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## **\$25,000 ADEQ Water Quality Improvement Grant to Protect Flagstaff Pond from Dog Park Runoff**

PHOENIX (June 18, 2009) – Francis Short Pond, the only permanent body of water in Flagstaff, will be protected from contamination by storm water runoff from an adjoining dog park under a \$25,164 Water Quality Improvement Grant to the city from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality.

The pond and park are both part of Flagstaff's Thorpe Park and the dog park is run by a local volunteer group called FlagPal. In recent years the pond has shown elevated levels of fecal coliform bacteria and other contaminants, washed into it from the nearby dog park by rain and melting snow. The pond, regularly stocked by the Arizona Game and Fish Department, has been the site of fish kills for the past several springs.

Under the grant, city personnel and volunteers will plant vegetation and build structures to filter out the waste. In addition, grade-school students and other members of the community will periodically test the pond for pollutants.

“This project will also be a showcase for best management practices, including the use of native and low-water plants,” said ADEQ Acting Director Patrick J. Cunningham. “ADEQ is pleased to fund this project and protect the pond, which is enjoyed by thousands of Flagstaff residents.”

Matching funds of \$22,522 will be provided by the City of Flagstaff. ADEQ's Water Quality Improvement Grant program is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the Clean Water Act.

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