



# Friends of the Rio de Flag

Photo: Volunteers with TCC Verizon remove invasive weeds and plant native species in a restoration event at Picture Canyon, July 2016



## Annual Report 2016

## OUR GOAL

The Friends of the Rio de Flag's goal is to protect, restore, clean up and improve the Rio de Flag and its tributaries to maximize their beauty, educational, recreational, and natural resource values, including the riparian habitats they provide.



We promote the Rio de Flag's natural stream system as a unique and valuable natural resource, an asset, and amenity to the City of Flagstaff and the surrounding community.



Since 2010, Friends of the Rio had **over 200 members**



Free monthly presentations have helped **broaden the community's understanding of and engagement in the watershed**



Over 500 volunteer hours **in 2016**

In 2010, a group of conservationists, scientists, concerned citizens, and local government representatives interested in raising awareness about the Rio de Flag Watershed formed the Friends of the Rio de Flag (FoRio). Ongoing partnerships and collaborative efforts with the City of Flagstaff, Coconino County, and Willow Bend Environmental Education Center, among others, allow FoRio to include a diversity of perspectives in watershed management, education, and planning activities.

## OUR MISSION



# ABOUT US

The Friends of the Rio de Flag (FoRio) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit comprised of individuals and organizations that support the preservation and restoration of the natural beauty and beneficial functions of the Rio de Flag stream channel.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Richard Miller, *President*
- Deb Noel, *Vice President*
- Tom Bean, *Treasurer*
- Malcolm Alter, *Director*
- Bryan Bates, *Director*
- Kathy Flaccus, *Director*
- Hannah Griscom, *Director*
- Allen Haden, *Director*

*"I am continuously impressed by the diversity of skills and motivation offered by this Board which are key in successful planning efforts that addressing complex socioecological issues within the watershed."*  
-Rick Miller, Board President

## AMERICORPS STEM VISTA MEMBER

Chelsea Silva explains plant data collection to students during a collaborative BioBlitz at Frances Short Pond, September 27th, 2016



In July 2016, we brought on Chelsea Silva as a part-time AmeriCorps STEM VISTA member. In her shared position with the City of Flagstaff Sustainability Section, Chelsea is fundraising for the Friends of the Rio as well as managing and expanding the Adopt-the-Rio de Flag Stewardship program. We are excited to have Chelsea on board as she builds capacity of the organization and conducts outreach to schools through the Adopt program and to the broader community.

# 2016 HIGHLIGHTS



"The Adopt-the-Rio program gives my students a unique opportunity to explore the natural world while simultaneously giving back to our community through stewardship."

- 4th Grade Teacher, Flagstaff Unified School District

"Friends of the Rio successfully blends avocation with education so their voice for the Rio reaches our legislators as well as our children as they learn about this important riparian ecosystem and its watershed through field trips and educational programming. FoRio is truly a full community organization."

- Mindy Bell, STEM City and July 2016 Friends of the Rio guest speaker



Volunteers clean out vegetation and debris to maintain channel at 2016 Make a Difference Day



Temple in the Pines collect 29 bags of trash and recycling at Wildcat Reach in April 2016

## Summary of Accomplishments

- Over 500 volunteer hours completed
- Hired an AmeriCorps VISTA member with donations from membership
- Six restoration events organized and completed
- Participation six in local conservation and science-focused events
- Five schools enrolled in the Adopt-the-Rio de Flag Stewardship program
- Arizona Community Foundation (ACF) grant awarded



Cub Scout Pack 112 and American Heritage Girls group 112 with adult leaders at 2016 Make a Difference Day



Rio de Flag flooding in Southside will be a major focus of surveys and interviews to be conducted in 2017 using ACF grant funds

# OUR PLANS


Over the next year, we will focus our efforts on developing a watershed plan for the Rio de Flag. We will integrate community input and engage a diversity of stakeholders in developing a robust plan that addresses important socioecological needs of our watershed. At the same time, we will expand the Rio de Flag Adopt program to involve more students in stewardship and citizen science projects along the Rio.





## Watershed Planning


We aim to collaborate with multiple stakeholders including the City of Flagstaff, Coconino County, and others in developing a Rio de Flag Watershed Plan. We will seek funding through public, private, and governmental entities to support the planning process.

## UPCOMING

 1/5/17: Free membership meeting at 6pm, Montoya Community Center, 245 N Thorpe Rd




 1/16/17: Board of Directors meeting, 5:30pm

 January 2017: apply for two funding opportunities to support watershed planning and restoration

 February 2017: Begin surveying Flagstaff residents, especially in the Southside neighborhood, to inform watershed plan using ACF funds



## Other Key Foci

-  Fundraising for watershed planning and general operating budget
-  Engagement in Low Impact Development discussions at City and County level
-  Expanding the Adopt-the-Rio program to involve more schools

