

SWEETWATER



ACTIVITY BOOK AND FIELD GUIDE

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WELCOME!

In our desert community, it's not often that we have the chance to see the type of animals and plants that depend on open, flowing water and lush vegetation. But, that's exactly what visitors to Tucson Water's Sweetwater Wetlands can enjoy every day of the year! From desert rodents to majestic raptors, tiny waterbugs to wandering bobcats, dozens of species of animals make the Sweetwater Wetlands their full or part-time home.

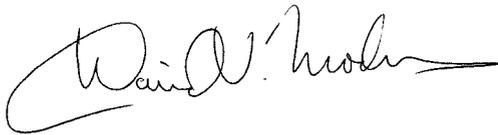
The Sweetwater Wetlands recreates one of the most endangered habitats in our desert region – a water-rich streamside riparian zone that supports a huge variety of wildlife. The Wetlands also helps treat wastewater so that it can be reused in our community to irrigate parks, schoolyards, golf courses and other landscapes. Using this reclaimed water means that we can have a “greener” community without using our drinking water to keep the grass and other plants alive.

Another important step in helping protect our environment is learning about the plants and animals that live here, so that we better understand what they need to survive. This Field Guide and Activity book is designed to enrich your experience at the Sweetwater Wetlands and help you identify the many species that inhabit this unique environment. Along the way, you'll learn about the importance of wetlands and their role in recycling a critical natural resource – water.

On behalf of Tucson Water, I want to thank all of the other people and agencies that helped contribute to this booklet. You'll find their names in the Acknowledgments on the inside back cover of this book.

I hope that you'll find this booklet fun and informative. If you have any questions about this booklet, the Sweetwater Wetlands, or any other water issues, please give us a call!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Modeer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

David Modeer, Director
Tucson Water