



The Loop is for everyone

One of the finest recreational amenities in the U.S. is complete. Come celebrate with us!



Join us to celebrate the completion of The Loop

It is one of the largest and finest recreational amenities in the country

By **Chuck Huckelberry**
Pima County Administrator

After the significant flooding in the Phoenix area in the late 1970s, the state Legislature required counties to create special taxing districts to raise money for the construction of regional flood control improvements.



Chuck Huckelberry

Pima County began building soil-cement bank protection along the Rillito and Santa Cruz

river parks after the massive 1983 floods. And then we noticed something interesting happening – nearby residents were using the unpaved maintenance access paths on top of the banks to walk their dogs, go for a run or ride their bikes.

What a good idea.

We started building river parks with improved paths on top of the banks, including pavement. By 1986, we completed a paved section along the Rillito from Campbell Avenue west to Oracle Road. This river



Chuck Huckelberry leads a group of riders toward the new section of the Julian Wash Greenway on November 1st, 2014.

park became hugely popular with hundreds of people using it every day.

The river parks weren't a good idea, they were a great idea.

And so, over the next couple of decades, every time we built new sections of embankment along the major waterways – the Rillito, the Santa Cruz, the Cañada del Oro, the Pantano and the Julian (see map page in section center) – we built more river parks and multiuse paths. Voters have also agreed to pay

for several river parks that would be connected to the paths. To our delight, every section we built became just as popular and heavily used as the Rillito section.

By the turn of the century, several user groups started encouraging the county to connect these river paths. Another good idea. We decided to call it "The Loop," because once they were all connected, it would be possible to walk, run or ride a loop around the metro area.

This past January, we

completed a section connecting the Pantano to the Rillito. The Loop is now an actual loop.

The connection got us thinking – over the past 40 years, our community has constructed one of the largest, finest and most popular public recreational amenities in the country. And we built it on top of flood control projects that are protecting hundreds of thousands of people and billions of dollars in property value from flooding and erosion hazards.

ation (See *Thank You Pima County*, page 21).

While we're calling this a completion celebration, don't mistake that for The Loop being finished. We still have work to do. We have sections in Marana and Oro Valley to build and a few more sections along the Rillito, Pantano and the Tanque Verde to add. We need to widen some places, add more native vegetation, and add more bridges along with a few other improvements here and there.

The Loop is one of the most significant public facilities ever built in Pima County. It connects almost the entire metropolitan area and is a beneficiary of regional cooperation and collaboration. Yet not all county residents are aware of its connection to county government or how and why it was built.

That's why we've partnered with the *Arizona Daily Star* to produce this supplemental insert. It not only is intended to advertise the Completion Celebration March 17, but also educate the public on the role they've played in creating The Loop and how The Loop improves our economy, attracts tourists, helps improve our health and even helps keep our air a little cleaner.

Most importantly, we want you to know that The Loop is for you, the people of Pima County. Enjoy it.

What is The Loop?

If you've driven across a bridge spanning one of metropolitan Tucson's major rivers you have likely seen a paved path alongside the river that is teeming with cyclists, runners, or folks walking dogs.

That's The Loop.

Specifically, The Loop is a system of paved, shared-use paths and short segments of buffered bike lanes built on top of soil cement banks along metro waterways and connecting the Rillito, Santa Cruz, and Pantano River Parks with the Julian Wash and Harrison Road Greenways. (See story, Page 6.) Several County agencies have a hand in the life of The Loop.

Pima County's Regional Flood Control District built it and the Natural Resources, Parks and

Recreation Department maintains it. Other county departments, such as Transportation and Environmental Quality, feature it in some of their programs.

While heavy flooding in the 1970s and early 1980s was the driving force behind the bank stabilization that led to the River Parks, people were the driving force behind what eventually became The Loop. From planning and design to construction and maintenance, thousands have contributed to the development of this 131-mile linear park.

Visionaries like Pima County trails expert Steve Anderson and Sue Clark of the Pima Trails Association saw the potential of an urban loop around the metropolitan area and painted the picture for the rest of us. Avid cyclists like

Norm Land, Bill Adamson and the late Roy Schoonover carried the torch of that vision to elected officials and other regional leaders, including County Administrator Chuck Huckelberry. They garnered unanimous support from these individuals, the region's Bicycle Advisory Committee and many others.

In fact, The Loop got its name about 12 years ago when Anderson and Glenn Hicks with the City of Tucson's Parks and Recreation Department first dubbed it the Urban Loop. When a county committee formed several years ago to address issues ranging from path development to usage guidelines, "it just morphed into 'The Loop' for short," Anderson said.

Today, The Loop is used by cyclists, equestrians, walkers,

runners, and roller-bladers.

Is The Loop complete? Yes. But it's not finished. In January, the County completed two key sections of the shared-use path connecting the Rillito and Pantano River Parks, which truly brought The Loop full circle. But future projects to make The Loop bigger and better are already in the planning stages.

One, for example, calls for an improved river-park pathway along the north bank of the Tanque Verde Creek from Craycroft Road to Sabino Canyon Road and from Sabino Canyon Road to Tanque Verde Road. Look for more improvements and path extensions planned over the next decade.

To learn more about The Loop, go to www.pima.gov/theloop.

BY THE NUMBERS

Did you know that The Loop is the longest public recreation, multi-use path in the United States? Bet you also didn't know:

- The Loop links 30 public parks and other facilities.
- Nearly four dozen pieces of public art may be found along The Loop and adjoining parks.
- 4 out of 10 metro Tucsonans live within one mile of The Loop.
- 4 Farmers Markets are located along The Loop.
- Loop Construction has created 9.6 jobs for every \$1 million in construction spending.
- Studies show that residential properties increase 10 to 20 percent in value the closer they are to green spaces like The Loop.



Aengus Anderson uses The Loop two to three times a week and appreciates its vehicle-free paths.

Everyone loves The Loop

Bikers, hikers, walkers & riders share the love

They call it a sanctuary, super calming, even their moment of Zen.

Others tout it as a great resource, one of Tucson's best gems and a beautiful way to get to work.

They're talking about The Loop and for those who use it, their reasons for loving it are as diverse as they are.

Hank Rowe is a 55-year-old Tucson native who calls The Loop Tucson's "real cardiovascular system." Rowe's Catalina Brewing Company is an easy ride from The Loop, which is no accident. The tagline for his craft brewery is "handcrafted bike fuel."

Rowe praises The Loop as "a wonderful representation of how the county can work with various local agencies as well as businesses and the community to create such a wonderful gem."

Curtis Lueck, a retired engineer, is an avid and passionate Loop user. So passionate, that County Administrator Chuck Huckelberry, asked him head up The Loop Advisory Committee, which is made up of representatives from Loop user groups such as Southern Arizona Road Runners and provides advice and feedback to county leadership about The Loop.

"The Loop is truly one of our community's greatest assets. It draws people out

to exercise, and it draws them together," Lueck said. "The Loop also provides connections to parks and cultural resources, has fantastic public art, and supports our local businesses in a variety of ways. I encourage everyone to get out there, whether on foot, on bike, or on horseback, and enjoy The Loop regularly and safely."

Aengus Anderson agrees. He cycles The Loop two to three times a week and appreciates its vehicle-

free paths as a place to ride, relax and converse with cycling friends. "I also get to see Tucson on The Loop, not just the physical place, but our hugely diverse community," Anderson said.

Many users speak to growing up – and growing older – along with The Loop. "I started using The Loop about nine years ago to become a triathlete," wrote 39-year-old mom, athlete and accountant Jennifer Campbell in response to a request for comments on

The Loop's Facebook page that garnered dozens of responses within hours of its posting. Over the years, she's used The Loop to run, bike and walk, often with kids strapped in a baby carrier or a double stroller. "Now I ride it regularly and have made countless friends along the way whom I refer to as my 'Friends of the Path.'"

Erin Stockellburg says she enjoys The Loop "because my kiddos are getting

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old enough to get out of the stroller and walk/run along with me and the dogs. The Loop provides a place where I feel safe letting them get some exercise along with me without fears of cars.”

Karen Pius Ward recalls running and biking along the Rillito back in 1987 while pregnant with her daughter. Back then, the path didn't extend much farther than a few miles from her starting point on Oracle Road. By the early 2000s, she was training for marathons.

“I was so happy when the connection was made from the Craycroft section back to Dodge so we could race walk from Craycroft to Oracle and back! I wish I would have tracked all

the miles I have put on The Loop,” she recalled.

