HUMAN / NATURE INTERFACE

BALANCING HABITATS ALONG THE COLORADO RIVER CORRIDOR
The success of the agricultural industry is due largely to the ease of obtaining water from the Colorado. The Palo Verde Diversion Dam (pictured above) diverts river water into a main canal where it is dispersed into a network of canals. Using only gravity, seasonal crops are flood-irrigated due to a 70 ft loss in elevation over the 32 mile stretch of the valley. This system is managed and monitored by the Palo Verde Irrigation District and the Bureau of Reclamation, respectively.

Blythe, California, surrounded by the Palo Verde Valley, is an important agricultural center in the Southwest and the halfway point between Phoenix, Arizona and Los Angeles. Years of water depletion for agricultural and municipal use have left the river corridor severely altered, threatening plant and wildlife habitat. Various efforts are underway to restore natural processes to this region, including the Palo Verde Ecological Reserve north of Blythe, and the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge to the south.

A closer look at restoration efforts underway in the area. The Palo Verde Ecological Reserve and Cibola National Wildlife Refuge are current projects in the region converting agricultural fields to riparian re-vegetation zones that mimic what once grew in the Colorado River’s flood plain, restoring habitat for native wildlife. Existing canals used for irrigation now irrigate these new habitats.
Natural Systems Revitalization

Site Master Plan

SITE

MASTER PLAN

- Trans
- City Site Plan
- Bridge / Dam
- Bike Path Center
- Ecological Reserve
- Ecological Reserve
- Residential (preserved)
- Colorado River
- Sandspit
- Wetlands
- Irrigation Canal
- Wright City Limits
- Parkway
- Inter

River Wetland Dock: Appreciation and respect for natural processes.
**THE BLYTHE CONNECTION:** Blythe's close proximity to the site demands a dedicated network of bike paths connecting them. Local residents can use any number of paths that lead them easily and safely to various locations within the site from the city's main commercial center, parks and schools. The system will revitalize the community, foster physical recreation and promote use of the site.

**RIVER LEVEE ROAD TRAIL:** Existing levee maintenance roads double as trails that lead users through expanded riparian re-vegetation dotted with educational signage teaching about Colorado River ecological issues.

**EXISTING WETLANDS:** Existing wetlands are remediated and enhanced with bridge paths, allowing users closer access to the river’s edge.

**PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE BRIDGE:** A highly visible link between the northern and southern halves of the expansive site.