

# Sacred Waters Connect Us



## 2022 IMPACT REPORT

*Watershed Management Group acknowledges that we live, learn, work, and engage with community on the ancestral lands of the Hohokam, Sobaipuri, and Apache people and those of the Pascua Yaqui and Tohono O'odham people, whose relationship with this land continues to this day. We acknowledge that water in the Sonoran Desert is of great spiritual, physical, and ecological significance to be protected, cherished, and celebrated.*



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Snowmelt from the Catalina Mountains feed Lower Sabino Creek, an area with recently recovered groundwater levels that sustain a stretch of year-round flow. Cover: The San Pedro River in southern Arizona has a beautiful cottonwood gallery forest. WMG's Executive Director, Lisa Shipek, and Ben Goldfarb, author of *Eager: The Surprising, Secret Life of Beavers and Why They Matter*, take a break during a day out surveying for beavers.

# Growing gratitude and reverence for water

This winter, Tucson received a healthy amount of rainfall as well as abundant snowfall on our surrounding mountains. I have been bubbling with gratitude for this rain and snow. Almost daily, I visit my nearby river, the Rillito, basking in the consistent river flows and replenishment of our groundwater aquifer.

It's easy to be grateful in a time of abundance, but perhaps it's even more important to show gratitude and reverence for water in our driest years. No matter what nature has in store for us, water in the Sonoran Desert, and in communities around the world, has been understood as sacred by native peoples for millennia.

As people and governments fight over and negotiate water resources, it's important to pause and remember that water is not just something to be consumed or owned, but it's a gift to be stewarded.

In this spirit, WMG will continue to expand the dialogue about living hydro-local: from what we do at home to how our cities plan for our water future. With your help, we can spread the hydro-local message of stewarding and valuing our local, renewable water resources instead of depleting distant watersheds.

Our hydro-local education, restoration, and policy work is also showing up strategically in how we design and fund our programs. Over the last five years, we've shifted away from fee-for-service water harvesting and green infrastructure installations to focus more energy on our innovative community and educational programs. To make that shift, we have continued to grow our fundraising efforts, so that we now depend on donors as our largest source of revenue to fund programs like the River Run Network, education at the Living Lab and Learning Center, and our community conservation efforts.

As one of the co-founders of WMG, I'm proud to celebrate WMG's 20-year anniversary and grow our mission to develop and implement community-based solutions to ensure the long-term prosperity of people and health of the environment. Thank you to everyone who continues to support WMG as a donor and to everyone who is providing consistent support as a monthly Flow donor; in 2022, we grew from 85 to 128 monthly donors! In honor of our 20-year anniversary and to sustain our work into the future, we're launching a campaign to [Give \\$20/month for WMG's 20th!](#) Will you join us?

From the mighty Colorado River to the creeks in our backyards, from the mountain springs to the groundwater that flows beneath



our feet, we thank you for being part of our work, for water is life.

**Lisa Shipek**  
Executive Director

“As people and governments fight over and negotiate water resources, it's important to pause and remember that water is not just something to be consumed or owned, but it's a gift to be stewarded.”

# How do we protect groundwater and local river flows in times of Colorado River shortage? River shortage?

Winter rain and snow play a crucial role in recharging the aquifer. The Tanque Verde Creek pictured here is fed by snow and rainfall that falls on the Rincon and Catalina Mountains in Tucson, slowly released through streams and as subflow into the valley below. Tanque Verde Creek has a shallow groundwater aquifer that can recharge quickly with slower, sustained flows.

Tucson, like many Western communities, historically over pumped our groundwater supplies and dried up our rivers. Yet in the last few decades some creek flow has returned in the Sabino and Tanque Verde Creeks, and some groundwater areas have stabilized thanks to conservation, restoration, and reclaimed water projects. WMG's 50-year vision is to restore our heritage of flowing creeks and rivers in Southern Arizona, continuing to restore groundwater levels that support seasonal and perennial flows.

**Now is a critical time to protect and build on the gains we've seen with groundwater and river flow, in light of Colorado River shortages in addition to local drought.** Less Colorado River water will likely result in more local groundwater pumping by our water utilities, including increased pumping in shallow groundwater areas that support our riparian areas, like in the Sabino, Tanque Verde, and Rillito watersheds.

WMG is working to advance a hydro-local approach, instead of increasing unsustainable practices of over-pumping groundwater, drying up our creeks, and relying on imported water.

