



Pathmark Fabrication Reveals Desert Hardscaping Options as Nevada Turf Removal Deadline Nears

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Pathmark Fabrication is outlining desert hardscaping options for Las Vegas property owners as Nevada's restriction on irrigating nonfunctional turf with Colorado River water approaches its January 1, 2027 start date. The company's guide to the benefits of gabion baskets explains how these durable, stone-filled steel structures provide built-in drainage and can form garden walls or seating in converted landscapes.

The restriction stems from a 2021 law enacted by the Nevada Legislature. According to the Southern Nevada Water Authority, it applies to commercial, multifamily, government, and other properties not zoned exclusively for single-family residences. The restriction does not cover grass in single-family front and back yards, although the Authority encourages residents to voluntarily convert unused grass.

The Authority defines nonfunctional turf as irrigated grass that does not serve a functional use. Examples include grass along streets, medians, and roundabouts; grass in front of or adjacent to buildings on covered properties; and certain homeowner association areas that provide no recreational benefit. Grass used for

recreation, such as qualifying athletic fields and playgrounds, is treated as functional, and properties may apply for a waiver if their turf meets that definition.

Water supply drives the policy. The Authority says low water levels at Lake Mead have reduced how much water Southern Nevada can withdraw from the Colorado River, and that outdoor water is used only once and not returned to the lake. The agency reports saving 55 gallons of water per square foot in areas converted from turfgrass to drip-irrigated desert landscapes.

Removing grass leaves owners with design decisions beyond plant selection, including how to border planting beds, manage uneven ground, add seating, and screen views. Pathmark Fabrication notes that gabion baskets are wire mesh containers filled with stone, and that galvanized steel mesh resists rust and corrosion in harsh weather. Because the mesh can shift slightly without failing, the structures can adapt to ground movement, a trait the company considers relevant to the varied terrain found across the Las Vegas area. In desert hardscaping plans, that adaptability lets the structures follow a site's contours.

Drainage is another consideration in irrigated landscapes. Water moves through the gaps between stones, relieving hydrostatic pressure and helping keep a structure stable, according to Pathmark Fabrication. The company adds that this permeability can reduce the need for additional drainage measures behind a wall, which can simplify planning in landscapes that rely on drip irrigation.

The modular design lets gabion baskets form garden walls, raised planters, seating, privacy screens, and fire pit surrounds, with stone fill chosen to match or contrast with surrounding materials. Gabion baskets also do not require a deep foundation. They arrive flat-packed and can be assembled on site without heavy machinery. They can be set on compacted soil or a gravel base, which Pathmark Fabrication identifies as a practical option where deep excavation is difficult.

Site conditions, local codes, and design approvals vary, so a qualified contractor or engineer typically specifies retaining structures. The Authority also says homeowner associations may require landscape design plans for approval before work begins.

Property owners weighing conversions also have access to financial support. Commercial, multifamily, and government property owners may apply for the Authority's Water Smart Landscapes rebate, which pays for grass removed and replaced with desert landscaping. Planning ahead of the deadline gives owners time to coordinate design, approvals, and fabrication schedules for desert hardscaping features.

Pathmark Fabrication is a southern Nevada manufacturer of metal landscape elements and water features. Its product range includes steel trellises, metal planter boxes, gabion structures, moon gates, outdoor bed swings, pool metalwork, decorative metal panels, and custom fountains. The company works with property owners across Las Vegas on durable outdoor installations.

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Pathmark Fabrication

Pathmark Fabrication creates custom metal landscape features for Las Vegas landscape and pool designers. We also provide precision industrial fabrication for a range of custom projects.

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