



RBNA ANNUAL Meeting

Saturday, November 19, 2022



Welcome!

The neighborhood with HISTORY!

Meeting Agenda – Saturday November 19th. 2022

3-5pm

- President's welcome/introductions – Lindy Brigham
- Treasurer's Report - Terry DeCarolis
- The Year in Review
 - Bike Boulevard almost done – Lindy Brigham
 - Stormwater GSI projects in FEMA – Lindy Brigham
 - Pima County Rillito Wash Flood Control Mural – Steve Brigham
 - Rio Vista Master Planning Process – Mary Bird and Linda Turner
 - Neighborhood Enhancement projects – Estelle Stern-Eilers
 - Streets and Traffic Safety – John Kovacik
 - Social Committee – Sue DeArmond and Terry DeCarolis
 - RillitoBend Rambles Blog
- Next Year
 - Emma Peel's Welcome Celebration
 - Rio Vista Implementation – Mary and Linda
 - The first Zócalet! – Sue Ann Breems
- Questions? Answers?
- Closing Remarks / Next Meetings





Board Members & Advisors

President:

Lindy Brigham - *Communications*

Vice-President:

Mary Bird – *Communications, RNAG*

Treasurer:

Terry DeCarolis - *Social*

Secretary:

Catlow Shipek – *Special Projects*

Members:

John Kovacik - *Streets & Traffic Safety, History*

Estelle Stern-Eilers – *Enhancements & Maintenance*

John O’Hare - *Neighborhood Security*

Cassandra Peel – *NextDoor*

Vicky Strome

Rich Young

Advisors:

Larry Bird – *Prince Road*

Stephen Brigham – *Project Review*

Murray DeArmond – *Project Review*

Sue DeArmond – *Social*

Matthew Vasquez – *Allen Road*

Linda Turner – *RNAG*

Leslie Eldenburg - *History*



Treasurer's Report

Terry DeCarolis - Treasurer



Selling our notecards, drive-by style.
Though Covid has hampered our social activities, we have managed to promote our notecards nonetheless!

Previous Balance: \$2,572.24

Current Balance: \$2,413.00

Expenses:

Account fees - \$4

Website - \$135.25

Projected income*

- Remainder of Mural Cards
- Social event

**Note that RBNA does not have Neighborhood Membership dues.*

Treat Ave to Cactus Blvd HAWK* crossing



As of November 2022

- Most of the HAWK equipment is in place
- Signs and road indicators have been placed along Cactus
- The speed limit is posted as 20MPH

*High Intensity Activated Crossing

<https://tucsondelivers.tucsonaz.gov/pages/3rdtreat#timeline>



FEMA Green Infrastructure Feasibility Study

Neighborhood
Project Leader: Matthew Vasquez

Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI)

As a lesser part of the grant to reduce serious flooding, the city is required to implement Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) in the nearby neighborhood area and is offering Rillito Bend neighborhood the possibility of implementing a limited amount of GSI in our neighborhood. GSI as defined by the City of Tucson are interventions that use natural or engineered systems to capture, clean and infiltrate stormwater; shade and cool surfaces and buildings; reduce flooding; create wildlife habitat; and provide environmental and community quality of life. In practical terms GSI takes the form of landscaped areas that capture stormwater runoff from the streets, parking lots, and buildings; allowing the water spread out and sink into the soil. In Tucson this is also known as passive rainwater harvesting.



In a number of meetings with City of Tucson Flood plain manager, Elizabeth Leibold and neighborhood representatives the past 3-4 months and focus group meetings of concerned Rillito Bend neighbors and RBNA leadership it has been decided to focus potential GSI work associated with the FEMA grant in the following areas: Christmas Wash; Prince Road; Cactus Blvd and Allen Road.

