The Deir Allah Municipality is a medium size cluster of towns and villages incorporating the communities of Al Balawneh, Dirar, Sawalheh and Muadi totaling approximately 60,000 residents. The community is situated at the junction of the roads leading north to the Northern Jordan Valley, south to the Dead Sea, and east to Salt and Amman.

Evidence of Deir Allah’s relatively advanced agricultural systems can be seen by its thousands of greenhouses clustered together. The area is also home to important archeological sites such as Tel Deir Allah and the Shrines of the Companions of the Prophet Mohammed. Important wadis, such as Wadi Rajeb, flow through this area that once brought large amounts of fresh water to the farm lands as well as to the River Jordan. Friends of the Earth Middle East is promoting the Lower Jordan River Valley, including this area, for registration as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Deir Allah is partnering with two other communities on the western side of the river - the Palestinian community of Al Auja and the city of Jericho. They have been working together to promote the protection of their shared ecosystems.

The goals of the trails are to:

- Raise public awareness of shared water and environment concerns of the communities
- Promote cross border cooperation for solving environmental problems
- Develop the potential for local eco-tourism

The “Good Water Neighbors” project was established in 2001 by “EcoPeace / Friends of the Earth Middle East” in order to promote local cooperation efforts to protect the shared water and environment in the region.

“EcoPeace / Friends of the Earth Middle East” is a regional environmental organization that works to promote cooperative efforts to protect our shared environmental heritage.

• For more information, please visit our website: www.foeme.org
• PO Box 840252 - Amman, Jordan 11181
  Tel +962-6-5866602/3 Fax +962-6-5866604
  info@foeme.org
• Specific information on the neighbors trails: http://www.foeme.org/publications

Guided tours on the Neighbors Trails take place once every three weeks. To sign up, please write to: info@foeme.org
Abu Obieda Amer Bin Al Jarah Eco-Park
Located on the mountain side, this park offers a wonderful view of the Jordan Valley. It is approximately 62 dunums and includes hiking trails that take climbers up the mountain. The principles of ecogardens were implemented in this park, and is a joint collaboration of Friends of the Earth Middle East and the local municipality.

Wadi Rajeb
This site is very important as it shows one of the important water resources that used to feed the River Jordan. A thriving ecosystem, that once included dense vegetation, has been destroyed due to diversion of much of its water. FoEME calls upon stakeholders to save and restore this beautiful wadi.

Abu Obieda Amer Bin Al Jarah Shrine
The largest shrine in the Jordan Valley built in honor of the famous companion of the Prophet Mohamed bearing the title ‘Treasury of the Muslim Ummat’. The shrine was established in 1999 and includes a large mosque, a library, a cultural center and a large garden.

Dirar Ibn Al Azwar Shrine
Smaller in size but just as important for religious tours in the Jordan Valley. Both Abu Obieda Amer Bin Al Jarah and Dirar Ibn Al Azwar died in the same year due to the lethal epidemic, the Amowas Plague, in the year 18 H (according to the Hijri Muslim Calendar). (the Black Death plague of the Middle Ages)

Tel Deir Allah
An ancient Tel that was used successively by many civilizations, dating back to 1600 BC, this site is still under excavation and has important findings and facts about the history of the Jordan Valley.
For information and visits call + 962 7777 230 56.

Control Unit, Jordan Valley Authority (JVA)
The JVA operates this advanced computer system that controls the irrigation system in the entire Jordan Valley. A full explanation and description of this unit is available for the visitor – for both educational and awareness purposes.

Museum
The museum features important pieces of pottery, tools and maps from the archeological excavations of Tel Dier Allah and its surroundings. Open from 8:30 - 12:00.

Damia Bridge
The Damia Bridge connects Jordan with the West Bank. This is an old bridge, now under renovation, and is used for cargo transport only.
This trail is one of 17 paths or trails that deal with the issue of water and peace building between neighboring communities in the region that share a common water source. The routes were planned during 2007 in the framework of the “Good Water Neighbors” project in cooperation with community representatives as well as the municipalities.

The goals of the trails are to:

- Raise public awareness of shared water and environment concerns of the communities
- Promote cross border cooperation for solving environmental problems
- Develop the potential for local eco-tourism

The “Good Water Neighbors” project was established in 2001 by “EcoPeace / Friends of the Earth Middle East” in order to promote local cooperation efforts to protect the shared water and environment in the region.

