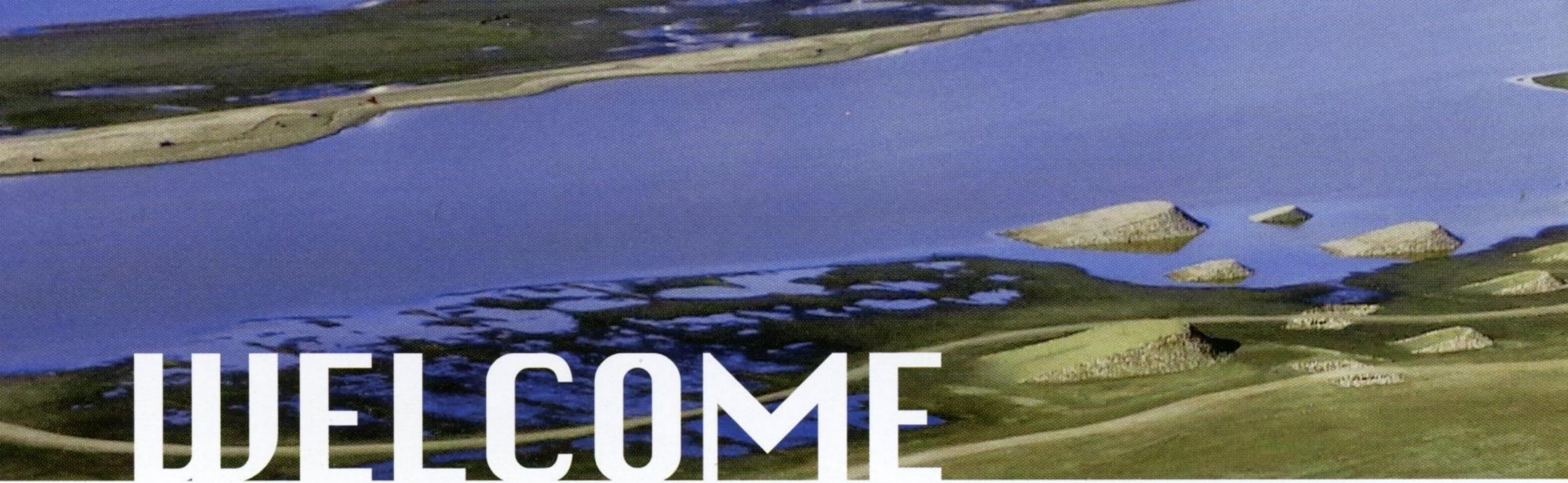




# OWENS LAKE

## T R A I L S

A Public Access, Education and Recreation Project  
of the LADWP Owens Lake Dust Mitigation Program



# WELCOME

Welcome to the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) Owens Lake Trails.

Partnering with a diverse group of local and regional stakeholders and other interested parties, LADWP created three public access trails and viewing areas as part of the Owens Lake Dust Mitigation Program (OLDMP). The viewing areas are accessed by designated entry points and routes identified on the maps at right.

LADWP initiated the OLDMP in 2001, and once fully implemented, will have mitigated dust by 99% on approximately 48.6 square miles of Owens Lake. LADWP is using native vegetation, shallow flooding and highly effective water efficient measures including, tillage and gravel, to mitigate dust emissions

on the lake. Up to 80,000 acre-feet of water per year has been used for mitigating dust emission on Owens Lake playa. In addition to controlling dust, water-based dust control measures provide habitat for wildlife – enabling an important stopover location for migratory waterfowl and shorebirds.

Before beginning your journey on the Owens Lake Trails, please familiarize yourself with the Public Access Guidelines on page 12, and carry ample water for all vehicle occupants.

To learn more about the City of Los Angeles' stewardship of Owens Lake and other City of Los Angeles land in the Owens Valley, visit:

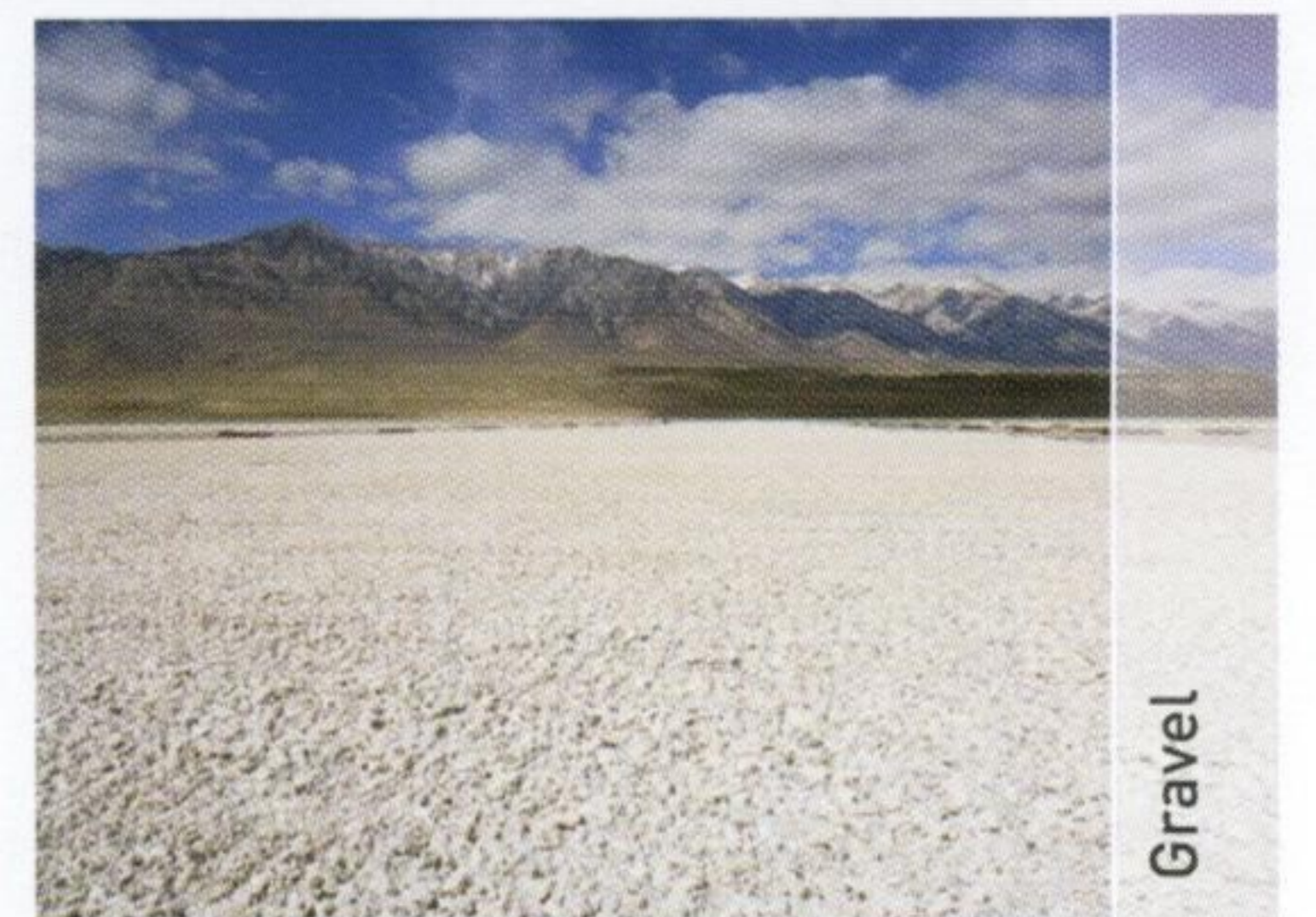
**[wsoweb.ladwp.com/Aqueduct](http://wsoweb.ladwp.com/Aqueduct)**.

Enjoy your visit!

