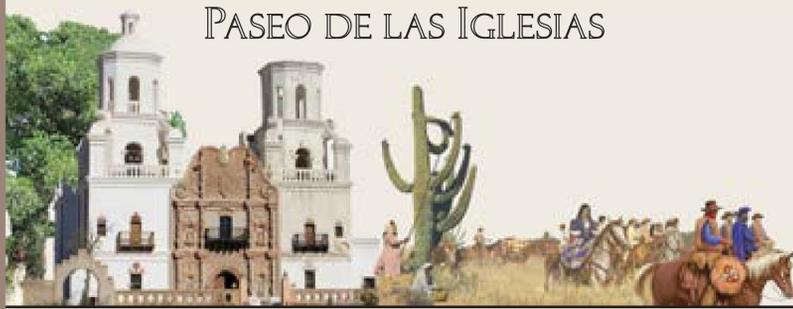


# WILDLIFE HABITAT RESTORATION



The carefully planned ecological design of the Paseo de las Iglesias project aims to restore the balance between predators and prey.

This ecological restoration area as a whole is large enough to support native predator species such as burrowing owls, hawks, coyotes, and reptiles, which help maintain biodiversity. The balance is achieved by providing space and protection to support this variety of predators, while still providing cover for their prey, the native species at the bottom of the food chain. In many urban parks the open landscape and lack of predators allow some species, such as the round-tailed ground squirrel, to reach an abnormally high population, resulting in loss of other native species. Large-scale restoration projects such as this are slowly becoming more common in desert urban areas.

Red-tailed hawk



Mesquite tree



Roadrunner



Desert cottontail rabbit



Sonoran Desert toad



Globe mallow



Curved bill thrasher



Desert spoon



## THE MESQUITE CIRCLE POND RESTORATION

**AREA** captures rainfall and runoff, creating summer and winter pond, or "charcos." A charco provides breeding habitat for native amphibian species that require water. Charcos also nourish the mesquite woodland, or "bosque." This habitat also provides shelter, nesting, and foraging sites for a variety of wildlife and native bird species vulnerable to urbanization and the associated habitat loss.

To visit the Mesquite Circle Pond, and learn more about it, head over to the east bank of the Santa Cruz River and follow the pathway south towards the Julian Wash.

Six weeks grama



Burrowing owl



Harris' antelope squirrel



Gopher snake

