

**Stakeholder Responses to  
Friends of Rio Vista's Position Statement  
on the Master Plan for  
Rio Vista Natural Resource Park, Tucson, Arizona**

*Jennifer Shopland  
Friends of Rio Vista  
Rio Vista Conservation Project*

Report submitted to

Department of Parks and Recreation  
City of Tucson  
900 S. Randolph Way  
Tucson, Arizona 85716

Report RVCP 22-01

June 7, 2022

FRIENDS OF  
**RioVista**



In April 2022, the City of Tucson Department of Parks and Recreation (Tucson Parks and Recreation) announced the beginning of the city's master-planning process for Rio Vista Natural Resource Park (Rio Vista). In response, Friends of Rio Vista drafted a position statement on the master plan (see Appendix A). We sent it to the individuals (more than 200) on our mailing list, asking for support for the statement, as well as additional comments.

Friends of Rio Vista is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that partners with Tucson Parks and Recreation and other stakeholders to protect and enhance the ecological values of Rio Vista. The organization is in its third year of collaboration with the city through the Rio Vista Conservation Project.

As noted in the position statement, Friends of Rio Vista's core recommendation for the master plan is as follows:

**All City of Tucson investment in the park, now and in the future, should support (1) protection of the natural ecosystem and (2) enhancement of visitors' connection with nature there.**

To date, we have received 70 messages of support (see Appendix B). (One of the messages was submitted informally and is not included in Appendix B.) Twelve identified Tucson neighborhoods are represented. Nearly three-quarters of respondents are residents of the RillitoBend Neighborhood, in which Rio Vista is situated. Individuals in Scottsdale, Arizona; Burlington, Vermont; and Charlottesville, Virginia also responded. Many Rio Vista supporters added excellent comments with detailed recommendations for ways to sustain the ecological integrity of the park.

Appendix C contains the verbatim responses received by e-mail. The contact information for respondents is not included. Responses are arranged alphabetically by last name. Comments appear in bold blue type.

We would like to call the attention of Tucson Parks and Recreation and SmithGroup to comments in Appendix C that address the following issues in particular:

- Connectivity (see Anonymous, Gary Bachman)
- Shaping the land to capture water (see Gary Bachman, Gabrielle Woodbury)
- Revegetation and control of invasive species (see Gary Bachman)
- Ecological and health services provided by the park's natural area (see Joanne Basta)
- Value of the natural area vs. a splash pad or other additions to the built environment (see Burke and Laura Beaumont, S. Tiffany MacFerrin, Michael Mitchell)

- Maintenance needs of the natural area (see Nancy Canin, John Kovacik and Leslie Eldenburg)
- Importance of riding trails for equestrians (see Michael Dolan)
- Need for designated routes for equestrians (see Rachel Hopkins)
- Need for recycling containers in the park (see Rachel Hopkins)
- Uniqueness of Rio Vista in the city park system (see Michael Mitchell)
- Value of the park to birders (see Scott Olmstead, Joyce Peters) and to birds (see Michael Shaw)
- Possibility of adding wildlife drinkers or waterholes (see Tony Peeters)
- Value of Rio Vista in mitigating the heat-island effect (see Nancy Riccio)
- Needs for modification of the current built environment (see Jim Sanders)
- Yes to irrigation repair, no to trail signs (see Barry Shulman)
- Water flow and green stormwater infrastructure (see Matthew Vasquez)
- Engaging stakeholders (see Lorna Shopland Werntz)
- Keeping the park dark (see Gabrielle Woodbury)

Friends of Rio Vista is grateful for our partnership with Tucson Parks and Recreation and for this opportunity to speak up for the future of Rio Vista as a rare natural jewel in the City of Tucson's park system.

## **APPENDIX A**

### **Friends of Rio Vista's Draft Position Statement on the Master Plan for Rio Vista Natural Resource Park**



**DRAFT**  
**POSITION STATEMENT**  
**ON THE MASTER PLAN FOR RIO VISTA NATURAL RESOURCE PARK**  
**April 16, 2022**

Rio Vista Natural Resource Park is unique in the City of Tucson park system because (1) its primary purpose is to protect the natural ecosystem of the park and (2) it is situated along a major ecological corridor (the Rillito) in the heart of the city.

Friends of Rio Vista is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to uniting stakeholders in preserving this uniqueness. Our mission is to support the City of Tucson Department of Parks and Recreation and the Rio Vista Conservation Project in protecting and enhancing the ecological values of Rio Vista. Our vision is a natural resource park that is a haven for native plants and wildlife, that offers a unique visitor experience of nature in midtown Tucson, and that models collaborative conservation in the City of Tucson park system.

The Rio Vista master plan is part of the Parks + Connections (Proposition 407) bond project for the park. Friends of Rio Vista’s core recommendation for the master plan is as follows:

**All City of Tucson investment in the park, now and in the future, should support (1) protection of the natural ecosystem and (2) enhancement of visitors’ connection with nature there.**

Specifically, we urge the city to devote Parks + Connections funds to the following:

- **Rehabilitation of the trail system in the natural area:** marking and improvement of designated trails, closing of rogue trails, planting of local native species chosen in consultation with restoration ecologists, low-impact interpretation of the natural ecosystem
- **Localized land shaping in the natural area** (for example, creation of berms and swales) to promote native plants and wildlife habitat
- **Use of existing infrastructure to enhance opportunities for interpretation of Rio Vista’s natural and cultural history:** renovation and repurposing of the “welcome” structure/kiosk, creation of demonstration areas (for example, Organic First Tucson, pollinator garden, rainscaping) on the west side (built environment) of the park

We urge the city **not to devote Parks + Connections funds** to the following:

- A splash pad
- A dog park
- Any new infrastructure in the park that is not directly connected to the core recommendation of protecting Rio Vista’s natural assets and enhancing visitors’ experience of them

We would like to emphasize that, as an urban natural area, Rio Vista needs a long-term **management/conservation plan**, in addition to a master plan. Friends of Rio Vista is working with city staff and with other partners to identify conservation targets, threats, goals, and strategies for such a plan.