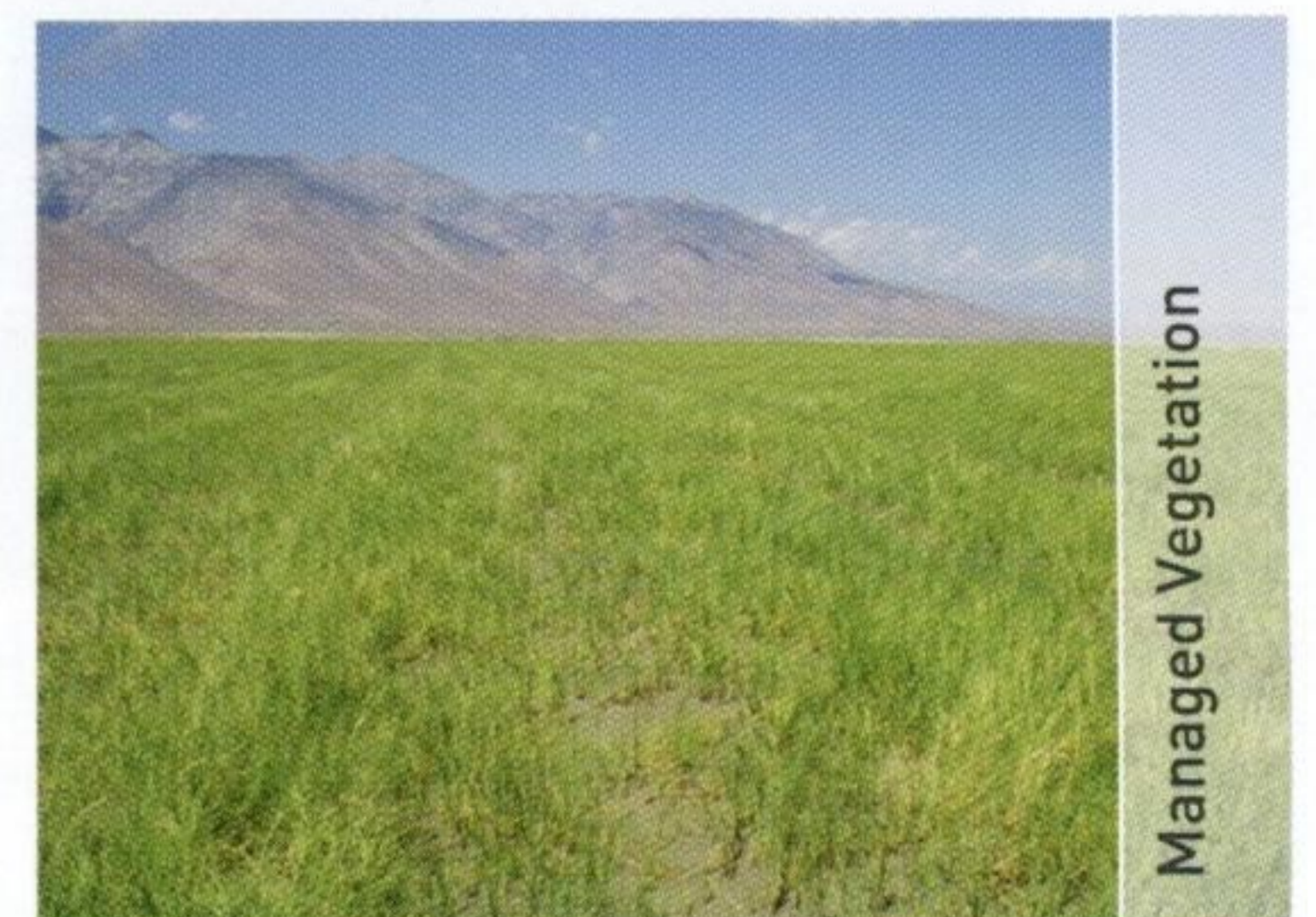
## DUST MITIGATION MEASURES



Shallow flood



Gravel



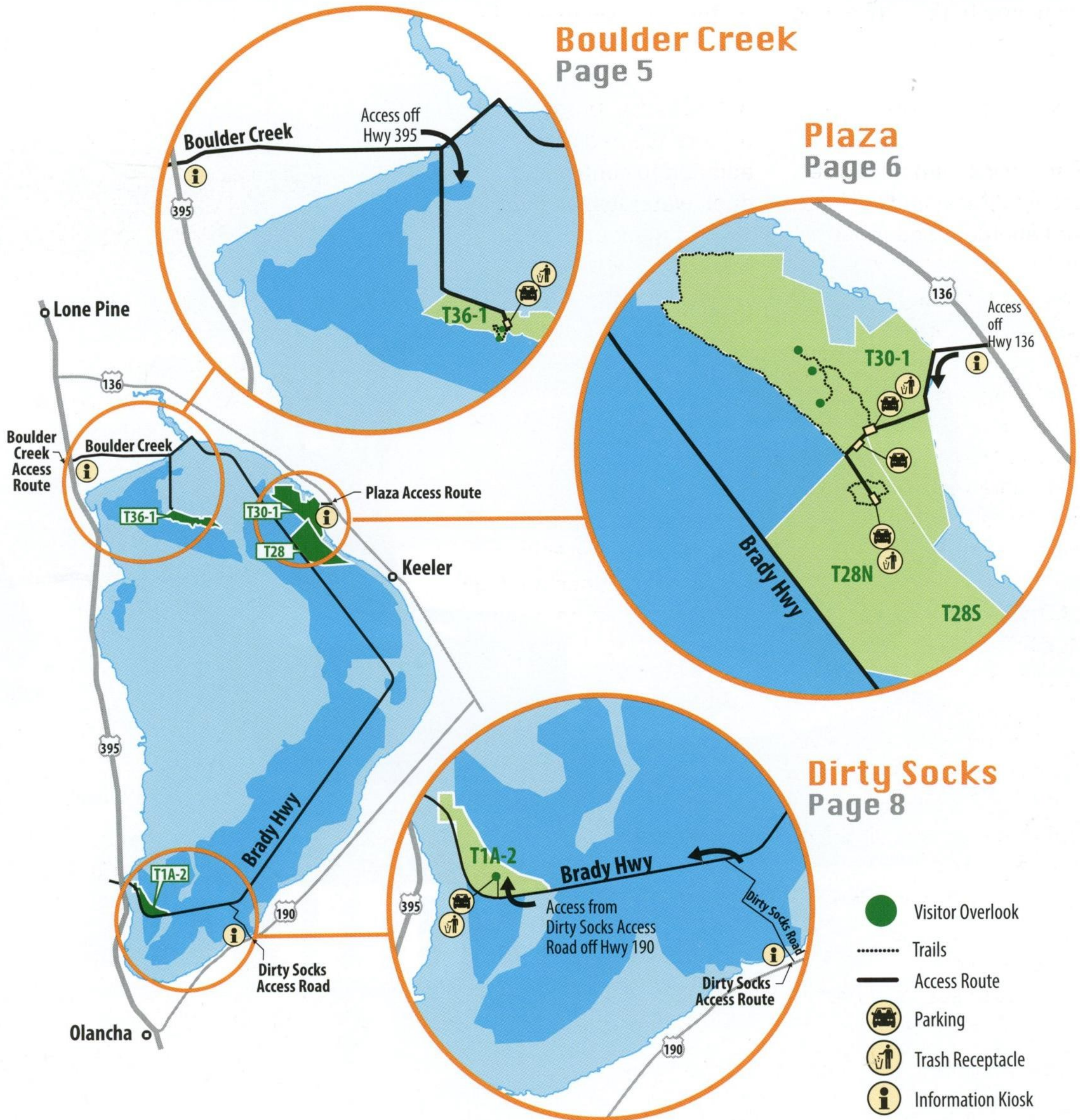
Managed Vegetation



Tillage

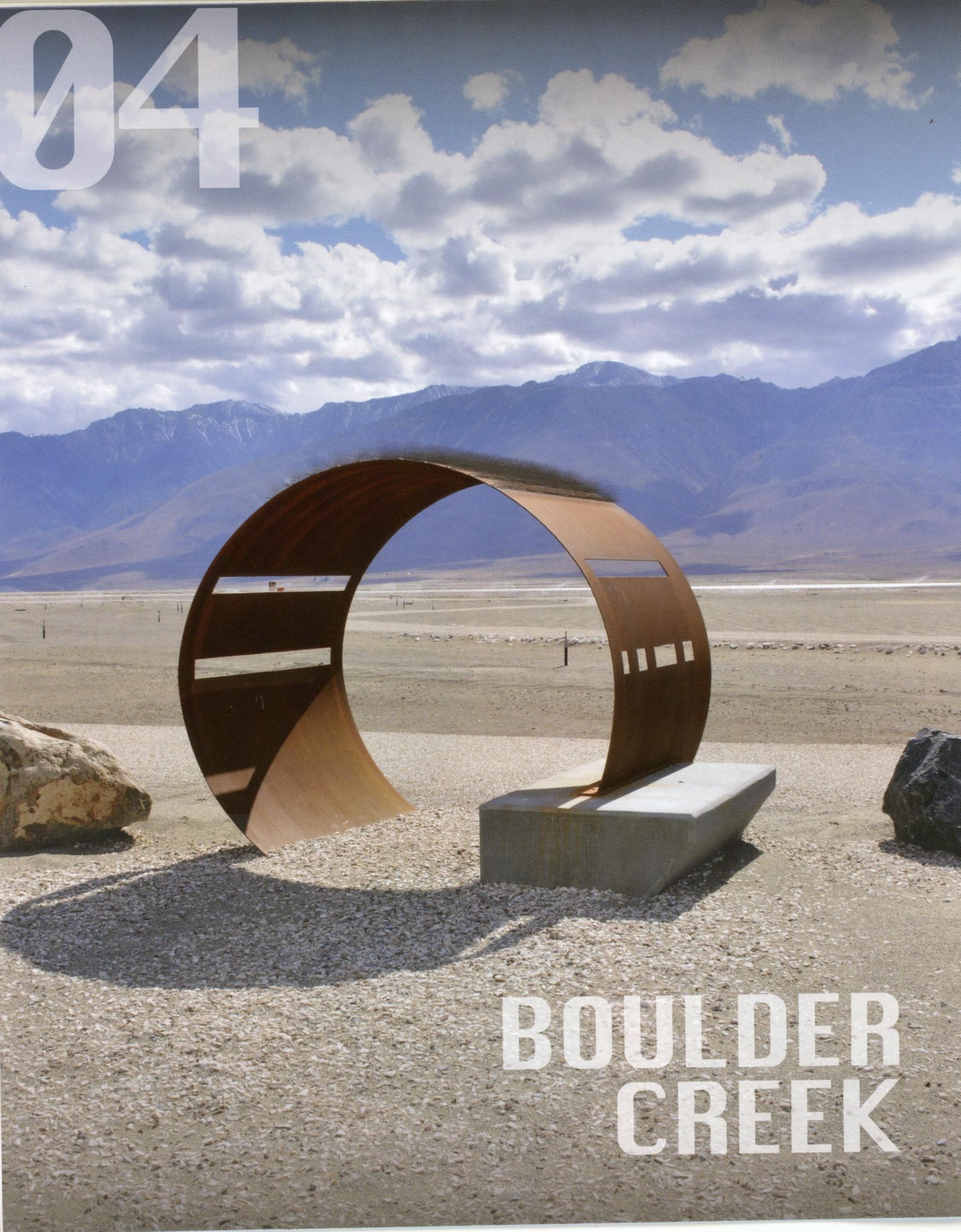
*Photography by Art Mochizuki, Ray Ramirez and Keith Leon*

# PUBLIC ACCESS ROUTES & TRAIL HEADS



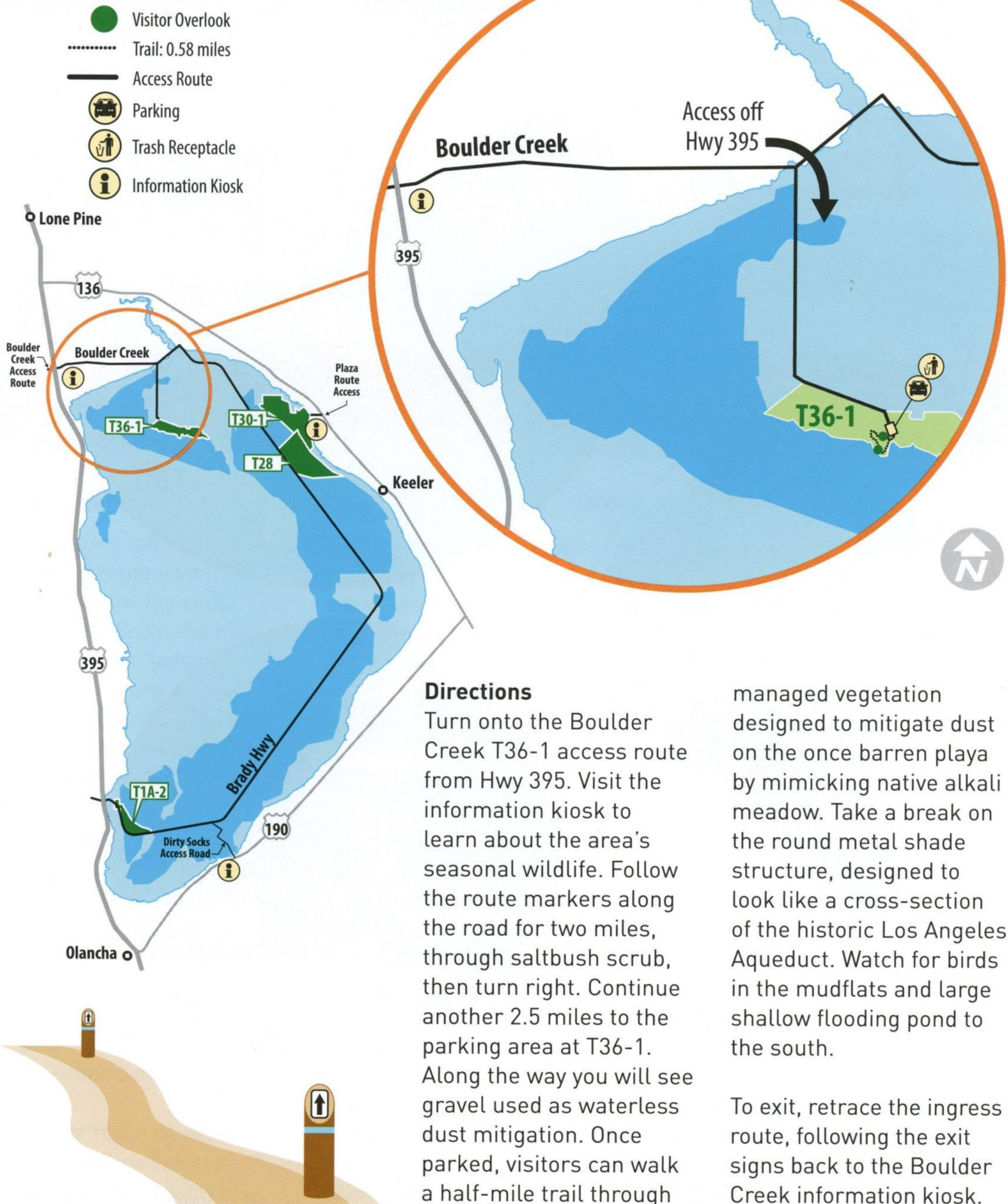
- Visitor Overlook
- Trails
- Access Route
- Parking
- Trash Receptacle
- Information Kiosk

04



**BOULDER  
CREEK**

# Boulder Creek Route



## Directions

Turn onto the Boulder Creek T36-1 access route from Hwy 395. Visit the information kiosk to learn about the area's seasonal wildlife. Follow the route markers along the road for two miles, through saltbush scrub, then turn right. Continue another 2.5 miles to the parking area at T36-1. Along the way you will see gravel used as waterless dust mitigation. Once parked, visitors can walk a half-mile trail through

