**

- Every meeting of the Shooting Park Advisory Committee has been a noticed public meeting.
- Public meeting notices are published in the Review-Journal, posted at County Buildings, and on the Clark County Web site: <http://www.accessclarkcounty.com/>
- The Shooting Park has been in front of the Clark County Board of County Commissioners at least 24 times, including the zoning planning and change process.
- It has been the subject of television news stories on Channel 4, Channel 8, Channel 13, Channel 21 and Face-to-Face with John Ralston
- It has been featured on the Heidi Harris Radio News Program
- It has been the subject of newspaper articles in The Las Vegas Review-Journal, The Las Vegas Sun, The North Las Vegas View, and many local and national magazines
- It was part of the Northwest Open Space Plan, the Floyd Lamb Park Plan, and part of the City of Las Vegas' Fire Safety and Emergency Response Plan.
- It was a part of the BLM Conservation Transfer Area public meetings and public focus groups.
- During the zoning change process in 2005, all property owners within a three-quarter mile radius (approximately 3,950 feet) of the proposed zoning change were notified by Clark County. The county notified 180 property owners.
- It has been featured in the Las Vegas City Council local news releases and community notifications.

## **WHAT IS THE ZONING OF THE SHOOTING PARK?**

- The Shooting Park was zoned PF for "public facility" by Clark County in 2005.
- Some people have mistaken the CV zoning of the City of Las Vegas north of La Concha Drive as the zoning of the Shooting Park. That is in error. The Shooting Park is farther north and is not in the City of Las Vegas zoning.
- Clark County Zoning includes "shooting range" as a function of the PF zoning.



- During zoning notifications, Clark County posted signs along its property boundary and mailed certified notices to 180 property owners all within 3,950 feet from the property.
- In addition, the southern boundary was posted with notification signs. All Zoning requirements, notifications, and postings were in full compliance with law and county regulations/code.
- It is identified as a PF (public facility) on the Clark County Web page (determining the zoning of your property).

## **HAVE ANY ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES BEEN COMPLETED ON CCSP?**

- A biological and endangered species study found no endangered plants or animals.
- There is the possibility of Desert Tortoise coming into the area. Therefore, we have developed a Desert Tortoise Maintenance Plan.
- The Shooting Park was designed to maximize the protection of the Las Vegas Formation. A Paleolithic study assessed the likelihood of significant historical animal and vegetative activity. The study found 33 potential sites. The County assigned a paleontologist and an archeologist to monitor the site whenever any earth is moved.
- The State Historic Preservation Office looked for more recent historical cultural resources and found nothing.
- The US Army conducted flood studies and found two 100-year flood zones in the Las Vegas Wash.
- The Regional Flood Control District conducted studies on the site. These studies helped to formulate the CCSP Flood Control Plan.
- Carmel Canyon and CCSP are in different watersheds. There is a multi-million dollar flood control project between Carmel Canyon and CCSP. No water run-off from CCSP will go into any residential areas.
- Geotechnical studies included a soil pH study, which found the soil to be alkaline.
- A certified sound study of a 25 trap and skeet field in Tucson Arizona was referenced. As the CCSP is 24 trap and skeet fields the study is a good model of potential CCSP sound. The test was taken at maximum use and at a mile distance the sound was less than 40 dBA.
- CCSP participated in a plant salvage operation that harvested and saved desert plants for reuse in park landscaping.



- During construction, there will be an on-site monitoring per desert tortoise laws and to detect any features before they are disturbed.
- The design of the Shooting Park meets all Clark County Codes for site and environmental construction requirements.

## **HOW WILL THE SHOOTING PARK RELATE TO THE COMMUNITY?**

- The primary objective of the Shooting Park is to offer the public a safe, affordable, fun, family-oriented, world-class, public recreational shooting facility.
- CCSP will be offering firearms safety classes and other programs to enhance firearms safety to the community.
- Our Education Center has three 30-seat classrooms and archery, rifle, pistol, shotgun ranges.
- The Education Center will be the focus point for neighborhood programs for firearms, archery safety and after school programs.
- CCSP will have group specific programs including, but not limited to, a Youth Program and a Women's Program in the areas of archery, rifle/pistol and shogun.
- The Shooting Park Manager, upon request, will be open to meeting with homeowner associations to ensure that relations stay positive.
- There may be some specific programs developed for local residents

## **WHAT WILL BE THE CLOSEST SHOOTING AREA TO A RESIDENCE?**

- The property line north of La Concha Drive is the closest residential area to the shooting park. It is a half-mile south of the southern park boundary.
- Because of the massive flood control basin south of the shooting park and the adjacent Floyd Lamb City Park, no residential property will ever be any closer than it is now.
- During design, we moved the shotgun range a half-mile north of our southern boundary. Therefore, there is a full mile separation from the nearest trap and skeet fields to the closest residential property boundary.