In the master plan for Rio Vista Natural Resource Park, the City of Tucson Department of Parks and Recreation has the opportunity to show leadership through demonstrating a fresh perspective on city parks and supporting the city’s initiative to make all Tucson’s communities (human and wild) resilient in the face of the climate crisis and other challenges.



## **APPENDIX B**

### **Respondents to Friends of Rio Vista's Position Statement on the Rio Vista Natural Resource Park Master Plan**

Last Name	First Name	Date	Location	Comments?
Anonymous	Anonymous	2022-04-20	Richland Heights East, Tucson	yes
Allen	Kathleen (Kathy)	2022-05-22	RillitoBend, Tucson	yes
Bachman	Bonnie	2022-04-16	RillitoBend, Tucson	no
Bachman	Gary	2022-04-17	Country Glenn, Tucson	yes
Bagley-Tremethick	Lyra Jean	2022-04-19	not identified	yes
Basta	Joanne	2022-04-30	Country Glenn, Tucson	yes
Beaumont	Burke	2022-04-30	RillitoBend, Tucson	yes
Beaumont	Laura	2022-04-30	RillitoBend, Tucson	yes
Beddingfield	Katie	2022-04-20	RillitoBend, Tucson	no
Bird	Mary	2022-04-20	RillitoBend, Tucson	yes
Bolinger	Joyce	2022-04-16	RillitoBend, Tucson	no
Bowen	Kathryn	2022-05-21	RillitoBend, Tucson	no
Breems	Sue	2022-04-18	RillitoBend, Tucson	no
Brigham	Lindy	2022-04-20	RillitoBend, Tucson	yes
Buchhauser	David	2022-05-19	not identified	no
Campbell-Carter	Melanie	2022-04-19	RillitoBend, Tucson	no
Canin	Nancy	2022-04-17	RillitoBend, Tucson	yes
Carruth	Lorie	2022-04-17	Burlington, Vermont	yes
Catt	Janice	2022-04-17	not identified	no
Chamison	Jason	2022-04-20	RillitoBend, Tucson	no
Cooper	Ann	2022-04-30	RillitoBend, Tucson	yes
Copps	Dorothy	2022-05-20	RillitoBend, Tucson	yes
Copps	Tom	2022-05-20	RillitoBend, Tucson	yes
Denny	Tracy	2022-05-22	not identified	yes
Dobson	Deborah	2022-05-20	Richland Heights East, Tucson	yes
Dolan	Michael	2022-04-18	RillitoBend, Tucson	yes
Eldenburg	Leslie	2022-04-20	RillitoBend, Tucson	yes
Feldman	Daniel	2022-05-22	not identified	no
Freeman	Joshua	2022-04-16	RillitoBend, Tucson	no
Fuglevand	Andrew	2022-05-22	RillitoBend, Tucson	no
Funicelli	Carianne	2022-04-17	Harold Bell Wright Estates, Tucson	yes
Galbraith	Keaton	2022-05-22	RillitoBend, Tucson	yes
Gilmore	David	2022-04-17	RillitoBend, Tucson	yes
Gordon	Grace	2022-05-19	SwanWay, Tucson	yes
Hard	Eliza	2022-05-22	RillitoBend, Tucson	yes
Higgins	Daniel B.	2022-04-16	RillitoBend, Tucson	no
Hopkins	Rachel	2022-05-16	RillitoBend, Tucson	yes
Hopper	Andrea	2022-05-20	RillitoBend, Tucson	yes
Huston	Craig	2022-05-22	RillitoBend, Tucson	no
James Hernandez	Francisca	2022-04-26	RillitoBend, Tucson	yes
Kellner	Jeffrey	2022-04-29	RillitoBend, Tucson	no
Kellner	Natalie	2022-04-29	RillitoBend, Tucson	no



Last Name	First Name	Date	Location	Comments?
Kovacik	John	2022-04-20	RillitoBend, Tucson	yes
Lichtenberger	Dennis	2022-04-17	Catalina Foothills Estates No. 7, Tucson	yes
MacFerrin	Tiffany	2022-04-16	RillitoBend, Tucson	yes
Manton-Jones	Kathleen (Kat)	2022-05-15	Winterhaven, Tucson	yes
Miller	Sandra	2022-04-19	Richland Heights East, Tucson	yes
Mitchell	Michael	2022-04-20	Cabrini, Tucson	yes
Newman	Harriet (Louise)	2022-05-20	Campus Farm, Tucson	yes
Noshay-Petro	Mimi	2022-05-20	Pueblo de las Catalinas, Tucson	yes
Olmstead	Scott	2022-04-20	Blenman-Elm, Tucson	yes
Peeters	Tony	2022-04-16	RillitoBend, Tucson	no
Peters	Joyce	2022-05-09	Scottsdale, Arizona	yes
Porter	Jeannette (Podie)	2022-05-19	85719	no
Riccio	Nancy	2022-04-18	RillitoBend, Tucson	yes
Russ	Barbara	2022-05-22	not identified	no
Sanders	Jim	2022-04-16	RillitoBend, Tucson	yes
Seaman	Robert (Rob)	2022-05-21	RillitoBend, Tucson	no
Shaw	Michael	2022-04-17	Oak Flower, Tucson	yes
Shulman	Barry	2022-05-06	RillitoBend, Tucson	yes
Sleator	Noreen	2022-04-29	RillitoBend, Tucson	yes
Stamp	Debra	2022-05-21	RillitoBend, Tucson	yes
Turner	Linda	2022-04-20	RillitoBend, Tucson	yes
Vasquez	Matthew	2022-05-16	RillitoBend, Tucson	no
Wahl	Ralph	2022-05-22	RillitoBend, Tucson	no
Warren	Connie	2022-04-17	RillitoBend, Tucson	no
Watson	Anne	2022-04-30	RillitoBend, Tucson	no
Werntz	Lorna Shopland	2022-05-04	Charlottesville, Virginia	yes
Woodbury	Gabrielle	2022-04-17	RillitoBend, Tucson	yes

## **APPENDIX C**

### **Responses to Friends of Rio Vista's Draft Position Statement on the Master Plan for Rio Vista Natural Resource Park**

**KATHLEEN ALLEN**

I support Friends of Rio Vista's draft position statement on the master plan for Rio Vista Natural Resource Park.