## CONTACT US



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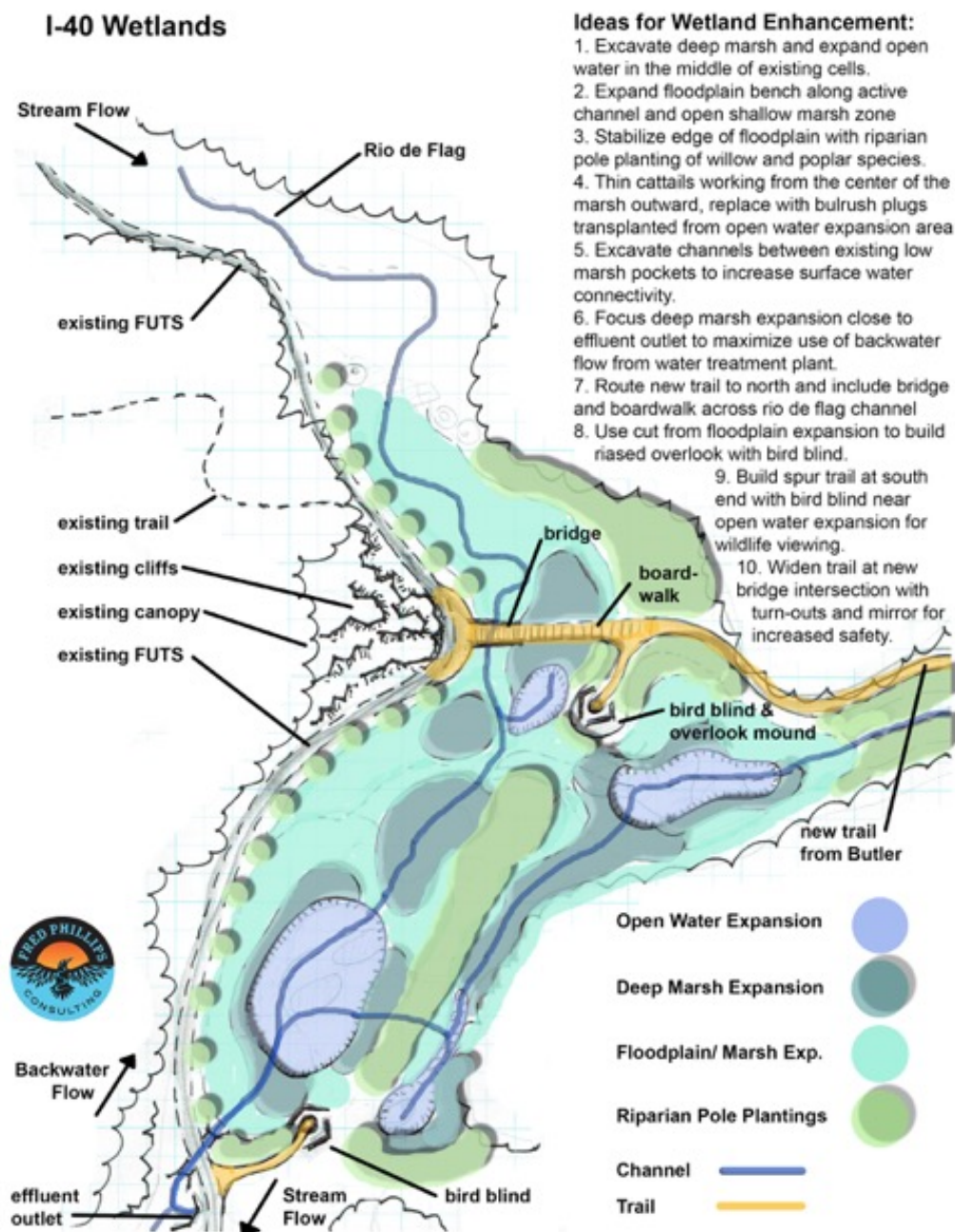
[facebook.com/Friends-of-the-Rio-de-Flag](https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-the-Rio-de-Flag)

# SUPPLEMENTAL DOCUMENTS

## I-40 Wetlands Survey

On July 12, 2016 personnel from Fred Phillips Consulting graciously volunteered their time to survey and brainstorm ideas for enhancing the I-40 wetlands area along the FUTS. Biologists and landscape architects from this award winning, local firm spent their time assessing resources and providing a preliminary sketch of how things might be better for this heavily used area. The materials they provided are greatly appreciated and provide us all with a place to begin the conversation on how we want this area to look and perform.

***Many thanks to these volunteers!***



# Financial Report

Our financial information is entered and tracked in Quickbooks with advice from a professional CPA and board oversight. The information presented below is on a cash basis and is unaudited.

## Friends of the Rio de Flag Profit and Loss Standard January through December 2016

	<u>Jan - Dec '16</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Projects	
Watershed Plan/Grant	3,000.00
Watershed Plan/Donati...	750.00
Picture Canyon	<u>1,200.00</u>
Total Projects	4,950.00
Donations	
TCC Verizon	859.00
Website Online Donati...	72.75
Public Meeting	165.00
Member	<u>250.00</u>
Total Donations	<u>1,346.75</u>
Total Income	6,296.75
Expense	
Americorps Volunteer	3,000.00
Projects	
Picture Canyon	<u>1,200.00</u>
Total Projects	1,200.00
Special Events Expenses	45.00
PO Box	82.00
Website	573.40
Room Permit	65.10
Operations	
Printing	<u>28.38</u>
Total Operations	<u>28.38</u>
Total Expense	<u>4,993.88</u>
Net Ordinary Income	1,302.87
Other Income/Expense	
Other Income	
Interest	<u>1.15</u>
Total Other Income	<u>1.15</u>
Net Other Income	<u>1.15</u>
Net Income	<u><u>1,304.02</u></u>

Footnote: Total donated volunteer hours = 521; At, \$23.00/hour, these hours amount to \$11,983 donated. This valuation is not included in our financial report.

## Friends of the Rio de Flag Balance Sheet Standard As of December 12, 2016

	<u>Dec 12, '16</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
National Bank of Ariz...	<u>4,803.10</u>
Total Checking/Savings	<u>4,803.10</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>4,803.10</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>4,803.10</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Retained Earnings	3,499.08
Net Income	<u>1,304.02</u>
Total Equity	<u>4,803.10</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQU...	<u><u>4,803.10</u></u>