## **IF I LIVE IN THAT AREA, HOW FAR WILL THE RANGE BE FROM MY HOUSE?**

- The distance from your house to La Concha Drive, plus one mile, is the distance from your house to the shooting areas of the shooting park.

## **WHAT OTHER OUTDOOR SHOOTING RANGES ARE IN LAS VEGAS? HOW FAR ARE THEY FROM RESIDENCES?**

- There are four outdoor shooting ranges in the Las Vegas Valley. Two are police ranges and two are private ranges.
- The following distances are from their shooting areas to the nearest residence:
  - **The Las Vegas Sportsman Club** is a private gun club located on the North end of Durango Drive. It is 1,108 feet away from residences developed in 2006 and is 2,385 feet from residences established prior to 2006.
  - **The Desert Sportsman Club** is a private gun club located on West Charleston Blvd. It is 3,286 feet from an established residence and 3,016 feet from new residential home construction.
  - **The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Range** is located on East Carrey Avenue. It is 1,779 feet from the nearest residence.
  - **The North Las Vegas Police Range** is located on East Carrey Avenue. It is 877 feet from the nearest residence.
- These distances were taken from the Clark County Zoning Map electronic site. None of these ranges pose safety problems for their local communities.

## **WHAT ABOUT SOUND FROM THE SHOOTING PARK?**

- Clark County Code 30.68.020 specifies the sound levels for residential neighborhoods at 72 decibels (dBA). It is measured with a certified sound meter four feet above the ground at the nearest property line.
- Impulse noise (similar to the type generated by a shooting range), however, cannot exceed 56 decibels (dBA) during daytime hours. That means that there is a higher standard for shooting ranges than for neighborhoods.
- County Code prohibits operation until the proper sound attenuation is achieved.



- By moving the trap and skeet ranges north of the property boundary by an additional half mile, the noise level over a "free field" will not exceed 56 dBA.
- By the nature of its use, a trap and skeet field can only have one shooter shooting at a time. That means that despite the size of the event, only 24 people can shoot on the trap and skeet fields.
- All shooting on the Public Module will be directed north, which means that the loudness of the sound will be directed away from the residences.
- On February 11, 2008 we conducted an informal sound test at the site from the shotgun ranges closest to the end of Jones Boulevard, the sound meter did not detect the shotgun shots.
- The gunshots recorded on the web page from the Island Lake Recreation Area, presented to local residents, are between 79 and 84 decibels. The volume must be turned down less than 30% to replicate the 56-decibel requirement.
- A basketball dribbled on tile floor is 82-84 decibels, and on carpet between 78-80. Both of these exceed the 56-decibel requirement for the shooting park. We were unable to dribble a basketball at 56 decibels.

## **HOW DO WE KNOW THAT THE SHOOTING PARK WILL FOLLOW THE COUNTY CODE FOR NOISE?**

- Once the shooting park is properly constructed to include grading and berms, the County will test the noise per county code for compliance.
- The total volume of sound does not double with each shotgun and the park cannot exceed the level required by the county code.
- Bottom Line: The shooting park **MUST** be in compliance with all county codes as well as State and Federal laws.

## **I'M NOT FAMILIAR WITH DECIBELS (dBA). WHAT ARE SOME COMPARABLE SOUNDS?**

- Decibels (dBA) are a measurement of sound that is heard by the human ear. The higher the dBA the louder the sound. A distance the sound is measured from, must accompany all sound measurements.

Some common sounds are:

- Whisper at 3 feet = 42 dBA
- Normal Speech at 3 feet = 63 to 65 dBA



- Sounds of a City Street = 70 dBA
- Dog Barking at 10 feet = 80-90 dBA
- Freeway Traffic = 90 dBA
- Shotgun Muzzle at 2 feet = 125 dBA
- Jet Plane at 100 feet = 130 dBA

## **WHAT ARE THE ANTICIPATED TRAFFIC ISSUES?**

- As part of the design, Clark County required a traffic study.
- In the case of major events there is a traffic management team and a traffic management plan. The local high school will generate a higher traffic load than the Shooting Park's Public Module.
- At full build out the Shooting Park is projected to have several large-scale events. However, it will be 10 to 20 years before the full potential of the Shooting Park is realized. By that time the Sheep Mountain Parkway will be constructed. This parkway will generate more noise (90dBA) than the Shooting Park and will have an exit at Decatur Boulevard and Moccasin Road. Consequently most of the traffic to the Shooting Park will come from the Parkway.
- The Public Module is only a small part of the overall master plan and because it has no specific rifle or pistol event ranges it will not generate large crowds of shooters.

