

Paseo de las Iglesias

Habitat Explanations

Xeroriparian Restoration Approach

Xeroriparian habitats are associated with streams that flow in response to rainfall (ephemeral streams). Plant species present are similar to those in upland areas, but in greater densities due to the extra water.

Restored mesquite and palo verde trees would provide limited shade to the channel invert and would be bordered by Sonoran desertscrub species. Vegetative stabilization of the riverbanks, and an increase in flood retention and incidental recharge would result. Mostly small trees and shrub-sized vegetation would provide improved habitat for native wildlife and a setting for passive recreation. Irrigation would be needed for vegetation establishment, with planned delivery via water trucks. No irrigation system would be installed. After establishment, only water captured by water harvesting techniques would be used to sustain vegetation. An increase in abundance of ~65 native wildlife species would be expected. Project goals are harmonious with the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan (SDCP).

Mesoriparian Restoration Approach

Mesoriparian habitats are associated with areas with shallow groundwater and or intermittent flow. Dense mesquite forest (bosque) is characteristic of this habitat type.

Restored and irrigated mesquite-hackberry bosques would provide shade to the channel invert and would be bordered by mesquite and palo verde woodland and Sonoran desertscrub species. The outcome of this approach is expected to be most similar to the historic vegetation communities in this river reach. Vegetative stabilization of the riverbanks, and an increase in flood retention and incidental recharge would result. Both tree and shrub vegetation would provide improved habitat for native wildlife and a pleasant setting for passive recreation. Permanent irrigation would be needed to accomplish design goals, and an irrigation system would be installed. An increase in abundance of ~80 native wildlife species would be expected. Project goals are harmonious with the SDCP.

Hydro-meso Riparian Restoration Approach

Hydro-mesoriparian habitats are associated with perennial watercourses where plant species such as cottonwoods and willow are present.

Restored and irrigated cottonwood-willow galleries would shade the intermittently flowing channel and be bordered by both mesquite bosques and Sonoran desertscrub species. Vegetative stabilization of the riverbanks, and an increase in flood retention and incidental recharge would result. Both tree and shrub vegetation would provide improved habitat for native wildlife and a pleasant setting for passive recreation. Permanent and extensive irrigation would be needed to accomplish design goals, and an irrigation system would be installed. Depending on period of stream flow; roughly one-third to two-thirds of all irrigation water would be used to maintain intermittent to perennial flow in the main channel. An increase in abundance of ~95 native wildlife species would be expected. Project goals are harmonious with the SDCP