Greenlots Initiative Action Plan, Volunteer Readiness & Shopping List

Thornydale & Cortaro Community Safety & Cleanup Project

Public Community Statement & Action Plan

The Greenlots Initiative is an offering in response to growing public concern regarding illegal dumping, unmanaged trash accumulation, unsafe encampments, sanitation hazards, and environmental decline near the Thornydale and Cortaro area. Our purpose is to encourage organized community stewardship, practical solutions, public safety, environmental responsibility, and constructive community engagement focused on preserving the health and well-being of the surrounding neighborhoods and public spaces.

Our goal is simple:

> Keep our neighborhoods clean, safe, respectful, and healthy for everyone.

We believe communities function best when residents, businesses, volunteers, and local leadership work together with practical solutions, accountability, compassion, and action.

We have already submitted reports regarding multiple encampment and dumping locations and are currently awaiting further response and consideration from the town. We also want to acknowledge and thank the individual who recently helped remove debris from one of the affected areas. Acts of stewardship are so important, and they show that members of the community care sincerely about the condition and safety of the neighborhood.

We also extend appreciation to local law enforcement for their professionalism, visibility, and continued support in monitoring community concerns.

The Issue:

Illegal dumping and unmanaged encampments can quickly create:

- Public sanitation hazards
- Fire risks
- Wildlife attraction
- Rodent and insect activity
- Unsafe walking and business conditions
- Environmental degradation
- Long-term economic decline

Trash accumulation is a serious public health and environmental concern. Rotting food waste, human waste, broken glass, sharp objects, hazardous debris, and unmanaged dumping can create significant safety risks for nearby residents, businesses, volunteers, wildlife, and vulnerable individuals living within or near the affected areas. These conditions may contribute to pest activity, unsanitary environments, and long-term neighborhood deterioration if left unaddressed.

Ignoring these conditions is not a sustainable solution. Responsible intervention, organized cleanup efforts, community coordination, and consistent public maintenance are necessary to preserve the safety, health, and stability of shared public spaces.

A Compassionate but Practical Approach

Homelessness is a complex issue involving economic hardship, mental health challenges, addiction, disability, trauma, and gaps in long-term support systems.

At the same time, unmanaged encampments in public areas can create serious impacts on surrounding communities and on the individuals living within those conditions themselves.

We believe communities deserve:

- Safe public spaces
- Sanitary conditions
- Responsible leadership
- Practical intervention
- Organized cleanup efforts
- Long-term solutions with structure and accountability

We also believe vulnerable individuals deserve wellness and safety, access to resources, and environments that do not further deteriorate their well-being.

Greenlots Initiative — Community Action Protocol

Phase 1 — Await Municipal Response

We have already contacted the appropriate departments and submitted reports concerning the affected areas. We are allowing additional time for review and response before further community action is organized.

At this time, we have not yet received a formal response regarding the submitted concerns. We remain hopeful that this issue will be addressed promptly and responsibly, as public sanitation, environmental safety, and neighborhood well-being are very serious community

priorities. In the meantime, we will continue documenting conditions, coordinating responsibly, and encouraging constructive community awareness and participation.

Phase 2 — Community Awareness

If necessary, we will continue:

- Informing nearby residents and businesses
- Sharing safety information
- Coordinating volunteers
- Building local support networks
- Expanding public awareness

Phase 3 — Volunteer Organization

If cleanup operations move forward, efforts will focus on:

- Volunteer coordination
- Safety-first procedures
- Proper protective equipment
- Environmental responsibility
- Documentation and accountability

No one should attempt hazardous cleanup efforts alone.

Volunteer Safety Standards

Potential cleanup areas may contain:

- Sharp objects
- Biohazards
- Animal waste
- Heat exposure
- Unsanitary conditions

For this reason:

- Proper equipment is mandatory
- Volunteers should have “wing buddies”
- Hazardous materials will be reported appropriately
- Safety protocols will be enforced

Long-Term Vision

We support stronger systems that combine:

- Public sanitation infrastructure
- Managed waste services
- Outreach coordination
- Structured shelter options
- Mental-health support
- Accountability for repeated destructive behavior
- Consistent maintenance and monitoring

Communities cannot thrive if public spaces are allowed to deteriorate indefinitely.