**WMG took a big step forward on this work recently, as one of three winners of the Colorado River Basin Water Scarcity Challenge, offered by The Gates and Walton Family Foundations. As challenge winners, a team of consultants from Quantified Ventures (QV) is working with WMG pro bono, to develop and scale-up groundwater conservation and river restoration solutions for the Sabino, Tanque Verde, and Rillito watersheds.**

WMG has been working towards a hydro-local future, where we value and steward our local water resources in the Tucson area instead of depleting distant watersheds, like the Colorado River. Water conservation and groundwater recharge strategies are proven to work in the greater Tucson area, however there is a real need to develop innovative funding and finance solutions at scale in sensitive groundwater areas, especially for people without access to conservation programs, like those on wells or with small water utilities.

Through this effort with QV, we will develop and implement projects and programs that increase the resilience of Tucson's water portfolio, particularly its groundwater resources. WMG and QV will collaboratively quantify outcomes, engage key stakeholders, develop funding/financing approaches, and plan a suite of projects and programs. Strategies include groundwater conservation programs, aligning green stormwater infrastructure projects with riparian areas, and leveraging recycled water strategies in the Sabino, Tanque Verde, and Rillito riparian areas.

To get more involved in this work, join our River Run Network, at [Watershedmg.org/RRN](https://Watershedmg.org/RRN).

# WMG's Water Harvesting Certification

## Amplifies Hydro-Local Movement through Training Diverse Professionals Across the West and Beyond

Through our Water Harvesting Design Certification course, we offer the highest quality and greatest depth of training in integrative water harvesting. Running the Certification is an important part of achieving our vision to shift Tucson and other communities to a hydro-local framework, and we're starting by building the cadre of professionals who can do this.

Since launching the Certification in 2009, WMG has run 36 courses, teaching over 500 students and certifying 383 as Water Harvesting Practitioners. Professionals attend from all over the U.S. and Mexico, and the Certification's reputation now attracts organizations to send new staff as professional development. The 45 hour curriculum spans water harvesting system planning, design and installation of rain gardens, greywater, and tanks systems. The course ends with an exam to demonstrate mastery of content taught and earn certification. We offer scholarships to help those with limited resources.

Part of the Water Harvesting Certification experience is learning at our Living Lab in Tucson, where students learn together surrounded by our rain gardens, potable rain tank system, greywater, composting toilets, and native and edible gardens. We cater to all learning styles, teaching in our outdoor classrooms, with WMG instructors who specialize in community workshops, long-time water harvesting educators like Brad Lancaster and Catlow Shipek, and interactive bike tour, design charrette, shared meals, and hands-on installations.

In 2022, we had diverse professionals from seven states including folks from landscape design firms, city governments like Tucson Water Department, San Xavier Co-op Farm of the Tohono O'odham Nation, and non-profit organizations from the Phoenix area including Trees Matter and Arizona Sustainability Alliance.

Plan your green job training at [Watershedmg.org/WHC](https://watershedmg.org/WHC).



December 2022 Water Harvesting Certification class.

### Organizations & Agencies that Attended WMG's Water Harvesting Certification in 2022

#### Businesses

- Columbine Landscapes (CO)
- Foxglove Gardening (Flagstaff, AZ)
- High Desert Native Plants (TX)
- Kimberly-Clark Corporation
- San Xavier Co-Op Farm, Tohono O'odham Nation (AZ)
- Santa Cruz Permaculture (CA)
- Stream Dynamics (NM)
- Sustainable Sonoran Landscapes (AZ)
- Wheat Design Group (AZ)

#### Government

- City of Prescott, Arizona
- National Park Service
- Tucson Water Department

#### Non-Profit Organizations

- Arizona Sustainability Alliance (AZ)
- La Semilla Food Center (NM)
- Preemptive Love Coalition
- Seed of Harmony
- Trees Matter (AZ)

