



NEWS RELEASE

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Agua Fria Watercourse Master Plan Receives Award of Merit from Valley Forward

PHOENIX, Ariz. (For Immediate Release, September 15, 2005) – The Friends of the West Valley Recreation Corridor (Friends) and Flood Control District of Maricopa County (FCDMC) accepted the Award of Merit from Valley Forward Association at its Environmental Excellence Awards Dinner on September 9. The award recognized the Agua Fria Watercourse Master Plan and its vision of turning a 32-plus mile stretch of the Agua Fria into a multi-modal corridor for recreational uses.

“We are truly thrilled to receive an award from Valley Forward for this incredible project,” said Roger Baele, president of the Friends. “The vision to create a recreational corridor along the Agua Fria and New Rivers is very exciting. This will be a landmark amenity not only for the West Valley, but for all of Maricopa County.”

Initiated by the Flood Control District of Maricopa County, the Agua Fria Watercourse Master Plan extends 32 miles from the Gila River to the New Waddell Dam at Lake Pleasant and flows through unincorporated Maricopa County and the jurisdictions of Avondale, El Mirage, Glendale, Peoria, Phoenix, Surprise and Youngtown. The general public and all of these communities have worked together for seven years to come up with a comprehensive plan. The Master Plan addresses flood control and public safety concerns, adds recreational opportunities and open space, accommodates existing economic activities, creates channelized streambed, and potentially transforms the floodplain designation for more than 3,000 acres of land along the river to mitigate flooding and support recreational and other development.

The Friends' vision is to create a multi-modal, non-motorized corridor connecting residential areas, parks schools, recreation and commerce within and around the project site. The organization will provide input on planning and design, facilitate public events, help identify and secure funding sources, integrate non-vehicular trails connectivity, and promote linkages to adjacent uses.

Add 1/Agua Fria Watercourse Master Plan

The Friends of the West Valley Recreation Corridor (WVRC) is a 501(c) (3) organization comprised of nearly 1,000 stakeholders, including volunteers, public and private sector representatives and community leaders, who are dedicated to creating an enhanced corridor along the Agua Fria and New Rivers within Maricopa County. The group was initiated in 2001 through a partnership of WESTMARC and Valley Forward Association.

For more information or to join contact the Friends of the West Valley Recreation Corridor at (623) 695-4602, or visit www.friendsofwvrc.org.