

Our Partners in Conservation

Without our partners, many of the important natural and cultural areas purchased under the County's 1997 and 2004 bond programs may still be at risk. Our partners range from small non-profit organizations to large federal agencies. Examples of fruitful partnerships abound. Tumamoc Hill would most likely still remain under threat of development if not for the willingness of the State Land Department to auction the property, the State Parks Board approval of a matching grant, and the City of Tucson's decision to acquire the old landfill. Property owners in the Tortolita Mountains may not have been willing to sell to the County if not for the assistance provided by the Arizona Land and Water Trust. The link between the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area and the National Forest to the east may never have been conserved if not for The Nature Conservancy's expertise and identification of "high quality grasslands" in need of protection. The list goes on and on.

We would like to recognize these partners, as well as others that have recently provided funding to manage our newly expanded mountain parks and conservation areas. In addition, we would like to recognize our many ranch managers who continue to act as stewards for the County across hundreds of thousands of acres under conservation ranch management agreements.



The Arizona Land and Water Trust
(formally the Arizona Open Land Trust) protects Southern Arizona's western landscapes, wildlife habitat, water, and working farms and ranches for future generations. The Trust has had a significant role in the County's 1997 and 2004 bond programs. Acting as a facilitator to bring the County and willing sellers together, the Trust has participated in conserving many

of the properties highlighted in this report.



The Nature Conservancy's
mission is to preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on earth

by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. The Nature Conservancy's Tucson office worked with the Arizona Land and Water Trust to apply a set of biologically-based goals to the County's Conservation Lands System to identify the most important lands to purchase first with 2004 bond funds. In addition, The Nature Conservancy's long term conservation efforts in and around A-7 Ranch along the San Pedro River, eventually led to the County's purchase of the property from the City of Tucson in 2004.



The Trust for Public Land
(TPL) conserves land for people to enjoy as parks, gardens, and other natural places, ensuring livable communities for generations to come. In 1998, TPL assisted the County in negotiating a 216-acre addition to Tucson Mountain Park along Gate Pass with the Diocese of Tucson. In 2004, TPL facilitated the County's purchase of the 700-acre Sweetwater Preserve located north of Tucson Mountain Park and east of Saguaro National Park West.



The Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection's
mission is to achieve the long-term conservation of biological diversity and ecological functions of the

Sonoran Desert through comprehensive land-use planning, with primary emphasis on the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan. The Coalition represents dozens of conservation and neighborhood groups, who in turn represent more than 30,000 members. The Coalition's advocacy for science-based acquisition planning has significantly strengthened the County's 1997 and 2004 bond programs. Their leadership in advocating for wildlife corridor linkages led to the County's acquisition of 13 acres on either side of Oracle Road that will serve as an anchor for moving wildlife under and over Oracle Road between the Tortolita and Catalina Mountains.



The Altar Valley Conservation Alliance
is a collaborative conservation organization founded in 1995 devoted to the mission of leaving the next generation with a healthy productive watershed, a thriving agricultural community, and rural life enriched by the culture and history of the Altar Valley. The Alliance has provided opportunities for County staff to participate in workshops on watershed restoration and water harvesting off ranch roads. County staff has also been invited to participate in development and implementation of strategic fire burns across the valley, potentially including County lands – a \$50,000 value.



The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

(NFWF) is a non-profit that preserves and restores our nation’s native wildlife species and habitats by directing public conservation dollars to the most pressing environmental needs and matches those

investments. In 2009 and 2010, NFWF awarded five grants to local organizations using County bond dollars already spent on acquisitions in those geographic areas as matches: \$150,000 to the Altar Valley Conservation Alliance for the planning, implementation, and post-monitoring of 5 strategic fire burns across the Altar Valley; \$445,000 to The Nature Conservancy for inventory, monitoring, and restoration of grasslands in Las Cienegas and Malpai grasslands; \$390,500 to the Cienega Watershed Partnership for restoring leopard frogs to habitats in sky island grasslands; \$150,000 to Sky Island Alliance for a hands on application of a highly successful watershed restoration technique within the Cienega Creek watershed; \$200,000 grant to Arizona Game and Fish Department for release of a 4th black-tailed prairie dog colony with the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area and evaluation of potential additional release sites including Pima County-owned lands.