“EcoPeace / Friends of the Earth Middle East” is a regional environmental organization that works to promote cooperative efforts to protect our shared environmental heritage.

- For more information, please visit our website: www.foeme.org
- PO Box 840252 - Amman, Jordan 11181
  Tel +962-6-5866602/3  Fax +962-6-5866604
  info@foeme.org
- Specific information on the neighbors trails: http://www.foeme.org/publications

Guided tours on the Neighbors Trails take place once every three weeks. To sign up, please write to: info@foeme.org

Background

The South Ghors Municipality is comprised of several small communities: Ghor Safi, Ghor Mazraa, Ghor Haditheh, and Ghor Fifa. The total population of the South Ghors Municipality is approximately 40,000 inhabitants with agriculture being the main source of income for many of the residents. The community is located on the southern coastal area of the Dead Sea, home to the Potash mining industry. The main highway that stretches from the Northern Jordan Valley to Amman and to Aqaba also passes through this municipality. The area is typically arid, but has spectacular landscapes that can be seen even from the main road. Being situated on the coast of the Dead Sea, the South Ghors Municipality is one of the lowest communities in the world, at 300 to 350 meters below sea level!

This trail / tour will take the visitor through many important natural and archeological features such as the Mujeb Nature Reserve, Wadi Himara, Numera, Lots Cave and Deir Al Qetar.
The Mujeb Bridge The main highway provides a very clear view of the water diversion system in Wadi Mujeb, just a few hundred meters before its waters reach the Dead Sea. Please note: do not take any electronic items into the wadi unless they are water proof.

The Mujeb Nature Reserve This site has two entries, one of which is from this Dead Sea road. The Information Center provides information about the Nature Reserve and controls and monitors entrance to the wadi. Entrance fees are 7-10 JD/person. Entrance into the Wadi is prohibited during the rainy season due to sudden flash flooding. For more information please visit the RSCN website: http://www.rscn.org.jo/AdventuresActivitiesMujib.asp?ID=ctr3_3.

The Sinkholes This area is where the new sinkhole phenomenon is easily visible. With the receding salty Dead Sea waters, fresh water often intrudes in its place, dissolving underground salt deposits that then create large hollow cavities. Subsequently, the ground above these hollow cavities collapse and form huge holes, sometimes very suddenly. This dangerous phenomenon affects both agriculture and infrastructure. Sinkholes have been measured as deep as 25 meters with a total surface area of up to 1,000 m². Visitors should be always guided through this area and not approach the edge of these holes.

The Summit This view point is located on a high plateau with a splendid view of the Dead Sea and the surrounding areas. Local communities can be seen from here, as well as the neighboring Tamar Regional Council communities on the other side of the Sea, working together to promote the protection of their shared ecosystems.

Al Haditha Garden A lovely well maintained garden and ‘open space’ for the general enjoyment of the visitor.

Al Mazraa Garden This eco-garden is being developed by Friends of the Earth Middle East in the framework of the “Good Water Neighbors” project. Such ecological gardens aim to promote water conservation and general environmental education.

Wadi Waidaa One can take a lovely 45 minute hike upstream in Wadi Waidaa. It resembles an oasis with a variety of shrubs and trees, and includes two cold and hot springs at the very top. Wet walking sandals are required. The Wadi is not guarded and it is not advisable to hike during the rainy season.

Magnesium and Bromine Factories These two companies, belonging to the Arab Potash Company, are located on the main highway. Unfortunately, the factories are a source of severe environmental pollution, adversely affecting the visual landscape and degrading the natural surrounding ecosystem.

Sarh al Shaheed Sarh al Shaheed is a memorial for all soldiers who have sacrificed their lives in defense of Jordan. There is also a good view of the evaporation ponds in the southern basin of the Dead Sea.

Wadi Numera Another spectacular wadi carved in pink sandstone. The hike can last approximately 2 and half hours walking upstream. Wet walking sandals are required. The wadi is not guarded and it is not advisable to hike during the rainy season.

Arab Potash Company The Arab Potash Company is the largest industry in the area, and similar to the Dead Sea Works (located on the opposite side of the Dead Sea), it extracts minerals from the Dead Sea waters.