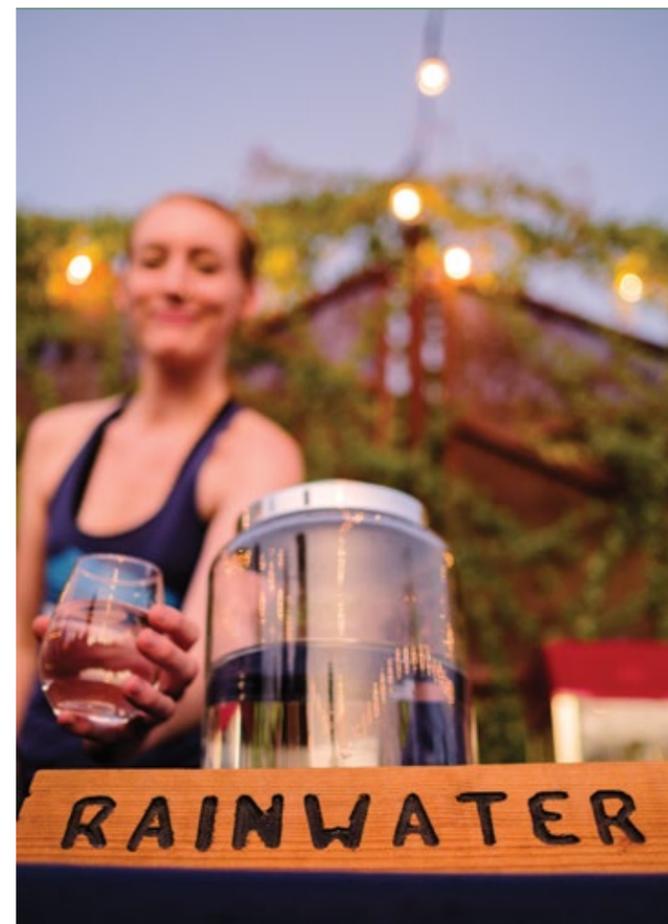
#### Universities

- Northern Arizona University
- University of Arizona



Monsoon Movie Night was a big hit at the Living Lab, with over 150 people enjoying short films about water harvesting, monsoons, and the Sonoran Desert.

## The Living Lab brings People of All Ages and Backgrounds to Learn About Hydro-Local Living



### Here's a snapshot of the people we trained, taught, and engaged at the Living Lab in 2022.

- 5 new docents prepared to be WMG ambassadors
- 14 University of Arizona interns worked alongside staff
- 57 green job professionals trained through the Water Harvesting Certification
- 127 people attended docent-led tours
- 464 kids and adults played and explored at Family Saturdays
- 854 people learned at our free classes, from water harvesting, to native and edible gardens, to composting and soil stewardship

Everyone who visits the Living Lab is offered rainwater to drink, collected and filtered on site.



## Growing the Water Harvesting Movement

### From Green Living Co-op to Build Your Own Basin & Beyond

Over the past couple of years, with the slowing down due to COVID and our organization's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion work, we've created space to reflect on where we can have the most significant impact in community water harvesting. We realized that although the number of homes wanting to bring water harvesting features to their landscape is increasing throughout southern Arizona, our highest service to the community comes from deepening our impact in under-resourced neighborhoods and with limited income families.

Too often water harvesting is seen as an expensive and resource-heavy endeavor. We want to help shift the water harvesting movement to be seen first and foremost as simple, inexpensive landscaping that can be done with local resources. To help make this shift, we have been developing our Build Your Own Basin (BYOB) program, based on easy, hands-on lessons for people to build their own rain garden at home paired with a take home BYOB kit. What started as a virtual workshop during COVID has evolved to variations of in-person workshops, including those designed for kids and neighborhood leaders. Our take home kit includes native shade trees, native shrubs and bunch grasses, mulch and wildflower seeds, along with our handy BYOB instructional zine.

Left: Women's Build Co-op workshop designed for women, trans, femme identifying participants and workshop instructors. Middle: Workshop participant picks out native plants for Build Your Own Basin kit. Right: Co-op members build basins to harvesting rainwater and grow native plants.

Last year, our Build Your Own Basin program started focusing on specific underserved, yet culturally-rich neighborhoods. Through this work we can offer our biggest strengths as an organization: engaging and educating individuals, empowering neighborhood leaders, and supporting community projects through leveraging partnerships and funding resources. We also started offering this program from our Living Lab as well as part of our Family Saturdays initiative.

By the end of 2022, we officially closed up shop for our Green Living Co-op, even though this program was still in high demand. This strategic decision has allowed us to focus our community water harvesting work in new ways, and we are excited to see this evolve in the next few years.

At the same time, we are so grateful for all we've accomplished together through the Green Living Co-op.

Over the past 14 years, we organized a whopping 463 Co-op workshops in Southern Arizona, and over 1,500 people showed up to support grassroots water harvesting projects! Volunteers collectively contributed 22,000 hours of sweat and shared labor to install rain gardens, greywater systems, rain tanks, and native and edible landscapes. Together,

we learned and built the hydro-local infrastructure for participants to steward local, renewable water instead of depleting the Colorado River or groundwater.

One of our true joys has been seeing the fruits of the Green Living Co-op in the form of dozens of community leaders, organizations, and water harvesting practitioners who have participated in the Green Living Co-op and are now out in the community, part of a bigger effort to create a hydro-local Arizona. The Green Living Co-op also inspired water harvesting practitioners in other communities across the West, to utilize similar barn-raising models.

