

Tres Rios Goes Green on St. Patrick's Day!

Imagine a day at the river. You take the family out for a day of canoeing, birding and fishing. A great blue heron skulks in the swallows, perhaps jealous of the fish you just snagged from the river. Next it is a canoe, as you float on the water – a large osprey soars over head.

Join us for the Fifth Annual Tres Rios Nature and Earth Festival – this free event is better than every! Over 6,000 members of the public participated last year with great feedback – like...“I never knew the river was here!” This year boasts great educational exhibits, a fun nature talk series, a dynamic children's area and much more! It is exciting event one of the signature events for the Southwest Valley!

The location, is on the confluence of the Salt and Gila rivers in Avondale and adjacent to Phoenix International Raceway. This property, the Base and Meridian Wildlife Area, is managed by the Arizona Game and Fish Department as an official urban wildlife area - and YES it is in the west valley!. This location is a refuge from the hustle and bustle of urban life – but it is far from calm. Located at the confluence of the Salt and Gila Rivers, this riparian habitat is home to over 140 species of birds and a variety of mammals, fish, reptiles and amphibians. It is a hidden treasure in our community.

The Festival celebrates the rivers, wildlife, outdoors, heritage of the area and is an outstanding family outdoor event. Festival hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday - March 15-16. Admission is free.

Come listen to talks by experts about wildlife, the outdoors and area history. There is a beginner's bird program and walk to nearby wildlife-viewing areas. Explore booths of wildlife and conservation organizations and shop at our farmers' market. Discover how Luke Air Force Base is making a difference as a leader in environmental projects. Local entertainers will perform and a diverse food menu is available.

Children have even more to look forward to. The extensive children's area has hands-on crafts, live wildlife displays, activities, and storytelling. The fishing clinic and canoe rides are a must do at the festival!

The event at Base and Meridian Wildlife Area is located adjacent to the Phoenix International Raceway in Avondale, five miles south of I-10 on Avondale Boulevard. Visit www.tresriosnaturefestival.com or call (623)204-2130.