RILLITO RIVER CORRIDOR

2004 Master Plan Update

Developed by
Pima County Natural Resources, Parks, and Recreation
Planning and Development Staff

PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
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Ann Day, District 1
Ramón Valadez, District 2
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Richard Elías, District 5

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C. H. Huckelberry, County Administrator

John M. Bernal, Deputy County Administrator,
Public Works

Rafael Payan, Director, Natural Resources,
Parks & Recreation
RESOLUTION NO: 2004-342

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF PIMA COUNTY, ARIZONA; RELATING TO NATURAL RESOURCES, PARKS AND RECREATION; ADOPTING THE RILLITO RIVER CORRIDOR 2004 MASTER PLAN UPDATE.

WHEREAS, the goal of the Master Plan is to present a comprehensive vision for the future development of the Rillito River Park system that integrates the Rillito River Corridor and adjacent park properties into a premier recreational and environmental restoration community resource; and

WHEREAS, The Master Plan will help guide the preparation of existing and future capital improvement bond issues by proposing development plans and a list of scope items for the build-out of each property; and

WHEREAS, Natural Resources Parks and Recreation has completed its task of developing a Master Plan for the Rillito River Corridor and is presenting it to the Pima County Board of Supervisors

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF PIMA COUNTY, ARIZONA, as follows:

1. That the Pima County Board of Supervisors hereby adopts the Rillito River Corridor 2004 Master Plan Update, and
2. That the director of Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation and/or his designees hereby are authorized and directed to perform all acts necessary and desirable to give effect to this resolution.

PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED, by the Pima County Board of Supervisors, this 14 day of Dec., 2004.

PIMA COUNTY
Chair
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Date: DEC 14 2004

Attest:

Clerk of the Board

Date: DEC 14 2004

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Civil Deputy County Attorney
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Introduction

Goal

The goal of the Rillito River Corridor Recreation and Restoration Master Plan is to present a comprehensive vision for the future development of the Rillito River Park system that integrates the Rillito River Corridor and adjacent park properties into a premier recreational and environmental restoration community resource. The Master Plan will help guide the preparation and expenditure of existing and future capital improvement bond issues by proposing development plans and a list of scope items for the build-out of each property.

Purpose

The purpose of the Rillito Corridor Recreation and Restoration Master Plan is to integrate the planning and development of the various recreation and restoration projects that are proposed. Integrated planning will help balance the proposed developments with one another so that each property remains unique, yet compliments other properties included in the Master Plan and adjacent properties managed by other recreation providers. This will help to cost-effectively meet the diverse recreation/development demands on the Rillito River Corridor. In addition, this Master Plan will support the proposed Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan through habitat restoration and the preservation of wildlife corridors.

Multi-Agency Planning Effort

The Pima County Natural Resources Parks & Recreation Department is undertaking development of the Rillito Corridor Recreation and Restoration Master Plan in partnership with many other agencies and groups, including: the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Pima Trails Association, the University of Arizona, the City of Tucson, the Town of Marana, the Pima County Flood Control District, and the Pima County Department of Transportation. Properties that are not subject to this Master Plan, such as the City of Tucson’s parks and the Jewish Community Center, are identified to provide a comprehensive view of all major parks and recreation resources along the Rillito River Corridor.

Implementation Period

Implementation of this plan is on-going and will continue into the future, taking advantage of current and future bond funds and grant opportunities. It is a dynamic document that will adjust to changing circumstances and integrate improved resource information as it becomes available. The Master Plan will be evaluated on a regular basis to ensure that planned projects are in tune with the public’s need for recreation and environmental education, to readdress restoration goals for the river corridor, and to identify adjacent properties that may serve as critical biological and recreational linkages.

Public Input Opportunities

Public input workshops shall be conducted as needed for the planning and implementation of specific projects included in the Rillito River Corridor Recreation and Restoration Master Plan.
River Park Standard

Wherever space permits, the Rillito River Park’s path system will be constructed to the City-County Divided Urban Pathway standard, which entails a paved path 12' to 15' in width, a compacted DG path 8' to 10' in width, with native landscaping both between the paths and along the outer edges of the paths to create a canopied, bosque-like experience. Developing the river park to the Divided Urban Pathway standard will facilitate the safe use of the river park by the widest range of users: walkers, runners, roller bladers, cyclists, equestrians, and others. The cross-section of the Divided Urban Pathway standard as applied to a standard 50' corridor is shown below.