The positive impact of the Green Living Co-op will continue to ripple out. And in the spirit of our Co-op slogan, we will continue to "do our labor with our neighbor" and expand community water harvesting in wonderful ways!

# Flow365

## Annual Flow Report Highlights

For the 2022 Water Year  
(October 2021 – September 2022)

To see the full Flow365 Annual Flow Report as well as our Flow Dashboard with live updates, visit [Watershedmg.org/Flow365](https://Watershedmg.org/Flow365).



**Agua Caliente Creek at Milagrosa Ln**  
**Total Days of Flow** 2022: 82 Days  
 2021: 43 Days



**Tanque Verde Creek: Wentworth Bosque**  
**Total Days of Flow** 2022: 276 Days  
 2021: 70 Days



**Bear Creek at Bear Canyon Trail Head**  
**Total Days of Flow** 2022: 90 days  
 2021: 160 days  
 2020: 78 days



**Rillito River at Craycroft Rd**  
**Total Days of Flow** 2022: 62 Days  
 2021: 83 Days



**Lower Sabino Creek at Wes Miller Park**  
**Total Days of Flow** 2022: 365 days  
 2021: 365 days  
 2020: 365 days



**Santa Cruz River at Starr Pass Blvd**  
 \*Flow primarily from recycled water  
**Total Days of Flow** 2022: 323 days  
 2021: 365 days

## 2022 flow days variable, however seasonal and perennial flows persist



By Lauren Monheim, River Run Network Program Manager

With all the news about the Colorado River shortage and drought, there's another story about our watersheds that needs to be told—the story of our local creeks and rivers. And our Flow365 monitors have made it possible to start to tell that story about how some of our rivers have started to flow more in recent years. While county agencies have flow gauges at some points across Tucson to be able to alert the public about flooding, the data our Flow365 volunteers have been collecting since 2016 paints a more complete picture by recording gentler flows and capturing how flow starts and stops at different times of year.

This data is critical to understand how our desert rivers respond to changes in precipitation and groundwater levels. It also helps us determine the impact of collective conservation actions on creek flows, as we strive towards our long-term goal of restoring Tucson's heritage of flowing creeks and rivers.

2022 was a below average rainfall year; however it followed a very wet 2021 monsoon season, with impacts on flow that persisted into the first half of the 2022 water year.

It took several years to build a large enough and consistent enough volunteer group to get the data we needed to share annual flow reports. In 2021 we published our first annual flow report, and in this year's report, we can make comparisons to 2021 and in some cases 2020 data.

With the data we've compiled so far, we can clearly see there are areas with year-round flow like Lower Sabino Creek, as well as areas with seasonal flows that are beginning to return, like Tanque Verde Creek.

Our gratitude goes out to the 75 Flow365 monitors who submitted over 2000 data points across the Tucson basin. If you're interested in joining the Flow365 monitoring team, email me at [lmonheim@watershedmg.org](mailto:lmonheim@watershedmg.org). Every monitor we can add gives us a more complete picture of our creeks and rivers, which makes good stewardship of them much more possible.

Want to ensure a sustainable water future for Southern Arizona while restoring our heritage of flowing desert rivers? Join the River Run Network at [Watershedmg.org/RRN](https://Watershedmg.org/RRN) and participate in our river stewardship and advocacy efforts.



From left to right: Intern Matthew Jensen and Sr. Project Specialist Jim Washburne work with volunteers and a boy scout troop to remove invasive Arundo donax from Tanque Verde Creek.



## Restoration Efforts in the Tanque Verde Creek

### Esfuerzos de la Restauración del Arroyo Tanque Verde

By **Matthew Jensen**, River Run Network Intern

Every day, I wake up, I go to class, go to work, and live my life. Every day, I drink lots of water because everyone needs water to live. When I was younger, it was easy to think that water was almost infinite. All I had to do was turn on the sink and there it was. Even now, it's hard to think that the necessities of our lives are in danger. But why? Right now, the Colorado River, which we and many others draw our water from, is at a dangerous low. In fact, Tucson has been at a tier two water shortage since August 2022.

That's why many of us have fears for the future of our water systems and their stability. But even though human action is a huge factor in overall water use, many other variables are at play too. Specifically, invasive plants like Arundo donax, which takes up 3-4 times more water than native species! Arundo is a tall, bamboo-like plant that is surprisingly labeled as a grass. Soaring to heights of twenty feet, this plant is massive and you can see how growing that tall in a year can take up a lot of water. In fact, it can grow up to 2.5 inches a day! This means that Arundo is really good at taking over wet spaces and killing native plants by taking their water and their space.