Kathleen Allen  
May 21, 2022  
Rillito Bend

**That park is a place to meet, walk and indulge in the great natural environment.**

**ANONYMOUS**

I support Friends of Rio Vista's draft position statement on the master plan for Rio Vista Natural Resource Park.

Your name: Anonymous  
Date: 4/20/22  
Tucson Neighborhood or City/State (if you live outside Tucson): Richland Heights East Neighborhood, Tucson, AZ

Additional comments:  
**Rio Vista is an absolute gem that not only offers unique experiences through visitor interaction with natural spaces, but also plays a vital role in natural connectivity that is a special aspect of living in Tucson. Preserving Rio Vista as a natural park both protects these experiences, and also ensures the park's continued contribution to the diversity of offerings that Tucson Parks provide for the community.**

**BONNIE BACHMAN**

I support Friends of Rio Vista's draft position statement on the master plan for Rio Vista Natural Resource Park.

Your name: Bonnie Bachman  
Date: April 16, 2022  
Tucson Neighborhood or City/State (if you live outside Tucson): River Bend Neighborhood on N Cactus

**GARY BACHMAN**

**Submitted by Gary Bachman: Member at Large, Board of Directors, Country Glenn Neighborhood Association; member of the Arizona Native Plant Society; Volunteer leader of Free the Earth Garden at the Drawing Studio; contributor to the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan; Volunteer at Saguaro National Park**

I support the vision of the Friends of Rio Vista Natural Resources Park. My observation and experience leads me to believe consideration of a long-term plan. It took a little over 100 years to nearly deplete the resources in the area, and it will take as long to build the resources back.

While considering the Park in relation the Rillito River, it needs to also consider its relationship to other efforts to create wildlife corridors and natural areas in the nearby community as well as Tucson and Pima County. These include the Free the Earth Garden and the Pocket Park located within the Country Glenn Neighborhood, as well as numerous efforts on private lands. and as the Friends point out, if done thoughtfully, could serve as a model for other efforts, as well as education for the community.

As the Friends statement suggests, to begin this restoration and recovery, rain water needs to be captured on site, though a network of swales and basins. Trees and seeds need to be planted and seeded. Exotic trees shrubs and grasses removed. As small area of the park, which i helped to inventory is located in such as swale and within it are the most diverse collection of native plants in the park. This could be expanded and used as a model.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

**LYRA JEAN BAGLEY-TREMETHICK**

[Date: April 19, 2022]

I support all the hard work. { do}]Lyra Jean Bagley-Tremethjick

**JOANNE BASTA**

I support Friends of Rio Vista's draft position statement on the master plan for Rio Vista Natural Resource Park.

Your name: Joanne Basta

Date: 4/29/2022

Tucson Neighborhood or City/State (if you live outside Tucson): Country-Glenn Neighborhood, 85716

Additional comments:

I am a member of the Arizona Native Plant Society and the Tucson Audubon Society and I have helped to document the plant species in the Rio Vista Park. I ride my bicycle and walk through the park every week. I have often birded in the park, and I have seen hawks, verdins, Lucy's Warblers, Bells Vireo, and several species of

hummingbirds, Road runner, quail and more. I value it highly for it being a natural park, and I think more parks like this are needed in the City of Tucson and Pima County for the following reasons:

- \* For public health. Humans need to have natural spaces within an urban environment that help them rest, rejuvenate, and also gather with friends and families
- \* For the environment - We need to help the plants and animals who live here. Providing more natural spaces for them to live is a win-win. Pima County / City of Tucson unfortunately continues to allow needless development of subdivisions that destroys or degrades the environment.
- \* For the water and air - Natural spaces have more native trees and plants and attract beneficial insects and animals. This helps increase biodiversity, air quality and water retention. It is aligned with the City of Tucson's initiative to plant and grow more trees to help mitigate climate change. The long-term impacts benefit humans, other animals, plants, insects etc.

**BURKE BEAUMONT**  
**LAURA BEAUMONT**

Burke and Laura Beaumont  
30 Apr 22  
North Central

We support Friends of Rio Vista's draft position statement on the master plan for Rio Vista Natural Resource Park. In the time it has taken us to simply draft this email, America has lost more than ten acres worth of forest, meadow, grassland, desert, beachfront, riverside, or wetland. Preserving our tiny nature park puts a much smaller burden on the city, with less maintenance, upkeep, and resource demand compared to normal splashpad or conventional parks. It also affords citizens the tremendous opportunity to enjoy the beauty of the desert and see our unique wildlife in their natural habitat. As neighbors of the park, we've welcomed patrons from all over the world asking us about saguaros, javalinas, owls, vermilion flycatchers, hawks, snakes, coyotes, bobcats, and more...which reflects well on our community and Tucson as a whole. Ignoring the obvious noise nuisance to neighbors of the park and unnecessary disruption to the fragile wildlife population, no one is going to be attracted to the Ol' Pueblo to watch screaming children on a splashpad.

**KATIE BEDDINGFIELD**

I support Friends of Rio Vista's draft position statement on the master plan for Rio Vista Natural Resource Park.

Katie Beddingfield

April 20, 2022

Tucson Neighborhood or City/State (if you live outside Tucson): Tamarisk Townhomes,  
Rillito Bend Neighborhood

**MARY BIRD**

I support Friends of Rio Vista's draft position statement on the master plan for Rio Vista  
Natural Resource Park.

Your name: Mary Bird

Date: 4-20-22

Tucson Neighborhood or City/State (if you live outside Tucson): RillitoBend  
Neighborhood

Additional comments:

**The natural environment of Rio Vista Natural Resource Park IS an amenity, and it  
needs to be preserved, protected and valued as such.**

**JOYCE BOLINGER**

I support Friends of Rio Vista's draft position statement on the master plan for Rio Vista  
Natural Resource Park.

