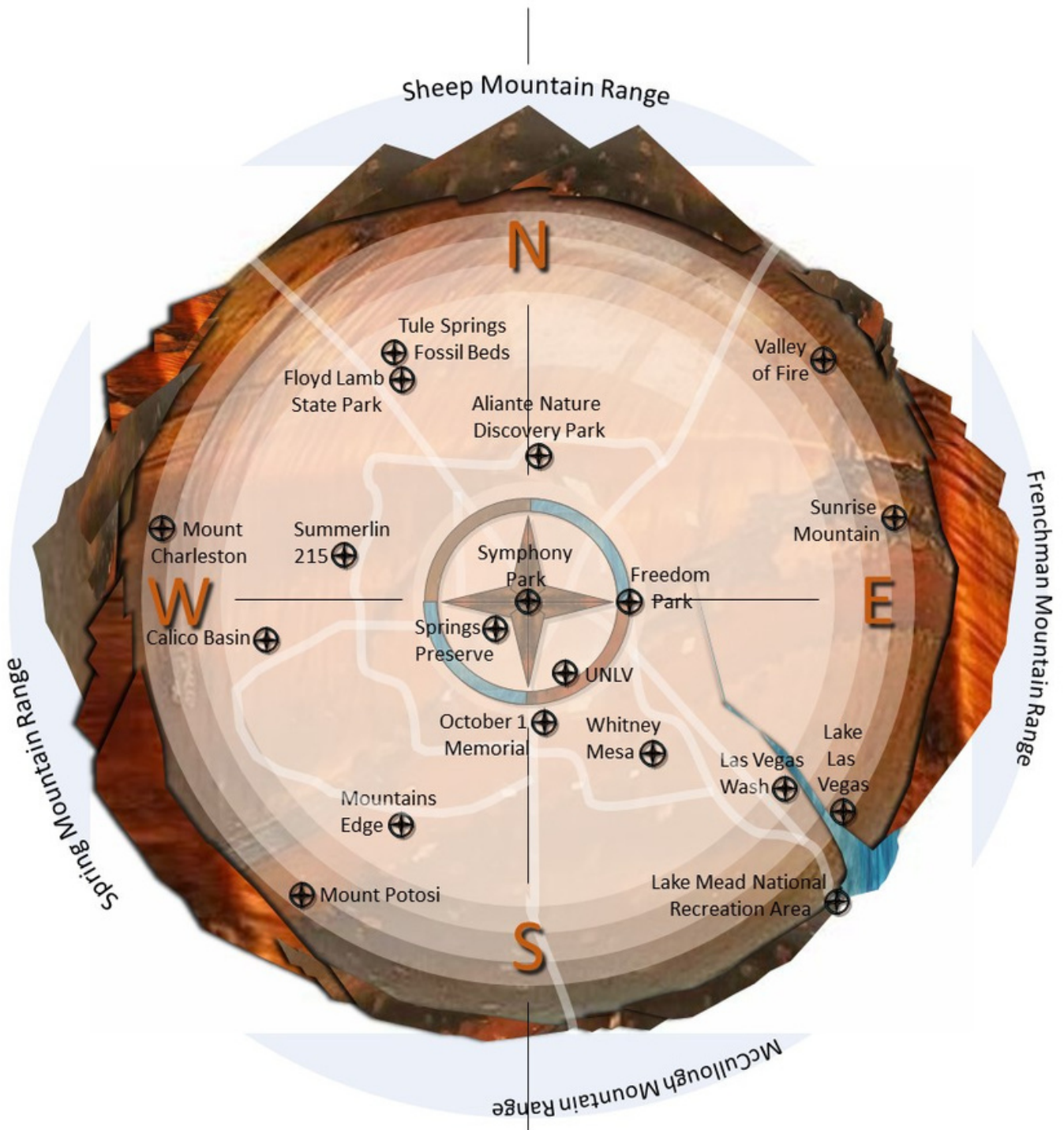


The COMPASS

It's Vegas, naturally!



