

October 2025

Quarterly Newsletter

A FIREWISE COMMUNITY



IRONWOOD VILLAGE

A Message from Your HOA President

Happy Fall to you all. I'm pleased to report that all is well in Ironwood Village. At our last meeting, we approved a modest increase to assessments—just over \$5 per month. This helps us keep pace with rising maintenance costs and, with careful planning, should reduce the likelihood of Special Assessments down the road.

We've also wrapped up the work of our Good Neighbor Ad-Hoc Committee. My thanks to every member who contributed thoughtful time and effort. You'll find an article in this newsletter with details on what the committee accomplished and how we're putting those recommendations into practice.

On board matters: one director has stepped down due to health reasons. We've appointed another community member—already active on the same projects and committees—to complete the remainder of that term. As noted in our last newsletter, additional board changes are expected soon. We could use your help. If you're curious about serving, please reach out; it's often less work—and more rewarding—than you might think.

If you're willing and able to pitch in, contact Ashley at 480-355-1190.

Dan Frigard

In this Newsletter you can expect:

Board Member
Changes

Social: Trunk or
Treat!

Good Neighbor
Committee

Guide to Invasive
Plants

Fall & Winter Tree
"Tips and Tricks"

Wall Project
Updates

Community Event
Calendar + Bulk
Schedule

WELCOMING OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER

The Board extends sincere thanks to Steve Klein for his many years of service. His steady leadership and dedication have been a gift to Ironwood Village, and we are hopeful he will continue to share his expertise through committee work. Volunteers like Steve make it possible to maintain the beauty and strength of our community.

We are also pleased to welcome Mike DiPalma as our new Treasurer.

Mike and his wife of 17 years have two children—Dylan (16), a baseball pitcher and first baseman, and Sienna (14), active in student government and the National Junior Honor Society. His wife is a certified fitness instructor and nutrition coach, while Mike jokes that he “absolutely slays the cheat days.”

Mike brings experience in both law enforcement and in healthcare, where he has worked for 23 years managing a large residential facility in Northern California. In his free time, he enjoys fitness, hiking, sports, family time, and recently took up golf—though he admits his game is still a work in progress.

He is excited to serve as Treasurer and looks forward to working with neighbors to keep Ironwood Village welcoming, beautiful, and fun.





Another Fall Wine Tasting Event to be announced soon...
Stay Tuned!

Good Neighbor Committee: Enhancing Community Safety

The Good Neighbor Committee was established to address resident concerns about community safety and to explore ways to enhance protection within our neighborhood.

Over the course of three meetings, the committee engaged in thoughtful discussions and strategic planning—one of which included a valuable presentation by the City of Scottsdale's Neighborhood Action Officer, who provided insight into local crime statistics and trends.

Following these collaborative sessions, the committee worked closely with Board President Dan Frigard, the Association's legal counsel, and management to develop a comprehensive Rental Policy aimed at supporting safety and accountability.

Additional outcomes from the committee's efforts include:

- Reestablishing the Neighborhood Watch Program in partnership with the Scottsdale Police Department to strengthen community vigilance.
- Exploring the use of surveillance cameras as a potential tool to further support neighborhood security.

The committee's work represents a meaningful step toward creating a safer, more connected community for all residents.
Stay tuned for more updates!

Stop the Spread: Scottsdale's Guide to Invasive Plants



Invasive Plants

In and Near the
McDowell Sonoran Preserve

As development pushes into the Sonoran Desert, an unintended consequence has been the introduction and spread of invasive plants into natural open spaces. The ecological damage caused by this unwanted vegetation negatively impacts the desert landscape by:

- Replacing native plants
- Damaging the ecosystem by displacing native plants
- Eliminating preferred plants for forage
- Creating fuel for fire and promote the spread of fires
- Altering water flow patterns

All of these elements can permanently alter the landscape of our Sonoran Desert.



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Invasive plants upset the sensitive and natural ecological balance of the surrounding area, are a fire hazard and can also disrupt the habitat for desert wildlife.



What is an Invasive Plant?

An invasive plant is generally not native to the Sonoran Desert. These plants compete with native plants and have the ability to take over an area. Invasive plants upset the sensitive and natural ecological balance of the surrounding area and can also disrupt the habitat for desert wildlife. In addition to the impact on native plants, this vegetation becomes a major fire fuel source during the hot weather when these weeds dry out.