Linkages with Other Trails and Destinations

Pima County’s river park system serves as the backbone of the county's regional trail system, and numerous trails link with the Rillito River Park along its length. These linkages are key to the functionality of the system, and will be integrated with the river park as it develops. New linkages to existing and future destinations within the County, municipalities, Federal, State, and Tribal lands will be explored.
## RECREATION and RESTORATION PROJECTS SUMMARY TABLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT NAME</th>
<th>SCOPE</th>
<th>BUDGET</th>
<th>BOND</th>
<th>SCHEDULE</th>
<th>PAGE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>RECREATION PROJECTS</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ted Walker District Park</td>
<td>Integrate leased &amp; public facilities, soccer &amp; softball fields, aquatic</td>
<td>$4,500,000</td>
<td>Future</td>
<td>To Be Determined</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>complex, adult community center</td>
<td></td>
<td>CIP</td>
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<td>Bosque de los Rios</td>
<td>Passive rec. park, turf, ramadas, restrooms, pathways, memorial trees</td>
<td>$65,000</td>
<td>P-30</td>
<td>To Be Determined</td>
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<tr>
<td>Park - Phase I</td>
<td>&amp; art, playground, parking</td>
<td>$685,000</td>
<td>Future</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bosque de los Rios</td>
<td>Picnic area, memorial trees &amp; art, ramadas, paths, lighting, trailhead,</td>
<td>$1,650,000</td>
<td>Future</td>
<td>To Be Determined</td>
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<tr>
<td>Park - Phase II</td>
<td>riparian area development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dan Felix Memorial</td>
<td>Soccer field lighting, turf, parking, restroom, ramadas, walkways, basketball court</td>
<td>$1,750,000</td>
<td>PR 4.23</td>
<td>To Be Determined</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>District Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flowing Wells District Park West</td>
<td>Baseball fields, soccer fields, basketball &amp; volleyball courts, playgrounds, restrooms, parking, turf area, ramadas, walkways</td>
<td>$2,295,169</td>
<td>P-42 &amp;</td>
<td>Completed 2004</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td>$250,000</td>
<td>P-30</td>
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<td>PR 4.20</td>
<td>2005</td>
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<td>Curtis Road - Flowing Wells District Park East</td>
<td>Community center, youth baseball &amp; soccer fields, turf, ramada, parking, riparian restoration, off-leash area</td>
<td>$2,250,000</td>
<td>PR4.21</td>
<td>2004-2006</td>
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<td>Rillito Regional Park Phase II</td>
<td>Soccer fields, seat walls, roadway extension, irrigation, restroom, concession bldg., path extension</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>P-07</td>
<td>October 2002 - January 2004</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rillito Regional Park Phase III</td>
<td>Ramadas, stables relocation, soccer field, parking &amp; entry reconfiguration, landscaping, Rillito Trail connection</td>
<td>$2,250,000</td>
<td>PR4.26</td>
<td>2009-2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rillito River Linear Park Campbell to Alvernon</td>
<td>Complete 2 mile section, including paths, landscaping, irrigation, and erosion control, parking</td>
<td>$2,400,000</td>
<td>P-31</td>
<td>June 2002 - June 2005</td>
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<td>Brandi M. Fenton Memorial Park</td>
<td>Equestrian staging area &amp; arena, parking, pastures, historic bldgs, restrooms, ramadas, paths</td>
<td>$3,000,000</td>
<td>PR4.24</td>
<td>2004-2007</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>Rillito River at Columbus Blvd. District Park</td>
<td>Ball fields, paths, off-leash facility, playground, parking</td>
<td>$511,000</td>
<td>P-32</td>
<td>To Be Determined</td>
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<td>George Metz Family Foothills District Park</td>
<td>New soccer and softball fields, reconfigured entrance, ramadas, maintenance compound, parking</td>
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<td>PR4.25</td>
<td>2007-2008</td>
<td>24</td>
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<td><strong>RESTORATION PROJECTS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Remnant Parcels</td>
<td>Riparian restoration, landscaping, irrigation, parking, trailheads, path improvements, off-leash facility</td>
<td>$1,500,000</td>
<td>Future</td>
<td>To Be Determined</td>
<td>26</td>
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<tr>
<td>El Rio Antiguo &amp; Swan Wetlands</td>
<td>Riparian restoration, flood control, water harvesting, wildlife viewing &amp; habitat creation, multi-use trails</td>
<td>To Be Determined</td>
<td>USACOE</td>
<td>To Be Determined</td>
<td>29</td>
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<td>County &amp; Tucson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tres Rios Del Norte</td>
<td>Riparian restoration, flood control, water harvesting, wildlife viewing &amp; habitat creation, multi-use trails</td>
<td>To Be Determined</td>
<td>USACOE</td>
<td>To Be Determined</td>
<td>30</td>
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<td>County &amp; Marana</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Ted Walker District Park