But there is hope! We at WMG have already removed 40 tons of Arundo thanks to our dedicated volunteers. With more help, we can eradicate Arundo in the Tanque Verde Creek in 3-5 years!

Although the water shortage we face is a big challenge, we can be a small part of that solution. We've seen water flow come back to areas we've cleared Arundo from. And we want you to be a part of that change. As part of my internship project, I'm out there almost every Saturday, so come join us! Help us conserve our water for the future.

Cada día, me levanto, voy a clases, voy a mi trabajo, y vivo mi vida. Y cada día, tomo mucha agua porque todos necesitamos agua para vivir. Cuando era niño, era fácil pensar que el agua era casi infinita, solo tenía que abrir el lavabo y allí estaba. Todavía hoy día, es difícil pensar que las necesidades de nuestras vidas están en peligro. ¿Por qué? Ahora, el Río Colorado, de donde nosotros y muchos otros sacamos nuestra agua, está peligrosamente vacío. De hecho, Tucson ha estado en una escasez de agua nivel dos hasta Agosto de 2022.

Es por esto que muchas personas temen por el futuro de nuestros sistemas del agua y su sustentabilidad. Aunque la acción humana es una gran parte del uso de agua total, hay otros factores en juego. Específicamente las plantas invasivas como Arundo donax, que toma de 3 a 4 veces más agua que las especies nativas. El Arundo es una planta alta, parecida al bambú, y sorprendentemente es un tipo de zacate. Crece hasta veinte pies (6 metros) de alto, su alto y rápido crecimiento es una de las razones por las cuales esta planta toma tanta agua. De hecho, ¡el Arundo puede crecer 2.5 pulgadas (6.35 centímetros) en un día! Esto significa que el Arundo es muy bueno para ocupar espacios húmedos y desplazar plantas nativas tomando su agua y su espacio.

¡Pero hay esperanza! Nosotros con WMG ya quitamos 40 toneladas (36,287 kilogramos) de Arundo en la temporada pasada (en primavera). Estamos agradecidos con nuestros dedicados voluntarios. Con más ayuda, ¡podemos erradicar todo el Arundo de la cuenca del Tanque Verde en 3 a 5 años!

Aunque la escasez de agua es un gran desafío, podemos ser una parte pequeña de la solución. Hemos visto que el flujo de agua regresa a las áreas en las que hemos erradicado Arundo. Y queremos que tu seas parte del cambio. Como parte de mi proyecto de pasantía con WMG es asistir a los eventos de restauración, estoy allí cada sábado. Ven y ayúdanos a conservar nuestra agua para el futuro.



WMG's goal is to completely eradicate invasive Arundo donax from Tanque Verde Creek in five years. Join our efforts at [Watershedmg.org/Arundo](https://watershedmg.org/Arundo).

1900

1905: Zero beavers. Beavers exterminated by trappers along the San Pedro in Arizona and Sonora, Mexico.



# The Facts about San Pedro Beavers

1950

1999: 16 beavers introduced to the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA) in Arizona.

2010: 100+ beavers estimated in SPRNCA.

2019: SPRNCA population collapses with very few beavers and dams seen. Accounts of beavers downstream and upstream in Mexico.

2020: 12-15 beavers estimated in SPRNCA by community-led population survey.

2021: 16-20 beavers in the SPRNCA and 20-30 in Sonora area estimated through WMG survey

2000



WMG interns and staff get trained to lead beaver survey groups along the San Pedro River. Left to right: Andrea Troyer, River Run Network Coordinator; Lauren Monheim, River Run Network Program Manager; Trent Blomberg, Conservation Biology Intern; Matthew Jensen & Julia Olsen, River Run Network interns



Looking up through a vent hole in a beaver lodge. Beavers build lodges in the river banks along the San Pedro River.



Fresh beaver chews are recorded by community science volunteers in WMG's Survey123 app.

## BINATIONAL BEAVER SURVEY COLLABORATION CONTINUES

### 120 people help count San Pedro River beavers

By **Trent Blomberg**, Conservation Biology Intern

WMG's Release the Beavers campaign, part of the River Run Network, aims to bring beavers back to southern Arizona. Beavers are critical to restoring local watersheds because they help promote healthy desert creeks and rivers by building dams that slow down creek and river flow, a process that helps flowing water sink into the aquifer below and recharges groundwater. A key activity of the campaign is WMG's annual binational beaver surveys along the San Pedro River in the U.S. and Mexico. Monitoring current beaver populations allows us to understand their current and potential future impact on rehydrating watersheds.