Your name: Joyce Bolinger

Date: April 16, 2022

Tucson Neighborhood or City/State (if you live outside Tucson): Rancho Morado  
neighborhood Tucson

**KATHRYN BOWEN**

I support Friends of Rio Vista's draft position statement on the master plan for Rio Vista  
Natural Resource Park.

Your name: Kathryn Bowen

Date: 5/21/2022

Tucson Neighborhood or City/State (if you live outside Tucson):  
Meadowview/Rillito Bend

**SUE BREEMS**

I support Friends of Rio Vista's draft position statement on the master plan for Rio Vista  
Natural Resource Park.

Your name: Sue Breems

Date: 04/18/2022

Tucson Neighborhood or City/State (if you live outside Tucson): Rillitobend  
Neighborhood

**LINDY BRIGHAM**

I support Friends of Rio Vista's draft position statement on the master plan for Rio Vista  
Natural Resource Park.

Your name: Lindy Brigham

Date: 4/20/2022

Tucson Neighborhood or City/State (if you live outside Tucson): RillitoBend  
Neighborhood

Additional comments:

**The main amenity of this Park is in it's name. It is a Natural Resource. As such it  
needs a restoration/conservation plan and a park specific maintenance plan since it is  
unique in the City and cannot be treated as a traditional urban park.**

**DAVID BUCHHAUSER**

I support Friends of Rio Vista's draft position statement on the master plan for Rio Vista  
Natural Resource Park.

Your name: David Buchhauser

Date: May 19, 2022

Tucson Neighborhood or City/State (if you live outside Tucson): \_\_\_\_\_

**MELANIE CAMPBELL-CARTER**

I support Friends of Rio Vista's draft position statement on the master plan for Rio Vista  
Natural Resource Park.

Your name: Melanie Campbell-Carter

Date: 19 April 2022

Tucson Neighborhood or City/State (if you live outside Tucson): RillitoBend

**NANCY CANIN**

I support Friends of Rio Vista's draft position statement on the master plan for Rio Vista  
Natural Resource Park.

Your name: Nancy Canin

Date: 4/17/22

Tucson Neighborhood or City/State (if you live outside Tucson): Tamarisk Townhomes, Cactus Blvd.

Additional comments:

- 1. Designate certain paths for walking by adding decomposed granite and plant additional native trees alongside for shaded walkways**
- 2. Earmark funding for tree maintenance, feeding, pruning, cleaning up, mistletoe removal of present mature trees (natural is ok, but the trees will thrive with more care). Keep the Compassion Garden cleaned up. Plant more native plants, shrubs, wildflowers**
- 3. Keep all dogs on leash (NO dog park!) There's a dog park at Brandi Fenton**
- 4. No splash pad, use precious water for irrigating plants**

**LORIE CARRUTH**

Lorie Carruth  
04/17/22  
Burlington, Vermont

**We have spent several winters renting a townhome in the Tamarask community. I fell in love with walking through the park in the mornings. Such a peaceful, beautiful place with lots of bird song and we loved hearing the coyotes every evening. It would really be a shame to change the natural beauty of Rio Vista!**

**JANICE CATT**

I support Friends of Rio Vista's draft position statement on the master plan for Rio Vista Natural Resource Park.

Your name: Janice Catt  
Date: 4/17/22  
Tucson Neighborhood or City/State (if you live outside Tucson): \_\_\_\_\_

**JASON CHAMISON**

I support Friends of Rio Vista's draft position statement on the master plan for Rio Vista Natural Resource Park.

Jason Chamison  
4/20/2022  
Rillito Bend

**ANN COOPER**



I support Friends of Rio Vista's draft position statement on the master plan for Rio Vista Natural Resource Park.

Your name: Ann Cooper

Date: April 30, 2022

Tucson Neighborhood or City/State (if you live outside Tucson): RillitoBend, Tucson

Additional comments:

**I would like to see benches along the trails in the natural area of the park so that people can sit and observe wildlife and plants.**

**DOROTHY COPPS**

**TOM COPPS**

**Yes! Keep Rio Vista Natural resources park, natural. No splash pads etc.** sincerely,  
neighbors Tom and Dorothy Copps

[Date: May 20, 2022]

**TRACY DENNY**

I support Friends of Rio Vista's draft position statement on the master plan for Rio Vista Natural Resource Park.

Your name: Tracy Denny

Date: 5/22/2022

Tucson Neighborhood or City/State (if you live outside Tucson): \_\_\_\_\_

Additional comments:

**I do support the natural habitat of the park, but I also support a dog park in the area.**

**DEBORAH DOBSON**

I support Friends of Rio Vista's draft position statement on the master plan for Rio Vista Natural Resource Park.

Your name: Deborah Dobson

Date: 5/20/2022

Tucson Neighborhood or City/State (if you live outside Tucson): Richland Heights East

Additional comments:

**I was one of those early supporters of keeping the park in its natural state and my opinion has not changed. I use this park frequently and deeply appreciate its natural character.**

**MICHAEL DOLAN**

Your name: Michael E. Dolan

Date: April 18, 2012

Tucson Neighborhood or City/State (if you live outside Tucson): Rillito Bend

Additional comments:

**With our open spaces ever shrinking, we need to keep and nurture Rio Vista Natural Resource Park as a place for our community to enjoy the plants, birds and animals that are native to Tucson as well as to provide riding trails for our equestrian neighbors. We do not need an amusement park or a place for pets to run freely.**

**JOHN KOVACIK**

**LESLIE ELDENBURG**

We support Friends of Rio Vista's draft position statement on the master plan for Rio Vista Natural Resource Park.