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VISION: Encircle Southern Nevada with trails that feature Compass Points — places of rest, reflection, and renewal — that offer inspiring views of nature and the Las Vegas Valley. This iconic, common good campaign will promote the healing powers of spending time in nature and nurture care and concern for our natural world.

THE MISSION: Guide Southern Nevada's future by nurturing awareness, appreciation, and actions that support the inter-relational wellbeing of humans, desert habitats, and natural resources.

RATIONALE: This concept — first envisioned on the McCullough Bursage Loop trail just two days after the 1 October tragedy — recognizes that we live in trying times. People are hurting. Our planet is hurting. The path to healing, wholeness, and wisdom is, like a desert hiking trail, not a straight line. There are twists, turns, switchbacks, and setbacks. The Compass envisions navigating our way to a brighter future beginning in our own backyard. These public places of hope and healing will offer a holistic approach to ameliorating the chronic stress that humans, habitats, and all life systems are experiencing. The Compass will serve as a means of connecting people to the natural world, one another, the other, and a deeper sense of our own good nature.

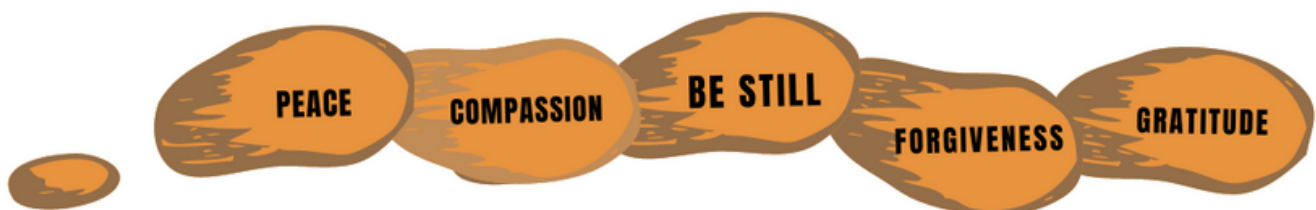
FEATURES:

The Compass will promote the mental, emotional, and physical benefits of availing oneself to — and potentially volunteering to maintain — Compass Point trails and sites. The Compass will feature:

- . Four cardinal trails (north, east, south, west) that create its archetypal framework
- . A Compass Center (proposed for the 1 October Memorial site)
- . Compass Points on each trail featuring five, flat sandstone rocks engraved with core value words that provide places for grounding in and contemplating in nature (see simple rendering below)
- . Community Sites that expand the Compass Points to additional places, e.g., secondary trails in desert, mountain, suburban, urban, and rural settings that ensure access to all and representation of Southern Nevada's diverse geography, culture, and people
- . A marketing campaign, trail signage, website, and app that provide navigational, educational, and experiential resources that may include but are not limited to health/wellness, mindfulness, science/nature, leadership/community engagement, culture, recreation, outdoor appreciation, and conservation

THE COMPASS will nurture:

- . Personal strength (e.g., compassion, patience, resilience, truth)
- . Leadership strength (e.g., integrity, courage, teamwork, stewardship, hospitality)
- . Community strength (e.g., unity, social justice, reconciliation, pride)
- . Outdoor and nature appreciation (e.g., awareness, appreciation, attention, action)





TRAILS: HOW WOULD TRAILS BE CREATED/DESIGNATED?

The Compass envisions collaborating with local, state, and federal agencies as well as public and private institutions to designate or establish the trails and iconic Compass Points. Funding of this common good campaign will come through various forms of funding, e.g., habitat conservation dollars, environmental social governance dollars, parks and recreation funding, grants, sponsorships, financial, and in-kind donations. If accepted for the 1 October Memorial, Clark County will be a major source of funding.

In many cases, partnering agencies and organizations may have existing trails and sites that would serve as appropriate points on The Compass. A "yes" commitment would become an opportunity to enhance such trails and garner the awareness that would come from partnering in this common good campaign. Additional trails and sites are imagined as being added to The Compass over five to ten years.