## **WHAT ABOUT LEAD? WILL THE LEAD FROM THE SHOT AND BULLETS CONTAMINATE THE ENVIRONMENT?**

- Lead bullets tend to stay as macro fragments and remain where they fall. Studies at established ranges show no lead dust contamination in immediately adjacent areas.
- Shotgun pellets do not fragment after hitting a clay bird. They fall onto the ground and remain intact.
- CCSP will use biodegradable clay targets. All debris and trash (e.g. brass cases, wads, paper) will be removed on a frequent basis by Shooting Park staff assigned to maintenance.
- Rifle and pistol bullets become deformed or fragmented after striking a hard object. The rifle and pistol backstops are designed to ensure that no solid objects will be impacted.
- Rifle and pistol backstops and the shot fall field will be periodically cleaned for lead per legal requirements.



- All water that comes in contact with the various ranges will be collected into two interior drains and passed through double settling basins. These basins will be tested for lead and if any is found the basin will be cleaned and the lead removed. This plan and design has been approved by the State Health Department. We have also received the EPA "certificate of recognition" for this plan.
- Case studies of areas contaminated with lead have shown that lead was deposited on ground with acidic soil and copious amounts of rainfall. Our site has been pH tested and has alkaline soil with rainfall recorded at less than 5 inches per year. This indicates that lead is unlikely to dissolve into lead salts and will stay in original chemical form.
- The EPA has ruled that lead deposited on a shooting range that stays on the shooting range is not hazardous waste and therefore may be recycled.

### **WE LIVE IN THE DESERT. WHAT ABOUT DUST CREATED FROM ACTIVITY AT THE RANGE?**

- Clark County Air Quality has standards for dust abatement that we must adhere to.
- CCSP will implement County approved methods of dust control (e.g. soil stabilizers, berm maintenance, berm matting, vegetation and watering).
- All parking areas and roadways are paved to reduce sources of dust.
- The current homes at Carmel Canyon are located just south of the Las Vegas Formation (Las Vegas Wash) and the detention basin. The Las Vegas Formation is a half-mile wide at this point and consists of fine silt alluvium. This area is highly unstable and is easily disturbed by winds and motor vehicles. Initial assessments show high activity of historical target shooting and related lead deposits in this area. This means when the wind blows the detention basin generates uncontrolled dust in a magnitude far exceeding any possible dust from the Shooting Park, which has controlled conditions.

### **IS IT TRUE THAT AN EQUESTRIAN PARK IS PLANNED NEXT TO CARMEL CANYON?**

- Yes, but it is not part of the Clark County Shooting Park facility.



- In 2004, the City of Las Vegas completed a Northwest Open Space Plan, a comprehensive project with several public hearings and focus groups. The Shooting Park was part of this plan as well as the Equestrian Park.
- The proposed equestrian park will be located west of Jones Boulevard and is part of a larger City of Las Vegas Park & Recreation Area.
- The development is waiting on funding from the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act.

## **WHAT ABOUT SHADOW RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL?**

- Shadow Ridge High School was designed and constructed after CCSP acquired its land in 2003.
- The decision to locate the high school in its present location was made by school authorities after they knew about the Shooting Park.
- Shadow Ridge High School is located approximately one and a half miles south of the shooting areas.
- The entrance to Shadow Ridge High School is not Decatur Blvd. Decatur Blvd is located on the backside of the school behind the sports fields.
- There are no incidents, documented or anecdotal, regarding anyone traveling to a shooting range for practice or competition that stopped and shot at a school. No incidents anywhere.
- The Shooting Park will offer educational and sports opportunities for students.
- Archery is currently on many school sports programs.
- There is a well-established youth "scholastic clays target" program for youths in Clark County and several students from Shadow Ridge are already participants.
- The Shooting Park will teach responsible firearm safety and ownership, a program not taught in public schools and a program that is desperately needed.
- By the time the park is more developed, most of the visitors will be arriving via the Sheep Mountain Parkway and not on Decatur Blvd.
- Due to the strict safety standards implemented at public shooting ranges; the safety and sports programs the Shooting Park will offer, the high school and its students will benefit from the development of a close relationship with the Shooting Park.



## THERE HAVE BEEN SOME STORIES REGARDING NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THAT ISSUE?

- The Director of Clark County Parks & Recreation and a County Commissioner visited the commander of Nellis AFB in 2000 to discuss a public shooting park.
- In 2003, upon written request of the Base Commander, a Nellis AFB employee was assigned to the Shooting Park Advisory Committee and was on the committee that developed the current Conceptual Master Plan.
- In April 2008, Nellis AFB was contacted concerning the placement of a safety beacon on a communications tower at CCSP. There are no issues with Nellis AFB and the CCSP. Both agencies are committed to provide public safety.
- Per a public information request to the USAF: "There are no instances where a plane has ever been struck by a bullet fired from any shooting range."

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