

# Volunteers to build trail in park

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Blazing trails takes on a more literal meaning today when nearly 100 people gather at Friendship Park in Avondale.

The volunteers, from Friends of the West Valley Recreation Corridor, will help build a two-mile trail along the Agua Fria River that will connect Friendship Park to Avondale's Coldwater Park.

The trail is a piece of the 32-mile stretch of the Agua Fria River, which is known as the West Valley Recreation Corridor. The WVRC is designed to provide recreation opportunities such as hiking, biking and horseback riding.

"We're promoting this corridor. The Friends are a non-profit group that was formed about five or six years ago, and we're picking this up from a grass-roots standpoint and implementing the (WVRC's) vision," said Jay Hicks, president of the Friends of the WVRC.

"There are actually two events," he added. "The first is coming up (today). It's really what we call the 'Walk to Vision,' which is actually the trail-building piece. We're getting ready to build close to two miles of a trail system that goes from Friendship Park in Avondale and extends south under I-10 down to Van Buren and then loops back around again."

The second Walk to Vision event will take place Oct. 29, in conjunction with Avondale Billy Moore Heritage Days.

"This will be on Sunday morning, and we're encouraging everyone and their families to come out and walk the corridor," Hicks said. "We'll have comfort stations set up. A number of exhibitors, including Liberty Wildlife and some of the others, will be on hand to tell a little more about the resource here."

Hicks said anyone interested in volunteering today can still come out to the park. Each volunteer will receive a T-shirt and complimentary lunch.

"We'd love more people to show up," he said. "Come out, see what's in your backyard, and have a good time."