John Kovacik and Leslie Eldenburg

4/20/2022. Rillito Bend Neighborhood. **Adjacent neighbors to the Park, at least 2 and often up to 5 visits DAILY to it and more frequent than that--observations of the more developed areas of the park. Leslie: retired UA faculty, and our adjacent acre+ property an Audubon Society Habitat as well as a sheltered/secluded area of it serving as a Bobcat Birthing Center/Nursery & Shelter.**

Additional comments:

**Since specific urging in position stmt. for rehab of trail system and localized land shaping "in the natural area"--must point out that the natural area most certainly includes in the northern & western areas of RV all the area east of the grass area & ramadas and also north of that grass & ramada to the Rillito Loop. Must also point out that before any repurposing of the "welcome" structure "canopy restoration" must occur east & north of it (4 damaged/removed canopy trees)--as well as west of it across the pavement (where 4 more "on the way to becoming established" canopy trees were never replaced--instead being replaced by a (sort of) horse statue that references donors, rather than the equestrian history of the immediate area. A poorly located semi-attempt to provide an homage to equestrian heritage.**

**DANIEL FELDMAN**

I support Friends of Rio Vista's draft position statement on the master plan for Rio Vista Natural Resource Park.

Daniel B Feldman.

May 22 2022

**JOSHUA FREEMAN**

I support Friends of Rio Vista’s draft position statement on the master plan for Rio Vista Natural Resource Park.

Your name: Joshua Freeman

Date: 4/16/2022

Tucson Neighborhood or City/State (if you live outside Tucson): Rillito Bend

**ANDREW FUGLEVAND**

I support Friends of Rio Vista’s draft position statement on the master plan for Rio Vista Natural Resource Park.

Andrew J. Fuglevand

May 22, 2022

2730 E Simmons St.

Tucson, AZ 85716

Meadow-view neighborhood

**CARIANNE FUNICELLI**

I support Friends of Rio Vista’s draft position statement on the master plan for Rio Vista Natural Resource Park.

Your name: Carianne Funicelli

Date: April 17, 2022

Tucson Neighborhood or City/State (if you live outside Tucson): Harold Bell Wright Estates / Tucson, AZ

Additional comments:

**This Natural Resource Park is a treasure and I hope to see it managed in a way that fosters ecosystem health and community engagement.**

**KEATON GALBRAITH**

I support Friends of Rio Vista’s draft position statement on the master plan for Rio Vista Natural Resource Park.

Keaton Galbraith

Date: 05/22/2022

Tucson Neighborhood or City/State (if you live outside Tucson: MeadowView  
Neighborhood (just south of RioVista Natural Resource Park)

**We love the natural aspect of the park. We walk though it daily and would love to see  
the natural native plants grow.**

**DAVID GILMORE**

I support Friends of Rio Vista's draft position statement on the master plan for Rio Vista  
Natural Resource Park.

Your name: David Gilmore

Date: 4/17/22

Tucson Neighborhood or City/State (if you live outside Tucson): Tamarisk townhomes in  
Tucson AZ

Additional comments:

**I do not support a splash pad or a dog park (there's already a dog park). Please keep it  
natural and undeveloped.**

**GRACE GORDON**

Grace Gordon  
4914 East 2nd Street  
SwanWay neighborhood.  
Tucson Arizona  
85711  
May 19, 2022

**Friends of Rio Vista.  
the position statement is perfect.  
I have nothing to add.**

**Please add my name its advocacy.**

**I fully agree with everything on the**

**POSITION STATEMENT ON THE MASTER PLAN FOR RIO VISTA NATURAL  
RESOURCE PARK April 16, 2022**

Grace Gordon

**ELIZA HARD**

I support Friends of Rio Vista's draft position statement on the master plan for Rio Vista Natural Resource Park.

Your name: Eliza Hard

Date: May 22, 2022

Tucson Neighborhood or City/State (if you live outside Tucson): Meadow View Neighborhood (just south of Rio Vista Natural Resource Park)

**We love and use this park daily and love the natural beauty of this park. This park is the main reason we moved into our neighborhood and would be devastated to see it changed.**

### **DANIEL HIGGINS**

I support Friends of Rio Vista's draft position statement on the master plan for Rio Vista Natural Resource Park.

Your name: Daniel B. Higgins, PhD

Date: 4-16-2022

Tucson Neighborhood or City/State (if you live outside Tucson): Riverwood HOA, Rillito Bend neighborhood

### **RACHEL HOPKINS**

I support Friends of Rio Vista's draft position statement on the master plan for Rio Vista Natural Resource Park.

Your name: Rachel Hopkins

Date: 5/16/2022

Tucson Neighborhood or City/State (if you live outside Tucson): Rillito Bend Neighborhood

Additional comments:

**Please consider containing the areas the horses can go so their droppings and hooves are not on all the paths.**

**Please consider including recycling of paper/plastics/glass in several areas**

### **ANDREA HOPPER**

I support Friends of Rio Vista's draft position statement on the master plan for Rio Vista Natural Resource Park.

Your name: Andrea Hopper

Date: May 20, 2022

Tucson Neighborhood or City/State (if you live outside Tucson): Racquet Club Ranch

Additional comments:

**Please leave Rio Vista Resource as a natural environment area for all to enjoy. This area is used for dog walking, meditative walking, bird watching, critter watching, and enjoyment of the natural and quiet surroundings. There has been a lot of effort put into maintaining the aura of this beautiful natural park.**

**CRAIG HUSTON**

I support Friends of Rio Vista's draft position statement on the master plan for Rio Vista Natural Resource Park.

Your name: Craig Huston

Date: 05/22/22

Tucson Neighborhood or City/State (if you live outside Tucson): Rillito Bend (Meadowview)

**FRANCISCA JAMES HERNANDEZ**

**I support Friends of Rio Vista's draft position statement on the master plan for Rio Vista Natural Resource Park.**

**Dr. Francisca James Hernández**

**April 26, 2022**

**Rillito Bend, Tucson, AZ 85716**

**I live across the street from the park, and its commitment to keeping it as close as possible to the natural flora of the Sonoran desert is vital to the well being of the many natural fauna who live in and are attracted to this area. The park is a vital resource not only for the area's human residents but for the many, many people who come to visit the park and the adjacent Rillito River linear park. It is crucial to the quality of life of many, human and non-human.**

**JEFFREY KELLNER**

**NATALIE KELLNER**

I support Friends of Rio Vista's draft position statement on the master plan for Rio Vista Natural Resource Park.

