

RIO VISTA NATURAL RESOURCE PARK

HABITAT EVALUATION & PLAN



report prepared for:
FRIENDS OF RIO VISTA
OCTOBER 13, 2023

report prepared by:
TUCSON AUDUBON SOCIETY
300 E UNIVERSITY BLVD. #120, TUCSON, AZ 85705



TUCSON
AUDUBON
SOCIETY
*conservation
education
recreation*

CONTENT SUMMARY

Habitat Evaluation and Plan Purpose

This plan was created for Friends of Rio Vista to identify conservation needs and opportunities within Rio Vista Natural Resource Park. The 35.6-acre park is largely undeveloped and provides an important role in strengthening urban habitat and connectivity due to its immediate proximity to the Rillito River, an important wildlife corridor. The habitat recommendations provided are based on existing habitat and site conditions, species of greatest conservation need, and nearly two decades of data generated from the Tucson Bird Count. The plan also identifies methods for improving habitat for a broad suite of species, including nonavian species, which will strengthen the ecological integrity of the park. Finally, this plan recognizes and makes recommendations to support the unique opportunity the park has to provide education to the public centered on urban habitat and wildlife.

Habitat Zones for Conservation Targets

- Mesquite Woodlands
- Riparian “Weed” Patch
- Saguaro Upland

Profiles and Population Trends

- Bird Surveying—Tucson Bird Count
- Results for Four Indicator Species

Habitat Recommendations

- Bird Nestboxes
- Native Bee Nesting Blocks
- Brush Piles
- Water Features for Birds
- Insect Waterers
- Snags
- Lizard Habitat Piles

Revegetation Recommendations

- Moon Garden/Bat Habitat
- Buffer Zone

Interpretive Signage and Trails

- Interpretive Themes and Signage Recommendations
- Interpretive Trail
- Birding Trail

Community Involvement

- eBird Monitoring
- iNaturalist
- Conservation Action Alerts