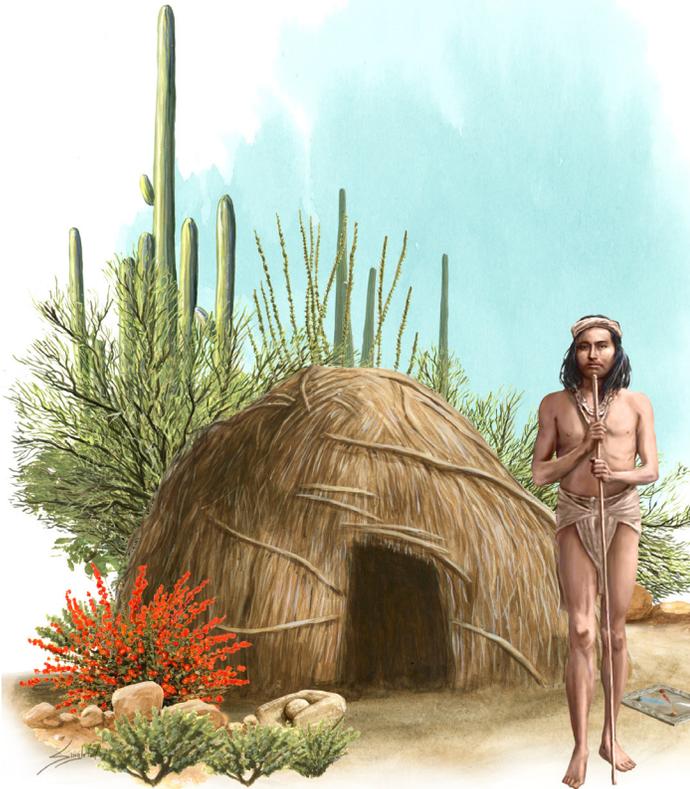


Cultural and Historic Resource Acquisitions



Honey Bee Village

Site: 13 acres
Cost: \$1,680,000 (land donated)
Acquired: March 2007
Fund: 2004 Bond Funds

Background

The 13-acre core of Honey Bee Village was donated by Steve Solomon, in March 2007. In return, the County funded archaeological excavations in the remainder of the village, outside the core, at a cost of \$1,680,000 from the 2004 Bond. The 13-acre Honey Bee Village Preserve, located in the Town of Oro Valley, is owned by Pima County.

Significance

Honey Bee Village is a large prehistoric Hohokam settlement that is the most significant extant Hohokam village in Oro Valley. The Preserve contains the ceremonial and habitation core of the village, which consists of the central ceremonial ballcourt, many large middens, plazas, and hundreds of domestic houses. Archaeological excavations in the remainder of the site beyond the 13-acre core preserved the scientific information in the site periphery that is significantly advancing our understanding of Hohokam village development and Hohokam lifeways. The Tohono O’odham Nation regards Honey Bee Village as an ancestral home, and it is a traditional cultural place in their historic landscape within Pima County.

Management

A grant, funded by the Tohono O’odham Nation, provided money to construct a wall around the edge of Preserve to protect the Preserve from planned surrounding development.

Value to the Community

Honey Bee Village Preserve represents the foundation of permanent habitation in Oro Valley, and as such gives a sense of place representing the deep history of human occupation. The Preserve provides open space in the center of the modern urban community. When accessible through trails and educational interpretive signage, the Preserve will become a focal point of local visitation and heritage tourism.

Ongoing Projects

Planning for public access and interpretation has started.



Aerial view, to the west, of Honey Bee Village during grading for development. Red-outlined area is Honey Bee Village Conservation Area - Photo by Henry D. Wallace.



Hohokam pithouse at Honey Bee Village, after excavation - Photo by Cultural Resources Office staff.