Our 2nd annual beaver survey covered approximately the same area as 2021 and was done through five different survey days in November 2022 and February 2023. More than 100 WMG staff, interns, and volunteers surveyed approximately 40 miles of riparian areas within the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA) from the U.S.-Mexico border to St. David, AZ. The Mexico survey was done with about 20 participants from a collaboration of organizations including WMG, Sonora based non-profits Profauna and Naturalia, the Mexican governmental agency Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas (CONANP), Borderlands Restoration Network, and the National Park Service. The surveys involved hiking along the river to search and record evidence of beaver activity, including beaver tracks, tree chews, dams, and lodges.

Initial results indicate a consistent beaver population in Mexico compared to last year but a slight decline in the beaver population in the U.S. This is troubling news for the U.S. population, which has been in decline since sometime after 2010. WMG will continue to advocate for additional beaver reintroductions in southern Arizona and will use the results of this year's survey to highlight that need.

## Continúa la colaboración con el Monitoreo Binacional de Castores

### 120 personas ayudan a contar castores del Río San Pedro

La campaña Release the Beavers de WMG, que es parte de La Red del Río, tiene como objetivo traer de vuelta a los castores al sur de Arizona. Los castores son fundamentales para restaurar las cuencas hidrográficas locales porque ayudan a promover la salud de los arroyos y ríos del desierto al construir represas que ralentizan el flujo de arroyos y ríos, un proceso que ayuda a que el agua fluya hacia el acuífero y recarga el agua subterránea. Una actividad clave de esta campaña es el monitoreo binacional de castores de WMG que se hace cada año a lo largo del Río San Pedro en E.U.A. y México. El monitoreo de las poblaciones actuales de castores nos permite comprender la salud de su población y abogar por más esfuerzos de restauración que incluyen castores en las cuencas binacionales de San Pedro y Santa Cruz.

Nuestro 2do monitoreo anual de castores cubrió aproximadamente la misma área que en el 2021 y se realizó durante cinco días en noviembre de 2022 y febrero de 2023. Más de 100 empleados, pasantes y voluntarios de WMG recorrieron aproximadamente 40 millas en áreas ribereñas dentro de San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA) desde la frontera de E.U.A. y México hasta St. David, AZ. El monitoreo en México se realizó con unos 20 participantes, gracias a la colaboración de organizaciones interesadas en los castores, incluidas WMG, dos organizaciones sin fines de lucro con sede en Sonora: PROFAUNA y Naturalia, la agencia gubernamental mexicana Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas (CONANP), Borderlands Restoration Network, Sky Island Alliance, el Servicio de Parques Nacionales de E.U.A., así como otros voluntarios. Los monitoreos incluyeron caminatas a lugares remotos y de difícil acceso, a lo largo del Río San Pedro y algunos de sus tributarios para buscar y registrar evidencia de actividad de castores como huellas, árboles masticados, represas y madrigueras.

Los resultados iniciales indican una población constante de castores en México en comparación con el año pasado, pero una ligera disminución en la población de castores en los E.U.A. Esta es una noticia preocupante para la población de los E.U.A., ya que ha ido en declive desde el 2010. WMG continuará abogando por adicional reintroduccion de castores en el sur de Arizona y utilizará los resultados de la encuesta de este año para resaltar esa necesidad.

A celebratory moment with capital donors and project funder Arizona Lottery at our Learning Center Construction Showcase on March 16th, 2023.



## WMG's Hydro-Local Classroom Needs Your Support

### Help raise the final \$78,000 to complete the Learning Center

### Update:

To complete this project, we need additional support to raise the final \$78,000

After two years of planning and getting donor support, the construction of the Learning Center began in January at the Living Lab. Our gratitude goes out to the 63 donors who have given a collective \$446,000 towards our \$525,000 goal. To complete this project, we need additional donor support to raise the final \$78,000.

Since inheriting the Dodge Blvd. property in 2012 from donor Marguerite Fisher, Watershed Management Group staff, donors, and volunteers have invested in creating the Living Lab as a community hub and a leading demonstration site of watershed resilience. The Living Lab features water harvesting, native habitat, food forests, passive solar energy, and zero waste systems... culminating in a campus primarily sustained by rainwater, even for drinking!

Thousands of people visit WMG's Living Lab and Learning Center annually, participating in tours, workshops, family programs, green job trainings, and social events. They leave seeing it's possible to meet all our water needs with local, renewable water supplies, while giving back and caring for our desert home.

