When we look today at the 230,000 acres the County owns or manages for conservation, we can see the emergence of a reserve system that compliments federal, state and local conservation areas in Pima County, as shown on the map. The conceptual reserves provide a framework for defining an urban boundary, conserving important natural areas, protecting working landscapes and water resources, and preserving our region’s cultural heritage. While conceptual in nature, the reserves include lands already acquired by the County, as well as County-managed state and federal lands that are part of grazing leases held by the County. The reserves build upon the Maeveen Marie Behan Conservation Land System, a major milestone in implementing the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan, which serves as a guide to achieving sustainable growth in Pima County. Using both 1997 and 2004 Conservation Bond funds, the County has acquired 76 properties, totaling 50,000 acres in fee and manages 130,000 acres of State and Federal grazing leases associated with ranch acquisitions.
The properties featured here have been divided into the six Conceptual Reserves noted on the map:

Cienega Valley – Empire Ranch Reserve
Upper Santa Cruz and Southern Altar Valley Reserve
Northern Altar Valley Reserve
Tucson Mountain Park Reserve
Tortolita Reserve
San Pedro Valley Reserve

Summaries of each property or group of properties acquired by the County since 1997 under each Reserve include:

• Overviews of each County conceptual reserve
• Background on when and why each property was acquired
• Historical, cultural, and biological resources
• Current management activities and ongoing property improvements
• Recreational opportunities

Properties acquired under 1997 and 2004 Conservation Bond Programs

* These are conceptual reserves and in no way affect any Federally, State or privately owned land within each reserve. Lands within reserves have been identified within the Conservation Lands System since 2001.