WHAT IS A COMPASS POINT?

A Compass Point is a place to ground in nature and in one's own deep, good nature. These places for rest, reflection, and renewal consist of five large, flat, natural stones. The center stone will be etched with the words "BE STILL"— an invitation to be present through mindfulness. The surrounding four rocks would be etched with core-value words echoing what one might need to receive or extend, e.g., compassion, hope, gratitude, forgiveness, unity, peace, reconciliation, love, truth, etc. The Cardinal Trails forming The Compass framework are imagined as having similar features and splendor with the possibility of additional, simpler centering points being installed at existing or proposed outdoor sites, e.g., parks, event venues, schools/ universities, and places such as the Las Vegas or Pittman Wash and Henderson Bird Preserve.

It is worth stating that The Compass would become a community asset attractive to residents and visitors. The trails and Compass Points would serve as important venues for desert docents, teachers, counselors, fitness coaches, faith leaders, and others who value that the path to thriving of humans and habitats are interrelated.

COLLABORATION: WHY WOULD AGENCIES WITH ESTABLISHED PARKS AND TRAILS CHOOSE TO COLLABORATE?

The Compass would not replace local, state, or federal agencies individual efforts. This common good campaign is based on a "better together" effort. By designating one or more trails within each district, The Compass campaign will demonstrate a collaborative commitment of care and concern for the thriving of Southern Nevada's people (residents and tourists), its lands (habitat), its creatures (all inhabitants), and natural resources. The project was first envisioned as a compassionate response to the October 1 tragedy, a time when our community's internal compass shone its brightest. Ultimately, The Compass campaign, would become an umbrella campaign for promoting The Compass mission and vision.

CREATIVE: ARE THERE MORE CREATIVE COMPONENTS TO THE COMPASS?

Yes, The Compass concept also envision big ideas including an observation tower, gallery, and "in residency" space for those committed to developing compassion-based deliverables that benefit the mutual thriving of humans and habitats.

It's Vegas, Naturally!

WANDER . OBSERVE . WONDER

THE COMPASS, a collection of trails and Compass Points, are destination transformation — places to ground yourself in the great outdoors and get acquainted with the compassionate design of nature and your true nature. Experience the WOW! Wander, observe, and wonder about how nature speaks to you.

WANDER

Consider slowing down your hike or walk. Try sauntering or wandering your way along the trail (at least for a portion of it).

OBSERVE

As you wander, observe your surroundings. Is there a plant, animal, or rock or something else that catches your eye? Observe how you physically and emotionally respond to nature.

WONDER

Great leaders from scientists to spiritual guides believe that the desert has much to teach us about our world and who we are deep within. Albert Einstein said, "Look into nature, and you will understand everything better." It is believed that the desert speaks. How might experiencing the desert landscape and its flora and fauna speak to you?

HABITAT

The Mojave Desert is the smallest of the four deserts that comprise the North American Desert. However, its more than 250,000 square acres, are home to 200 plants that cannot be found in other North American deserts or anywhere else in the world. The Mojave Desert offers immense stargazing experiences and features singing sand dunes, wildflower fields, sagebrush seas, and Joshua tree forests, as well as the iconic desert tortoise. While the desert is often thought of as "dead" it is teeming with life!

SPECIES: THE BURSAGE BUSH

Can you spot an *Ambrosia dumosa*, the Bursage Bush which is common to the Mojave Desert? This plant, often called a nurse plant, plays an important role in the desert community by protecting its seedlings and the delicate seedlings of other native plants from the heat, sun, and foraging animals. This type of protection of surrounding habitat or species can also be called an umbrella effect.

HUMANS

As you wander and observe the desert, following are questions to wonder about (contemplate):

... Consider the Bursage Bush. Would you consider its design and role to be compassionate design?

... How can you protect — serve as an umbrella for — our desert habitat and its inhabitants?

How can you serve others in need?

... Is there someone who has showed you compassion by serving as your umbrella? harm?