The Sonoran Desert

Scottsdale is located within the Sonoran Desert. The Sonoran Desert, in its entirety, only covers roughly 100,000 square miles, encompassing most of the southern half of Arizona, much of Sonora, a small portion of southeastern California and most of Mexico's Baja peninsula. This desert is a diverse mixture of plants, animals, geology and climate.

The McDowell Sonoran Preserve

The McDowell Sonoran Preserve is part of the Sonoran Desert. When completed, it will comprise 1/3, or 57 square miles, of Scottsdale's land area. The Preserve contains mountains, narrow valleys and desert washes. These areas create numerous plant and animal microhabitats. The Arizona Game and Fish Department considers the McDowell Mountains and surrounding Sonoran Desert as the most significant wildlife habitat in the Valley outside the Tonto National Forest.

Human Impact

Scottsdale citizens should be proud of their efforts in saving, for perpetuity and in a sustainable form, the unique Sonoran Desert environment of the Preserve. But as with anything, human activity can also have negative effects. Unfortunately, due to landscaping and other choices on developed land outside but near the Preserve, several invasive plants have been inadvertently introduced into the Preserve by windblown seeds or carried by birds, humans or water.

Fire

The Preserve is bordered by homes in many areas. The locations where homes and the Sonoran desert come together are known as wildland/urban interface areas. These areas can be difficult to manage and provide a unique challenge for the residents of the community and the Scottsdale Fire Department.

The invasive plants that have been introduced provide a substantial increase in the available fuel and can serve to increase the risk and intensity of wildland fire incidents. These types of invasive plants can more quickly regenerate themselves. This gives them a distinct advantage over the native plant species, which will take a much longer time to recover and regenerate after a fire incident. The result is the potential for hotter and more destructive fires in the Sonoran Desert that can lead to the irreversible destruction of the native vegetation and local eco-system.

Habitat Loss

Because invasive plants can displace native plants, this can also result in negative impacts on desert fauna. The Preserve is an attractive home to desert wildlife. If forced to feed on invasive species, animals can become sick, leave the area for a more palatable food source or possibly die.

The Culprits

Although no detailed study of all invasive plants in the Preserve has been carried out, eight vegetation types have been identified to exist within the Preserve and are outlined on the reverse side of this brochure.

Invasive Plants

A brief description of eight invasive plants prevalent within the McDowell Sonoran Preserve is provided below. Plants are listed in the order of most troublesome due to the fire danger and habitat degradation they cause:



1. Desert Broom (*Baccharis sarothroides*) native
This native desert shrub, that is almost always green, grows quickly to nearly 10-feet high. In autumn, the blooms, containing a mass of seeds with white bristles, easily become airborne and spread freely. Desert Broom is viewed as an invasive plant because of its aggressiveness in overtaking disturbed areas (such as roadsides and new landscaped areas), and because it burns fiercely and is a significant threat to nearby structures.



2. Red Bromegrass (*Bromus rubens*) non-native
Found in very dense patches or widely dispersed as individual plants, the Red Bromegrass is a fast-growing, annual grass that reaches over 10-inches tall. Characteristic brush-like heads start out green in color, become reddish purple when mature and then light brown when seeds dry. The seed carrying portion of the grass have sharp ends and easily attach to animals or clothing for transport to other locations where the seeds then germinate. Red Bromegrass has become a major threat to the Sonoran Desert because it is so well established.



3. Buffel Grass (*Pennisetum ciliare*) non-native
This perennial bunchgrass grows up to 4-feet tall and has a mass of long, tough roots that can grow to 8-feet deep. Narrow, light green leaves are 1 to 4-inches long. Bristly flower heads may be purple, gray or yellowish and turn a distinctive golden-brown when dry. Buffelgrass will burn while still green. When native plants die, Buffelgrass moves in and chokes out native seedlings.



4. Tamarisk/Salt Cedar (*Tamarix* spp.) non-native
This shrubby tree grows up to 15-feet with gray-green foliage and slender branches. Pink-white flowers appear from January to October. Tamarisk spreads rapidly and forms dense thickets. Once established, it is difficult to eradicate. These trees use large amounts of ground water causing desert springs to dry up and crowding out native trees such as cottonwood, mesquite and desert willow. Because this plant is difficult to remove, it is advised to contact a specialist if you detect a Tamarisk in your area or in the Preserve.