After the marathon days, Pius Ward would meet friends for early-morning walks along The Loop. Today, she rides her bike with her husband in retirement.

“The Loop has been part of my entire life. I love the work Pima County has done to make it a wonderful place to be proud of.”

Angus Anderson seconds that sentiment.

“It is not an exaggeration to say that The Loop has raised the quality of life in Tucson. It has created new opportunities for recreation and a safe space for regular people who want to get a little healthier. It is easily the most inspired and far-sighted infrastructure project Tucson or Pima County have seen in decades.”

#LoveTheLoop



We asked Loop users via The Loop's Facebook page what they liked about The Loop. The response was overwhelming. More than 100 people responded in just over 24 hours.

Here are a few of the response from the people who #LoveTheLoop. Thanks to all who responded and to all of the thousands of daily Loop users for supporting and enjoying this incredible community asset.

“ I never thought of even owning a bike until I discovered The Loop. It's definitely one of Tucson's best gems.”

Jeff Mohnney

“ Love the serenity of not hearing cars whizz by me every other second.”

Sandiway Fong

“ It is fun to watch the decorations on the trees and shrubs change through the year. We call it our moment of Zen.”

Carrie Kinnison

“ The Loop is a wonderful part of being outdoors in Tucson. People are friendly. The scenery is wonderful. Thank you to all who have made The Loop possible!”

C.M. Peterson

“ It is a high-quality trail, well-maintained, and fun to use. It's a big part of my El Tour de Tucson training each year.”

Matt Nelson

“ I love The Loop because it's a safe place to ride with my kids. I also love seeing all the people and feeling that connection with Tucson.”

Rachael Blackketter



Construction of soil cement embankments in 2017. The embankments extend several feet below the river bottom. See graphic, right.

At its core, The Loop is a flood protection program

The Loop's origins spring from Pima County's response to one of the most devastating disasters in the community's history—the 1983 floods. The deluge came just five years after the creation of the Regional Flood Control District, a

time when many developers or homeowners took the term “riverfront property” literally and built right out to the bank.

Nature delivered a lesson on why that practice was ill-advised when from Sept. 29 to Oct. 2, approximately 7 inches of rain fell over

Pima County — one day saw 4 inches — the result of a stalled weather system from California and Tropical Storm Octave. When the clouds finally cleared, 13 people statewide had lost their lives, including four people in Tucson, and some 10,000 more were forced to

abandon their homes.

The waterways ran for days after the clouds cleared, bringing out large crowds who marveled at the raw power of the torrent and gasped as the water gouged chunks of bank, swallowing dozens of structures and threatened entire

neighborhoods. Areas near channel bends and constrictions suffered heavily.

Total flood damage tallied up to \$226.5 million, including \$64 million to public facilities in Tucson and Pima County.

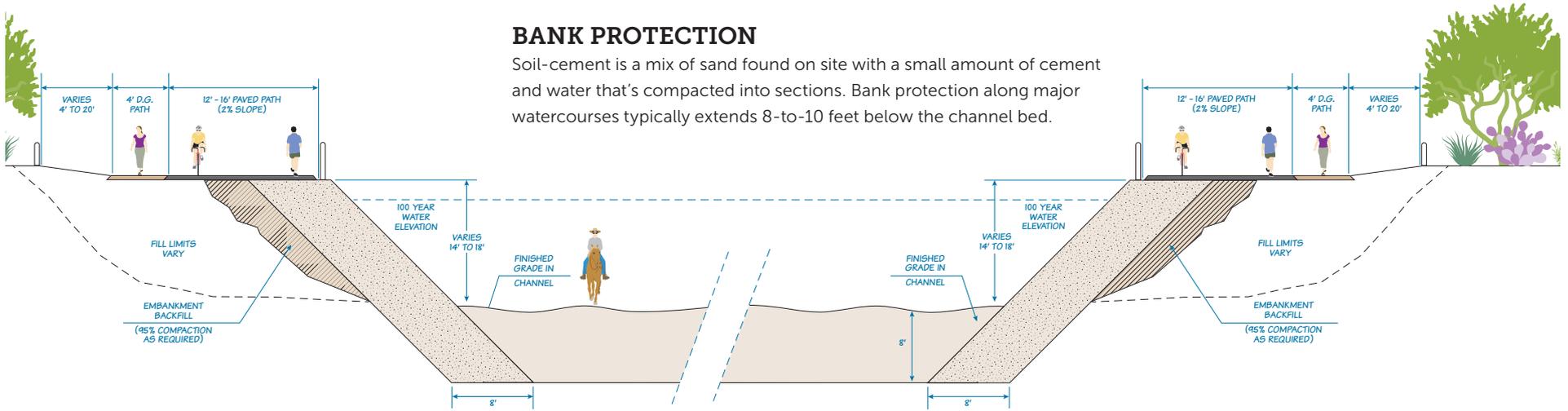
In response, the Regional Flood Control District,

created in 1978 after the Legislature mandated counties create such districts in response to devastating flooding in the Phoenix area, adopted a more active floodplain management philosophy and set to work on a

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BANK PROTECTION

Soil-cement is a mix of sand found on site with a small amount of cement and water that's compacted into sections. Bank protection along major watercourses typically extends 8-to-10 feet below the channel bed.



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network of bank protection projects. The Flood Control District began property acquisition and ecosystem restoration efforts all designed to protect hundreds of acres of land from future flooding and provide emergency and maintenance vehicles with easier access to the river channels.

When surveying the '83 flood's effects, Flood Control engineers saw that spots that had bank protection made from soil cement – the Rio Nuevo stretch of the Santa Cruz through Downtown Tucson, for example – survived the floods basically untouched.

“Almost all of the property damage occurred to structures built prior to modern floodplain management practices,” said Andy Dinauer, Regional Flood Control District Division Manager responsible for the planning, design and construction of the County's regional flood control projects.

Since then the soil cement used to shore up the edges of the Santa Cruz River, Rillito Creek and other waterways has become the backbone of our remarkable



Home crumbles into the Rillito River in October 1983 flood. The Arizona Daily Star file photo.

131-mile linear park system and removed hundreds of millions of dollars in property from federal flood insurance requirements.

On every expansion of The Loop, engineers assess each reach of the river parks individually and consider many factors during the design phase, notably soil type, channel hydraulics and how the adjacent land will be used. Next, archaeological and ecological assessments catalog cultural and biological resources in the project

area and planners survey the proposed route. Ideally, The Loop path sits entirely on a soil cement skirt extending from the river bank. This provides a more stable surface for the path and prevents cracking.

The asphalt path itself is 12-foot wide in most places but it may be wider or narrower depending on location, such as street connections and bridge underpasses. Whenever possible, the path meets accessibility guidelines specified under the Americans with Dis-

abilities Act. Alongside the paved path usually is a four-to eight-foot wide shoulder made from decomposed granite that sometimes meanders off landscaped or natural areas where there is sufficient space.

Flood Control gets help in its Loop-upkeep efforts from Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation. NRPR does the bulk of the day-to-day maintenance in the river parks – keeping the path clear, landscaping, cleaning park amenities and more.

Transportation oversees a number of projects, notably many bridges, underpasses, bike lanes and the occasional road crossing.

Loop funding comes from a variety of sources. The largest funding comes from voter-approved General Obligation Bonds, which demonstrates the citizens support of The Loop. A Tax Levy Fund covers much of Flood Control's tab, with the district receiving occasional help from federal agencies such as the Army Corps

of Engineers on major infrastructure improvements. Not every mile of The Loop sits atop a river bank and those are the county's Project Management Office's responsibility. Funding for projects such as the Harrison Greenway, portions of the Julian Wash segment and new Rillito River Pathway bridge over Camino de la Tierra come from a variety of sources, including federal grants. Some smaller projects even had private money from developers or donors.

The Loop will remain a work in progress for many years to come. The next big project will focus on the confluence of the Santa Cruz River, Rillito Creek and the Cañada del Oro Wash – the heart of The Loop.

“We also have our eyes on Tanque Verde Creek,” Dinauer said. “Our goal is to run the next extension along the north bank out from Craycroft to Sabino Canyon and then on to Tanque Verde Road. That'll be a nice connection.”

So, while The Loop is completed, it's far from finished. We have a lot to add to this incredible combination of public safety and public recreation.



An estimated 75,000 people use The Loop every year to commute to their jobs, schools or appointments.

Cleaner air, safer travel

No traffic jams; The Loop is a commuter's paradise; reduces unhealthy smog

The Loop benefits our community in many ways. The health benefits are well known. So too is the boost it provides to the economy by attracting tourists from across the country to enjoy this unparalleled public amenity.