FEMA

The Federal Emergency Management Agency

(FEMA) administers a Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program that provides

federal funding to qualified local governments undertaking economically viable proactive flood mitigation efforts. After the devastating 2003 Aspen Fire which significantly altered the Canada del Oro watershed, Pima County was awarded \$3 million in aid to help supplement Floodprone Land Acquisition Program (FLAP) funds being used to acquire property and relocate residents who were living in a severe flood hazard area along the Canada del Oro Wash.



The Natural Resources Conservation Service

works with private landowners through conservation planning and

assistance designed to benefit the soil, water, air, plants, and animals that result in productive lands and healthy ecosystems. Staff from two southern Arizona offices provide technical support by conducting annual ranch monitoring, provide technical services on water/well developments, and leading the development of Comprehensive Resource Management Plans on several ranches and fire planning in Altar valley. They are a funding source for our ranch operators for enhancement projects like fencing, water development, restoration, fire, and other natural resources management and conservation activities.



Tohono O’odham Nation

At the very inception of the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan in 1999, the Tohono O’odham Nation and Pima County issued a “Declaration of Intent to Cooperatively Participate in the Sonoran Desert

Conservation Plan” that acknowledged the Nation’s and the County’s joint commitment to collaborate and work cooperatively in developing and establishing the SDCP that addressed the conservation and protection of cultural and historic resources as well as the natural resource base of the Sonoran Desert. The Nation continues to support County conservation efforts, awarding a grant for a protective wall around Honey Bee Village in the Town of Oro Valley and supporting the County in its efforts to acquire and protect culturally significant places that include Honey Bee Village, the Valencia Site, Tumamoc Hill, Reeve Ruin, Coyote Mountains, Dakota Wash, and Los Morteros.



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

takes the lead in administering the Endangered Species Act by fostering partnerships, employing scientific excellence, and developing a workforce of conservation leaders. The Service awarded the County a \$2.8 million Section 6 grant for the development

of the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan and multi-species conservation plan. The Service shaped our 2004 conservation acquisition bond program by providing scientific expertise on which species and habitats were most in need of protection. In addition, the Service awarded a Recovery Land Acquisition grant totaling \$352,989 to the County towards the purchase of the 839-acre Old Hayhook Ranch containing the Coyote Mountains Archaeological Complex – a 2004 Historic Preservation bond project. The Service has also provided Partners for Wildlife program grants for fencing and riparian restoration at Carpenter Ranch in Cochise Canyon, bat habitat projects in Cienega Creek Natural Preserve, and wildlife water and invasive plant projects on A7 Ranch.



The Arizona Game and Fish Department’s

mission is to conserve, enhance, and restore Arizona’s diverse wildlife resources and habitats through aggressive protection and management programs and to provide wildlife resources and safe watercraft and

off-highway vehicle recreation for the enjoyment, appreciation and use by present and future generations. Pima County has received \$250,000 in Heritage Fund grants from Game and Fish for activities at Feliz Paseos Park, Tucson Mountain Park hiking guides, access and habitat projects on ranches, the Living With Urban Wildlife education trailer, a wildlife viewing area at Catalina Regional Park, wildlife viewing guides, bat soil cave

habitat construction, and wildlife education programs. Game and Fish also funds Habitat Partnership Programs for wildlife waters on several County ranches, and sponsored the County's application for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Recovery Land Acquisition grant to acquire the Old Hayhook Ranch.



Arizona State Land Department

The mission of the Arizona State Land Department (ASLD) is: To manage State Trust lands and resources to enhance value and optimize economic return for the Trust beneficiaries, consistent with sound stewardship, conservation, and business management principles supporting

socioeconomic goals for citizens here today and generations to come; and To manage and provide support for resource conservation programs for the well-being of the public and the State's natural environment. ASLD twice supported the County's request to purchase State Trust land at auction, which led to the successful conservation of 277 acres on Tumamoc Hill, and 67 acres of the Valencia Archaeological Site.

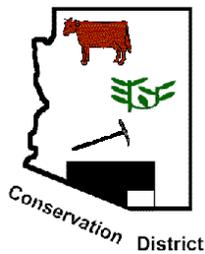
Arizona State Parks



administers the Growing Smarter State Trust Land Acquisition Grant Program, which provides matching funds for the acquisition of State Trust land for the purposes of conserving important natural or cultural areas. In 2008 and 2009 the Arizona State Parks Board awarded Pima County a total of \$1,645,000 under this program, which led to the successful conservation of 277 acres on Tumamoc Hill

and 67 acres of the Valencia Archaeological Site.

