

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS | EL RIO OPEN SPACE PRESERVE**

### **How was the preserve funded?**

- Some funding was provided by the Town of Marana.
- A Water Infrastructure Financing Authority Grant for \$35,000 was awarded to the Town for the project.

### **What types of activities are permitted at this facility?**

- Passive recreation such as walking and wildlife viewing! It is a regional wildlife corridor and a natural riparian area.

### **What activities are not allowed at the preserve?**

- Off-road vehicle driving, shooting, fishing, boating and off-leash dogs.

### **Can we swim, boat, or fish in the lake/wet areas?**

- The water includes storm water runoff and occasionally overflow effluent from the Santa Cruz River, so it is not suitable for swimming, boating or fishing.
- The area was created for waterfowl and other wildlife.
- This preserve is intended as an urban natural area and wildlife corridor, so there will not be any sports or activities that would detract from that goal.

### **Are there lights at this facility?**

- There is no lighting at this site so that it will function as wildlife habitat. So many animals are active here at night.

### **Why can't this site be left as is, natural open space?**

- The site will continue to be natural open space. Improvements will continually be made by replacing some of the non-native species with native plants and by creating surface water areas that are permanent, to enhance wildlife habitat.

### **Won't having permanent surface water increase the mosquito problem?**

- Permanent water will be circulated to prevent mosquito eggs from hatching.
- The bank protection installed helps to reduce flooding and debris piles where mosquitos can breed.
- Fresh, non-potable water will be added as needed, which also helps prevent stagnation and mosquitos.

- Monitoring and treatment will be implemented by the Town during the warm weather months.
- Unfortunately, these improvements will not eliminate mosquitos from breeding in the Santa Cruz River.

**What will the operating hours be at the new park?**

- The preserve is open to visitors between dawn and dusk.