Perhaps less obvious are

the ways using The Loop can contribute to the County's transportation goals.

"The Loop provides excellent opportunities for people to bike or walk to work, shopping and school throughout eastern Pima County on a paved pathway separated from traffic," said Matt Zoll, Senior Program Manager with the Pima County Department of Transportation. "The pathway provides multiple benefits for health, recreation and transportation."

As The Loop grew,

stretching through the Tucson metro region, its utility as a means of transportation became clear. For many in our community, The Loop provides for them easy walking or bicycle access to work, school, shopping and public parks.

Pima County promotes many programs designed to ease congestion, minimize wear on roadways and lessen the impact of automobiles on our shared environment. Part of that commitment involves promoting alternatives to

driving, and The Loop is an important piece of Pima County's efforts.

The county Department of Environmental Quality's "Use The Loop on Your Commute" effort encourages people to ride or walk The Loop instead of driving to work, school, shopping or anywhere they don't need their cars. By doing so, people can realize cost savings, health benefits and quality time in the outdoors, all while helping to reduce congestion on the region's roads.

As many as 750,000 people use The Loop each year, according to a Transportation Department survey. County analysis shows about 220,000 people live within half-a-mile of The Loop and more than 40 percent of the county's population lives within a mile of a section of The Loop.

Zoll said the Transportation Department estimates that pedestrians who live a mile or less from The Loop and cyclists who live within two miles are more likely to

use it on their commutes.

Many others in the community already have taken advantage of their proximity to The Loop and regularly use it on their commutes. The Transportation Department estimates nearly 75,000 people use The Loop regularly to commute either to work, school or other locations throughout the community.

In a community where cycling already enjoys great popularity, The Loop adds

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“Because driving motor vehicles is the largest single source of air pollution in Pima County, using The Loop one or two days a week, if done by enough people, can have a positive impact on the air we all breathe.”

Beth Gorman

Program manager with Pima County Department of Environmental Quality

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an important element: Safety.

“Loop users who are utilizing The Loop for health and transportation not only benefit from the beautiful scenery and quiet pathway, but also are able to avoid heavily-trafficked streets,” Zoll said.

While regional governments, including Pima County, have added hundreds of miles of bicycle lanes on roadways for the convenience and safety of cyclists, The Loop provides an even greater level of safety. Because The Loop is a fully contained, multi-modal pathway available only to non-motorized vehicular traffic, pedestrians, runners, riders and equestrians can use it for commuting or recreation in safe conditions.

“The Loop greatly reduces travel delay and challenges associated with roadway intersections thanks to an extensive network of underpasses and bridges that have been built along the pathway,” Zoll said. “I hope more people use The Loop for their commutes, they certainly won’t regret it.”

The convenience The Loop provides for commuters also factors into the

county’s larger environmental and conservation goals.

“There are many benefits to using The Loop for your commute to work. Hundreds of major employers are located within a-quarter mile from The Loop, which makes commuting by bike, or even walking, very convenient for employees at those locations,” said Beth Gorman, program manager with Pima County Department of Environmental Quality. “Because driving motor vehicles is the largest single source of air pollution in Pima County, using The Loop one or two days a week, if done by enough people, can have a positive impact on the air we all breathe.”

Motorists in metro Tucson collectively drive 21 million miles daily. That’s a lot of carbon emissions and greenhouse gasses released into our air each day. Gorman said for every mile we use human power to walk or bike instead of driving our gasoline vehicles keeps 1.17 pounds of pollution from our air.

By using The Loop or otherwise choosing to not drive to work one day each week, you can reduce air pollution by more than 1,100 pounds a year.

The Pima County Board of Supervisors has been

committed to reducing air pollution for many years.

The Board reaffirmed that commitment in July 2017, when it passed a resolution to support the United Nations Paris Climate Agreement.

The Paris Climate Agreement encourages a global response to the threat of climate change. That resolution pledges Pima County’s commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 28 percent below 2005 levels by 2025.

“Pima County is very close to violating the U.S. EPA health standard for ground-level ozone, so any time we drive less, idle our engines less, and skip trips in our motor vehicles we will improve air quality and keep our air healthy to breathe,” Gorman said.

Having The Loop available to so many residents to use for their daily commutes can help the County meet the target reductions of the Paris Agreement as more people get out of their cars and onto bicycles or choose other alternative modes of transportation.

For more information about Pima County’s transportation goals, go to pima.gov/transportation.

For more information about clean air efforts, visit pima.gov/deq.



Hundreds of businesses are adjacent to The Loop or within a short walk or bike ride.

The Loop boosts economy

Property values higher near The Loop; draws numerous tourists

What began as an infrastructure project to protect the community from potential flooding has evolved

into a treasured recreation amenity for residents and tourists alike. On a regular basis, Pima County residents use The Loop as part of their commute and exercise routine.

But locals aren't the only ones using The Loop. Over the past decade, The Loop has become a major visitor

attraction that contributes to and strengthens our local economy.

In 2013, Pima County commissioned a study of The Loop's impact on the local economy, environment, community and health. Its results still hold today. The study indicated that The Loop provides a significant

return on investment for county residents. For every dollar invested in The Loop, Pima County realizes \$9.40 in economic benefit. Similarly, this study revealed the path has created 9.6 jobs for every \$1 million in construction spending. This translates to more than 675 jobs in Arizona and close to 90

percent of those, or 600 jobs, created in Pima County.

Arizona has long been a draw for tourists. For those keen on outdoor recreation, The Loop provides yet another reason to visit Pima County and frequent local shops, restaurants and hotels.

"The Loop is an incred-

ible asset for us as we promote tourism – the modern traveler wants to be outside and active and The Loop's 131 miles of car-free paved pathways is a perfect addition to any itinerary," Brent DeRaad, Executive Director of Visit Tucson.

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Jon Jegglie, who lives in Sierra Vista, discovered The Loop nearly three years ago during a visit to Tucson. He makes it a point to use The Loop on weekends when he and his wife are in town.

“My wife drops me at Thornydale and Orange Grove and goes shopping. I walk the Loop up to the QT at Craycroft and she picks me up there,” he says.

The same holds true for Pennsylvania residents Clay Shaw and Karen Mitchell, who in February made a five-day-long-drive to Tucson to escape winter and bike outdoors on The Loop.

“We wanted to get away from the winter and just spend a nice relaxing month in Tucson because we knew Tucson was beautiful having been here

before,” Mitchell said.

Although they had not ridden The Loop in its entirety when we caught up with them, Mitchell and Shaw were impressed by what they had seen so far.

“It’s really, really well done and the signage is really good – it was easy to figure out where we were – and I love the fact that you just follow the river and you don’t get off on a bad shoot,” she said.

When they return to Pennsylvania, they’ll make sure to spread the word about The Loop.

“We have some friends who love to travel and will definitely recommend it,” Mitchell said. “Tucson is a great place to stay and bring your bikes.”

This amenity has even converted tourists into permanent residents.

“I am seeing more and more people moving to Tucson, and they’re saying The Loop is a deciding factor.”



Damion Alexander

Long Realty

“I am seeing more and more people moving to Tucson, and they’re saying The Loop is a deciding factor,” said real estate agent Damion Alexander with Long Realty. In 2016, for example, Alexander sold a half-million-dollar home to a woman from outside the Tucson area who came to the area specifically for cycling.

The path is also a draw for locals when it comes to

buying homes. Alexander assists clients who only want to see homes close to The Loop or with easy access to it. He’s even shown properties to clients on bikes.

Likewise, because nearly 42 percent of the Tucson urbanized area lives within one mile of The Loop, businesses have seen an uptick in sales thanks to their proximity to the path.

For Jessie Mance Zuger- man, who owns the Tucson Hop Shop with her spouse, David, locating the brewery in the Metal Arts Village near the path was no accident.

“We knew that cyclists would be a huge target demographic for our business, and so proximity to this major cycling artery was a cornerstone in finding a location for Tucson Hop Shop. We feel so lucky to have found a spot less than a mile from The Loop entrance at Dodge Boulevard,” she said.

The Rillito Farmers Market is another business that has benefitted from The Loop. While many market shoppers still arrive by car, The Loop provides safe passage for those who wish to bike there. Many visitors to the market stop for un-

planned visits because they spotted the market while biking or walking along The Loop. On average, the market draws about 100,000 visitors a year, thanks in part to the steady traffic along the path.