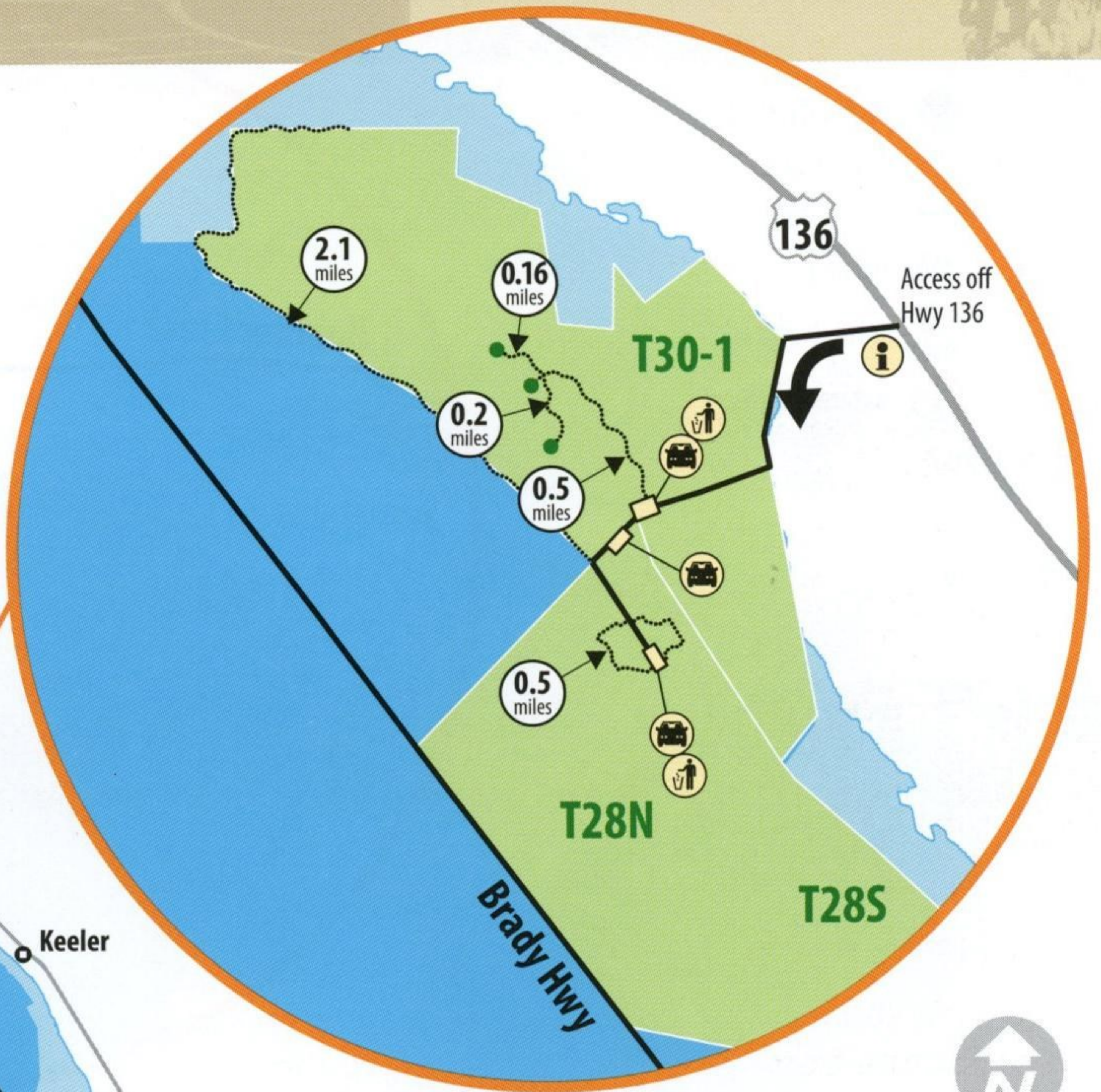
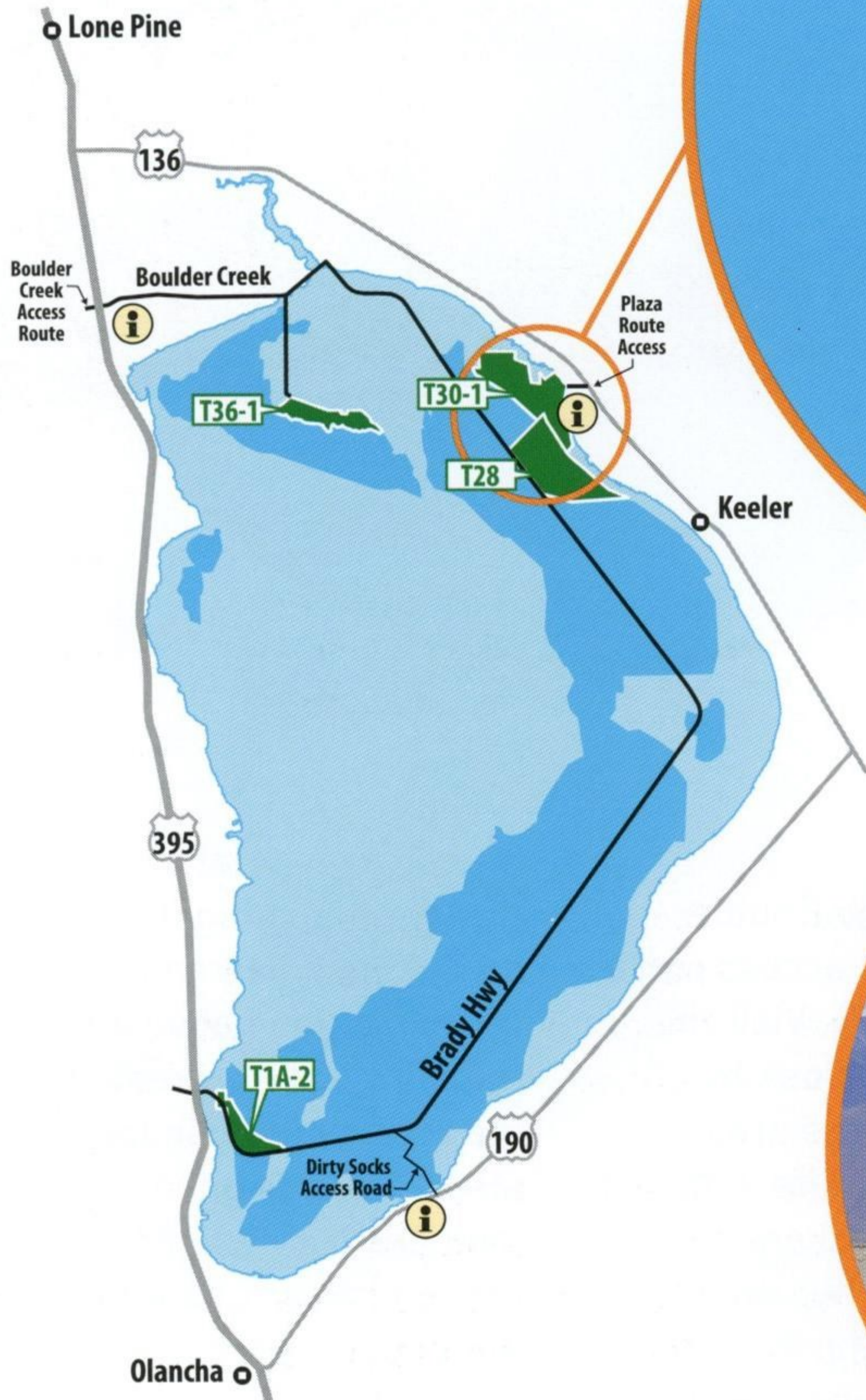
managed vegetation designed to mitigate dust on the once barren playa by mimicking native alkali meadow. Take a break on the round metal shade structure, designed to look like a cross-section of the historic Los Angeles Aqueduct. Watch for birds in the mudflats and large shallow flooding pond to the south.

To exit, retrace the ingress route, following the exit signs back to the Boulder Creek information kiosk.

To get to the parking areas and trailheads follow these route markers along the designated access routes.

# Plaza Route

-  Visitor Overlook
-  Trail: 3.06 miles
-  Access Route
-  Parking
-  Trash Receptacle
-  Information Kiosk



## Plaza Trailhead

Dust mitigation techniques:  
gravel, managed  
vegetation, created  
wetlands, and shallow  
flooding



## Directions

Turn onto the Plaza T30-1 access route from Hwy 136. Follow the route markers down the hill for .5 miles, towards the eastern shore of Owens Lake. Turn left where the road faces the managed vegetation wetlands. Notice the abundant emergent wetland vegetation and scattered trees that have colonized the once barren playa. Now, continue down the road and turn right to access the Plaza Trailhead parking areas, which are on either side of the road.

