

Spring Break!

My wife and I were surfing the web to find things to do in Vegas (when our money ran out on the gambling floor) and found Ethel M's Botanical Gardens and of course chocolate shop.



The chocolate shop was interesting and tasty! My favorite is rich dark chocolate but would have to say the pecan brittle was a buttery, crisp and sweet brown sugar.

Okay, so why am I sharing about one of my vacation sightseeing spots? This place had the most amazing wastewater treatment facility! After 33 years in the business, even when I am on vacation I'm visiting wastewater treatment plants! This place made our must see list!

The treatment facility was called a "Living Machine". The plant recycles 100 percent of the chocolate factory's wastewater without using any chemicals.



The eco-friendly system uses an aerated pond, using bacteria, algae, protozoa, snail and fish, to breakdown the waste then the water is used for drip irrigation on the plants in the garden.



Behind the aerating pond, a wetland was created using plant vegetation allowing nutrient removal.

The ponds attract many of the birds that inhabit the gardens which contain more than 350 different cactus and succulent species.

In a time where we are looking at using less chemicals and more green effects to manage or waste, this plant was ahead of the curve.