In addition to luring tourists and locals, The Loop has played a role in Pima County’s economic development efforts. Because outdoor recreation is fundamental to recruiting employers, it’s become a big recruitment tool for the County to attract companies like Caterpillar, who in 2017 relocated its mining division here. Similarly, Raytheon – the region’s largest private employer who happens to be located just south of the Julian Wash – urges their employees to use The Loop to commute to work.



Advertising supplement to the Arizona Daily Star • Sunday, March 11, 2018

Celebrate the completion of The Loop

Pima County is celebrating the completion of The Loop, a 131-mile shared-use trail that spans the metropolitan area, allowing cyclists, pedestrians, joggers, skaters and equestrians an opportunity to enjoy our beautiful Sonoran Desert on paved, vehicle-free pathways.

Please join us March 17th



Celebration Locations

Kino Sports Complex – North

2817 E. Ajo Way
10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Dedication Ceremony at 11:30 a.m.

Brandi Fenton Memorial Park

3482 E. River Road
9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Dedication Ceremony at 9:45 a.m.

Steam Pump Ranch

10901 N. Oracle Road
9 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Hosted by Town of Oro Valley

INSIDE: Event schedule; commemorative map



Come celebrate with us!

To celebrate the completion of The Loop, Pima County is hosting two dedication celebrations along The Loop and Oro Valley is hosting a third at Steam Pump Ranch (for more information on the Oro Valley event, see page 18). The two county events have different themes. At Brandi Fenton Memorial Park, we're celebrating The Loop's connection to our heritage, culture and environment; and at Kino Sports Complex North, we're celebrating The Loop's role in maintaining the health and fitness of the people of Pima County.*



Kino Sports Complex Celebration

North Complex, 2817 E. Ajo Way • 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Highlighting The Loop's role in fostering healthy and sustainable living in Pima County, the celebration at Kino Sports Complex will connect you to resources that will motivate you to play, stay healthy and reach your fitness goals.

Learn useful tips on how to keep your health and exercise regimen in check at the Health Walk along Sam Lena Park and enter to win a bevy of prizes, ranging from an iPad to gift cards. While you're there, visit with health professionals to get a free health screening.

Plus, we've partnered with local organizations to help demonstrate that fitness can be fun. Come see impressive acrobatic performances by Cirque Roots, participate in a Zumba class onsite, cheer athletes participating in a friendly Crossfit competition, dance to the beat of Empire High School's steel drum band, and see youth folklorico groups perform.

The event will feature a formal dedication of the newly-completed Loop with Pima County officials, user groups and others. There will also be plenty of activities for kids, so bring the whole family.

Event Schedule

All-Day Activities (10 a.m. - 3 p.m.)

- Health & Fitness Fair with vendor booths offering activities, information and items for sale.
- WOD on The Loop presented by Crossfit Lanista (exercise demonstrations featuring local crossfit gyms)

- Lawn Games, including giant Jenga, corn hole, baseball toss, and fitness dice (with prizes!)
- Jumping castle and obstacle course
- Free bike helmets for kids (while supplies last)
- Hula hoop on The Loop
- Bike rides along The Loop provided by Velo-Vets

Scheduled Activities:

- **9 - 11 a.m.** – Radio remote from 105.3 La Poderosa
- **9:30 - 11:30 a.m.** – Radio remote from 106.3 The Groove
- **10 a.m. - 2 p.m.** – Health Walk around Sam Lena Park. (Those who complete the walk will be entered into a drawing to win a number of prizes, including: a youth bike, scooters, an iPad, gift cards, and more!)
- **10 - 11 a.m.** – Roaming Entertainment (still walkers, etc.) by Cirque Roots
- **10 - 11 a.m.** – Zumba class
- **10 a.m. - noon** – Parachute Games
- **11 - 11:15 a.m.** – Variety show presented by Cirque Roots
- **11:30 a.m.** – Loop Dedication Ceremony featuring County officials and Loop advocates
- **12:30 p.m.** – Dedication cake-cutting
- **1 - 2 p.m.** – Empire High School Steel Drum Band performance
- **2:15 - 2:45 p.m.** – Ballet Folklorico Tapatio performance
- **2:30 p.m.** – Prize giveaways announced
- **3 p.m.** – Event concludes



Brandi Fenton Memorial Park Celebration

3482 E. River Road • 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

"Connecting Communities" is the theme of our Loop Completion Celebration at Brandi Fenton Memorial Park. Learn about the history of this unique area nestled along the banks of the Rillito River.

Enjoy an equestrian demonstration and dog costume contest with a St. Paddy's Day theme. Listen in on presentations about the communities, vegetation and wildlife you'll find along The Loop. Visit with historians, Park representatives and the many groups who use The Loop every day.

Lastly, don't miss the chance to add a new member to your family. Pima Animal Care Center will be on hand with pets up for adoption. You'll also want to bring your own furry family member in costume for our pet costume party. Prizes available!

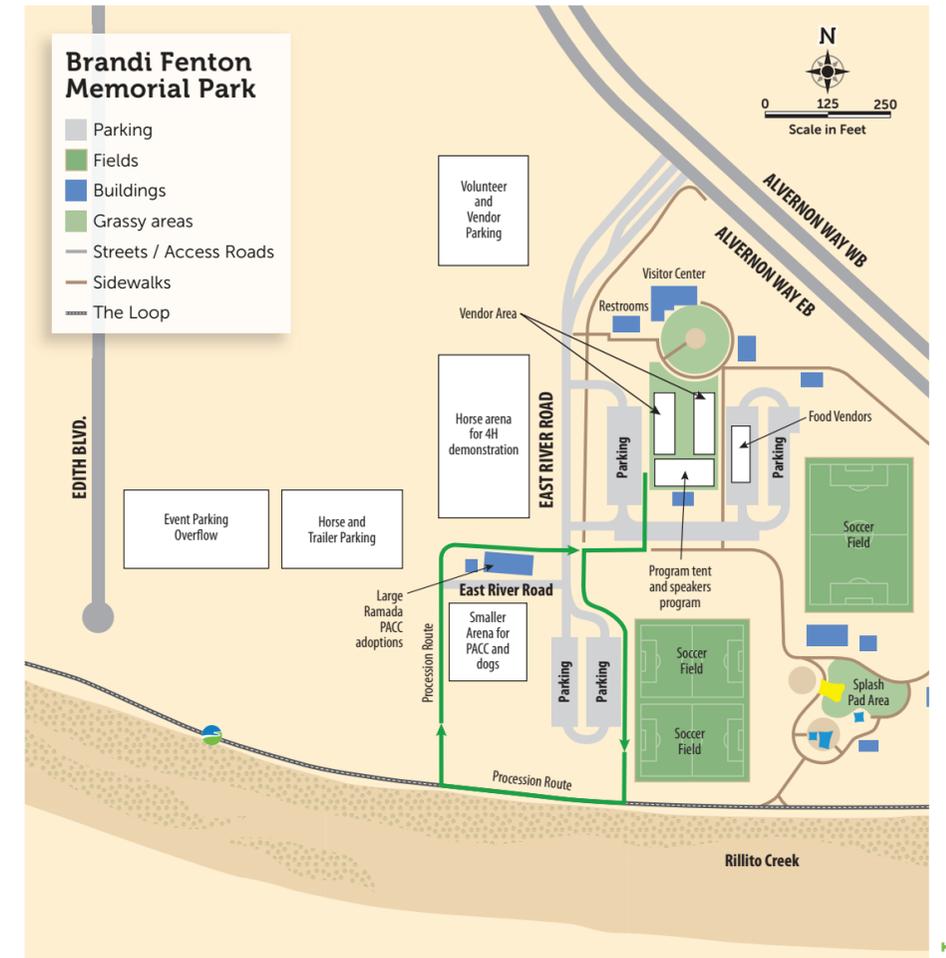
Event Schedule

All-Day Activities (9 a.m. - 2 p.m.)

