

Allen Road A RillitoBend Neighborhood Vision



E. Prince Road



Z

Country

Club Road

E-Weymouth-S

E Prince Rd

020 Google

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...to protect and enhance our special Tucson neighborhood with its rich artistic heritage and unique riparian environment.

Allen Road – an Introduction

Allen Road is one of four residential roads in the RillitoBend Neighborhood, and the only road running E/W. It serves as the public access to Valley of the Moon—a Tucson historic landmark—and as the cut-through road connecting Country Club Road and Tucson Boulevard. It is bisected by Cactus Boulevard, the northern most extension of Tucson's Treat Ave Bicycle Boulevard, the intersection of which is a traffic-calming rotary. Both Allen and Cactus are popular pedestrian, equestrian, and bicycle access roads to the Rio Vista Natural Resource Park, the Loop, and the Tucson Racquet & Fitness Club.

Located on the descending terraces of the Rillito River, Allen Road is home to a mix of large and medium-lot homes, horse properties, and HOAs. A stretch of velvet mesquite, offering shade and habitat, relies on the precious rainwater surface flows which are critical to the health of the riparian forest habitat.

This vision document summarizes the goals, challenges, and opportunities for Allen Road. The RillitoBend Neighborhood Association (RBNA) is in the process of gathering feedback from neighbors, visitors and a broad spectrum of experts to help resolve the challenges and guide planning conversations and future improvements to make Allen Road a more livable street for our neighborhood. Let us know your thoughts: rbna@rillitobendna.org

RillitoBend Neighborhood – Vision Themes

These interconnected themes are intended to help prioritize neighborhood projects. For more information see our website: <u>https://rillitobendna.org/documents.html</u>

1. Enhance the <u>livability of</u> our streets





4. Showcase our unique artistic heritage and spirit

2. Manage our precious watershed resources





 Support our <u>recreational</u> and cultural destinations

3. Restore our <u>riparian</u> <u>environment</u>





GOALS:

The RillitoBend Neighborhood's vision for Allen Road is to be a safe, "livable" and "complete" street.*

- 1. To reduce vehicle speed.
- 2. To provide safe access for pedestrians, bicycles, and equestrians.
- 3. To enhance the landscaping elements at sections of Allen Road.
- 4. To capture stormwater for infiltration and landscape irrigation.

* The City of Tucson Living Streets Alliance defines "livable" streets "as living public spaces that connect people to places and to each other." "Complete Streets" is an approach to transportation planning and design that guides the development of a safe, connected, and equitable transportation network for everyone

CHALLENGES:

- 1. Lack of traffic calming solutions for the entire length of Allen Road A traffic circle slows vehicles at Cactus and Allen roads yet speeding continues on either side of the intersection as Allen is a cut-through road between Country Club Road and Tucson Boulevard.
- 2. Unsafe conditions for pedestrians, bicyclists and equestrians For much of Allen Road, access is either in the roadway or on unimproved right-of-way which is a hazard due to traffic and event parking.

3. Poor condition along sections of Allen Road

Much of the Allen Road right-of-way has potholes due to initial poor roadway design, substandard pavement, inconsistent maintenance, and damage from significant unrestrained stormwater flows.

 Lack of landscaping along sections of Allen Road Sections lack landscaping and are not in compliance with the City's Development standards.

5. Poor stormwater drainage

Flooding, ponding, erosion and sedimentation issues are largely the result of unimproved street edges, poor maintenance, non-conformance to Development Standards, and lack of upstream engineering/planning.



<u>*RillitoBend Neighborhood Map:*</u> showing Allen Road connecting the two major residential streets – Tucson Blvd and Country Club Road with the Treat Ave Bicycle Boulevard bisecting Allen Road on Cactus Boulevard



<u>Example issue</u>: Looking east on the east end of Allen Road toward Country Club Road showing the lack of screening for the parking lot and dumpster, no pedestrian walkways, deficient stormwater mitigation, and minimal landscaping treatment.

OPPORTUNITIES:



Notes for Potential Project Areas on Allen Road:

- Screen parking lot and dumpster along right-of-way (ROW) with native plants and trees. Extend pedestrian path from Rancho Morado subdivision to Country Club Road. Create bump-outs to enhance stormwater infiltration and planting areas to calm traffic.
- 2) Enhance right-of-way landscape along apartment complex with native trees and plants.
- Reduce stormwater flowing from Shannon Park Apartments onto Allen Road on both the south side of Allen and the north side at Riverwalk Commons Townhomes entry.
- 4) Create right-of-way improvements for stormwater infiltration and landscaping enhancements.
- 5) Create bump-outs to enhance stormwater infiltration and planting areas to calm traffic along south side of Rancho Morado subdivision.

- 6) Provide safe pedestrian walkway with clear visibility around existing traffic circle with connection to existing Rancho Morado subdivision sidewalk on SE corner.
- 7) Provide right-of way improvements for stormwater infiltration, landscaping enhancements, and a safe pedestrian walkway.
- 8) Create bump-outs to enhance stormwater infiltration and planting areas to calm traffic along south side of Meadow View.
- 9) Provide right-of-way improvements for stormwater infiltration, landscaping enhancements, and a safe pedestrian walkway.
- 10) Provide right-of-way improvements for Valley of the Moon overflow event parking.