Use extreme caution when exiting vehicles and crossing roadways,

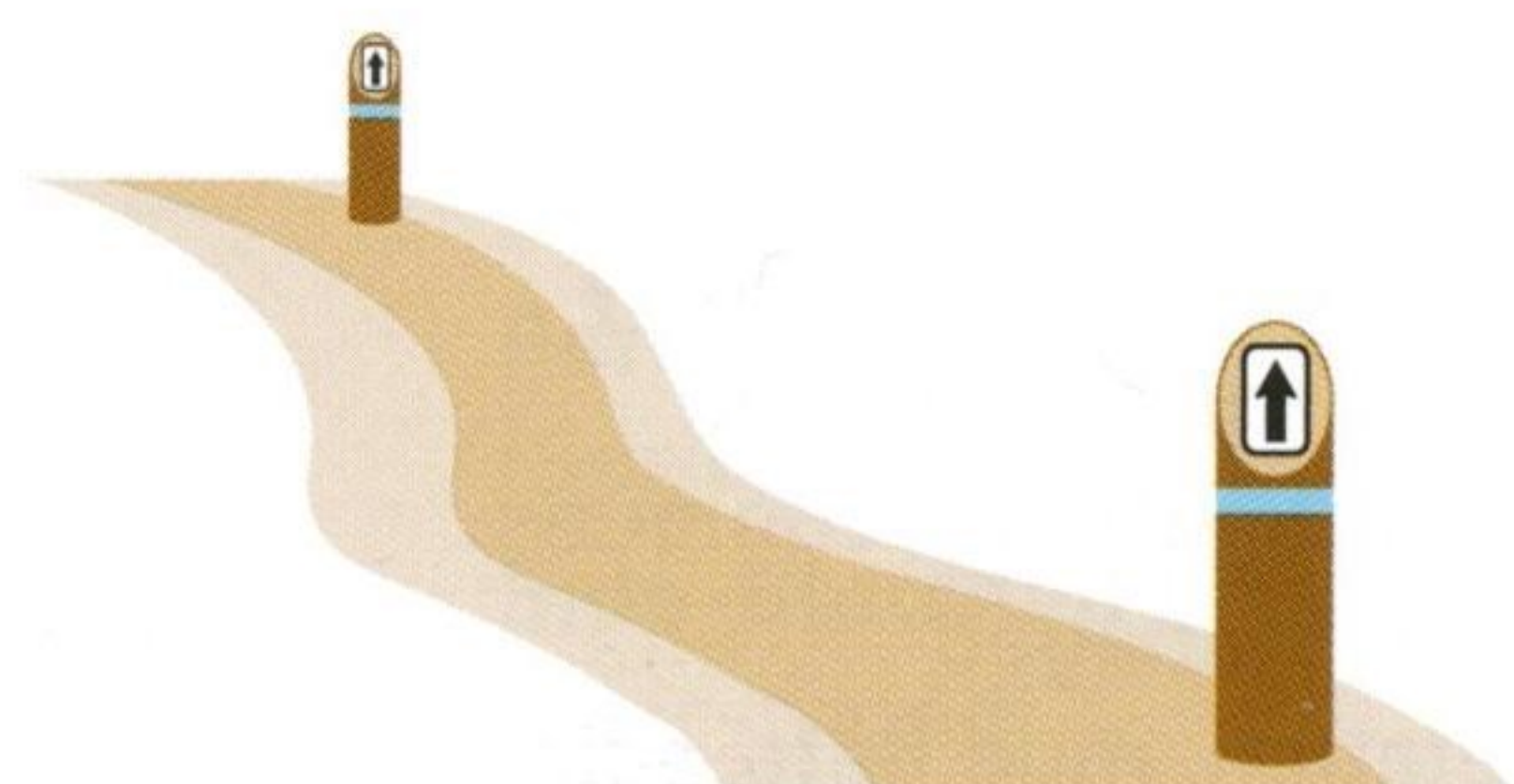
as these roads are used by heavy equipment and other large vehicles.

Once parked, proceed down a gravel pathway to the Plover Wing Plaza .5 miles to the north. Along the way, notice the shallow flooding, managed vegetation, and gravel dust mitigation methods. Enjoy a 2.1 mile walk along the pond and experience more of Owens Lake through three interpretive panels. Look for various birds using the constructed habitat islands.

To reach the T28N trailhead parking area, drive .10 of a mile further

down the road and turn left. Proceed south for another .5 miles to the T28 trailhead. Enjoy the peaceful nature of Owens Lake along this 0.65 mile trail through native saltgrass managed vegetation, and gravel dust control.

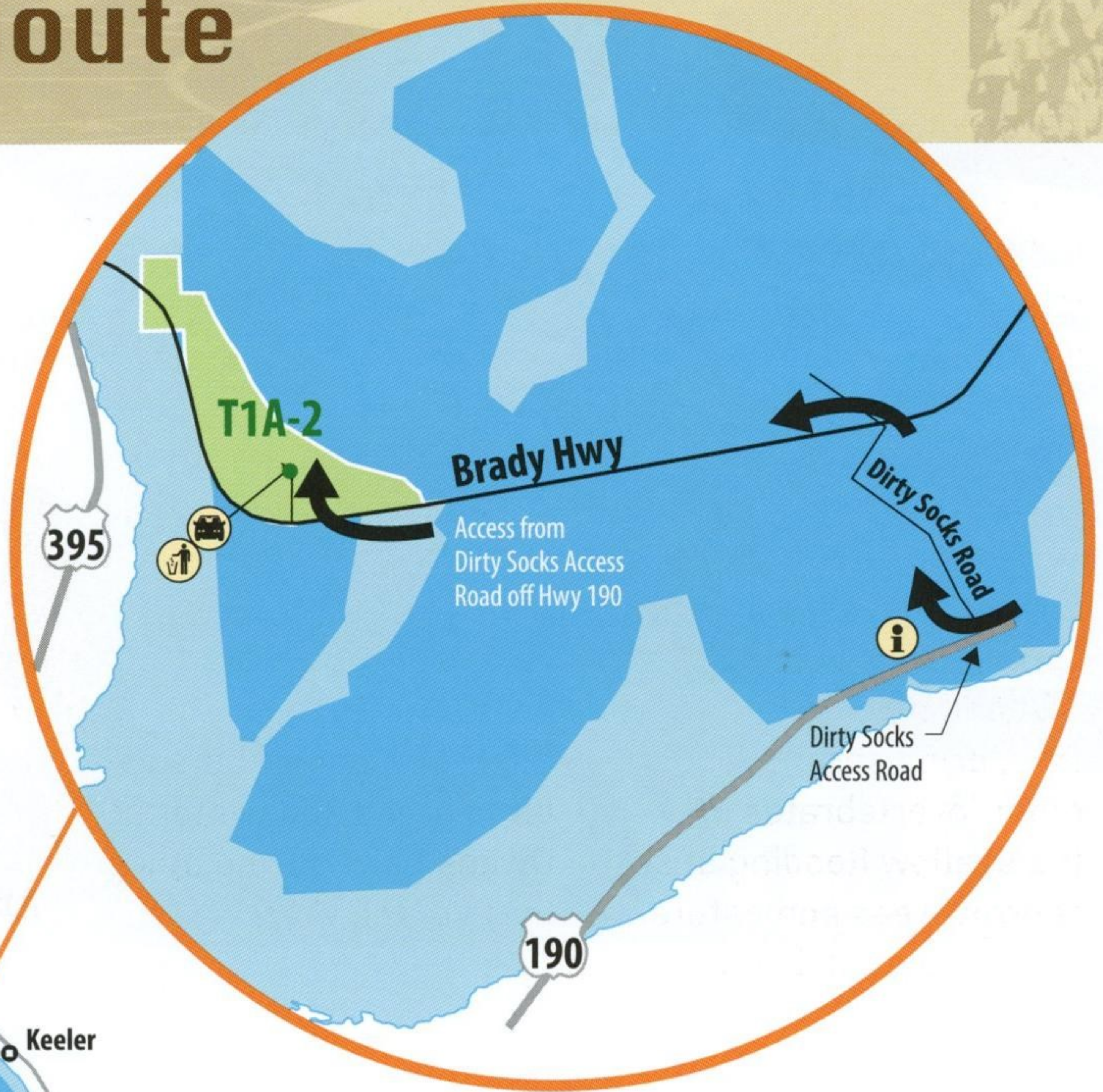
To exit, retrace the ingress route, following the exit signs back to the Plaza Route information kiosk.



