

**NEWS****FICO sets meetings on development plans**[Print Page](#)**By Philip Franchine**www.sahuaritasun.com

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Farmers Investment Co. next week will hold three public meetings to explain how it plans to enhance the Santa Cruz River as it develops its pecan groves over the next 50 years.

FICO says it wants to develop a master-planned community that will integrate work and recreation opportunities; will connect neighborhoods with trails, encourage bicycling and walking as alternatives to automobiles; and will strive to decentralize parks, putting one within a quarter-mile of every resident, while centralizing schools and community focal points.

More details will be presented this time around than in an earlier round of presentations, including the plan's guiding principles; proposed land uses, including river park and open space, residential neighborhoods, employment areas, and mixed-use activity centers; village community concepts, and river enhancement concepts.

The company owns about 7,000 acres of pecan groves and 12 miles of riverfront.

The first meeting will be from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Nov. 9 at the Sahuarita school district auditorium, 350 W. Sahuarita Road, followed by two meetings for specialized audiences: the Green Valley Community Coordinating Council at 10 a.m. on Nov. 10 at Desert Hills Social Center, 2980 S. Camino del Sol, and for the Quail Creek HOA at 2 p.m. on Nov. 10 at the Madera Clubhouse in Quail Creek.

FICO expects to submit its Sahuarita Farms Land/River Master Plan to town planning officials in early 2011 and is sharing aspects of the plan now in order to obtain public reaction.

FICO says its plan, which is aimed at a 40- to 50-year time frame, aligns with the town and Pima County's general growth plans and a town plan called the Sahuarita Town Center & Santa Cruz River Corridor Subarea Plan, which emphasizes the value of the river and its heritage. That plan will be discussed Monday night at the Sahuarita Town Council meeting.

About 6,000 acres of FICO land is within Sahuarita and 1,000 is in Green Valley, which is unincorporated, and that land is under Pima County's planning jurisdiction.

Since the last round of public meetings, FICO has been meeting with community and interest groups. After the presentation, FICO planners will set up poster boards with plan details and will be available to answer questions.

Those planning to attend are asked to RSVP at 520-305-3011 or info@sahuaritafarms.com to ensure adequate seating. For more information, check www.sahuaritafarms.com.

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