Your name: Jeffrey and Natalie Kellner

Date: April 29, 2022

Tucson Neighborhood or City/State (if you live outside Tucson): Prince Tucson

**DENNIS LICHTENBERGER**

I support Friends of Rio Vista’s draft position statement on the master plan for Rio Vista Natural Resource Park.

Your name: Dennis Lichtenberger

Date: 04/17/2022

Tucson Neighborhood or City/State (if you live outside Tucson): Catalina Foothills Estates #7

Additional comments:

**A dog park on the developed west end might not be a bad thing for people who like to have their dogs off leash. Many people let dogs run loose on the grass area.**

**S. TIFFANY MACFERRIN**

I support Friends of Rio Vista’s draft position statement on the master plan for Rio Vista Natural Resource Park.

Your name: S. Tiffany MacFerrin

Date: April 16, 2022

Tucson Neighborhood or City/State (if you live outside Tucson): Prince/Tucson. I live directly across from the park.

Additional comments:

**There are several bobcats in the area which we don't need to attract to a water source in a park with small dogs. I would not like to see a water feature in our park because: 1) there are pools nearby, another water park at Brandi Fenton, 2) it would attract dangerous predators, and would expose them to chlorine and unnatural chemicals, as well as MORE homeless people and 3) there is already a shortage of parking.**

**Lastly, the naturalness of this park is under a huge strain. The park was so different 10 years ago and even better 20 years with more natural foliage. It is drying out under the strain of all the footprints of visitors. We need more education about the damage done when they stray off-path, wanting to enjoy what nature is left, while destroying it unwittingly.**

**We have already added so many features to this park - benches, compassion garden, ramadas, playground, grass and labyrinth - how many more are coming? If we keep adding more there will be no nature left.**

**KATHLEEN MANTON-JONES**

I support Friends of Rio Vista’s draft position statement on the master plan for Rio Vista Natural Resource Park.

Your name: Kathleen Manton-Jones

Date: 5/15/2022

Tucson Neighborhood or City/State (if you live outside Tucson): Winterhaven

Additional comments:

**It's wonderful having wild and natural space within the city limits. It makes it very accessible to anyone who can take a bus if they can't drive there and it's important for city dwellers to have some experiences that are "untamed" and "ungroomed".**

### **SANDRA MILLER**

I support Friends of Rio Vista's draft position statement on the master plan for Rio Vista Natural Resource Park.

Your name: Sandra Miller

Date: 04/19/2022

Tucson Neighborhood or City/State (if you live outside Tucson): Richland Heights East

Additional comments:

**I support the idea that Rio Vista Natural Resource Park should remain a Natural Resource Park. There are splash pads and a dog park at Brandy Fenton Park, less than 2 miles away via the river path, so it doesn't seem that they would be needed here.**

### **MICHAEL MITCHELL**

I support Friends of Rio Vista's draft position statement on the master plan for Rio Vista Natural Resource Park.

Your name: Michael Mitchell

Date: April 20, 2022

Tucson Neighborhood or City/State (if you live outside Tucson): Cabrini (Presidio @ Edith)

Additional comments:

**I strongly support leaving Rio Vista as-is, protecting the ecological integrity of the natural area with no new development into the natural area. As a protected, accessible, walkable natural area, it is unique in central Tucson and should be maintained as such. More developed parks with large playgrounds, dog parks, splash pads, etc. are nearby, especially at Brandi Fenton, and these structures are not needed or appropriate here. They would diminish the natural resource values at Rio Vista and would require additional parking and hard-scaping, reducing the natural area.**

### **HARRIET NEWMAN**



Harriet Newman  
May 20, 2022

**Please maintain the park as it is--a natural resource park.  
I live in the Campus Farm Neighborhood Association and feel Rio Vista as a place to  
enjoy the natural desert. It is vital to keep it as it always has been.**

**MIMI NOSHAY-PETRO**

I support Friends of Rio Vista's draft position statement on the master plan for Rio Vista Natural Resource Park.

Your name: Melissa Noshay-Petro  
Date: may 20, 2022  
Tucson Neighborhood or City/State (if you live outside Tucson): Paseo Alegre (pueblo de las Catalinas)

Additional comments:  
**Please help preserve this rare and spectacular setting right in the middle of our great city.**

**SCOTT OLMSTEAD**

I support Friends of Rio Vista's draft position statement on the master plan for Rio Vista Natural Resource Park.

Scott Olmstead  
Blenman-Elm  
April 20, 2022

**Rio Vista is the closest \*natural\* green space to me and the many residents of central Tucson, and this makes it uniquely valuable to me as a birder and nature-lover.**

**TONY PEETERS**

We support the master plan for Rio Vista plan.  
We live in Riverbend neighborhood.

Tony Peeters  
April 16, 2022

**Would it be reasonable to consider a small watering "hole" for the park similar to the one at Lost Dutchman State Park?  
It would be great for the birds and other wildlife and also a "critter cam" could**

document the critters visiting the park.

I realize that this might be controversial, so I didn't propose it in my response. It could be fed by an "auto feeder" along with the irrigation system, and the "critter cam" could be connected to some nearby Wi-Fi if possible for remote viewing?

Just a thought and not too expensive nor any more water-wasteful than some irrigation.

So, as far as my idea. In some State Parks I've seen some very small watering holes for wildlife.

To be more specific with my thoughts, a simple small, shallow (1'?) watering hole (3'+/-?) that can be easily lined with a rubber pond EPDM liner, and that is attached to an irrigation line with an auto fill valve.

Concrete is great, but cracks in the weather with heat extremes and needs to be sealed and resealed regularly and more expensive.

But the biologists will have much better info and ideas. There could be multiple locations as this would be cheap, easy and fast installation. No electric power needed unless a "flow" (waterfall?) for sound and wildlife attraction.

I have a simple solar pond "fountain" to circulate water and sound, but The filter needs frequent cleaning and I suspect that it would be vandalized in a public setting. But who knows? For under \$20, I'd donate one and hope for the best and continue to think positive.

