

**The Springs HOA  
Grounds Report  
January 3, 2011**

The freezing weather has triggered the mesquite trees to drop their leaves and the landscaping crew has been cleaning them up over the past three weeks, as time permits.

In the past month, most common areas have been cleaned up and trimmed. However, some tree trimming is still needed in several areas.

We have applied for a state permit allowing us to put down gravel and install plantings along our west wall, running north from the bell tower. The permit is required, as the area in question is within the state's frontage road run-off right-of-way.

Pima County has agreed to repair the erosion at the west end of the Rio Fuerte wash. We have noted that some utility lines have been exposed due to the extent of the erosion.

We have requested a bid from Hot Desert for remedial work in the small wash that runs from Wolf Run to the nature trail.

Thanks to volunteer Scott Denzer for repairing the irrigation valve on Golden Lynx. Work on the fountain was postponed due to cold weather, but will resume the week of January 9th.

Rodents have started to become more active and our rodent-control volunteers have been busy baiting and trapping. Our thanks to them and all the volunteers who have helped us keep our common areas looking beautiful.

Lance Johnson  
Grounds Chair

**The Springs HOA  
February 12, 2011  
Grounds Report**

**Volunteer Meeting**

An introductory meeting was held on February 9 to welcome new grounds volunteers. We're very grateful for the new volunteers and look forward to working with them.

**Frontage Road**

We have received word from ADOT that our request for a landscaping permit for the drainage right of way (running north from our entrance roughly 390 feet along the frontage road) is on hold until Pima County officially turns the frontage road extension project over to the State. In the mean time we've been invited to submit all the paper work and drawings. These should be mailed within a couple of days.

**Fountain**

Work on the fountain has progressed nicely. The interior of the fountain was power-washed and a waterproof coating was applied to the inside. A skimmer/filter was purchased, and the water supply system has been re-plumbed. Over 100 feet of drain line was installed. We are awaiting delivery of an in-line chlorine dispenser, which is needed before the plumbing can be completed and tested. The dispenser is expected within a week. All the work on the fountain has been completed by expert volunteers, to whom we are very grateful.

**Clean-up date scheduled**

A tumbleweed roundup has been scheduled for Tuesday February 15. Volunteers are asked to meet near the Farmers Water tank at 9:00 a.m. Bring gloves, a stiff rake or shovel and water. Hot Desert landscaping will assist.

**Master Plan**

The landscaping master plan has been prepared for eight areas. Four areas (the fountain area and parks 15, 17 and 18) have been subject to homeowner review and comment and have been approved by the Board. Work is continuing on the remaining common areas/parks.

**Perry Park**

Three or four homeowners have signed up to work on the Friends of Perry Park committee. We are looking forward to their help in planning, maintaining, and monitoring conditions in the park. The backflow valve in the park was cracked from the severe cold, and a replacement valve is on order.

**Entrance Sign**

The lower portion of the sign at the front entrance was removed for cleaning or replacement. The phrase "24 Acre Private Park with One Mile Paved Trail" could be replaced by something more appropriate to our post-development status.

Lance Johnson  
Grounds Chair

**The Springs HOA  
Grounds Report  
March 12, 2011**

**Fountain**

The fountain has been put back into operation, thanks to our many volunteers who donated their expertise and labor to the project. The new design features a submersed pump, with skimmer and filter, plus an automatic in-line chlorine dispenser. Special "thanks" to Victor Bignall, Norm Burt, Scott Denzer, Miki Hiraga, George Schlieff and Richard Olsen for their help.

**Tumbleweed Round-up Re-cap**

About 15 volunteers turned up on February 15th to clean up tumbleweeds in the washes adjacent to the frontage road. Hot Desert Landscaping assisted, and took two loads of debris to the dump. The areas look very much improved. Thanks to all who pitched in!

**Irrigation**

Hot Desert Landscaping, together with several HOA volunteers, have been working to bring the perimeter irrigation systems up to minimum working standard. These systems are old and fragile but necessary to keeping the green visual barrier along the frontage road and along our southern boundary.

**Cactus Frost Clean-up**

Hot Desert landscaping spent an extra day cleaning up cactus pads that had fallen due to the recent frost. Some plants with frost damage were left in place for now to see if they can sprout new growth.

**Fire Hazard Review**

Richard Olsen arranged for Battalion Chief William Rowe of the Green Valley Fire District to assess our vulnerability in the event of a wildfire. Chief Rowe visited The Springs on February 24th and reviewed the east and south perimeter areas as well as the nature park. He concluded that homes in The Springs have a relatively low risk of loss should a wildfire occur nearby. He commended The Springs on the work that has already been done and he made the following additional observations and suggestions:

Prevention begins in the homeowner's own yard. The yard is the primary fire buffer. Don't provide a way for a fire to spread from your back wall to your home. Trim any dry shrubs that hang over your wall and avoid planting hedges that run from the outer wall toward the home. Cushions left on patio furniture can ignite from air-borne ashes, so consider storing cushions when not in use.

The following suggestions are for the Grounds Committee and landscape contractor:

Any tall grass within 10 feet of perimeter back walls should be trimmed with a weed whip once per year. (A few inches tall is O.K.)

Trees are not fire hazards by themselves, but could be set afire if they have combustible material under them, such as tall grass. Therefore, trees near properties should not have tall grass or weeds under them. A weed whip should be used to cut the grass to a few inches tall.