Pima Natural Resource



Pima Natural Resource Conservation District

(NRCDC) cooperators can be landowners, lessees and managers whether they are private or governmental agencies. They are all interested in natural resources management in southern Arizona. Pima NRCDC recently helped fund a small vegetation restoration project along Brawley Wash on the County-owned Buckelew Farm.

The Town of Oro Valley



continues to be an excellent partner for its support and assistance in the acquisition and protection of two culturally and historically important sites: the Hohokam archaeological site, Honey Bee Village that was donated to Pima County by Cañada Vistas Homes as a permanent preserve and for public education purposes; and

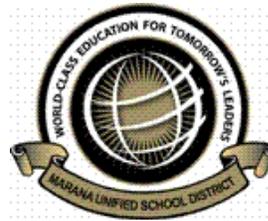
for the acquisition of Steam Pump Ranch, founded in 1874, that represents one of the earliest ranches in Oro Valley and is a legacy to the Town's frontier origins.



City of Tucson

In 2006, the City of Tucson exchanged land with the owner of the Adkin's Parcel – the last significant portion of the historic Fort Lowell to remain in private ownership, and then dedicated a conservation easement to the County, conserving the property as called for in the 2004 bond program. In 2008, the City contributed \$100,000 to the purchase of the 80-acre Habitat for Humanity property,

located along West 36th Street, east of Tucson Mountain Park – also a 2004 bond project. This \$100,000 came from donations made by Tucson Water customers for the purposes of land conservation. In 2009, the City of Tucson took ownership of an old landfill on Tumamoc Hill, which was a critical and necessary step in the County's acquisition of the remainder 277 acres of State Trust land on Tumamoc Hill – both a 1997 and 2004 bond project.



Marana Unified School District

In 2004, the Marana Unified School District agreed to a land exchange with Pima County that allowed for the establishment of Los Morteros Archaeological Site Conservation Area. This Hohokam site represents an important and long-

lived prehistoric community established at the north end of the Tucson Mountains in the Town of Marana.



Vail School District

is recognized for assisting with acquisition of the Pantano Townsite school parcel for preservation purposes. Pantano thrived as railroad station from 1887 to 1922, but was abandoned when the Southern Pacific Railroad closed its

operations. The Pantano and Rincon one-rooms schools were later combined into Vail School District who continued to own the Pantano school property until purchased by Pima County.



Starr Pass

In 1999, Pima County entered into a development agreement that resulted in development of the Starr Pass residential development, as well as the JW Marriott Starr Pass Resort. The agreement also resulted in the developer donating land to expand Tucson Mountain Park adjacent to the resort, and in a revenue sharing agreement that currently generates

upwards of \$300,000 annually for the enhancement and expansion of the Park.



JW MARRIOTT
HOTELS & RESORTS

Ranch Managers

A₃

Mr. Tom Chilton, on behalf of Diamond Bell Ranch Management Company, L.L.C., for management of Diamond Bell Ranch.

HT

Thomas R. Fischer, on behalf of Saddle Tree Ranch, for management of Empirita Ranch.

B

Mr. Donald and Ms. Sarabeth Carpenter for management of the Carpenter Ranch.

LS

Marilyn Harris and Karen Williams, on behalf of LS Cattle Company, L.L.C. for management of Sands Ranch.

-V

Don Martin, on behalf Martin Cattle Company, for management of Bar V Ranch.

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John King, on behalf of John F. King and Sons, for management of Kings 98 Ranch and Old Hayhook Ranch.

T>

Nick Buckelew, on behalf of Buckelew Farms, L.L.C., for management of Buckelew Farm.

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James Webb, on behalf of MMC Ranch Management, L.L.C., for management of Marley Ranch.

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Joe and Charlie Goff, on behalf of Mule Tank Limited Partnership, L.L.L.P., for management of Six Bar Ranch.

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Meade and Susan Clyne for management of the Clyne Ranch

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Jon and Peggy Rowley, on behalf of Carrow Company, for management of Rancho Seco.

RU

Richard Schust, on behalf of Solero Dos L.L.C. for management of Soporri Ranch.

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Bob Rowley, on behalf of Rancho Seco, L.L.C., for management of Rancho Seco.

