

Tortolita Reserve



Ironwood tree in bloom. Photo by Bill Singleton

Properties that Contribute to the Tortolita Reserve

Linda Vista/Patrick, Reid, Esther and David Tang, and Hartman/Cortaro Properties

Fee Lands: 99 acres
Acquired: February 2007 – August 2009
Cost: \$4,320,560
Fund: 1997 and 2004 Bond Funds, and Saguaro Ranch Development Agreement funds
Partners: Arizona Land and Water Trust

Background

The far majority of land eligible for conservation with 1997 and 2004 bond funds in and around the Tortolita Reserve were large sections of State Trust land. Due to the challenges associated with purchasing State Trust land, the County spent 1997 and 2004 bond funds on smaller private properties in the area, trying when possible to expand upon existing conserved lands and conserve riparian areas and ironwood dominated parcels. The first three purchases described below were efforts to conserve land moving in a northwesterly direction from Arthur Pack Park towards the large vacant State Trust land properties within the Tortolita Fan. The fourth purchase, northwest of Hartman Lane and Cortaro Farms Road, continued the County's efforts to conserve Hardy Wash.

Linda Vista/Patrick and Reid Properties

The County acquired 9-acres at the northwest corner of Linda Vista Boulevard and Saint Patrick Road, northwest of Arthur Pack Park, on February 9, 2007. The property cost \$451,561 and was funded through 2004 bond funds. Purchase of the property was contingent on the purchase of an adjacent property known as the Reid property. The County acquired 4 acres of the

Reid property in fee simple, and a conservation easement over 3.4 acres of the Reid property on March 26, 2007 for \$316,920. The Reid property was funded with 1997 bond funds. Both of these properties fall within the Multiple Use Category of the Conservation Land System and are included in the Special Species Management Area for the Cactus Ferruginous Pygmy Owl.

Esther and David Tang

On July 23, 2007, the County acquired 40 acres located south of the intersection of Camino de Manana and Camino de Oeste, north of Arthur Pack Park. The property cost \$2,377,079 and was funded with 1997 bond funds. Conservation of the property expanded upon already conserved land within the Sky Ranch development directly to the west of the property. The property contains several ironwood lined washes, and supports habitat for six Priority Vulnerable Species, including the Lesser long-nosed bat, California leaf-nosed bat, Pale Townsend's big-eared bat, Cactus Ferruginous pygmy owl, Western burrowing owl, and Tumamoc Globeberry. The property falls within the Multiple Use and Special Species Management Area categories of the Conservation Land System, and includes Important Riparian Areas.

Hartman/Cortaro

On August 14, 2009, the County purchased 50 acres southwest of Arthur Pack Park and northwest of Hartman Lane and Cortaro Farms Road. The property cost \$1,175,000, \$944,135 of which was funded with revenues generated from a development agreement for Saguaro Ranch development, and \$231,999 from 1997 bond funds. The property contains a significant stand of relatively undisturbed ironwood forest



Esther and David Tang property. Photo by Pima County

abundant Sonoran riparian scrub habitat. The property also supports habitat for four Priority Vulnerable Species, including Western burrowing owl, Tucson Shovel-nosed snake, Cactus Ferruginous pygmy-owl, and Tumamoc Globeberry. The property falls within the Multiple Use and Special Species Management Area categories of the Conservation Land System, and includes an Important Riparian Area along Hardy Wash. The property includes portions of Hardy Wash preserved in part by Pima County upstream from this property.

Management

Because of the location of these properties within a developed suburban area, management focuses on routine monitoring, conservation area signage, and perimeter fencing to limit public access and maintain currently ecological values. No active or passive recreational uses are planned for the properties.



Linda Vista/Patrick property looking southwest towards Tucson Mountains. Photo by Christine Curtis

Ongoing Property Improvements

- The properties are monitored on a routine basis and repairs made to fences and signage.
- Contacts have been established with local residents who act as an informal conservation neighborhood watch program. They identify issues for the County staff and act as local information stewards with local neighborhood members.



Cactus flowers on the Tang property.



Coppers Hawk on the Hartman/Cortaro property - Photo by EPG