The document with details of these project proposals can be downloaded [HERE](#)

•Christmas Wash 'Green Spine' Project

Figure 1 University of Arizona student class project conceptual vision for Christmas Wash – Spring 2022

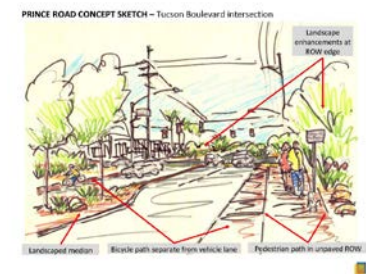


Enhance Christmas Wash through floodplain reclamation and integration as a neighborhood natural open space amenity. The project scope includes the E Prince Road and N Jackson Avenue rights-of-way, beginning at the Wash's intersection (box culvert) at Prince Road and extending north to the Rillito River. The residents of RillitoBend and surrounding neighborhoods are looking for more opportunities to enjoy the unique environment provided by being so close to the Rillito River. Christmas Wash is protected by the 1991 W.A.S.H. Ordinance approved by Mayor and Council. As such, it could be enhanced for use by the general public. It is an area of enormous opportunity to create a walkable 'green spine' with water harvesting features along newly reduced floodplain limits (that are reduced due to the new storm drain). A pedestrian elevated bridge where the wash crosses Prince Road would not only enhance the walkability of the road but also provide opportunities for interpretation of this precious resource. Note that this project involves amenity improvements along top of W.A.S.H. Ordinance, and some segments of the Christmas Wash are located on private properties. Therefore, the areas for the project scope would be within public portions including the N Jackson Avenue and E Prince Road right-of-ways, unless private property owner and or The University of Arizona would partner to contribute to the Green Infrastructure project.

E Prince Road Safety and Walkability Project

Build green infrastructure along E Prince Road from N Campbell Avenue to N Country Club Road. There is ample right-of-way space, a legacy from a protested-out road-widening project from the 1980s. The City-owned easements provide opportunities for pedestrian and cyclists safety. Currently there are no pedestrian amenities along E Prince Road. Planting native trees and vegetation would enhance the livability of the area and slow traffic for pedestrians and cyclists.

Figure 4 RBNA Vision for E Prince Road – rendering by Stephen Brigham, Past RBNA President



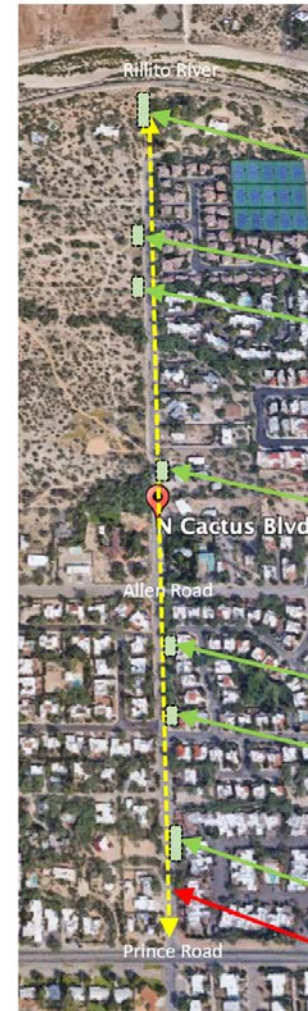
FEMA Green Infrastructure Feasibility Study

Neighborhood Project Leader: Matthew Vasquez



E Allen Road Greenway Project Add green infrastructure along E Allen Road between N Tucson Boulevard and N Country Club Road to address flood-related issues on downstream properties while enhancing shade tree coverage and slowing traffic. After the City annexed this area, many of the trees were cut down. E Allen Road, a straight road with wide rights-of-way, has become barren and hot where cars tend to speed. Replacement of the trees and vegetation would enhance the livability of the area and slow traffic for pedestrian and bike safety.

Cactus Boulevard Linear Zocolo Project Add green infrastructure on N Cactus Boulevard between E Prince Road and the Rillito River to benefit flood-prone residential properties while enhancing native mesquite trees and associated vegetation. N Cactus Boulevard is a major bike and pedestrian access path for residents of the neighborhood and nearby Winterhaven as it links Tucson’s Treat Avenue Bike Path to the Rio Vista Natural Resource Park and Pima County’s Rillito River Park (the “Loop”). RBNA’s vision for N Cactus Boulevard is to have a series of ‘zocolets’, sitting areas with shade trees that would encourage walkability, social interaction and a cool refuge for cyclists — in keeping with the City of Tucson Mayor’s ‘10 Million Trees’ initiative and Climate Action Plan.