CIP Budget: None
Estimated Budget: $4,500,000
Project may be funded by a future bond program.

Status: Conceptual master plan completed

Existing Facilities:
  Ted Walker Park
    ♦ soccer field
    ♦ baseball field
    ♦ restroom
    ♦ 2 ramadas
    ♦ 2 drinking fountains
    ♦ Ted Walker Memorial
    ♦ model airplane area
  Sports Park
    ♦ 6 softball fields
    ♦ soccer field

Project Scope: Integration of the leased Sportspark property with the existing Ted Walker Park, including the following improvements:
  ♦ 2 youth soccer fields
  ♦ 4 adult/youth softball fields
  ♦ field lighting
  ♦ landscaping
  ♦ ramadas
  ♦ picnic tables
  ♦ playground
  ♦ parking areas
  ♦ internal park roads
  ♦ walking path
  ♦ restrooms
  ♦ trailheads
  ♦ aquatic center (50 meter pool/public pool)
  ♦ maintenance complex
  ♦ adult community center

Project Schedule: The schedule is dependent upon securing funding for the project. A project timeline is offered below as a reference.

Consultant Selection - 3 months
Design Development - 4 months
Construction Documents Development - 6 months
Construction Project Bidding - 4 months
Construction - 8 months
Bosque de los Rios Park
and Purple Heart Plaza

Bosque de los Rios Park
Phase I CIP Budget P-30: $65,000
Phase I Construction Budget: 685,000
Phase II Budget: 1,650,000
Total Budget: $ 2,400,000

Purple Heart Plaza
Total Budget: To be determined

Bosque de los Rios Park Phase I Construction budget may be funded by a future bond program. Bosque de los Rios Park Phase II may be funded by a future bond program.

Purple Heart Plaza construction will be funded through donations.

Status: Bosque de los Rios Park is in design development phase. Current funding will cover expense of construction documents only.

Purple Heart Plaza is in design development phase. Construction will proceed as donated funds become available.

Bosque de los Rios Park Project Scope: The project scope includes a passive recreation area with a memorial tree planting and artwork comparable to that found at Paseo de los Arboles on the Santa Cruz River. Tucson Clean & Beautiful will assist the Natural Resources Parks & Recreation Dept. in the development and management of the memorial. The park may have the following amenities:

Phase I

♦ free-play turf area
♦ jogging / walking trail
♦ landscaping
♦ memorial tree planting
♦ memorial plaque areas
♦ amphitheater
♦ 2 parking lots
♦ restrooms
♦ walkway connection to Pegler Wash District Park
♦ desert wildflower / hummingbird garden
♦ stormwater basin
Phase II

- family picnic area
- playground
- community-sized ramada
- additional memorial trees
- additional memorial plaques
- walkway connection to the Rillito River Park
- exercise stations for trail
- paved pathways
- diverse desert landscaping with botanical interpretation
- trailhead
- plaza
- riparian vegetation / water harvesting area
- lighting
- enhanced office site security

Purple Heart Plaza

- memorial wall
- memorial plaza
- turf area
- landscaping
- ADA-accessible parking
- walkway connection to new parking
- enhanced driveway crossing
Dan Felix District Park

CIP Budget PR4.23: $1,750,000

Status: Conceptual master plan completed

Existing Facilities:
- 4 soccer fields (two lighted)
- picnic table
- walking/jogging path
- drinking fountain
- restroom

Project Scope: The following improvements are proposed:
- additional soccer field
- additional lighting for soccer fields
- security lighting
- playground
- free-play multi-use turf area
- additional restroom
- walking/jogging path
- 3 group ramadas
- landscaping
- picnic tables
- additional parking
- trail and walkway connections to the Rillito River Park
- 2 basketball courts
- drinking fountains
- riparian restoration area

DAN FELIX MEMORIAL PARK

Pima County Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation Department
Flowing Wells District Park West

Phase I CIP Budget P-42: $744,000
Phases II & III CIP Budget P-30: 1,551,169
Phase IV CIP Budget PR4.20: 250,000
Total Budget: $2,545,169

Status: Phases I-III construction completed in 2004. Phase IV (field lighting) currently in design.

