

NEVADA DIVISION OF FORESTRY

Parking lots absorb a lot of solar radiation, increasing urban heat island effects for residents. Planting trees in parking lots not only provides shade in these areas, but trees also help to decrease the amount of water runoff for a community. By developing parking lot tree assessments for Mojave Desert communities, the Nevada Division of Forestry is mitigating the heat and environmental stress of parking lots for human health.



Parking lot in Las Vegas demonstrates the lack of trees and shows that there is work to be done. *Photo Credit: Lisa Ortega.*

In the Mojave Desert, parking lots are exacerbating extreme urban heat waves, and the asphalt's heat absorption can add several degrees to the immediate area's temperature. The Nevada Division of Forestry, in conjunction with the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and The Nature Conservancy will inventory and assess parking lot conditions in the greater Mojave Desert communities.

The assessment centers around two key questions: 1) Are we losing valuable contributions to the urban environment by the lack of parking lot tree success? and 2) What are the outcomes of status quo development features, and what could be better for the future success of this type of green infrastructure in the Mojave Desert for its citizens?

The assessment will also evaluate the health of trees that are currently planted in Mojave Desert parking lots to determine if parking lot trees are surviving. The assessment will help to determine what is working or not working.

This study, will provide the Nevada Division of Forestry and key partners, with a deep dive into parking lots and their impact on Nevada communities, and what success may look like through best management practices (BMPs) for the future.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Nevada Division of Forestry, Urban and Community Forestry Program
<http://forestry.nv.gov/forestry-resources/urban-and-community-forest/>