To get to the parking areas and trailheads follow these route markers along the designated access routes.

# Dirty Socks Route

-  Visitor Overlook
-  Access Route
-  Parking
-  Trash Receptacle
-  Information Kiosk



## Boulder Creek and Dirty Socks Trailheads

Dust mitigation techniques: gravel, managed vegetation, mud flats, and shallow flood

### Directions

Turn onto the Dirty Socks T1A-2 access route from Hwy 190. To reach the viewpoint parking area, follow the route markers past fields of native saltgrass, planted for dust control and adjacent shallow flooding ponds. The route takes one turn to the right and another to the left before intersecting with Brady Highway, the main road for construction traffic on Owens Lake. Please use caution and be

aware of other vehicles when driving on Brady Highway.

Turn left on Brady Highway and travel 2.3 miles. Notice the waterless tillage dust mitigation method on both sides of the highway. Turn right at the sign marked "T1A-2 parking area" and proceed a short distance to the viewpoint overlooking managed vegetation composed of a native alkali meadow.

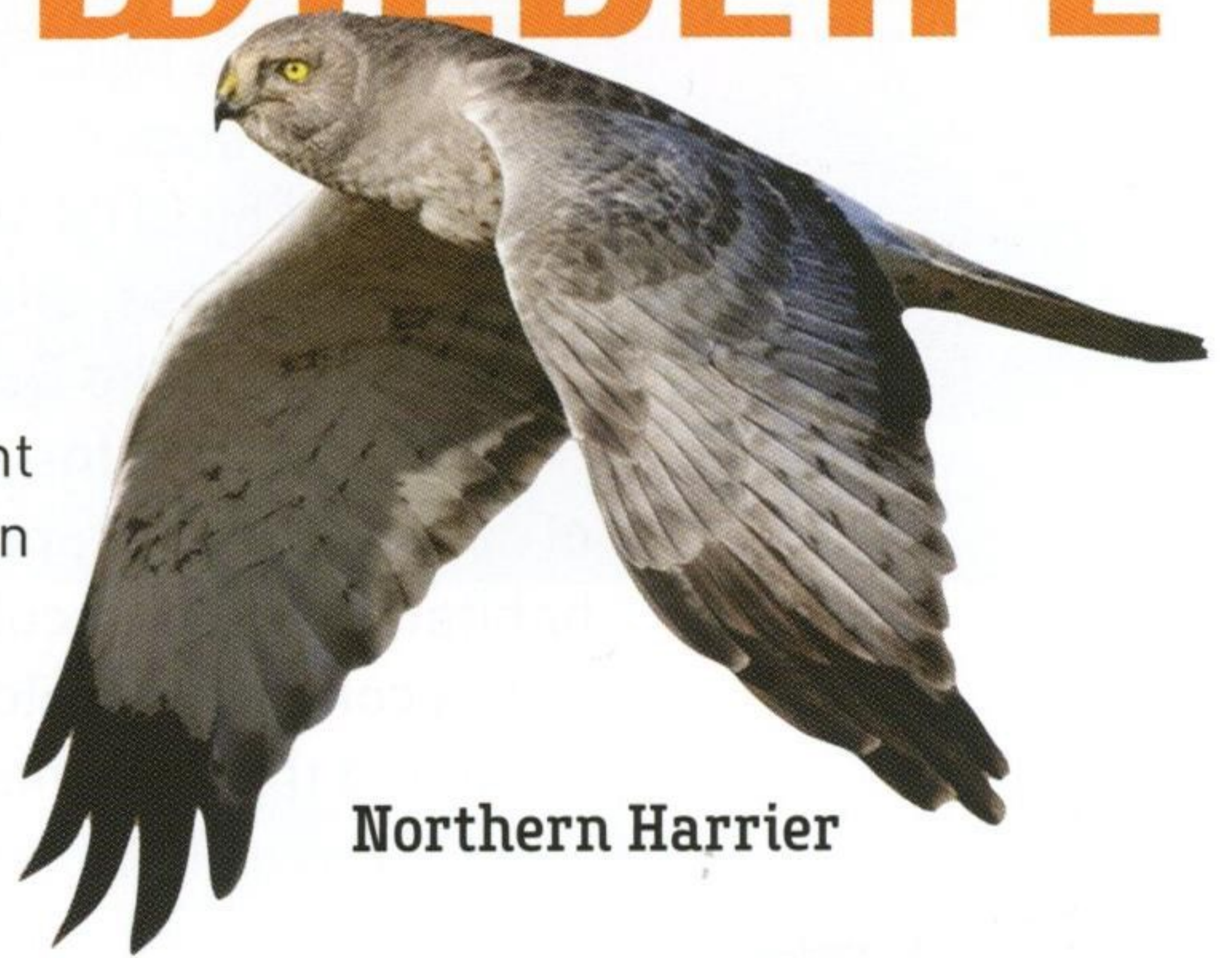
To exit, retrace the ingress route, following the exit signs back to the Dirty Socks information kiosk.



# OWENS LAKE WILDLIFE

The construction of dust mitigation features on Owens Lake have created incredibly productive habitat for birds and other wildlife. In spring and fall, tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, and other migratory bird species stop-over to rest and feed on alkali flies, brine shrimp, and other invertebrates in the shallow flooding dust control areas and natural springs around the lake.

Birds that utilize this habitat travel from as far south as South America and as far north as Canada. Over 100 different species of birds have been observed at Owens Lake. In a single day during peak migration, over 75,000 birds can be observed using Owens Lake. Fewer numbers of birds breed and winter at Owens Lake during other parts of the year.



