



## FIND YOUR WASH AND WATERSHED!

Use this map to find the wash closest to where you live, and the name of the watershed you live in.

### Some Important Questions...

#### What is a wash?

A wash, also known as an arroyo, is a dry stream that flows only seasonally.

#### Why are washes important?

Washes in Tucson provide many important services - wildlife habitat, recreation, stormwater conveyance (flood control), and groundwater recharge. Some washes have been covered with concrete or asphalt, but many remain in more natural states, providing pockets of native habitat even in the middle of the City. Many people are interested in learning what they can do help restore the health of our urban washes. The first step is finding them!

#### What is a watershed?

A watershed is an area of land that drains to a common waterway - such as a river, lake, or even a wash that is dry most of the year.

#### Why are watersheds important?

Watersheds can help us make connections - between each other, and between ourselves and our environment. Within a watershed, water creates many linkages:

##### Upstream/Downstream -

Whatever we do in upland areas - whether we deposit pollutants (like fertilizers, pesticides, oil, pet waste, etc.) or cause soil erosion - affects everything downstream. These pollutants collect in our washes and waterways, damaging plants and wildlife and polluting groundwater.

##### Surface/Ground Water -

Did you know that as recently as the early 1900's the Santa Cruz River used to run above ground through Tucson? When groundwater pumping brings the water table too low, surface streams dry up.

##### Shared interests -

We all need clean water and a healthy environment. Watersheds unify diverse groups of people by bringing together those who are interested in improving the management of their shared natural resources.

## What is Riparian Vegetation & Habitat?

Plant communities occurring in association with any spring, cienega, lake, watercourse, river, stream, creek, wash, arroyo, or other body of water, either surface or subsurface, or channel having banks and bed through which waters flow at least periodically.

### Vegetation Classifications:

#### Hydoriparian

Riparian plant communities generally associated with perennial watercourses where plant species such as cottonwood and willow are present.

#### Mesoriparian

Riparian habitats generally associated with perennial or intermittent watercourses or shallow ground water. Plant communities may be dominated by species that are also found in drier habitats.

#### Xeroriparian

Riparian habitat generally associated with an ephemeral water supply. These communities typically contain plant species also found in upland habitats, however, these plants are typically larger and/or occur at higher densities than adjacent uplands.

- Xeroriparian A - Most dense Xeroriparian subcategory
- Xeroriparian B - Moderately dense Xeroriparian subcategory
- Xeroriparian C - Less dense Xeroriparian subcategory
- Xeroriparian D - Xeroriparian habitat with sparse vegetation
- Hydro-Mesoriparian - Areas of surface water or areas with shallow ground water. Cottonwoods and willows are characteristic vegetation.
- Important Riparian Areas - Areas adjacent to hydro-mesoriparian areas. Mesquite bosques are characteristic vegetation.

- Major Streets
- Named Washes
- Unnamed Washes
- Watershed Boundary



TerraSystems Southwest and the Watershed Management Group, Inc. would like to thank Pima County Department of Transportation Geographic Information Services Division and the City of Tucson Department of Transportation for graciously providing the datasets displayed on this map. Riparian definitions taken from the Pima County Department of Transportation and Flood Control District document entitled "Regulated Riparian Habitat Mitigation Standards and Implementation Guidelines", 7/2001.

### Named Tucson Basin Watersheds

- |                           |                           |                                  |                         |                                  |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. 18th Street Wash       | 17. Creekside Wash        | 33. Grant Road Wash              | 49. Race Track Wash     | 65. Trails End Wash              |
| 2. A Mtn Detention        | 18. Cushing Street Wash   | 34. Guillermo Wash               | 50. Reyes Wash          | 66. Tucson Arroyo                |
| 3. Agua Caliente          | 19. Del Cerro Wash        | 35. Hidden Hills Wash            | 51. Robb Wash           | 67. Tucson General Wash          |
| 4. Airport Wash           | 20. Downtown Watershed    | 36. Hughes Wash                  | 52. Rodeo Wash          | 68. Udall Park Wash              |
| 5. Alamo Wash             | 21. Earp Wash             | 37. Idle Hour Wash               | 53. Roller Coaster Wash | 69. Valencia Wash                |
| 6. Alvernon Wash          | 22. Eastview Wash         | 38. Irvington (Michigan) Wash    | 54. Rose Hill Wash      | 70. Valley View Wash             |
| 7. Atterbury Wash         | 23. El Vado Wash          | 39. Julian Wash                  | 55. Rolling Hills Wash  | 71. Ventana Canyon Wash          |
| 8. Bronx Wash             | 24. Escalante Wash        | 40. Kreuger Wash                 | 56. Sabino Creek Wash   | 72. Villa Entrada Wash           |
| 9. Camino de Oeste Wash   | 25. Este Wash             | 41. Los Reales Diversion Channel | 57. Ruthrauff Wash      | 73. WBSCR Diversion Channel      |
| 10. Camino Real Wash      | 26. Fahringer Wash        | 42. Mesquite Ranch Wash          | 58. Sabino Wash         | 74. West Branch Santa Cruz River |
| 11. Campbell Wash         | 27. Finger Rock Wash      | 43. Mission View Wash            | 59. Santa Clara Wash    | 75. West University Wash         |
| 12. Casas Adobes Wash     | 28. First Avenue Wash     | 44. Nanini Wash                  | 60. Silvercreek Wash    | 76. Wetmore Wash                 |
| 13. Christmas Wash        | 29. Fletcha Caida Wash    | 45. North Mountain Ave. Wash     | 61. Spanish Trail Wash  | 77. Wrightstown Wash             |
| 14. Christopher City Wash | 30. Flowing Wells Wash    | 46. Owen Park Wash               | 62. Stone Avenue Wash   | 78. Wyoming Wash                 |
| 15. Civano Wash           | 31. Fortyniners Wash      | 47. Pegler Wash                  | 63. Swan Road Wash      |                                  |
| 16. Craycroft Wash        | 32. Friendly Village Wash | 48. Pima Wash                    | 64. Sweetwater Wash     |                                  |

**About Watershed Management Group:**  
*The mission of the Watershed Management Group, Inc. a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, is to improve rural and urban livelihoods by integrating community development and conservation. We provide local residents and community groups with the knowledge and skills necessary to sustainably manage their natural resources.*

