

**Villas West Board Meeting
11 Aug 2020
Grounds and Landscaping Report**

The Landscaping committee has not met together since 11 March. Because of COVID -19 we have not had the opportunity to meet together, but rather divided up projects to be worked on individually, for collective input into the overall plan. To date we have accomplished the following:

Divided the 65 acres of our property up into quadrants, and labeled the 17 parks by street and number for easier identification, and effective communication with the GM and his crew.

Labeled the assets in each of the 17 parks to include; picnic tables, benches, poop station, putting greens, shuffle board tables, and equipment sheds. Each of the assets was assigned a quality condition value, based on it's need for repair or not.

Two Master Gardeners have walked the property with me to provide an overall assessment of what can be done to improve the health and well being of our landscape. The tress specifically have not been properly maintained in over 20 years. If they are not trimmed they become weak, limbs break and susceptible for diseases.

On advice from Chick Parsons, Master Gardner from Desert Meadows, three VW Employees have taken and graduated from the University of Arizona, SMARTSCAPE Course (in Spanish) to improve education of landscape management.

We had two Landscape Crews on property La Sierra and LandTamers (LT) . In 6 work days we were able to get 53 trees professionally trimmed, using bucket trucks, climbers, and chippers. Total cost was around \$9750.00 for the first go round. We have 17 parks on property, and for the good of the They trimmed some of the largest trees and the most neglected trees on the property. One villa had two huge branches (suspended by nylon rope) removed that were hanging over their roof and patio. High priority annual budget item. Tree maintenance should be done on an annual schedule by park, and common area quadrant yearly, in order to protect our landscape investment. This expense decreases annually, after 10 years.

60 Eucalyptus trees have been mapped on the property. The 3 Tree management companies agree that thinning them versus topping them or removing, the allows us to keep them in optimum health and safety for the property. This will need to be addressed by the board as high priority consideration, as they have not been trimmed.

The feeble bridge in T2 or Penasco park has been completely rebuilt. The guys did a great job. Pavers should be installed before the bridge and after to prevent the walkway from being a muddy mess from the sprinklers. Gravel gets blown away during maintenance.

Removal of the dangerous green metal banding throughout the parks. It's old, rusty, and has injured several of our Residents. We have begun removing the most egregious.

Recommended landscaping equipment purchases (loppers and shears) upgrades, requested maintenance schedules be maintained, and repaired and traded out when necessary.

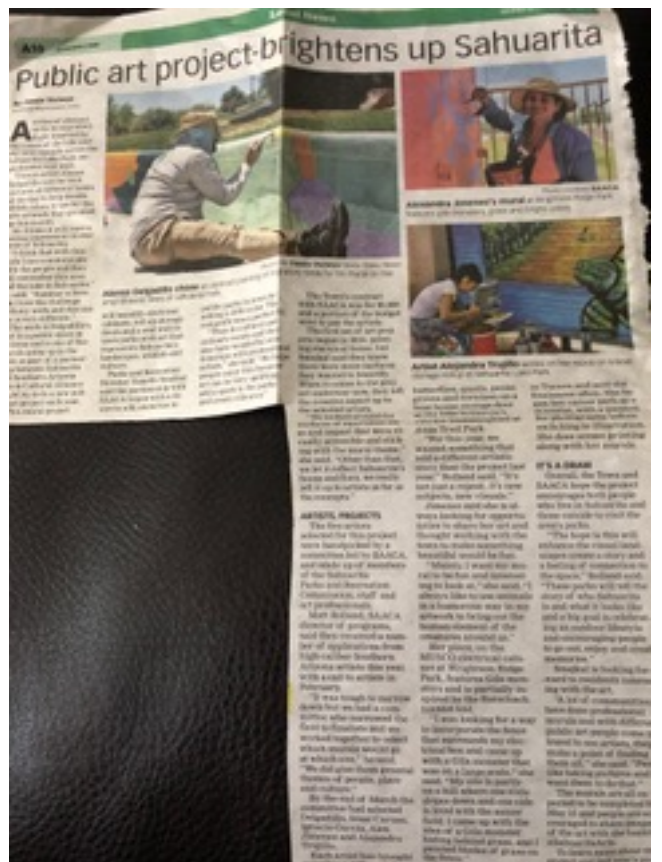
Irrigation system failures are a common occurrence, however overspray of the sprinklers into the streets and onto the rocks is a daily occurrence in every single park. Water is expensive in the desert, and this is a high priority need for the HOA.

Confirmed the need (GM's map and Larry Grigsby's map) for more curb ramps throughout the property for easier pedestrian accessibility, as well as mobility challenged individuals.

Initiated a VW Parks Rehabilitation Project to the board on 2 July 2020. I have focused most of my energies since being elected in early March 2020, on the parks and properties surrounding the pools throughout the property, in order to make the greatest impact for the landscape and get a better handle on what sort of improvements would enhance the property and entice our residents to use the parks more.

The proposal was to start with one small and manageable park, as a pilot project , to help determine approximate cost involved and level of participation of volunteers. I proposed ramps in line with the heavy foot traffic flow into the park, moving existing picnic tables and benches into the shade facing the mountains or the sunsets, out of the line of fire from the sprinklers, offering residents or volunteers the opportunity to do mosaic tile or paint murals on the picnic tables or benches; There is a program ([see the article "Public art project brightens up Sahuarita](#)) in the Green Valley news that talks about local artist that [contribute their artwork to brighten up local parks. The same thing has happened in Desert meadows park off Abrego.](#) It also involved doing some rock work and refreshing some gravel, planting shrubs around the water controllers, and remove the metal bands, and adding some niceties like the "Free lil Library" for book sharing, perhaps some comfortable swings. It was supposed to be Residents idea driven, with volunteers that donated labor and or materials. it can be done with minimal expense to the Association. (see flyer)

Thank you to all committee members, and those of you that have pitched in to help get a better handle on the property





HELP BEAUTIFY OUR PARKS.....



We have 17 parks in our community. Lets have some FUN

Hi, my name is Mo Fry. I am your Director of Grounds in VW HOA. I have noticed beautiful art work and landscaping projects done in local public parks like Desert Meadows, and Sahaurita parks/Recreation throughout the community. I am asking for volunteers to help me create similar peaceful spaces for our residents in VW. Mosaic tiles, painters, landscape ideas. I really could use your help. Thanks in advance :) Mo  Contact the office.