

## HISTORY OF THE FACILITY | EL RIO OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

### BRIEF TIMELINE OF THE EL RIO SITE

**c. 2100 B.C.:** Marana's earliest farmers, the Hohokam field begin tilling the soil along the Santa Cruz River. At Las Capas, just a few miles south of El Rio Preserve, archaeologists have unearthed some of the oldest irrigation canals in North America, the earliest dating to 1250 B.C.

**1775 A.D.:** Juan Bautista de Anza leads his expedition along the Santa Cruz River, camping for one night at Llano del Azotado (present day El Rio Preserve).

**2003:** The Town of Marana purchases the El Rio Preserve land from Arizona Department of Transportation.

**2014:** A flood event breaches the non-engineered berm between El Rio Preserve and the Santa Cruz River.

**2015:** The Town of Marana designates the area as El Rio Preserve under the administration of the Town's Parks and Recreation department.

**2016:** A second flood event breaches the restored berm.

**2019:** The Observation Deck was officially opened.

**2020:** The El Rio Preserve Bank Protection Project was completed.