Vision for Cactus Boulevard: The “Linear Zócalo”

Zócalo: a public square or plaza typically in Mexico which is often the central gathering place of a community.

“Linear Zócalo”: A term developed by the RillitoBend Neighborhood for a central community space that supports safe pedestrian interactions within a livable street framework.

“Zócalet”: A term invented for the “Linear Zócalo” for specific gathering places along the road.

- Proposed “Zócalet” #7
- Proposed “Zócalet” #6
- Proposed “Zócalet” #5
- Proposed “Zócalet” #4
- Proposed “Zócalet” #3
- Proposed “Zócalet” #2
- Proposed “Zócalet” #1
- The “Linear Zócalo”: North Cactus Boulevard – Prince to Rillito River

Pima County Rillito Wash Flood Control Mural

Neighborhood Project Leader:
Stephen Brigham

Pima County has initiated a public art mural project as part of their flood control improvements on the north side of the Rillito across from the Tucson Racquet Club. They assembled a community review panel of approximately nine members to select the artist(s) and to advise on the mural design. Stephen Brigham was selected to be the RillitoBend Neighborhood representative on the panel. Currently under review



Artist conception of final project



Rio Vista Natural Resource Park: Master Planning Update

Neighborhood
Project Leaders:
Linda Turner / Mary Bird

April 20 - Kick-off Meeting, Rio Vista Natural Resource Park



Tom Fisher, Parks and Rec Project Manager, and Rick Jones from SmithGroup talk to the crowd.



Rio Vista Natural Resource Park: Master Planning Update

Neighborhood
Project Leaders:
Linda Turner / Mary Bird

May 20 Walk-through at Rio Vista with Tom Fisher, PM



Several neighbors discuss water harvesting and park history with Tom Fisher

Sept 7 Unveiling of Draft Master Plan, Rio Vista



Neighbors talk with Park and Ward 3 staff

Nov 1 Meeting with Councilmember Kevin Dahl, Ward 3 Office



Neighborhood Enhancement Projects:

Neighborhood Project Leader:
Estelle Stern-Eilers



We will be asking for help with weeding/pruning projects in the Rain Garden and the Park – make sure you are on Estelle's list.

estellestern@gmail.com

We are also planning a Rain Garden tour to explain the garden features and plants. We will notify the neighborhood through the RBNA mailing list.



The Allen Road Linear Garden north of the Meadowview wall.



Social Committee Report

Neighborhood
Project Leaders: Sue
DeArmond & Terry DeCarolis



April 2019 RBNA Art Fair Social Event



RillitoBend Rambles

Neighborhood
Project Leaders: Lindy,
Melanie, Mary, Vicky, Estelle



HOME

ABOUT US

OUR VISION

NEWS/EVENTS

RIO VISTA PARK

HISTORY

NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECTS

RESOURCES

GALLERY



RillitoBend Rambles

- A place to share our observations of the natural world around us
- Articles will be posted on the website and distributed via our RBNA Mailing List
- Anyone can contribute pictures, information, and stories

Contact us at: rambles@rillitobendna.org



Coming in 2023!

Emma Peel's Welcome Celebration

Valley of the Moon for Saturday, April 15th, 2023 from 2-4pm. –

Details coming in December Mike and Cassie.



Coming in 2023!

Now that the dog enclosure is out of the **Rio Vista Natural Resource Park Master Plan**, the next steps are to get approval from the Parks and Recreation Commission, then the Mayor and Council. Implementation of the plan recommendations will then begin. Make sure you are on our mailing list to receive updates.

And the most exciting of all, the planning for the first of the Cactus Boulevard Linear ZÓCOLO Zocalets has started.