**Northern Harrier**

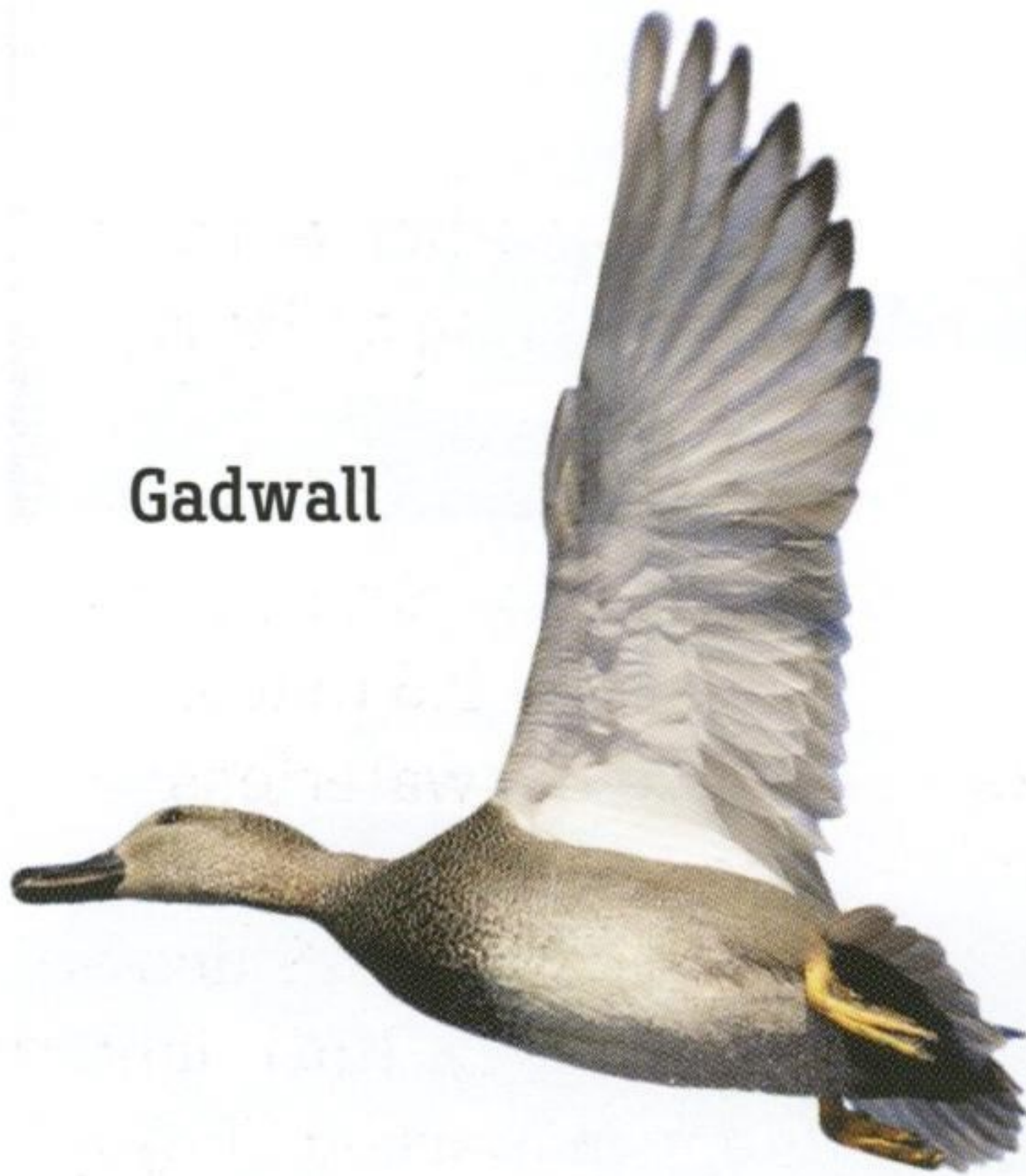


**American Avocet**

## Common Species

*(with main season of abundance)*

**Gadwall**



**Green-Winged Teal**



### **Northern Shoveler**

(Spring, Fall)

### **Gadwall**

(Spring, Summer)

### **Green-Winged Teal**

(Spring, Fall)

### **Eared Grebe**

(Spring, Fall)

### **Ruddy Duck**

(Spring, Fall, Winter)

### **American Avocet**

(Spring, Summer)

### **Black-Necked Stilt**

(Spring, Summer)

### **Western Sandpiper**

(Spring, Fall)

### **Snowy Plover**

(Spring, Summer)

### **Least Sandpiper**

(Spring and Fall)

### **Wilson's Phalarope**

(Fall)

### **Red-Necked Phalarope**

(Fall)

### **California Gull**

(Spring and Fall)

### **Horned Lark**

(Year-round)

### **American Pipit**

(Fall, Winter)

### **Savannah Sparrow**

(Year-round)

### **Northern Harrier**

(Year-round)

### **Peregrine Falcon**

(Spring, Fall)

### **Side-Blotched Lizard**

(Year-round)

### **Owens Valley Vole**

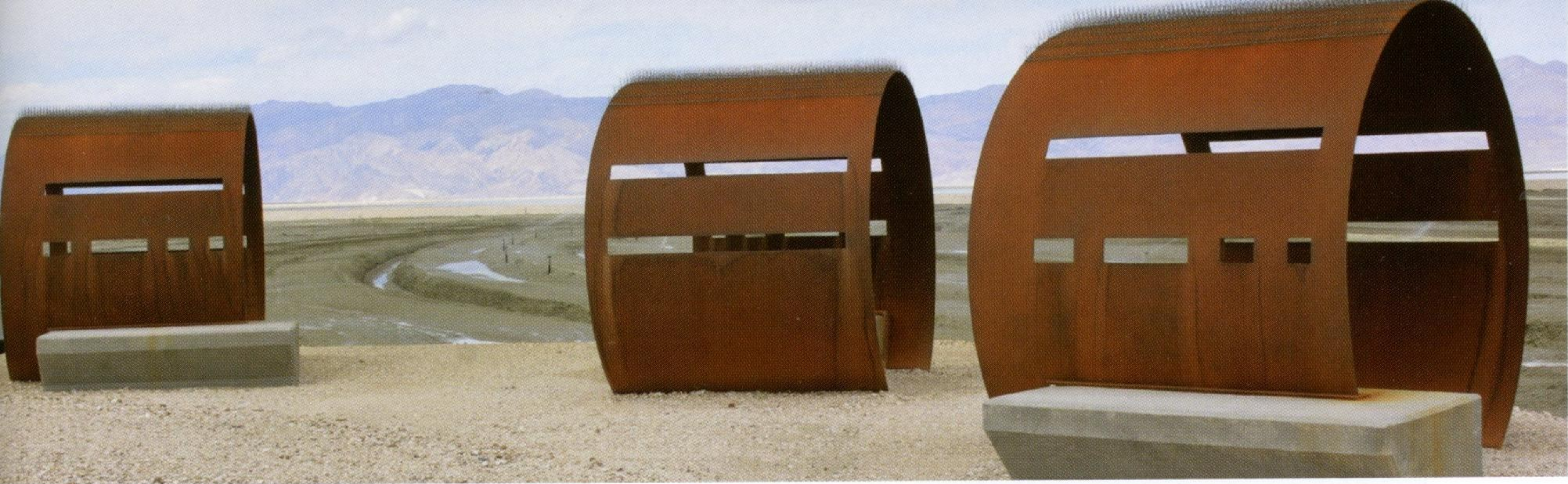
(Year-Round)

## Land Art Installation

The trailheads feature a land art installation designed by Perry Cardoza of Nuvis Landscape Architecture and engineered by CDM Smith. The installation is part of the public access, education and recreation component of the Owens Lake Dust Mitigation Program and was required to meet the overall program's requirements of controlling dust; protecting, creating and enhancing habitat, protecting cultural resources; providing area-wide economic development, and the creation of a viewshed that is in harmony with the surrounding environment. The land art installation includes a central plaza, surrounding paths, and natural art and architectural elements.



# LAND ART



## Plaza Trailhead

The Plaza Trailhead's central feature is Plover Wing Plaza, inspired by the Snowy Plover and serves as a gathering place for visitors. The sloping stone columns of the shade structure reflect the shape of the Snowy Plover's curved wing while in flight. Cut-outs in the steel overhang structure cast silhouettes on the concrete of birds in flight. In the center of the plaza is a large boulder nestled in a "nest" of smaller rocks. Snowy Plover are known to nest in gravel on the ground.