Project Scope:

- Park amenities include:
  - 2 basketball courts
  - 2 volleyball courts
  - 2 multi-use softball/soccer fields
  - 1 little league baseball field
  - 2 playgrounds
  - 2 restroom/concession buildings
  - 2 parking lots
  - 6 ramadas
  - picnic tables
  - benches
  - horseshoe pits
  - path system
  - desert landscaping
  - free-play turf area
  - drinking fountains
  - sewer connections
  - connections to Rillito River Park

Project Schedule:

Phase IV is currently in design. Completion anticipated in 2005.
Curtis Road - Flowing Wells District Park East

CIP Budget PR4.21: $2,250,000

Status: Currently in design phase.

Project Scope: The project may include:
* 3 little league baseball fields
* restroom
* walkways
* riparian restoration
* off-leash dog facility
* free-play turf area
* small 4500 SF Community Center
* 4 group ramadas
* picnic tables
* playground
* landscaping
* parking lot
* connections to the Rillito River Park
* field and security lighting
* site remediation

Project Schedule: The schedule is dependent upon securing funding for the project. A project timeline is offered below as a reference.
Consultant Selection - 3 months
Design Development - 3 months
Construction Documents Development - 5 months
Construction Project Bidding - 4 months
Construction - 6 months
Rillito Regional Park

Phase II CIP Budget P-07: $ 600,000
Phase III CIP Budget P4.26: $ 2,250,000
Total Budget: $ 2,850,000

Status: Phase II is under construction.

Existing Facilities:
♦ horse racetrack
♦ parking areas
♦ 5 soccer fields
♦ 13 stables
♦ horse arena
♦ grand stands
♦ club house
♦ 3 drinking fountains
♦ 2 ramadas
♦ restroom
♦ plaza

Project Scope:

Phase II
♦ 2 soccer fields (west half of racetrack infield)
♦ additional asphalt roadway (approx. 1/2 mile)
♦ irrigation for turf
♦ restroom/concession building
♦ extension of concrete walkway
♦ seat walls with electric outlets

Phase III
♦ relocation of two stables
♦ soccer field
♦ field and security lighting
♦ entry and parking reconfigurations
♦ ramadas
♦ picnic facilities
♦ lighting for soccer fields
♦ maintenance compound
♦ landscaping
♦ expanded and improved parking
♦ trail and walkway connections to the Rillito River Park
Rillito Regional Park (continued)

Project Schedule:

Phase II
Construction Documents Development - April 2003 to June 2003
Construction Project Bidding - July 2003 to Sept. 2003
Construction - Oct. 2003 to November 2004

Phase III
Phase III is scheduled to begin in 2008/2009.
Consultant Selection - 3 months
Design Development - 3 months
Construction Documents Development - 5 months
Construction Project Bidding - 4 months
Construction - 6 months
Rillito River Linear Park Campbell to Alvernon

CIP Budget P-31:  $2,400,000

Status: The project is in the design development phase.

Project Scope: As noted in the 1997 CIP Bond Ordinance, the project includes:
- two mile extension of divided urban pathway
- irrigation
- landscaping
- parking area
- wash crossings
- erosion controls

Project Schedule:
30% Conceptual Design Plans - June 2003 to Nov. 2003
Construction Documents Development - April 2004 to Aug. 2004
Construction Project Bidding - Sept. 2004 to Dec. 2004
Construction - Jan. 2005 to June 2005
Brandi Fenton Memorial Park
at Binghamton Historic District

CIP Budget PR4.24: $3,000,000

Status: Conceptual master plan completed

Project Scope: Land was acquired for this park in 2002. Presently, the conceptual plan is for a passive and active recreation park that may include the following amenities:

- equestrian staging area
- equestrian arena
- restoration of existing historic buildings
- agricultural demonstration area
- outdoor classrooms
- play fields
- playground
- dog park
- splash park
- basketball and bocce ball courts
- ramadas
- restrooms
- maintenance building
- landscaping
- habitat restoration
- memorial garden
- parking
- multi-use buildings