- Pima Animal Care Center adoptions, free pet microchipping (while supplies last) and safety presentations
- Vendor booths offering activities, information and items for sale, including Loop jerseys
- Food and entertainment

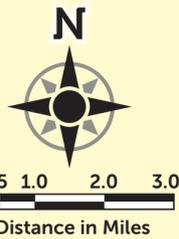
Scheduled Activities:

- **9 a.m.** – Loop Procession into Brandi Fenton Park
- **9:20 a.m.** – Welcome and Dedication Ceremony
- **9:20 a.m.** – Welcome and Remarks
 - » District 3 Supervisor Sharon Bronson
 - » Jeff Dacosta, Arts Foundation for Tucson and Southern Arizona
 - » Sue Clark, Pima Trails Association
 - » Chuck Huckelberry, Pima County Administrator
- **9:45 a.m.** – Dedication cake-cutting
- **10 a.m.** – Tucson Cancer Conquerors exercise/warm-ups
- **10:15 a.m.-noon** – Presentations on the wildlife, history and culture of the region as well as by Loop users sharing why they love The Loop.
 - Presenters include:
 - » Pima Trails Association;
 - » National Park Service;
 - » Arizona Game and Fish; and many more!
- **Noon** – St. Patrick's Day-themed Pet Costume Contest (with prizes!)
- **10 a.m.-1 p.m.** – Performances by local dance and musical groups
- **2 p.m.** – Event concludes



* Event activities and participants are still being scheduled. This is the tentative list and will be updated as needed leading up to March 17 as participants are confirmed.





Pathway System Map

LEGEND

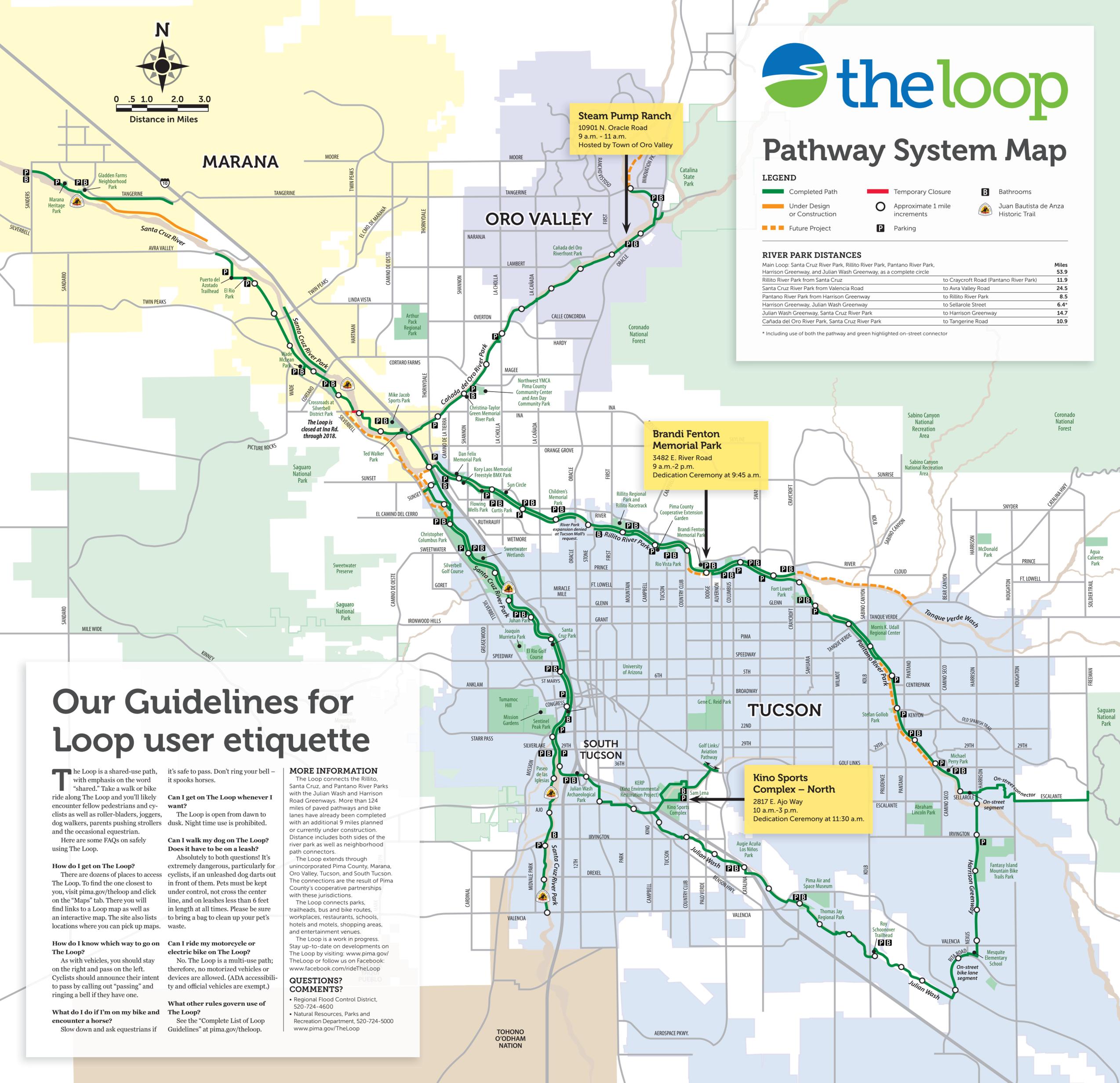
- Completed Path
- Under Design or Construction
- Future Project
- Temporary Closure
- Approximate 1 mile increments
- Bathrooms
- Juan Bautista de Anza Historic Trail
- Parking

RIVER PARK DISTANCES

Main Loop: Santa Cruz River Park, Rillito River Park, Pantano River Park, Harrison Greenway, and Julian Wash Greenway, as a complete circle

	Miles
Rillito River Park from Santa Cruz	11.9
Santa Cruz River Park from Valencia Road	24.5
Pantano River Park from Harrison Greenway	8.5
Harrison Greenway, Julian Wash Greenway	6.4*
Julian Wash Greenway, Santa Cruz River Park	14.7
Cañada del Oro River Park, Santa Cruz River Park	10.9

* Including use of both the pathway and green highlighted on-street connector



Our Guidelines for Loop user etiquette

The Loop is a shared-use path, with emphasis on the word "shared." Take a walk or bike ride along The Loop and you'll likely encounter fellow pedestrians and cyclists as well as roller-bladers, joggers, dog walkers, parents pushing strollers and the occasional equestrian.

Here are some FAQs on safely using The Loop.

How do I get on The Loop?

There are dozens of places to access The Loop. To find the one closest to you, visit pima.gov/theloop and click on the "Maps" tab. There you will find links to a Loop map as well as an interactive map. The site also lists locations where you can pick up maps.

How do I know which way to go on The Loop?

As with vehicles, you should stay on the right and pass on the left. Cyclists should announce their intent to pass by calling out "passing" and ringing a bell if they have one.

What do I do if I'm on my bike and encounter a horse?

Slow down and ask equestrians if

it's safe to pass. Don't ring your bell – it spooks horses.

Can I get on The Loop whenever I want?

The Loop is open from dawn to dusk. Night time use is prohibited.

Can I walk my dog on The Loop? Does it have to be on a leash?

Absolutely to both questions! It's extremely dangerous, particularly for cyclists, if an unleashed dog darts out in front of them. Pets must be kept under control, not cross the center line, and on leashes less than 6 feet in length at all times. Please be sure to bring a bag to clean up your pet's waste.

Can I ride my motorcycle or electric bike on The Loop?

No. The Loop is a multi-use path; therefore, no motorized vehicles or devices are allowed. (ADA accessibility and official vehicles are exempt.)

What other rules govern use of The Loop?

See the "Complete List of Loop Guidelines" at pima.gov/theloop.

MORE INFORMATION

The Loop connects the Rillito, Santa Cruz, and Pantano River Parks with the Julian Wash and Harrison Road Greenways. More than 124 miles of paved pathways and bike lanes have already been completed with an additional 9 miles planned or currently under construction. Distance includes both sides of the river park as well as neighborhood path connectors.

The Loop extends through unincorporated Pima County, Marana, Oro Valley, Tucson, and South Tucson. The connections are the result of Pima County's cooperative partnerships with these jurisdictions.

The Loop connects parks, trailheads, bus and bike routes, workplaces, restaurants, schools, hotels and motels, shopping areas, and entertainment venues.

The Loop is a work in progress. Stay up-to-date on developments on The Loop by visiting: www.pima.gov/TheLoop or follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/rideTheLoop

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

- Regional Flood Control District, 520-724-4600
- Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Department, 520-724-5000
- www.pima.gov/TheLoop

Steam Pump Ranch
10901 N. Oracle Road
9 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Hosted by Town of Oro Valley

Brandi Fenton Memorial Park
3482 E. River Road
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Dedication Ceremony at 9:45 a.m.

Kino Sports Complex – North
2817 E. Ajo Way
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Dedication Ceremony at 11:30 a.m.