5. Fountain Grass (*Pennisetum setaceum*) non-native
This perennial bunchgrass grows up to 3-feet high and has long, slender green leaves and purple to white feathery spikes. Fountain Grass is a highly aggressive, fire-adapted species that crowds out native plants and spreads quickly. Fountain Grass has been used in landscaping. Native ornamental grasses should be used instead of Fountain Grass. Alternatives: Purple Threeawn, Arizona Cotton Top or Bull Grass.



6. Malta Starthistle (*Centaurea melitensis*) non-native
This erect, winter annual grows up to 2-feet tall and in dense stands. It has grayish-green foliage and yellow, thistle-like flowers with sharp spines of a purplish or brown color that appear in May and June. Malta Starthistle aggressively competes for space with native species and reduces wildlife habitat and food.



7. Saharan Mustard (*Brassica tournefortii*) non-native
This annual, spring herb forms rosettes 6- to 12-inches in diameter. Leaves vary in size and have tiny bristles on the undersides. Small pale yellow flowers appear from January to April or May. Tiny reddish seeds are formed in narrow pods. Saharan Mustard can grow in large stands, creating barriers to normal wildlife movement when plants are alive. As desert temperatures rise, parts of the plant die and increase wildfire fuel loads dramatically.



8. Bermuda Grass (*Cynodon dactylon*) non-native
This perennial grass is common to many lawns in southern regions and grows well in our hot, desert climate. It is the most common summer lawn choice in the desert southwest. Bermuda Grass competes with native plants and invades disturbed areas. It is a leading cause of hay fever in the Sonoran Desert.

How Can You Help?

- Learn to identify problem plants
- Remove invasive plants from private property
- Work with your landscaper/gardener so native plants take priority in your yard
- Report infestations in common areas to your homeowner association board
- Add these plants to your homeowner association's prohibited plant lists
- Learn about proper eradication methods
- Join a recognized volunteer weed removal group, get trained and participate

- Ask the nursery where you buy landscape materials to stop carrying these plants
- Help the Fire Department by providing a defensible space on the portions of your property that are nearest to structures and adjacent to natural Sonoran Desert areas

PLEASE NOTE: Prior to modifying any portion of a dedicated Natural Area Open Spaces – NAOS – you must get approval from the City of Scottsdale. For more information, call (480) 312-2847 or visit www.ScottsdaleAZ.gov

References

For Scottsdale's "Indigenous Plant List",
www.ScottsdaleAZ.gov/codes/NativePlant/eslo.asp

For a detailed set of references to economic and ecological damages by invasive plants,
www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/plants

Contact Information

City of Scottsdale Fire Department
www.ScottsdaleAZ.gov
(480) 312-FIRE

City of Scottsdale
Preservation Division
www.ScottsdaleAZ.gov
(480) 312-2504

University of Arizona Cooperative Extension
4341 E. Broadway Road
Phoenix, AZ
(602) 470-8086



Stump Removal Update

The community will be moving forward with another round of stump removals. Only stumps verified as dead or non-viable will be removed.



Homeowner Action

If you are aware of any stumps that should be added to the removal list, please report them to management no later than December 31, 2025.

The Association will be working with the landscape vendor to assess and complete the removals in early 2026.

Tree & Landscape Maintenance in Scottsdale

Fall & Winter Tips and Tricks

Keeping Your Trees & Yards Happy This Fall and Winter

As the Scottsdale heat finally starts to ease up, it's a great time to show your trees and plants a little TLC. Our desert landscape has its own rhythm, and a few simple steps now can make a big difference in how things look (and grow) through the cooler months.

- **Trim it up:** Fall and winter are the best times to prune trees and shrubs. Snipping away dead or weak branches helps your trees stay strong when the occasional winter storm rolls through.
- **Watch for frost:** We don't see it often, but chilly nights do happen! Keep an old sheet or frost cloth handy to cover sensitive plants like citrus or bougainvillea. A quick drink of water before a freeze also helps keep roots cozy.
- **Ease up on the water:** Your yard doesn't need as much irrigation this time of year. Cut back the schedule, but give plants a good, deep soak now and then to keep roots healthy.
- **Winter lawns:** If you overseed with ryegrass, keep it mowed and lightly watered for that lush green look. If not, let your Bermuda grass nap until spring—it'll bounce back when the weather warms.