Dead standing Desert Broom, should be removed because it tends to provide air-borne ashes that could allow a fire to jump to new locations.

Low dead tree branches within 10 feet of property lines should be removed. Large areas of dead and down branches anywhere should be cleaned up. Large stands of dry weeds should be removed.

These actions, together with our fire-resistant home construction (Stucco and non-flammable roof material), plus our close proximity to the fire station should protect our homes from most wildfire hazards.

Lance Johnson  
Grounds Chair

**The Springs HOA  
Grounds Report  
April 9, 2011**

**Volunteer Recognition**

Several volunteers have been busy recently working on various spring-time projects. It has been a dry winter, but thanks to our watering volunteers, Shirley Barrett, Doralene Beaupre, Sam Coggins, Harold Moberly and Victor Bignall, plants along the west and south perimeters are now receiving much needed periodic moisture. Also, "thank you" to Mary Yager who has been checking the fountain daily and maintains the water chemistry and cleans the filter as needed.

We had several people generously donate their time and labor to help us plant about 30 cacti along Via Rio Fuerte near the Springs entrance. "Thanks" to Marge and Norm Burt, Mike Dant, Miki Hiraga, Bill Perry and Ron Sills for that effort.

Also, the Friends of Perry Park committee (Neysa Dickey, Stephen Chaffee, Bill Perry and Ron Stevens) have been cleaning up Perry Park and planning some refurbishing of river rock and gravel. Thank you all.

**Replacement Plants**

More than normal the number of plants were lost this year due to the unusual cold weather. Replacement plants have been ordered.

**Parks 15, 17 and 18**

Additional plants have been ordered for parks 15, 17 and 18 according to the master plan for those parks. A volunteer planting day will be arranged when the plants arrive.

**Front Entrance – Park 14**

New plants have been added, river rock is being lifted and replaced, and the irrigation has been repaired. Work remaining includes bringing in some extra gravel and a few more plants, such as desert spoon and ocotillo.

**Park 21**

The exercise area in park 21 (located on Camino Del Cefiro, near Calle De La Pelotita) is scheduled to be refurbished beginning on May 4. The work will be done by Hot Desert Landscaping.

**Wolf Run Wash**

Immediately following park 21 refurbishing, work will begin on clearing out the wash that runs from park 2 (Wolf Run) into the nature area. Check dams will be added.

Lance Johnson  
Grounds Chair

**The Springs HOA  
Grounds Report  
September 10, 2011**

We have not encountered any unusual issues during this summer. There have been some storm-related tree trimming and pruning. We feel that our common areas are in the best shape they have been in for a number of years due, on a large part, to the efforts of volunteers Sam Coggins and Vic Bignall.

Through Sandie Stone's efforts, along with those of her committee, TEP donated 50 mesquite trees to the HOA in an attempt to help reduce the visibility of the newly constructed substation. The committee identified planting areas that would best screen the substation and then arrangements were made with Hot Desert Landscaping to do the actual planting. They were able to plant all 50 trees in two days with 105 to 108 degree temperatures. Following Sam Coggins suggestion, Hot Desert put in two new irrigation lines that were actually extensions of existing irrigation lines. We are optimistic that, with the irrigation, these trees will grow rapidly and within 3-5 years, we should begin to see fairly good screening.

Richard Olsen  
Grounds Committee

**The Springs HOA  
Grounds Report  
November 12, 2011**

Richard Olsen reported that 50 trees donated by T.E.P. to screen the new power station have been planted by volunteers and Hot Desert Landscaping. In addition, irrigation lines have been run to each tree. (A sketch of the locations of the new irrigation lines has been prepared by Sam Coggins.)

Hot Desert is up to date with scheduled projects and maintenance in The Springs.

New contracts for landscaping and weed control have been negotiated for 2012. Hot Desert will continue the landscaping and Weed Busters will continue with weed control.

It was agreed that we will again include a flyer for Weed Busters in the annual mailing since they are giving us a \$4,000 annual discount (which equates to \$7 per home) in exchange for this service.

Many thanks to volunteers who worked on landscaping projects throughout the summer.

Lance Johnson  
Grounds Chair

**The Springs HOA  
Grounds Committee Report  
December 10, 2011**

Landscaping maintenance was performed in several areas, including near the front entrance, and behind properties along Nardos, Viva and Blue Fox.

A new saguaro was planted at the front entrance, replacing the one that died last year.

Volunteers have been busy removing buffel grass and dead desert broom stalks throughout the common areas. Also, Hot Desert Landscaping was tasked to remove buffel grass west of properties along Nardos.

All irrigation valves were drained and winterized on November 30.

On December 6, all irrigation back-flow valves were tested and all passed. However, we were informed that one valve is of a type no longer approved by Farmers Water and will likely need to be replaced, while another valve is old and likely needs to be rebuilt within a year. Estimated 2012 cost for these actions (parts and re-testing) is \$350.

We have scheduled Sutler Landscaping (the arborists) to come in December 16<sup>th</sup> to do some work on several trees in the common areas. They will trim one tree on Ground Squirrel Drive and the Desert Willow on the path between Via Rio Fuerte and will remove two dead pine trees on the corner of Via Rio Fuerte and Rambles.

Lance Johnson  
Grounds Chair