The Loop is closed at Ina Rd. through 2018.

TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION



Oro Valley's celebration of The Loop coincides with the popular Farmer's Market at Steam Pump Ranch.

Oro Valley loves The Loop

Did you know Oro Valley's Historic Steam Pump Ranch is connected to The Loop? Join the Town of Oro Valley for a festive, St. Patrick's Day-style celebration at the town's historic Steam Pump Ranch! Stop by for FREE St. Paddy's Day-themed activities, including:

- Green ice cream and green cookie decorating
- Bike decorating zone (decorations provided)
- Kids crafts



- Free bike valet
 - Heirloom Farmer's Market
- PLUS: Everyone who attends the event wearing green or with a green-decorated bicycle will be entered into a raffle for a \$50 gift card and \$5 tokens at the Farmer's Market. Guests in

green can also get a hand stamp to receive special deals from several of the Farmer's Market vendors!

Visit the Parks & Recreation booth for details.

After you enjoy the festivities, grab a map, hop on your bike, and head for The Loop!

Learn more about Historic Steam Pump Ranch on the Town of Oro Valley website or follow Town of Oro Valley Parks and Recreation on Facebook.



IF YOU GO

- **What:** Oro Valley Loop Completion Celebration
- **Where:** Steam Pump Ranch, 10901 N. Oracle Road,
- **When:** March 17, 9 - 11 a.m.
- **For more info:** orovalleyaz.gov

THANK YOU!

To everyone who played a role in creating The Loop

By Chuck Huckelberry
Pima County Administrator

Thousands of people have been involved in building and maintaining The Loop and we would be remiss in this supplement if we didn't thank as many of them as possible.

First and foremost, I want to thank Pima County's taxpayers. The flood protection along our rivers, the Loop path and the many County parks and other recreational facilities along The Loop have been paid for through local property taxes, and some of it via voter-approved bonds and funding from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. There would be no Loop without you, the residents, voters and taxpayers of Pima County.

Thank you to the many members of the Board of Supervisors who have voted to support The Loop's construction over the past 35 years. There have been 10 board elections and 20 different supervisors since the creation of the Regional Flood Control District and each board has supported the construction and maintenance of the multi-use path that we now call The Loop.

The board has several citizen advisory committees that advise it on matters



County Administrator Chuck Huckelberry, at the dedication ceremony for Pima County's Pantano River Park.

of public policy, including The Loop, and their various members over the years have also supported The Loop. To the current and past members of Flood Control District Advisory Committee, the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee, the Bond Advisory Committee and the Bicycle Advisory Committee – Thank You. And thank you to the members of the Loop Advisory Committee, which

provides advice and feedback from the major Loop user groups to me and my staff, as well as to the leadership of the Regional Flood Control District, which built The Loop, and the Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Department, which maintains it.

While taxpayers pay for it and county leadership designs, engineers, oversees and maintains it, it is the private sector that has built The Loop. Over the years there have been many local,

regional and a few national architectural, engineering and contractor firms the county has contracted with to build the soil-cement embankments, plant the trees and shrubs and pave the path. They are too numerous to list them, but just to give you an example, here are a few of the firms that have been involved in recent Loop construction projects: Ashton Contractors, Psomas, AECOM, Granite Construction, Falcone Brothers, and McGann

& Associates. To all of you who have helped build The Loop, thank you.

As you've read in this supplement, The Loop serves a number of regional goals, among them tourism, economic development, clean air, traffic reduction, and healthy living. While built and maintained by Pima County, The Loop is supported by a wide range of agencies and jurisdictional partners. I offer my sincere appreciation to all of them.

Building and maintaining The Loop requires quite a few county staff. I want to thank the staff in the Project Management Office, Natural Resources Parks and Recreation and Transportation for 35 years of hard work creating this incredibly popular public recreational amenity. Several other county departments support The Loop or use The Loop as part of their public service mission. They include Environmental Quality, Sustainability, Health, the Public Library, Attractions and Tourism, and Communications. To all their staff who have worked on The Loop in one way or another, Thank You.

I specifically want to thank the staff and leadership of the Regional Flood Control District. Not only did you build one of the nation's premier flood control systems, you turned it into a recreational amenity that I suspect is on its way to becoming nationally renowned.

And finally, I want to thank the users of The Loop. Every day, thousands of county residents use The Loop for exercise, for commuting or for fun. That was the point of all the effort by everyone mentioned above. You validate 35 years of hard work. Thank you. Enjoy.



The segment of The Loop between Drexel and Valencia roads was dedicated on Saturday, March 12, 2016.

A community celebration

Support for Loop celebration overwhelming; thank you

By **Chuck Huckelberry**
County Administrator

When Pima County put out the call for community members, groups, organizations and businesses to participate in the March 17 Loop Completion Celebration, the response was overwhelming. I want to thank everyone who participated in the planning of the event and who will be participating in this public celebration.

Event Planning Staff and Logistical Support:

The celebration is the

result of six months of planning by a core group of county staff from a dozen county departments. Thank you for all the hard work: Regional Flood Control District; Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation; Transportation; Regional Wastewater Reclamation; Kino Sports Complex; Risk Management; Pima Animal Care Center; Health; Environmental Quality; Sustainability; County Administration; Pima County Public Library; Attractions and Tourism and County Communications. Logistical support for the event was provided by the Pima County Sheriff's Department; the Sheriff's Auxiliary Volunteers; Arizona Party Rental; Nestle; Sparkletts; Medical Reserve Corps; PetSmart Charities;

Visit Tucson; City of Tucson Parks and Recreation.

Jurisdictional partners

The Loop touches almost every community in the metropolitan area and several are participating in the celebration. Thank you the city of Tucson and the town of Oro Valley for their participation in the event.

Special Thank You to the National Park Service

The National Park Service has been very gracious and supportive of this county event and of The Loop.

Brandi Fenton Memorial Park Celebration Participants

Dedication Ceremony

- The Hon. Sharon Bronson,

District 3, Pima County Board of Supervisors

- Sue Clark, Pima Trails Association
- Jeff Dacosta, Arts Foundation for Tucson and Souther Arizona
- Chuck Huckelberry, County Administrator

Event Program, Entertainment and Activities

- Rick Collins, Anza Trail Coalition of Arizona
- Eddie Moreno, Arizona Game and Fish
- Fran Maiuri, Arizona State Parks steward who has walked the entire Loop
- Carolyn Campbell, Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection
- Naomi Torres, National Park Service
- Ken Scoville, Old Fort Lowell Neighborhood

Association

- Liz Almli, Tucson Cancer Conquerors
- Pima County 4H (Horse Showmanship)
- Pima Animal Care Center
- Pima County Public Library Bookbike
- Mix-FM Radio Remote
- Southern Arizona Roadrunners Fun Run
- Logan Simpson Design
- Danzacultura Mexicana, Ballet folklórico children's dance group
- Flute Loops, Flute-playing musicians
- Slim & Young, bluegrass band

Retail and Information

Vendors

- Adopt Love-Adopt Local
- Agave Heritage Festival - Hotel Congress
- Agility Spine and Sports

Physical Therapy

- Arizona Trail Association
- City of Tucson
- Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection
- Conserve2Enhance (C2E)
- Edge High School
- Loop Bike Shop
- Native Seed Search
- Perimeter Bicycling Association of America
- Pima County Bike Ambassadors
- Pima Trails Association
- Tour de Cookie/Marana Rotary
- TRAK (Therapeutic Ranch for Animals and Kids)
- Trader Joe's
- Tucson Cancer Conquerors
- Tucson City of Gastronomy
- Tucson Clean and Beautiful

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Continued from Page 22

- Visit Tucson
- Western National Parks Association
- Arizona Public Media
- Athena Garments
- Sonoran Institute
- Southern Arizona Adaptive Sports

County Departments

- Native Plant Nursery – Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation
- Environmental Education Program – Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation
- Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation and Parklands Foundation
- Loop Store
- Pima County Public Library Seed Library
- Regional Flood Control District

- Pima County Sheriff's Department Bravo Unit
- Office of Sustainability and Conservation

Food and Beverage

- Drew's Dogs
- Hot Pots Kettle Corn
- Vicki's Outlaw BBQ

Kino Sports Complex Celebration Participants**Dedication Ceremony**

- The Honorable Richard Elías, Chair, Pima County Board of Supervisors
- Suzanne Shields, Director, Pima County Regional Flood Control District
- Curtis Lueck, Loop Advisory Committee
- Julia Strange, Tucson Medical Center
- Chuck Huckelberry, County Administrator