Rillito Bend Mural Plaza “Zócalet”

Part of the Cactus Boulevard “Linear Zócalo”

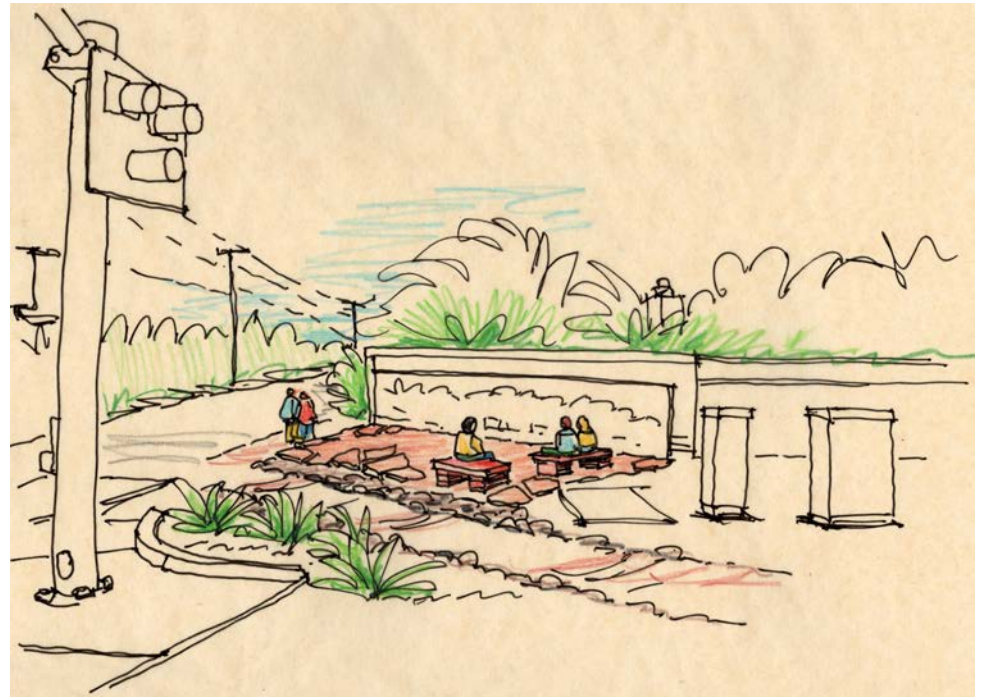


EXISTING

Total recommended budget:

- Flagstone material and delivery = \$1,000
- Flagstone installation = \$1,500
- Contingency = \$500
- Total recommended budget = \$3,000

Proposed RBNA Mural Plaza Zócalet



Download the Cactus Blvd
Vision Plan [HERE](#)



How We Communicate

As a designated Tucson neighborhood association, we need to communicate with you and with the City. The main avenues of communication are:

- **RBNA Neighborhood Mailing List** – make sure you are signed up!
- **RBNA Website:** <https://rillitobendna.org>
- **Annual Newsletter** – the City mails once/year to every resident
- **Nextdoor**
- **Email:** rbna@rillitobendna.org
- **City of Tucson Neighborhood Resources:**
<https://www.tucsonaz.gov/pdsd/neighborhood-resources>

How to Reach Us

- **RBNA Website:** <https://rillitobendna.org> - Questions & Comments, HOME page
- **Email:** rbna@rillitobendna.org
- **In person**



Lend A Hand Senior Assistance

Lend a Hand is a senior assistance organization that provides free services for seniors in central Tucson.

Volunteers provide transportation for medical appointments and errands, food box and produce home delivery and minor home repairs.

* Rillito Bend Neighborhood has 11 clients that Lend a Hand provides services to.

If you want to volunteer, or make a monetary donation as an individual or from the Neighborhood Association you can go to lahseniorhelp.org



Valley of the Moon – Thank you!



Valley of the Moon is an enchanted historic fairyland that promotes kindness and imagination. A unique artist-created environment, Valley of the Moon offers a variety of experiences including tours, theatrical performances, and private events. Valley of the Moon is almost 100 years old and is a 501(c)3 nonprofit formally incorporated in 1945 to foster tolerance and brotherly love for all mankind, regardless of race, creed, or color.

Visiting Valley of the Moon

We are open the first Saturday of each month for a family-friendly event and the third Sunday for docent-led tours. We are also open for our plays and special events.

Private access can be arranged for a fee.