However, the demand for our services has outpaced our resources and infrastructure. Many of our programs require a large, multi-purpose space that we can operate with larger groups, rain or shine, and in the winter and hot summer months. **With increasing water shortages and climate impacts in the Southwest, it's more important than ever to have adequate space to teach about hydro-local water solutions.**

With your gift to the Learning Center, we can scale up our impact and accommodate regular school groups, family activities, collaborations, and the unique needs of today's in-person and virtual classes.

Learn more and make your gift at [Watershedmg.org/Learning Center](https://Watershedmg.org/LearningCenter).



## Legacy Giving: Free Will

For twenty years, WMG has been developing community-based solutions to ensure the long-term prosperity of people and health of the environment. Your support helps shift our communities from being water consumers to water stewards, and we're so grateful to have you with us.

As we envision a world where the relationship between communities and the environment creates prosperity for all, we're excited to announce a new partnership that allows our entire community to build security for all they love! We're partnering with FreeWill: a free online resource that can help you create or update your will in just 20 minutes.

We know that will-writing can be expensive and overwhelming. But we believe that every challenge has a solution, so that's why we are working with FreeWill: a group of 200+ lawyers, designers, engineers, nonprofit professionals, and others committed to making estate planning more accessible.

We're happy to share the FreeWill resource with our community. [Visit Freewill.com/WMG](https://Freewill.com/WMG) to access this free resource and to create a will and document your wishes. There you can even make an optional gift in your will to WMG, toward restoring and protecting the waters we care about and ensuring a healthy water future.

## 2022 Funders, Sponsors, and Partners

### Grant and Foundation Funding

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality  
 Arizona Lottery  
 Arizona State Forestry Division  
 Baird Foundation  
 City of Tucson - Tucson Water  
 Community Foundation of Southern Arizona  
 Desert Diamond Casino  
 EPCOR  
 Freeport McMoRan, Inc.  
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 Southwestern Foundation for Education and Historical Preservation  
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 Garver, LLC  
 Hidden Valley Homeowner's Association of Tucson  
 HomeGo  
 KXCI Community Radio  
 The Law Offices of John Phebus  
 Nature Conservancy  
 Net Zero Solar LLC  
 Originate Natural Building Materials  
 Phoenix Accident and Injury Law Firm  
 Productive Patches LLC  
 Salt River Project  
 Sendero Medicine, PLLC  
 Sierra Club - Grand Canyon Chapter  
 Smiling Dog Landscapes  
 Solar United Neighbors of Arizona  
 Southwest Gas  
 Stewart Law Group

Tank's Green Stuff  
 Technicians for Sustainability  
 Texas Instruments  
 Tierra Buena Home & Garden  
 Westgate Garden Design  
 Whisky Del Bac  
 Why I Love Where I Live

### Tucson Region Partners

Amphitheater High School  
 Arizona Conservation Corps  
 Arizona Department of Environmental Quality  
 Arizona Game and Fish Department, Tucson Aquatic Wildlife Program  
 Arizona Master Naturalist Association  
 Arizona Project Wet  
 Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum  
 Barrio Kroeger Lane  
 BICAS  
 Borderlands Restoration Network  
 Bureau of Land Management  
 CK Blueshift  
 Ciénega Watershed Partnership  
 City of South Tucson  
 City of Tucson Department of Transportation & Mobility  
 City of Tucson Parks and Recreation  
 City of Tucson, Ward 3 Council Office  
 City of Tucson, Ward 6 Council Office  
 Coder Dojo  
 Community Gardens of Tucson  
 Crafting Kind Kids  
 Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health  
 Earth Grant  
 Favor Celestial  
 Flowing Wells Neighborhood Association  
 Freeport-McMoRan Sierrita Operations  
 Girl Scouts of Southern Arizona  
 John E. White Elementary School  
 Laguna Elementary School  
 Local First Arizona  
 Mission Gardens  
 National Forests Foundation  
 National Park Service - Saguaro National Park  
 National Phenology Network  
 New Hope Church  
 Palo Verde Neighborhood Association  
 Pima Association of Governments  
 Pima County Cooperative Extension, University of Arizona  
 Pima County Libraries  
 Pima County Native Plant Nursery  
 Pima County Office of Sustainability & Conservation  
 Pima County Regional Flood Control District  
 Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Dept.  
 Pueblo High School