Strong neighborhoods require:

- Participation
- Stewardship
- Leadership
- Transparency
- Action

Community Participation

Residents, business owners, and volunteers interested in:

- Assisting cleanup efforts
- Donating supplies
- Participating in outreach
- Supporting safety initiatives
- Helping organize future efforts

may participate through upcoming Greenlots Initiative coordination channels and community outreach efforts.

Future materials may include:

- Safety guidelines
- Volunteer sign-ups
- Cleanup schedules
- Donation coordination
- Public updates
- Educational resources

Closing Statement

This initiative is important because the health, safety, and future of our communities matter. Positive change begins when ordinary people choose to participate, remain engaged, and work together toward practical solutions.

We believe that through cooperation, accountability, stewardship, and persistence, meaningful progress is possible. Clean and safe public spaces benefit everyone, residents, businesses, families, volunteers, and vulnerable individuals alike.

As a community, we can achieve anything we set our minds and hearts to when we approach challenges with responsibility, compassion, importantly, *positive action*.

A clean and safe neighborhood benefits:

- Families
- Workers
- Businesses
- Children
- Elderly residents
- Volunteers
- Vulnerable individuals seeking stability

Positive change requires participation and persistence.

The Greenlots Initiative remains committed to constructive action, responsible stewardship, and community-centered solutions for Thornydale and Cortaro and the surrounding areas.

Greenlots Initiative

Volunteer Shopping List & Safety Advisory

Community cleanup efforts should always prioritize safety, preparation, hydration, sanitation, and teamwork. Volunteers should never attempt hazardous cleanup operations alone or without proper protective equipment.

Recommended Volunteer Equipment

1. Heavy-Duty Garden Gloves

Strong puncture-resistant work gloves should be worn underneath disposable gloves whenever possible to help reduce exposure to sharp objects, contaminants, and unsanitary materials.

2. Durable Protective Boots

Boots should have:

- Thick soles
- Strong ankle support
- Puncture-resistant construction when possible

Volunteers should avoid open footwear or thin athletic shoes due to potential hazards including glass, sharp metal, and needles.

3. Durable Jeans or Work Pants

Heavy-duty pants help protect against:

- Scratches
- Sharp debris
- Insect exposure
- Environmental hazards

4. Long-Sleeve Shirt

Strong long-sleeve materials are recommended to help minimize skin exposure while working in brush, debris, or unsanitary conditions.

5. Hat

Wide-brim or protective hats are strongly encouraged for heat and sun protection, especially in the Arizona climate.

6. Sunglasses or Protective Eyewear

Protective eyewear may help shield volunteers from:

- Dust
- Debris
- Sun exposure
- Branches or brush

7. Sunblock

Heat safety is very important. Volunteers should bring sunscreen and monitor for signs of heat exhaustion or dehydration.

8. Clean Change of Clothes

Volunteers are encouraged to bring:

- Clean shirts
- Extra pants or jeans
- Clean socks

Clothing used during cleanup operations should be washed immediately after use.

9. Water Bottle & Hydration Supplies

Hydration is also very important. Volunteers should bring:

- Refillable water bottles
- Electrolytes if possible
- Cooling towels or similar heat-management items

10. Trash Bags / Contractor Bags

Heavy-duty contractor bags are preferred due to:

- Weight resistance
- Tear resistance
- Better handling of rough debris

11. Truck or Utility Vehicle

Larger cleanup operations may require:

- Trucks
- Trailers

- Utility vehicles

for transportation of collected debris and cleanup materials.

Safety Advisory

Volunteers should:

- Have a “wing buddy”
- Avoid direct contact with needles or biohazards
- Report dangerous materials appropriately
- Maintain awareness of wildlife and environmental hazards
- Take breaks frequently in high heat
- Leave immediately if situations become unsafe

No volunteer should place themselves in danger during cleanup operations.

Disposal Coordination Efforts

The Greenlots Initiative will also attempt to coordinate with:

- Local dump facilities
- Waste management services
- Disposal centers
- Community partners

to explore whether collected litter and debris may be disposed of at reduced cost or through community assistance programs.

Reducing disposal costs would greatly assist volunteer-led cleanup efforts and allow more resources to be directed toward sanitation, safety equipment, and continued neighborhood restoration efforts.