We do NOT have daily open hours. Our public access is largely dependant on our volunteer work force so if you would like to see Valley of the Moon open more frequently, consider volunteering or donating to make it happen!

<https://www.tucsonvalleyofthemoon.com>



Thanks Everyone!



Tucson is Blocking Plastic Waste for Good!

Finally, there's a place to put all that plastic that's not supposed to go in the Blue Bin! Tucson's **Plastic Waste Diversion Pilot Program** removes the complexity of plastic waste and puts you in control of keeping plastic out of our landfills, streets, and oceans.

The plastic waste collected will be repurposed into ByBlocks - a 100% repurposed building material made entirely of non-recyclable plastic waste that will be used throughout the city for all to enjoy. No cleaning. No sorting. No pre-processing.

Now when you're in doubt, you don't have to throw it out!

 <p>Bread bags, candy wrappers, snack packaging, can holders</p>	 <p>Plastic & reusable bags, pouches, coffee bean bags, trash bags</p>	 <p>Utensils, straws, plastic plates, cups, table liners</p>
 <p>Coffee lids, plastic bottle tops, specialty drink cups</p>	 <p>Bubble wrap, films, air pouches, plastic mailers, bubble mailers</p>	 <p>Food trays, empty medicine/pill bottles and pouches, disposable tupperware</p>

**No Styrofoam. No Foam. No Medical Waste. No Electronics.
No Aluminium. No Foil. No Metal. No Steel.**



visit us @ www.byfusion.com

Los Angeles, CA 90249

Ph: +1-833-BYBLOCK



Tucson Plastic Diversion Pilot Program

How it Works!

1. Pick up a starter kit at **Ward 6** during office hours (9-1pm) for the duration of the pilot. The starter kit contains bag and flyer but you can bring us your plastic in any type of plastic bag you have at home.
2. Take the **Tucson Pledge to End Plastic Waste** by scanning the QR code in the Drop-Off Location Box. Check the notification box if you would like to receive progress updates and a final report at the end of the pilot. Signing up will also allow you to track the number of bags being dropped, which will automatically enter you to win a ByFusion ByBud!
3. Fill up your bag with all your non-recyclable plastic waste.
4. Drop off the bag in the blue 22 cubic roll-off container located behind the **Ward 6 Council Office marked PLASTIC ONLY**.
5. The City will pick up the full container and transport it to Tank's Fairfax, where the bags are prepped for shipment to ByFusion to be made into ByBlocks.
6. Once the ByBlocks are made, they will be returned to Tucson to be used in local neighborhood construction projects!

Goals of the Pilot

1. **500 Residents** signed up to take the Pledge to End
2. Plastic Waste Divert a minimum of **20 tons** of landfill-bound non-recyclable plastic waste.

Pilot Duration

Aug 1 - Dec 30, 2022

Drop-off Location

Ward 6 Council Office
3202 E 1st St
Tucson, AZ 85716



<https://www.byfusion.com/pilot-program/>



Pilot Sponsors



BYFUSION





RillitoBend Neighborhood Association Annual Meeting

November 19, 2022

Valley of The Moon (VOM)

estimated 50 people + 1 Harris's Hawk attended.

Meeting called to order by VP Mary Bird at 3:10

Welcome: Mary

Mary thanked VOM for hosting the meeting. She reminded everyone that the RBNA website, rillitobendna.org, is full of neighborhood information and encouraged members to tap into it. She mentioned the Mural Note Cards were on sale and that it is a fundraiser for the Association. A limited number of packets remain.

Treasurer's report: Terry DeCarolis

Previous balance was \$2,572.24 and current balance is \$2,413.00. Website platform and bank administration fees were the only expenses. RBNA does not charge membership dues.

2022 in Review: Mary

The HAWK (High intensity Activated cross Walk) pedestrian crosswalk will soon be unveiled. The City is reviewing the narrow lane issues of concern at the intersection.

The Bike Path is finished. It was noted that at the Allen and Cactus round-about, bikes have the right away on the Bike Path with cars traveling on Allen Rd. needing to yield to the north-south traffic on Cactus. Several people noted that there is a blind spot at the NE corner. Estelle offered to put organize a little work group to cut down the vegetation that is blocking the sightline.