San Xavier District of the Tohono O'odham Nation  
 Satori Charter School  
 Sky Island Alliance  
 Sonoran Environmental Research Institute (SERI)  
 Sonoran Institute  
 St. Cyril of Alexandria Catholic School  
 Sunnyside High School  
 Sustainable Tucson  
 Tanks Green Stuff  
 The Drawing Studio  
 The Fox Theater  
 The Garden Kitchen  
 The Sierra Club - Grand Canyon Chapter  
 Tinkergarten  
 Tohono Chul  
 Tucson Audobon Society  
 Tucson Water Department  
 U.S. Forest Service, Coronado National Forest Catalina District  
 U.S. Forest Service, International Programs  
 University of Arizona  
 Bureau of Applied Research in Anthropology  
 College of Education  
 School of Natural Resources & the Environment  
 Student Engagement & Career Services  
 Water Resources Research Center  
 Wakefield Middle School  
 YWCA House of Neighborly Service

### Phoenix Region Partners

Arizona Sustainability Alliance  
 City of Glendale  
 City of Surprise  
 Eighty Eight Acres  
 EPCOR  
 Fountain Hills Community Garden  
 Four Peaks Brewery  
 The Nature Conservancy - Phoenix  
 Trees Matter

### Mexico Partners

EJIDOS - San Pedro Watershed  
 Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas (CONANP)  
 Naturalia A.C.  
 Protección de la Fauna Mexicana A.C. (PROFAUNA)  
 Parroquia de Guadalupe en Cananea

### Other Partners

Americorps  
 Arizona State University  
 Groundwork Denver

## 2022 Financial Report

### Revenue and Support

Donations	396,643
Capital Donations Learning Center	200,405
Program Income	341,263
Grants	299,835
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,238,145</b>

### Expenses

#### Program Services

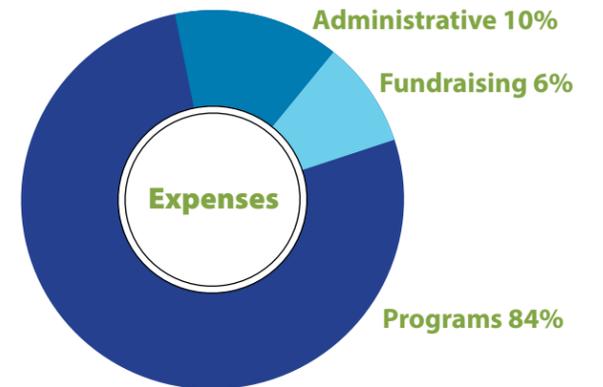
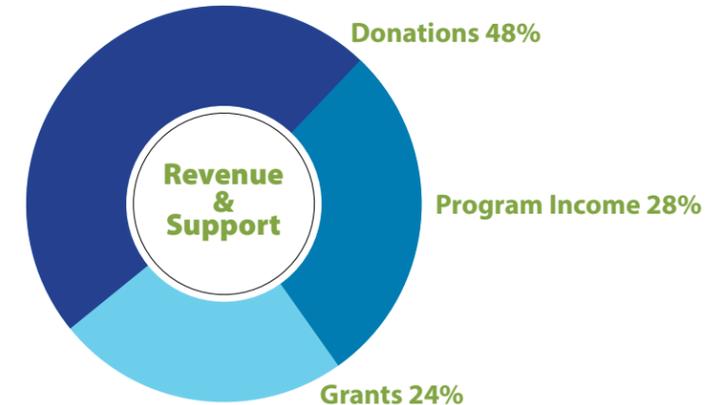
Community Conservation (including educational projects at homes, schools, & neighborhoods + green job training & consulting)	356,050
Living Lab & Learning Center: Programmatic expense (including intern & docent program, Family Saturdays, tours, and educational workshops)	137,203
Living Lab & Learning Center: Learning Center Design & Construction	32,350
River Run Network (including education, restoration, watershed planning & policy)	340,004
Watershed Education Outreach	131,055
<b>Total Program Services</b>	<b>\$996,661</b>

#### Supporting services

Administrative	119,224
Development	76,684
<b>Total Supporting Services</b>	<b>\$195,908</b>

### Total Expenses

**\$1,192,569**



Interns and docents-in-training enjoy a green infrastructure bike tour in the Palo Verde neighborhood near the Living Lab. WMG now offers paid internships thanks to new grant funding and partnership with the University of Arizona, enabling limited income students to participate.



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## Give \$20/month for WMG's 20th!

In honor of WMG's 20-year anniversary, go hydro-local with a monthly gift.

**\$20/month:** Funds our Living Lab and Learning Center educational programs

**\$50/month:** Supports WMG's hydro-local policy and planning work

**\$84/month:** Funds River Run Netw Visit [Watershedmg.org/Give](http://Watershedmg.org/Give) ork to restore flowing desert rivers and joins our major giving Stewardship Circle

Visit [Watershedmg.org/Give](http://Watershedmg.org/Give)