I hope that this doesn't cause controversy or a problem.

Just a thought.

And, yes, you can include this in my response if that's important. I just didn't want to complicate the process or cause controversy.

**JOYCE PETERS**

I am Joyce Peters from Scottsdale. Arizona and am hoping to keep enjoying the trails of Rio Vista. The birds of Southern Arizona are different then here in the Phoenix area. Keep up the great work !!! Many thanks, Joyce

[Date: May 9, 2022]

**PODIE PORTER**

Your name: Podie Porter

Date: 5/19/22

Tucson Neighborhood or City/State (if you live outside Tucson): 85719

**NANCY RICCIO**

I support Friends of Rio Vista's draft position statement on the master plan for Rio Vista Natural Resource Park.

Your name: Nancy Riccio

Date: 4/18/22

Tucson Neighborhood or City/State (if you live outside Tucson): Rillito Bend (Tucson)

Additional comments:

**I live within walking distance of the park and use it almost daily for dog walking and birding. It is heartbreaking to see how degraded the landscape has become over the past 10 years. Restoration, in my opinion, should be the #1 priority. We don't need more "amenities" in this park. We need to bring it back to a level of ecological functioning that supports wildlife and mitigates the heat loss caused by the expansion of impervious surfaces in our city.**

### **BARBARA RUSS**

I support Friends of Rio Vista's draft position statement on the master plan for Rio Vista Natural Resource Park.

Your name: Barbara Russ

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Tucson Neighborhood or City/State (if you live outside Tucson): \_\_\_\_\_

### **JIM SANDERS**

**Here is what I would like to see:**

- 1. No taking of grassy area for fenced dog park area. I'm a dog lover but I want the grassy area left alone. This park is about nature in Sonoran Desert and not about dogs.**
- 2. Most of the people I know that visit the park walk there. As such, the metal artwork at the drive in entrance is rarely, if ever seen. I believe its current location is poor and should be moved to the north of the grassy area, along with the sign naming the Santa Catalina mountain peaks. One cannot see the peaks and read the sign since the sign is south of view blocking trees.**
- 3. I do not know if you have a budget. I'm aware that some people go to the labyrinth to meditate. It would be nice to have a structure built to the southeast of the labyrinth entrance--where there are no trees that need to be removed--that provided shade, some sitting benches and an area where people could bring their meditation pads.**

Jim L Sanders

**ROBERT SEAMAN**

I support Friends of Rio Vista's draft position statement on the master plan for Rio Vista Natural Resource Park.

Your name: Robert A. Seaman

Date: may 21, 2022

Tucson Neighborhood or City/State (if you live outside Tucson): rillito bend neighborhood.

**MICHAEL SHAW**

I support Friends of Rio Vista's draft position statement on the master plan for Rio Vista Natural Resource Park.

Your name: Michael Shaw

Date: 4/15/22

Tucson Neighborhood or City/State (if you live outside Tucson): Oakflower

**IN 2020, Tucson Parks & Recreation approved my request to place several nest boxes in Rio Vista NRP for our (HawkWatch International) ongoing long term study of cavity nesting American Kestrels and Western Screech owls. The natural profile of the park abutting residential infrastructure fits perfectly in our efforts to identify how those species utilize and move between the two urban landscapes. As of 4/09/22 there is a nesting Screech owl on 5 eggs in one of the park boxes (photo attached) and two other known pairs in boxes bordering the park along Cactus Blvd. and Allen Rd. Speaking personally, it's my desire that Rio Vista NRP retains the natural features and qualities that attract both humans and wildlife alike.**

**Thank you,  
Mike Shaw**



**BARRY SHULMAN**

I support Friends of Rio Vista's draft position statement on the master plan for Rio Vista Natural Resource Park.

Your name: Barry Shulman

Date: 5/6/22

Tucson Neighborhood or City/State (if you live outside Tucson): RialitoBend

Additional comments:

**I would NOT support putting up trail marking signs, maps etc. or an improvement work or grading to paths.**

**Outside of fixing the irrigation system and selective irrigation to areas around the west side of the park ( picnic benches and playground area) , I am in favor of leaving things as they are .**

**NOREEN SLEATOR**

I support Friends of Rio Vista's draft position statement on the master plan for Rio Vista Natural Resource Park.

Noreen Sleator  
4/29/2022  
3914 N. Cactus Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85716

Additional comments:

**It is so nice how the trees planted several years ago have grow and added so much to the the park. I am noticing more and more people and wildlife enjoying the park. It is wonderful.**

**DEBRA STAMP**

I support Friends of Rio Vista's draft position statement on the master plan for Rio Vista Natural Resource Park.

Your name: Debra Stamp  
Date: 5/21/2022

**As a Rillito Bend resident for over 39 years , I have seen so much beautiful desert go to development. But we always had our beautiful natural park. And a lovely more " park" park area at the end of Tucson. This is the best of both worlds. Please leave our park as a natural resource. Thank you.**

**Debra Stamp  
2700 E King St**

**LINDA TURNER**

I support Friends of Rio Vista's draft position statement on the master plan for Rio Vista Natural Resource Park.

Your name: Linda Turner  
Date: 4/20/2022  
Tucson Neighborhood or City/State (if you live outside Tucson): Rillito Bend  
Neighborhood

**This statement is clear, concise, and reflects the efforts of our neighborhood association over the last 20 plus years to make this park viable as it is the heart of our neighborhood.**

**MATTHEW VASQUEZ**

I support Friends of Rio Vista's draft position statement on the master plan for Rio Vista Natural Resource Park.