With just a little attention, your yard will stay healthy, safe, and beautiful all season long.

Wall Project Updates

Our Community has now reached the stage in our maintenance cycle where attention to the masonry walls is due.

The Board is actively obtaining bids for both the necessary repairs and the full repainting of all community block walls.

This project is a significant part of keeping Ironwood Village looking its best and protecting the long-term value of our neighborhood.

Once proposals are reviewed and a vendor is selected, a detailed schedule will be set.

Residents will receive advance notice of any work that may affect their property, and we will continue to provide updates as progress moves forward.

We appreciate your patience and support as we take on this important project together.



Community Meeting & Event Calendar – 2025

Stay informed and involved with our upcoming meetings and events!
Mark your calendars for these important dates:

October 15 – Workshop Meeting 🕒 6:30 PM

📍 AZCMS Offices or via Zoom

October 17 & 18 – Community Yard Sale 🕒 All Day

📍 Throughout the community

October 26 – Halloween Trunk or Treat 🕒 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

📍 Ironwood Village Park

Date Coming Soon – Fall Social Event

November 19 – Board Meeting 🕒 6:30 PM

📍 AZCMS Offices or via Zoom

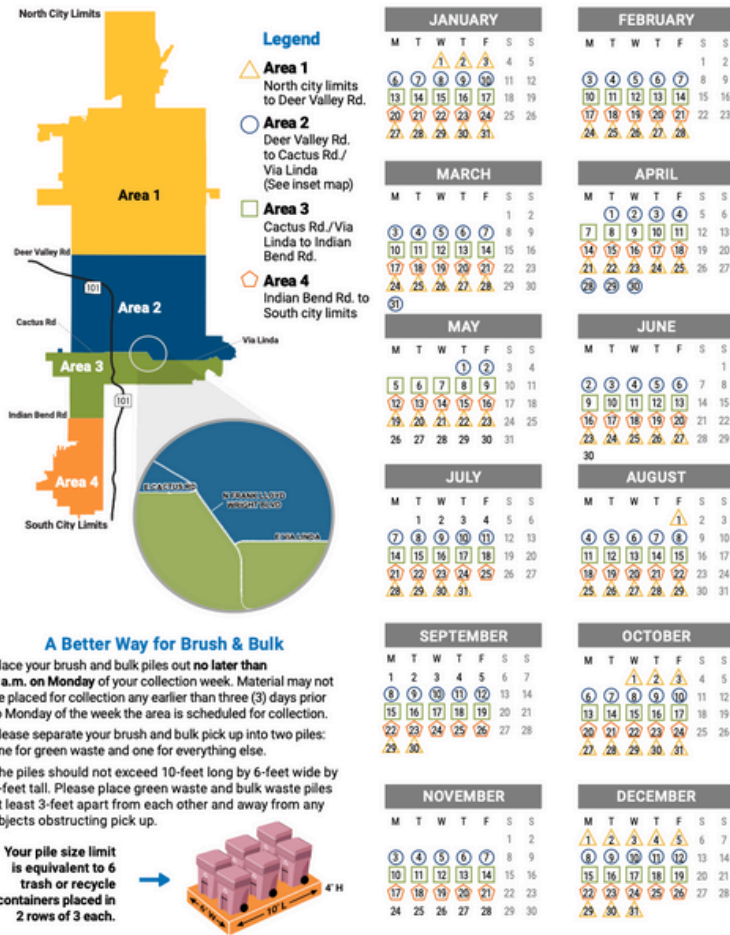
December 14 – Firewise Event 🕒 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

📍 Ironwood Village Park

👤 Special guests: Santa, the Grinch, and festive elves!

We're excited for these events and hope to see you there.
Whether it's meetings, celebrations, or festive fun,
your participation brings our community together!

2025 Brush & Bulk Removal Schedule



Place your brush and bulk piles out no later than 5 a.m. on Monday of your collection week. Material may not be placed for collection any earlier than three (3) days prior to Monday of the week the area is scheduled for collection.

<https://www.scottsdaleaz.gov/solid-waste/collection-services/brush-and-bulk-collection#collection-map-and-schedule>

If you would like to contribute an article of importance, send in photos or have something fun to share, please email Lindsay at: lindsay@sssgroupaz.com

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