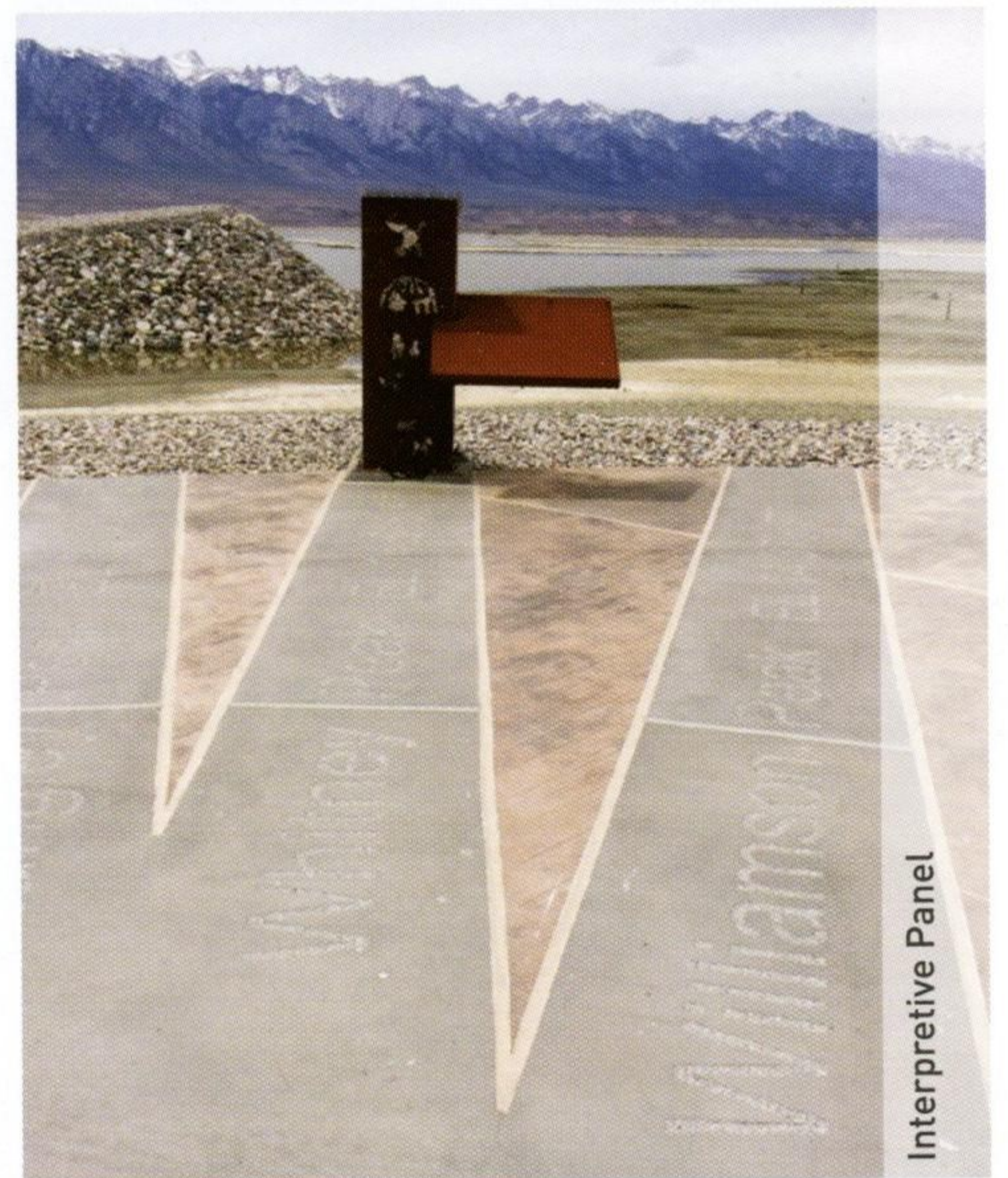
Looking out over the lake, visitors can see 14 mound-like structures intended to look like whitecap waves. These metaphorical whitecaps are varied in size and placed in locations that will assist with dust control by

keeping surrounding lake particles from being gathered up by the wind. The large rocks used to create the whitecaps create habitat for small reptiles, insects and mammals.

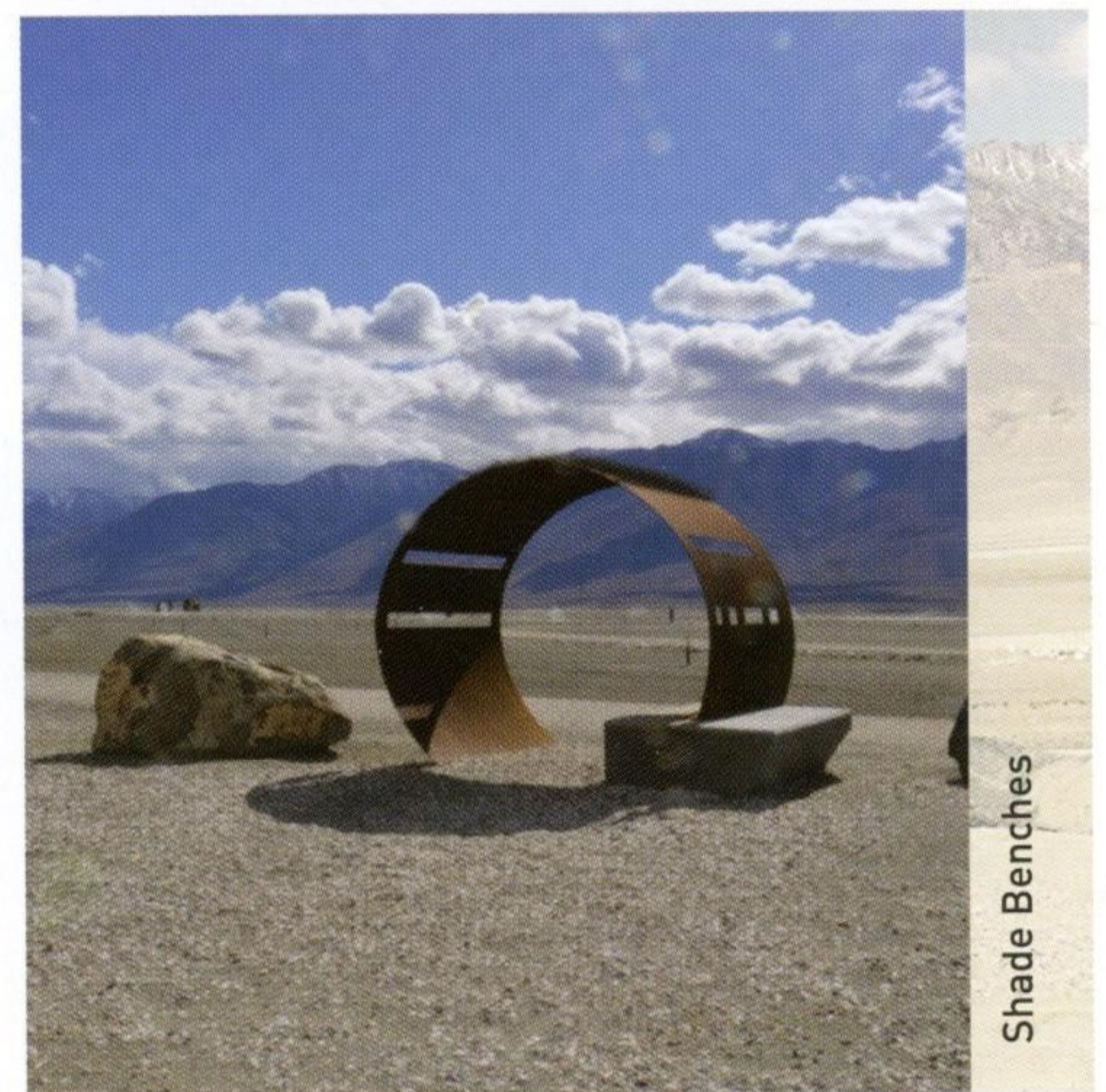
Surrounding the plaza structure are gravel paths and roads that lead visitors to habitat islands, marshes, reflecting ponds, and local fauna, creating public access opportunities for bird watchers, artists, scientists and all others.

## Boulder Creek and Dirty Socks Trailheads

The Boulder Creek and Dirty Socks locations feature round metal shade structures with benches that mimic a cross-section of the historic Los Angeles Aqueduct.



Interpretive Panel



Shade Benches



### Habitat Islands

Aerial view of man-made habitat islands nearest to the Dirty Socks Trailhead.

## Public Access and Safety Guidelines

**For your safety and protection of wildlife, please adhere to the following public access guidelines. Enjoy your visit!**

Please drive only on maintenance berm roads and park only in designated parking areas. Maintenance berm roads are not paved, may be narrow, and are used by heavy construction vehicles.

Please do not stop or exit your vehicle on any maintenance berm road unless in a designated parking area.

Please slow down and yield to construction vehicles and heavy equipment.

Please do not drive on muddy surfaces or in unauthorized areas since you will be responsible for any and all costs associated with recovery or extraction of your vehicle.

Please do not enter areas where construction and maintenance activities are taking place. Seasonal road closures may occur throughout the year due to wildlife, weather, and construction and maintenance activities.

Please walk only on marked walkways or paths.

Please do not consume water from any part of the lake as it is not safe for consumption.

For your safety, please do not enter any irrigated or flooded areas on Owens Lake playa.

Please deposit trash, of any kind, into designated waste bins.

Please do not exceed a speed limit of 25 miles per hour; unless otherwise posted. Driving at or below 25 miles per hour will help prevent dust emissions from the unpaved maintenance berm roads and protects the wildlife that may be resting on the maintenance berm roads.

Please keep dogs and any other pets leashed at all times to protect birds and other wildlife from any harm or injury.

Please call 911 in case of an emergency. Please be aware that cellphone reception may not be available in all areas of Owens Lake.

Please do not start any fires.

Please do not camp at any time on Owens Lake.

For any questions on public access or safety call (760) 876-4109.

## More Information

### Owens Lake Master Project Document

<http://www.ladwp.com/docs/OPLADWP050832>

