

Las Vegas Family Church: Shine City Project at Kiel Ranch Historic Park

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On Saturday, May 11th, Shine City Project joined Get Outdoors Nevada for a service project at Kiel Ranch Historic Park! This area in North Las Vegas has provided a rich history in Southern Nevada due to its natural spring. Originally a source of clean, drinking water for Southern Paiutes, the area became a settlement for Mormon missionaries who wanted to convert the Native Americans. Eventually, the area would later be purchased and developed by Conrad Kiel in 1875 who would establish a ranch covering a total of 240 acres. Because of the natural spring, apple orchards, fruit trees, and vegetables could be grown in the area. Kiel Ranch would become one of the two biggest ranches in the region. After going through several changes in ownership and functions over the years, seven acres are now Kiel Ranch Historic Park today.

On this Saturday morning, Shine City Project was represented by seven volunteers. While other volunteers were able to pick up litter and clean tables, our group focused on pulling out weeds from the park. A couple volunteers share their experiences below:

"Volunteering at Kiel Ranch Historic Park was a satisfying and therapeutic experience. I enjoyed being outside for a few hours after being cooped up inside for the past week. It helped that the park was so beautiful. It was interesting to read about the history of the old ranch that used to be there. I had a few conversations with several of our volunteers, as well as with one of the organizers of Get Outdoors Nevada. It was great getting to know such people with loving and caring hearts." (Robert A.)

"There were several volunteers helping out besides our group, so I was also able to start some conversations with these volunteers. One of the organizers of the service project shared that it was one of only several parks in the area. Looking around, I felt that there were neighbors who were regularly caring for the park, and I could feel that this was a precious place for them. The morning's service project required some hard work and effort, but I was grateful to be able to contribute to the park's beautiful environment. It was a fulfilling experience." (Katsu)

During our time at Kiel Ranch Historic Park, we were able to catch a glimpse of a mother duck with her ducklings. Several of our volunteers were also able to locate the natural spring towards the back of the park and discover some small life forms swimming around. Though it was a warm day, we enjoyed the experience being surrounded by Southern Nevada history!