Visits require advance arrangements with the Company’s management. + 962 079 55 83534

Lots Cave and Museum The cave is located in the mountain and offers a view towards the Dead Sea. It is reachable by a short 20 minute walk from the main road. For more information, please call + 962 777 201061. The museum is still under construction with plans to open by the middle of 2008.

Al Qetar This archeological site is located in the northern tip of the Lisan. Visitors there can experience the combination of ancient ruins, the Dead Sea ecosystem and the site’s fragile location.

The Path’s Stations
This trail is one of 17 paths or trails that deal with the issue of water and peace building between neighboring communities in the region that share a common water source. The routes were planned during 2007 in the framework of the “Good Water Neighbors” project in cooperation with community representatives as well as the municipalities.

The goals of the trails are to:
• Raise public awareness of shared water and environment concerns of the communities
• Promote cross border cooperation for solving environmental problems
• Develop the potential for local eco-tourism

The “Good Water Neighbors” project was established in 2001 by “EcoPeace / Friends of the Earth Middle East” in order to promote local cooperation efforts to protect the shared water and environment in the region.

“EcoPeace / Friends of the Earth Middle East” is a regional environmental organization that works to promote cooperative efforts to protect our shared environmental heritage.

• For more information, please visit our website: www.foeme.org
• PO Box 840252 - Amman, Jordan 11181
  Tel +962-6-5866602/3 Fax +962-6-5866604
  info@foeme.org
• Specific information on the neighbors trails:
  http://www.foeme.org/publications

Guided tours on the Neighbors Trails take place once every three weeks. To sign up, please write to: info@foeme.org
The Sharhabil Bin Hassneh Park
The Sharhabil Bin Hassneh Park, developed in the framework of FoEME’s “Good Water Neighbor” project, is the first ecological open space in the community and includes an area of 216 dunams. The park has attractive features including walking trails, green areas, benches/tables, a wetland and a campsite. Most of the development was carried out with community participation.

Sharhabil Bin Hassneh (Ziglab) Dam
One of the cleanest water resources in Jordan, its crystal clear water is used for drinking and irrigation. The dam’s capacity is 4.3 MCM, with a catchment area of 106km². The area has a magnificent panoramic view to the east and west of the Jordan Valley.

Information Center
This will be the first environmental and eco-tourism information center in the Jordan Valley (presently under construction-rehabilitation).

Pella Archeological site
Pella is one of the ten Roman Decapolis cities and one of the most important archeological sites in the Jordan Valley. Across the Jordan River, one can find the Roman City of Beit She’an with its impressive amphitheater, buildings and walkways. Pella, however, is still largely uncovered but waiting to be discovered!

Pella Restaurant and Residence
A recommended tourist restaurant built with local materials featuring beautiful arches and stone walls. It resembles the Pella archeological site and has a magnificent panoramic view of the Jordan Valley.
For reservations + 962 79 557 4145

Mashareh Park
Mashareh Park is a medium size recreational area that includes swimming pools, playgrounds and a restaurant; for the enjoyment of local residents, tourists and international visitors.

Jordan Valley Crossing Point
Built in accordance with the 1994 peace treaty, this is the official northern international border between Jordan and Israel.

Al Harawiyya
Al Harawiyya is the closest residential neighborhood to the Jordan River and the border. The impoverished community is in need of attention and development.

Al Jasoura
This is a series of bridges that were built on the Ziglab stream. Today this area is in need of renovation as the stream has dried out.

Municipality Garden
A small community recreational garden with a children’s library.

King Abdullah Canal
This is the major irrigation water canal that transports over 220 MCM of water per year throughout the Jordan Valley. The canal continuously stores about 20 MCM of water. Regrettably, much water is lost from the canal due to high evaporation rates. It also poses a danger for youngsters who try and climb over the fence to swim in the canal.

Waqas Shrine
This is one of a series of shrines dedicated to the companions of the Prophet Mohammed in the Jordan Valley. Ammer Bin Aby Waqas was companion number 11 in Islam. He died in the year 636 in the Jordan Valley in the Yarmouk Battle. The Waqas community was named after him.
This trail is one of 17 paths or trails that deal with the issue of water and peace building between neighboring communities in the region that share a common water source. The routes were planned during 2007 in the framework of the “Good Water Neighbors” project in cooperation with community representatives as well as the municipalities.

