



MEDIA RELEASE

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CITY/AUDUBON/NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERSHIP NETS \$700,000 FOR WASH RESTORATION

Tucson Audubon Society, in cooperation with the City of Tucson and the Groves-Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association, has received an Arizona Water Protection Fund grant for \$390,839 to restore the wildlife and riparian habitat value of Atturbury Wash on Tucson's East Side. City partners in the restoration work include the Ward 4 Council Office, Tucson Parks and Recreation Department, and the Office of Conservation and Sustainable Development.

Additional support for this project includes more than \$120,000 in volunteer labor from the Groves-Lincoln Park Neighborhood and the Tucson Audubon Society; nearly \$50,000 in equipment, supplies, and irrigation water; and approximately \$47,000 in City staff support. Vice Mayor and Ward 4 Council Member Shirley Scott's office committed \$80,000 through the City's Youth Employment Fund to hire youth workers to assist with restoration efforts. In total, nearly \$700,000 will be invested over four years to develop a restoration plan for the Atturbury Wash, improve vegetation quality along the wash, mitigate erosion, and engage residents in implementing and maintaining the restoration work. Tucson Audubon will also use this project to promote greater awareness in Tucson of the value of natural riparian habitat.

The Groves-Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association will be a major partner in the project, providing on-the-ground expertise about the wash and surrounding landscape, and bringing enthusiastic volunteers to help in the restoration work and ongoing stewardship of the site. The Neighborhood Association has worked for decades to clean up this portion of Atturbury Wash and educate the public about the value of the wildlife habitat created by dense wash vegetation. With support from the City's Parks and Recreation Department, which manages the park, the wash has been designated the Atturbury/Lyman Bird and Animal Sanctuary, honoring the extraordinary efforts of neighborhood association president Michael Lyman.

Tucson Audubon's experienced staff of restoration managers, biologists, and field implementers will oversee restoration efforts on Atturbury Wash. In addition, Tucson Audubon is currently raising funds and community support to develop an initiative within the Tucson metropolitan area to protect and improve wash habitat, and to create xeriscape landscaping that also functions as wildlife habitat.

Vice Mayor Scott expressed enthusiasm about the project saying, "I want to express my thanks to all those who worked so diligently in preparing this grant. I am excited at the opportunity that we will now have in improving and restoring a portion of the Atturbury Wash close to its original state. This will certainly be a positive enhancement to this treasured resource."

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