Event Program,**Entertainment and Activities**

- Crossfit Lanista (Crossfit competition, WOD on The Loop)
- Cirque Roots, acrobatic performances
- Empire High School Steel Drum Band
- Wonder World Jumping Castles
- KZLZ La Poderosa Radio Remote
- 106.3 The Groove Radio Remote
- Ballet Folklorico Tapatio
- Zumba by Oralia Morales and Dance it Studio
- Hike the Loop with Sierra Dufault from Trails Inspire and Liz Thomas

Retail and Information**Vendors**

- Agility Spine & Sports Physical Therapy
- Aihu Essentials for Healing

- Ajo Bikes
- Arizona Oncology
- Arizona Youth Partnership
- Arts Express
- AZ Bilingual Newspaper
- Azteca Tucson
- Banner Health
- Beyond Tucson
- Boxing Inc.
- Cactus Bowl Vantage Bowling Centers
- Camp not a Wheeze
- Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona
- Cortiva Institute
- Crossfit Factotum
- Crossfit Purgatory
- Cycling Advocates of Southern Arizona (CASAZ)
- Desert Survivors, Inc.
- Fleet Feet Tucson
- Greater Arizona Bicycling Association (GABA)
- iQor
- Iron Grip Crossfit
- Metro Gnome Music and

Cycle To Go

- Monkey Face Screen Printing
- Q Sciences
- Orangetheory Fitness
- Ornelas Chiropractic
- Pedego Electric Bikes
- Sprouts Farmers Market
- Sporting Chance Center
- Sunnyside Unified School District
- Tucson Medical Center
- Tucson Vein & Body
- Tumamoc Nutrition Club & Fitness
- Velo-Vets
- YMCA of Southern AZ – Mulcahy YMCA
- 1st Pharm Supplements
- BICAS
- Lauffer Middle School
- Old Pueblo Acupuncture
- Perimeter Bicycling Association of America
- Sahuarita Bikes
- Southwest Endurance-Training
- UA CESL

County Departments

- Department of Environmental Quality
- Health Department
- Pima County Public Library Bookmobile
- Regional Flood Control District
- Pima County Sheriff Department Auxiliary Volunteers
- Pima County Sheriff Department Commander Center
- Transportation

Food and Beverage

- Don Francisco's Coffee
- Frozen Delight
- Gigi's Fusion Food Truck
- Mustache Mike's Italian Ice
- Papa Murphy's
- The Original Wild West Kettle Korn
- You Sly Dog Hot Dogs
- Dickey's BBQ Pit



Mother Katie Banister runs with Pippin Came, 4, in jogger, and Molly Came, 8, riding along The Loop near Speedway Boulevard along the Santa Cruz River.

A healthier community

The Loop helps make Pima County better

As The Loop has grown, so has the body of knowledge related to its impact on the health and well-being of Pima County residents.

For a rising generation of workers, traffic jams and

office complexes are the last places they want to spend time. That's why companies that rely on young talent are increasingly seeking to locate in regions with good biking and walking facilities. These appealing transportation options give workers the commutes they prefer.

One of those commuters is Jodecy Aujus Winzer, a 23-year-old bike commuter.

"The Loop has made my days much more comfortable and has let me easily navigate to parts of town that are farther and harder to get to by road," he said.

Providing pedestrian and cycling infrastructure for commuting, recreation, fitness and family outings is more important than ever. In fact, it's no surprise that states with the highest

levels of bicycling and walking have the lowest levels of obesity, hypertension and diabetes.

"One of the unique features of Pima County is the incredible public spaces that are available for outdoor recreation and physical activity at absolutely no cost," said Dr. Francisco Garcia, the county's chief medical officer and assistant county administrator

for health services. "Since 2010, while much of the country and even our state has become more sedentary, Pima County has distinguished itself with increasing levels of adult physical activity that put us in the 95th percentile of all counties across the nation."

"This is critical if we are going to make a dent in the burden of chronic disease

in our community," Dr. Garcia said. "High blood pressure, stroke, diabetes, and some types of cancer are all linked to obesity and the increasingly sedentary lifestyle we have become accustomed to. Even individuals with disease entities like chronic pain depression can benefit from increases in physical activity."

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The Loop also is playing a role in moving people back into healthy lifestyles.

Rod Thompson is a 57-year-old cyclist who said he had stopped cycling until he discovered The Loop five years ago. "It's rejuvenated me!" Thompson said.

Joseph Spenner tells a similar story. He said The Loop piqued his interest in biking again. "Now I go two to three times a week. Such a great way to encourage people to get healthy," Spenner said.

The Loop plays a key role for those who prioritize exercise and recreation in their lives.

John Pineiro moved to Tucson from southeastern New Mexico and chose

his home for its proximity to The Loop. As a runner, Pineiro uses The Loop to train for events. He's close enough that he can get in a quick run before work, but says he also uses the pathway when he travels to restaurants, grocery stores, or "any local event that would be hard to find parking or would be difficult to bring a car."

He and his spouse also use The Loop to commute to work and to take leisurely walks and rides on weekends. "We take out-of-town visitors on it as an area attraction. They are always impressed and wish they had something similar in their town," Pineiro said.

Additionally, businesses that locate along cycling and walking paths become go-to places for a growing

population interested in doing their shopping via foot or bicycle.

Scott Thompson, who holds the job title of "mate" at Trader Joe's, says he sees "a consistent flow of people on a daily basis" who have walked or ridden to the grocer's location at Campbell Avenue and River Road on the south bank of the Rillito River Park. In addition, he said a number of Trader Joe's employees use The Loop to bike to work.

That decision by more and more people to use bikes for shopping excursions or to head to work has factored into Trader Joe's corporate philosophy, Thompson said.

"Trader Joe's also definitely finds it important to offer bike racks not only at this location but all our stores."





There are more than 90 pieces of public art along The Loop. The Sun Circle, by local artist Chris Tanz, celebrates the change of the season during each solstice and equinox.

Art adorns public path

Loop is region's largest repository of public art

More than 90 pieces of public art sit along the river park paths that make up The Loop. Some are obvious, even dramatic statements designed to reflect the character of the location or enhance neighborhood identity and the experience of Loop users. Others are subtler and serve to enhance the appearance of more functional features of the linear park such as

bridges, noise walls, railings and benches.

Whether spectacular or just attractive, every piece is included as part of the design of the section where it sits under a County policy requiring 1 percent of the budget on most public works projects be set aside to include public art. Launched in 1990, the Pima County Public Art Program seeks to integrate artworks and the ideas of artists into a variety of public settings, advancing Pima County's reputation as a cultural center for innovation and creativity.

Pima County contracts with the Arts Foundation for Tucson and Southern Arizona to coordinate solicitation and selection of artists and to assist during project design and construction. The Foundation issues the initial Call to Artists and assembles a selection panel made up of professional artists, neighborhood representatives, project professionals such as landscape architects or building contractors and the project manager or other County department representative. That group ensures the work gets done

as planned and signs off on its completion.

Artist Stephen Fairfield submitted the first of his popular "Batty Biker" sculptures in response to a request for concepts incorporating bats, bikes and bridges.

"Pima County was seeking to have some place for making sculptures along The Loop where people would go to see the roosting bats fly out at dusk to feed, and come back at dawn to rest up. They also wanted the sculptures relevant to passersby on bicycle," Fairfield said. "I have kind

of a cracked sense of humor and it isn't hard for me to find whimsy in everyday things, hence the bat and bike series."

The work made Fairfield happy, too. He developed a fondness for the flying mammals, which may have come from his time spent exploring caves while a graduate student at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in eastern Tennessee.

Once approved by the county, the artist becomes a member of the project design team and takes part in public outreach efforts through a Public Art Panel,

which meets to discuss the planned public art for the project and solicit community input.

"I had a ball building the various structures, got burned the requisite number of times by hot weld going down my shirt, picked up a few additional cuts from sharp metal periodically and Pima County was a joy to work with," Fairfield said.

"I particularly liked the fact that it was on The Loop, that Pima County wanted placemaking, whimsical sculptures, that bats roosted

Continued on Page 27

nearby and they had a vetted construction company to do the footings work. They were terrific, and I can't say enough good things about their professionalism, willingness to help, etc. I'd use them any time."

Artists are encouraged to use materials that will hold up in Pima County's sunny and often hot climate including stone, concrete, masonry and durable metals. Wood and materials susceptible to ultraviolet degradation traditionally do not hold up.