A brief report was given about the FEMA Grant the City is pursuing for directing storm water along the Green Spine (Christmas Wash). (Matthew Vasquez (absent during this discussion) heads up this effort.) Four areas were identified: Prince Road, Cactus Blvd, Allen Road and Christmas Wash as potential areas for GSI. Stay tuned for more information. Also, the City offers training workshops for neighbors on maximizing storm water usage.

An update was given on the Huckleberry Bike Loop Mural project across the Rillito River at the north end of Cactus Blvd. Artists have been selected and the murals projected to start shortly. Steve Brigham was a member of the artist selection committee.

Rio Vista Natural Resource Park update: Linda Turner

Linda reviewed the past to present state of the Park. The Dog Park component is no longer a part of the 2022 Park Master Plan. \$330,000 funds from Proposition 407 passed in 2018 is allocated for park restoration. RBNA and Friends of Rio Vista NRP joined forces, met with Ward 3 staff and Councilman, Parks and Recreation Commissioners with the outcome of eliminating the Dog Park from the draft plan. Linda thanked Jennifer Shopland for all her work on behalf of the Park, and Jennifer returned thanks to RBNA for the collaboration.

Social Committee Report: Sue DeArmond

No report. The Committee will try again for a Covid-free ice cream social, 2023 Spring.

RillitoBend Ramblings Blog: exists on our website and is a place to share your pictures and thoughts about being in the neighborhood. Neighbors were encouraged to access the blog.

Recycling Plastic 101: Susan Anderson

Susan explained that Ward 6 Councilman Steve Kozachik is accepting non-recyclable plastic in bags (not loose) at his Ward office, 3202 E. 1st, Country Club and Speedway area. Susan held up examples of plastics to recycle. Numbers 1 & 2 can go into regular recycle but everything above #2 can be recycled at the Ward 6 Office. The plastics are sent to Tanks Green & Clean for baling and trucked to ByFusion for blocking, returning to Tucson for local building projects. One can see some of the blocks at Himmel Park.

New Neighborhood Project: Sue Ann Breems

Sue Ann Breems, tile mural artist, described the next neighbor enhancement project: turning Cactus Blvd into a “linear zocalo”. A Zocalo is a public square or plaza in Mexico. Instead of a square, we have a neighborhood linear Zocalo in Cactus Blvd. To further enhance this concept, there are six Zocalets (mini public resting/meeting places) planned for Cactus. The first Zocalet is at the corner of Cactus and Prince Road in front of the RillitoBend

Neighborhood Mural. Number 1 Zocalet conceptual drawing (shown by Sue Ann) will be on the website. It includes flagstone steps from the road to the mural, a few flagstone benches and some plantings for shade. Sue Ann is asking for materials (flagstone and cement), for volunteers to install and gardeners to plant. Sue Ann was available after the meeting to discuss further. Please contact her by emailing RBNA at rbna@rillitobendna.org

Enhancement Committee: Estelle Stern-Eilers

Estelle discussed the continuing challenge of eliminating Buffelgrass and fountain grass. If detected, it should be removed before it reseeds.

On December 17th there will be a work day at Rio Vista. Catlow will be available and we will work on improving the drainage at the SE corner of the park. A notice will be going out.

Streets and Traffic Safety: John Kovacik

John Kovacik reported on the City's Complete Streets Program. He specifically mentioned the need for input from neighbors regarding the use of City rights-of-way. The outcome of this input is to provide walkability and safety for pedestrians using rights-of-way without formal sidewalks. An exception to this issue is Prince Road. RBNA's Prince Road Committee will address future improvements. Larry Bird (absent) is the committee chair.

How we Communicate:

Mary reviewed all ways Association members can communicate: mailing list, website, annual newsletter, Nextdoor and email.

Valley of the Moon report: Kirsten Yaffe

The VOM has assessed over \$250,000 worth of needed building repairs. They are applying for grants to meet this need. Letters of support from the neighborhood would be appreciated.

Adjournment, 4:20.

Submitted by
Sue DeArmond
11/20/22