

Horse Drive & US-95 Interchange

The Horse & US-95 Interchange near the Mount Charleston turn off is open and operating. Southwick LA provided the landscape design for this NDOT highway as a sub-consultant to VTN Nevada. The design consists of large sandstone boulders stacked on each other to form natural ledges protruding from the ramp slopes. The outcroppings occur on the slopes at various locations along the 1700 foot long interchange. Some of the stacked stone ledges are over 100' long.

Wavy bands are formed on the slopes using three different colors of rock and can be seen in the aerial photo taken during construction. Each of the three colors is a different size of rock ranging from 1"- 4", 4"-8" and 8"-18" in size. The slope treatments occur on the outside, or non-highway side of the interchange providing views of the enhancements to the surrounding homes and businesses.

With all of the enhancements being rock, there is no need for irrigation water. The landscape maintenance for this interchange will mainly consist of garbage collection and moderate weed control. The landscape at the interchange carries a minimal price tag including both installation and long term maintenance.



"Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear - not absence of fear." - Mark Twain

FAVORITE FLORA:

PHOENIX DACTYLIFERA - DATE PALM

When one thinks of a classic palm, they think either of the tall, slender Mexican Fan Palm of Southern California or the more robust long-leaf Date Palm that dots many of the corners here in the Las Vegas Valley. Each palm has a unique look and both are appropriate in the right circumstance. The Date Palm (Phoenix Dactylifera) is native to the Middle East but has been cultivated for its fruit throughout the warmer climates around the world. Growing up to 80 ft. tall, the Date Palm is topped with a crown made up of 10-15 ft long gray-green, waxy leaves. This palm will probably grow too large for most yards but finds itself at home in larger spaces along streets, gated entries to communities and alongside taller buildings.

While there are many varieties of the Date Palm, the most popular variety is the 'Deglet Noor' or 'Date of Light' in Arabic. This name is derived from the center of the date being light or golden when held up to the sun.



Egyptian fruit sellers often give names to the best and worst dates of the year as a reflection of politics and pop culture to try and boost sales in local markets. Back in 2009, while I was living in Cairo, the best dates were given the name 'Super Obama' as a tribute to our President's recent outreach to the Muslim world.

Photo of the Month



Cave Formations

Lehman Caves
Great Basin National Park
Caroline Hicks

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