The Pima County Public Arts Program permits consolidation of small project-by-project public arts allocations, something the Project Management Office has taken advantage of to satisfy Loop users prefer-



Brandi Fenton Memorial Park.

ence for more noteworthy and visible works in the river parks.

"We have begun a 'bucket program' to get larger more iconic, more 'epic' pieces out there," said

Nancy Cole, the county Project Management Office leader. "One of our goals is to get more statement pieces in the public eye and The Loop is an excellent venue for that. We hope that more

people will see and interact with these works; that they will become destinations in and of themselves. That way we get more bang for our buck out of that 1 percent allocation."



This bat sculpture entitled, "Batty Biker" was created by Stephen Fairfield and commissioned by Pima County.



Riders David Greif, Pearl Dixon (center) and Shelby Hogleund modeling Loop jerseys on a commercial shoot along the Rillito River.

Be looped-in online & SM

And ride The Loop in style with apparel from The Loop Store

There is a lot to do and see on The Loop. Keep up to date on Loop events, maintenance, construction closures, new sections and more at www.pima.gov/the-loop.

There you can find alerts, videos, downloadable maps and a link to an

interactive map that will show where everything you'll ever need on The Loop, including parking, bathrooms, parks, picnic tables, trailheads and more.

The Loop's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/ridetheloop, keeps Loop users up-to-date on all things Loop and we respond to user questions and feedback.

If you want to ride The Loop in Loop style, be sure to check out our Loop Store

(a link to the Store is on The Loop's webpage). To raise awareness of The Loop and to some endangered and threatened species in Pima County, we developed a line of bicycling jerseys featuring some of our region's endangered or threatened plants and animals.

Debuting at The Loop Completion Celebration March 17 will be Loop running shirts for men and women in two styles, short sleeves and sleeveless.



LIMITED EDITION LOOP CELEBRATION JERSEY

Gila Monster Bicycling Jerseys and Running Shirts, available while supplies last at the Brandi Fenton Loop Completion Celebration event.



User groups advise County

Parklands Foundation now accepting donations to support The Loop

A lot of people are passionate about The Loop and have a lot of ideas about how to make it better, or to resolve the occasional conflicts between user types.

To help keep county administration and departments with Loop oversight connected to Loop users, the County Administrator created the Loop Advisory Committee, which meets several times a year with county staff to discuss all things Loop.

The advisory committee members are: Curtis Lueck (chair), Randy Accetta, Vanessa Bechtol (vice chair), Sue Clark, Wayne



The Loop Advisory Committee discusses many aspects of The Loop, including signage.

Cullop, Josefina Cardenas, Mickey Dowling and Alejandro Angel.

They come from a broad spectrum of the community and represent bicyclists, runners, hikers, equestrians, recreational users,

and neighborhoods adjacent to The Loop.

The committee has a broad mission to make The Loop a world-class amenity. Recent discussion at Loop Advisory Com-

mittee meetings have included increasing Loop rules signage, path markings and organized event use.

One recent development that came out of Loop Advisory Com-

mittee was a nonprofit to support adding amenities and other improvements to The Loop that either augment or are in addition to county funding.

The Pima County Parklands Foundation already supports Pima County's Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Department and since the Parks department already oversees The Loop as a river park and recreational amenity, the Parklands Foundation agreed to take on supporting The Loop, too.

To learn more about the Parklands Foundation and how you can financially support The Loop, go to pimaparklands.org.



Curtis Lueck

Hike with Trails Inspire

5-day hike to highlight Loop's connection to community

By Sirena Dufault
Trails Inspire

Starting on March 13th in partnership with Pima County, my company Trails Inspire will be covering all the river parks and greenways on The Loop, hiking approximately 80 miles in five days. The hike will end at The Loop completion celebration on March 17th at Kino Sports North Complex.

Trails Inspire is a consulting company that promotes the outdoors via photography, freelance writing, public speaking and trail design. I've logged thousands of miles hiking, backpacking, rafting and canyoneering in the Southwest and consider the Grand Canyon my second home.

I am excited to be joined by Liz Thomas, who is among the most experienced female hikers in the U.S. and known for backpacking light, fast, and solo. She is affectionately known as the "Queen of Urban Hiking," having pioneered and completed routes in five cities. She is an award-winning author, public speaker and advocate for public lands. She will also be giving a talk on thru-hiking at the Tucson REI on March 16th from 6:30 – 8 p.m. (For more details go to trailsinspire.com)

During the hike, we will be posting on Trails Inspire's Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages, as well as The Loop's Facebook page, doing live feeds and sharing the art, parks, and other points of interest we discover on their journey across Tucson with the hashtag #HikeTheLoop. Each day, we will highlight the food



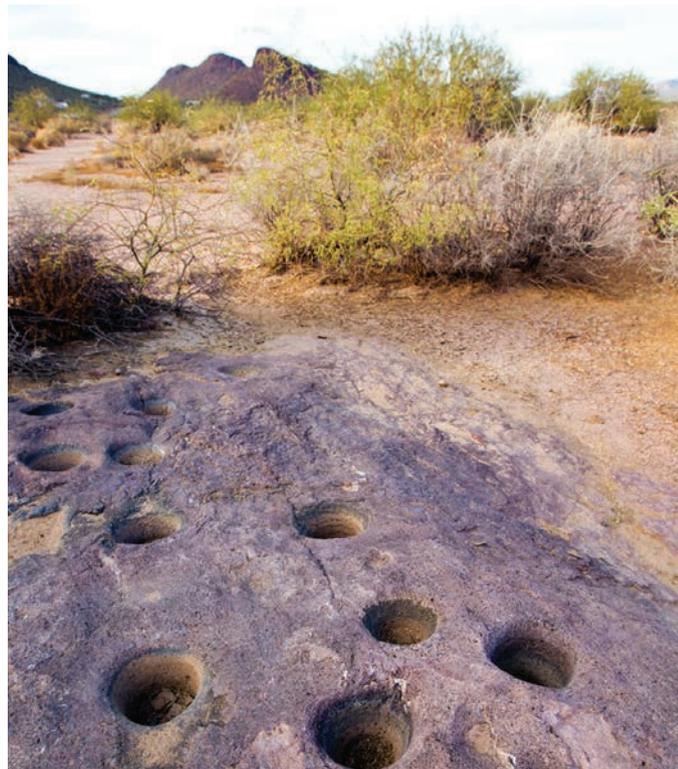
Sirena Dufault, Trails Inspire. She completed a hike of the entire Arizona Trail last year.

that makes Tucson a UNESCO International City of Gastronomy. We will also be promoting diversity with our message that the outdoors is for everyone.

The hike will end at the Completion Celebration at Kino Sports Complex on Saturday, March 17th. Sign up to join us as we hike the last 4.2 miles from Augie Acuña Los Niños Park, 5432 S. Bryant Avenue into the Completion Celebration, arriving at Kino Sports Complex. Jasmine the adorable mini-donkey will also be along for the hike. Transportation will be available at 1 p.m. to shuttle people back to their cars.

The hike is free but registration is required through REI at bit.ly/CompletionCelebrationHike.

We hope you'll follow along on social media as we #HikeTheLoop and join us for the completion celebration on March 17th!



Los Morteros Conservation Area located at North Silverbell Road and West Linda Vista Blvd.

HIKE SCHEDULE

Each segment of the hike will include stops along the way to speak with experts about aspects of The Loop, nearby tourist attractions, parks, programs and more.

Tuesday, March 13th 20 miles

Start at Campbell and Kino and hike to the Santa Cruz River segment at Silverlake. Take the Santa Cruz path south to Valencia. Go back to Silverlake and hike north to the northwest corner of The Loop.

Wednesday, March 14th 19 miles

Start northwest corner of The Loop and hike Cañada Del Oro to Tangerine - 11 miles

Go to the northern end of the Santa Cruz at Avra Valley and hike south to Northwest corner of The Loop - 8 miles.

Thursday, March 15th 19 miles

Start northwest corner of The Loop and hike along the Rillito and Pantano to Michael Perry Park on the east side.

Friday, March 16th 16 miles

Start Michael Perry Park and hike the Harrison Greenway and the Julian Wash segments to Augie Acuña Park.

Saturday, March 17

Final hike into The Loop Completion Celebration at Kino Sport North Complex.

4.2 miles

Meet for public hike event at 8:30 am, walking by 9 a.m. Start at Augie Acuña Park and hike with people into the Completion Ceremony, arriving at 11 a.m. so that people are there for the 11:30 a.m. dedication.