The goals of the trails are to:
• Raise public awareness of shared water and environment concerns of the communities
• Promote cross border cooperation for solving environmental problems
• Develop the potential for local eco-tourism

The “Good Water Neighbors” project was established in 2001 by “EcoPeace / Friends of the Earth Middle East” in order to promote local cooperation efforts to protect the shared water and environment in the region.

“EcoPeace / Friends of the Earth Middle East” is a regional environmental organization that works to promote cooperative efforts to protect our shared environmental heritage.

For more information, please visit our website: www.foeme.org

PO Box 840252 - Amman, Jordan 11181
Tel +962-6-5866602/3 Fax +962-6-5866604
info@foeme.org

Specific information on the neighbors trails: http://www.foeme.org/publications

Guided tours on the Neighbors Trails take place once every three weeks. To sign up, please write to: info@foeme.org
Adasiya Diversion Wier
Here, the waters from the Yarmouk River (one of the River Jordan’s main tributaries) are diverted to Jordan into the King Abdullah Canal through a tunnel to be used for irrigation, and to Israel into the Yarmouk River. (The 1994 Israeli-Jordanian Peace Agreement resolved that the water in the Yarmouk River belongs to the Jordanians, except for 25 million cubic meters that Israel receives annually). The site offers a beautiful view of the Yarmouk River and the Golan Heights.

King Abdullah Canal Tunnel
The diverted waters from the Yarmouk River exit the tunnel here and then flow into the open Canal. At this precise location on the road the visitor can see the canal and the Yarmouk River almost adjacent to one another. Here is an example of how Man has intervened in the natural ecosystem - by channeling the natural river flow into a concrete structure for irrigation purposes.

Water Intake from Lake Tiberias
At this historic location Jordan takes its share of water from Lake Tiberias, as agreed upon between Jordan and Israel in the 1994 Peace Treaty (please note that supply is based on a fixed schedule).

Al Baqoura Peace Park
Based on the significant historical and natural importance of this area, FoEME is promoting the creation of a unique national Eco Park at Al Baqoura. The site has an early 1920 hydro-electric power station (an indication of the power of the River Jordan in those days) and Roman, Ottoman and British mandate bridges (evidence of the site as an historical crossing point). Entrance from the Jordanian side requires a military permit that can be arranged through FoEME. Visits can be conducted before 3:00 PM.

Muaz Bin Jabal Eco-Garden / Picnic Area Municipality Garden
These are two adjacent gardens that are being developed by Friends of the Earth Middle East and the local municipality in an effort to create an “open space” for the visitor and for local residents of the community.

Wadi Arab Picnic Area
This is a small forest downstream of the Wadi Arab Dam, suggested for hiking and picnic activities.

The Path’s Stations

1. Adasiya Diversion Wier
2. King Abdullah Canal Tunnel
3. Water Intake from Lake Tiberias
4. Al Baqoura Peace Park
5. Muaz Bin Jabal Eco-Garden / Picnic Area Municipality Garden
6. Wadi Arab Picnic Area
7. Shuna Shamaliya Hot spring
8. Wadi Al Arab Restaurant
9. Muaz Bin Jabal Shrine
10. Environmental Street
11. Souq

Shuna Shamaliya Hot spring
A mineral hot spring with medicinal features, this site has swimming pools, chalets and rooms for overnight accommodation.
Reservations are available at the site + 962 (0)2 6587189 and through FoEME. Conditions are fair.

Wadi Al Arab Restaurant
The restaurant offers a magnificent view of the Arab Dam. For reservations: + 962 077 77 43714

Muaz Bin Jabal Shrine
Muaz Bin Jabal was Prophet Mohamed’s close companion. He was buried in this location which was recently rehabilitated by King Abdullah the II. It is a significant religious attraction, and includes a small library and a mosque.

Environmental Street
This is a street that connects the city of North Shouneh to the Peace Island. The street is narrow and lovely, and FoEME has proposed to the local municipality to turn it into an ‘Environmental Street’, for safe use by pedestrians and cyclists.

Souq
A market area in the center of the North Shouneh community; this is a perfect place to do your shopping before ending the tour!