Project Schedule:
Project is scheduled 2004-2007.
Rillito River at Columbus Blvd. District Park

CIP Budget P-32:  $ 511,000

Status:  In-house master planning began in FY03/04

Project Scope:  As noted in the 1997 CIP Bond Ordinance, the project includes:
  ♦ interpretive signs
  ♦ walking / jogging paths
  ♦ off leash dog facility
  ♦ playground
  ♦ ramadas
  ♦ restroom
  ♦ riparian habitat restoration

Project Schedule:  The proposed park is located within the El Rio Antiguo Restoration Project. Park development scheduling and final selection of amenities are on hold, pending refinement of El Rio Antiguo Restoration Project plans.
Rillito River at Columbus Boulevard District Park
Site Location Map
George Mehl Family Foothills District Park

CIP Budget PR4.25: $2,000,000

Status: Conceptual master plan completed

Existing Facilities:
- 2 batting cages
- 5 baseball/softball fields
- 2 T-ball fields
- 4 soccer fields
- 5 picnic tables
- 4 ramadas
- restroom
- 13 drinking fountains

Project Scope: The following improvements are proposed:
- abandonment of the existing park entry
- new park entrance, roads and parking
- additional lighted softball field
- new entry drive aligned with Pontatoc Road
- additional parking
- ramadas
- picnic facilities
- security lighting
- maintenance compound
- activity center and classrooms
- trail connections to the Rillito River Park
- stormwater management improvements
- light all fields

Project Schedule:
Project is scheduled for 2005-2007.
County Owned Remnant Parcels
Along the Rillito River Corridor

CIP Budget: None
Estimated Budget: $1,500,000
Project may be funded by a future bond program or other funding mechanism.

Status: General guidelines for development of remnant parcels have been drafted. Preliminary planning has begun.

Project Scope: The project will include:
♦ riparian restoration
♦ landscaping
♦ irrigation
♦ parking areas
♦ dog training and competition area
♦ trailheads
♦ miscellaneous path improvements

Project Schedule: To be determined
General Development Guidelines for Remnant Parcels

Recreation Development

♦ Undeveloped remnant parcels should accommodate a Divided Urban Pathway linear park as minimal recreation development. An attempt should be made to develop the secondary natural surface path where the multi-use paved path already exists and parcel widths allow.
♦ Larger remnant parcels can accommodate active recreation elements including on site parking that connect to river park development. Active recreation elements may include basketball courts, volleyball courts, restroom development, playgrounds, tree plantings, turfed play areas, shade structures, picnic sites, and interpretive kiosks. Limiting factors to the development of active recreational elements include consent by adjacent property owners, availability of utilities, impact on existing wildlife corridors and habitat, site potential for riparian or other native habitat restoration, access, travel time, and availability of maintenance funding and human resources.

Maintenance and Design Development

♦ Construction, irrigation, and landscape materials should be standardized with existing river park facilities for ease of maintenance and consistency of design.
♦ The Divided Urban Pathway should be designed structurally to accommodate heavy vehicular traffic such as asphalt pavers, water trucks, and tree spades in areas where the pathway provides the only vehicular access along reaches of the river park.

Natural Resources

♦ All landscaping will incorporate native species with the exception of any turfed play areas. Turf areas will be designed as to minimize spread of non-native grasses and ensure low consumption of water.
♦ Attempts should be made to restore remnant parcels that have been degraded of their natural resource value. Replanting and reseeding should occur with native trees, cacti, succulents, shrubs, grasses, and flowering perennials and annuals.
♦ Revegetation should be mindful of setbacks to adjacent developed properties with respect to fire suppression.
♦ Efforts should be made to identify and utilize reclaimed water sources for irrigation of both recreational landscape and restoration of native habitat.
♦ Habitat revitalization of remnant parcels should include the reestablishment of riparian areas where feasible. Reestablishment of riparian areas should be located in places along the river park where conditions such as topography, flow dynamics of the Rillito River and its tributaries, and availability of reclaimed water sources make it possible. Connectivity of existing wildlife corridors and habitat or the potential for connectivity should be considered in restoration plans.
El Rio Antiguo and Swan Wetlands Habitat Restoration Projects

* U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Project