Your name: Matthew Vasquez

Date: May 16, 2022

Tucson Neighborhood or City/State (if you live outside Tucson): RillitoBend  
Neighborhood

Additional comments:

**Comments: In 2019-2020 in my role as a homeowner-stakeholder, I participated in the Christmas Wash Study group hosted by Pima County Flood Control District; The City of Tucson and facilitated by neutral third party agency, the Stantec Group, The in-person group process was impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, so I continued the process in a series of informative phone sessions with the City of Tucson's Floodplain Manager, hydrologist and civil engineer Elizabeth Leibold. Our conversations ranged across the eleven zones of the Christmas Wash Watershed continuing the various tasks of the study group and gradually began to focus primarily in zone one, the RillitoBend neighborhood and zone 2, the Winterhaven neighborhood. One of our discussion points was regarding Rio Vista Natural Resources Park and troubleshooting some of the on-going common concerns of neighbors, along with personal observations across time and throughout the four seasons regarding rain/stormwater flows and channels coming and going from the park.**

**Long story short, Elizabeth offered the following input during our discussions that may be of benefit to the park:**

**1. There are two primary east to west water channels that flow into the park that tend to become sedimented with sand, silt, trash and foliage at the entry point along Cactus Blvd north of Allen Rd. These two channels may benefit from some regular maintenance by hand (to minimize causing harm to precious native foliage) of sedimentation and miscellaneous ground cover, mid-story and tree branches that block the entry of rain/storm water into the two main waterways of arroyos feeding the park.**

**2. There is another little known waterway which also provides rain & stormwater into the park at 2601 E Allen Road (along the western boundary of the property), flowing northward from Allen Rd into the southern portion of the park. The now deceased neighbor appears to have blocked the channel several years ago which cut off this significant historical waterway and adding to mild flooding issues downstream along Allen Road. I am particularly familiar with this dynamic because I have lived across the street at 2560 E Allen Rd for about ten years with my partner Rachel Hopkins. I have on-going conversations with most of my nearby neighbors who have been living with this situation for a number of years now. Please consider working with nearby**

neighbors to safely re-establish and maintain the southern rain/stormwater entry into Rio Vista.

3. Finally it is a long-known concern of neighbors that the Riverwalk Commons at 2921 E Allen Road at North Chartres Ave, which appears to have blocked the principle waterway into the north east-to-west flowing arroyo or water channel into the park. It may be prudent to ask the Riverwalk Commons for a copy of their annual drainage report as required by all City of Tucson HOA's.

Thank you,  
Matthew Vasquez & Rachel Hopkins (Co-Homeowners)

**RALPH WAHL**

I support Friends of Rio Vista's draft position statement on the master plan for Rio Vista Natural Resource Park

Ralph Wahl  
May 22, 2022  
River Bend

**CONNIE WARREN**

I support Friends of Rio Vista's draft position statement on the master plan for Rio Vista Natural Resource Park.

Your name: CONNIE WARREN  
Date: 4/17/2022  
Rillito Bend Neighborhood

**ANNE WATSON**

I support Friends of Rio Vista's draft position statement on the master plan for Rio Vista Natural Resource Park.

Your name: Anne Watson  
Date: April 30, 2022  
Tucson Neighborhood or City/State (if you live outside Tucson): RillitoBend, Tucson

**LORNA SHOPLAND WERNTZ**

I support the Friends of Rio Vista's draft position statement on the Master Plan for Rio Vista Natural Resource Park. Attached is the explanation of my support.



Lorna Werntz

Lorna Shopland Werntz  
1740 Bending Branch Road  
Charlottesville, VA 22901-6220  
lorna.werntz@gmail.com  
630-335-4255 Voice

April 19, 2022

Department of Parks and Recreation  
City of Tucson, AZ

Re: Support for **Friends of Rio Vista Position Statement** on the Master Plan for Rio Vista Natural Resource Park

Dear Tucson Department of Parks and Recreation and Other Stakeholders,

**As a donor and strong supporter of Friends of Rio Vista, I urge Tucson Parks and Recreation and all stakeholders to collaborate effectively to safeguard the natural ecosystem of the unique city asset that is Rio Vista Natural Resource Park through acceptance of the Friends proposed Position Statement for the Master Plan.**

As the most recent past-president of a foundation similarly devoted to the stewardship of a wildlife natural area which is part of the municipal park system of Albemarle County, Virginia, Ivy Creek Foundation ([ivycreekfoundation.org](http://ivycreekfoundation.org)), I became aware of the work of Friends of Rio Vista almost two years ago and praise its vigorous work to protect and provide management guidance for this special land for the benefit of both the public and native plants and wildlife. It is a very challenging task to engage many stakeholders with divergent views in order to achieve a consensus that will benefit all; and the efforts of Friends to support the City Parks' work in protecting this haven for native plants and wildlife, while offering an educational and recreational experience for visitors, has already been very impressive. This new **Position Statement for the Master Plan is an excellent next step** and demonstrates Friends' use of best practices in the domains of ecological science and natural resource management, especially challenging regarding publicly owned land.

I have been impressed with Friends' dedication to actively listening to all stakeholders, synthesizing, analyzing options and reporting in clear, concise terms on a timely basis. Friends is truly an asset to Tucson Parks and Recreation.

Specifically, I urge Tucson Parks and Recreation to do the following:

- **Support the Friends of Rio Vista Position Statement on the Master Plan.**
- **Work collaboratively with Friends to create and adopt a comprehensive long-term management/conservation plan.**

Tucson Parks and Recreation has a tremendous asset in its relationship with Friends of Rio Vista, which donates its time and expertise *pro bono* to assist you in your mission. I ask you to strongly consider its recommendations.

Sincerely,

Lorna Werntz

**GABRIELLE WOODBURY**

I support Friends of Rio Vista's draft position statement on the master plan for Rio Vista Natural Resource Park.

Your name: Gabrielle Woodbury

Date: April 17, 2022

Tucson Neighborhood or City/State (if you live outside Tucson): Rillito Bend neighborhood

**We have a unique opportunity in Rio Vista Natural Resource Park to give back to the natural world in a parcel that is integrated within an urban setting. If the natural elements are nurtured the park will improve as a sanctuary for wildlife and humans alike.**

**I would like to see funds used to support the hydration of existing trees (updating the irrigation system if needed, creating berms and swales to direct and slow rainwater). I would also like to see funds used to establish native plants that support pollinators and migratory birds. I would hope that the park's relative darkness will be preserved. This place has the potential to give back to the wild while simultaneously nourishing a deeper connection to nature by individual visitors.**