

Landscaping Newsletters

October 2021 ➡ April 2021

Landscape Committee Goals

October 2021

The Sunrise Committee Landscape Committee has developed a long-range plan for renovating our common areas. This plan was the result of extensive door-to-door meetings with HOA members and from canvassing our neighboring HOAs. The goal is to move toward a more natural desert landscape that has a diversity of plants that are drought tolerant. Most of our Fairfield HOA neighbors are well underway with this process.

When Fairfield built in the 70s and 80s, the eleven Sunrise HOAs received free water from Pima County during the construction and home-selling phases. This allowed them to use inexpensive non-native plants like oleanders and junipers, which required lots of water. Once the HOAs were incorporated, the HOAs were stuck with these high water demand plants. Over the ensuing years, our HOA neighbors have worked to remove and replace these plants with a diverse array of drought tolerant native plants.

Here are pictures of some of the renovated common areas in Sunrise Mountain Ridge. Similar renovation has been done in Sunrise Mountain View Estates and Sunrise Territory Estates (our closest neighbors).



The goal is to accomplish most of this work in the next 5 years. We are starting with high visibility areas like the pool and the two HOA entrances. Over time, we will rebuild or move rock waterways, add a diverse array of new native plants, and add “streetscape” landscape rock (seen in two of the pictures above) along Territory Drive. We switched from AAA to Infinity Earthworks because Infinity includes renovation work for the same labor cost as AAA.

The exact timing of when different phases will be done is dependent on many factors, including funding. However, it will take longer if we continue to have emergency distractions for Infinity Earthworks (removing dead plants thrown into common areas). This is why we need everyone’s support and patience. Infinity will spend 3/4 of their time doing maintenance work on different areas of the HOA, on a rotating basis (similar to AAA). They will spend 1/4 their time doing renovation work, which includes rockwork, planting new native plants, trimming mesquite trees, and building and maintaining a nursery of plants for relocation. We should start to see significant improvements within a year, but this can be best accomplished if we can keep a focus on this effort.

Infinity Earthworks and the Landscape Committee will be posting progress reports that will be available on the [Home Appearance and Landscaping Page](#) of the Sunrise Canyon HOA website. Infinity will also present more details of their activities at our upcoming Annual Meeting on November 21st. The Landscape Committee’s plans are flexible and are open to input from HOA members. All proposals will be evaluated for how well they benefit the HOA community as a whole. Areas of higher visibility will have higher priority. In the long run, these renovation activities will significantly improve the aesthetics of the HOA community, and the property values of our residences.

The Landscape Committee
October 2021



AUGUST 2021

Neighborhood News

IN THIS ISSUE

Rain

**We are on our way to a
record Monsoon season**

Reminders

Continuing Projects

News from the neighborhood

Rain- we have record rain for the month of July and are on our way to record rain in August. This is a huge blessing for a droughted region.

Mosquitos- We have had many mosquitos due to the rain. Please protect yourselves. Pima county has recorded several cases of West Nile which is not something to take lightly

Weeds- with the blessing of rain comes the annoyance of massive amounts of weeds. Pre-emergents were put down but it rained so hard that it washed the pre-emergents through the soil. Due to this the landscapers are having to hand pull and spray for weeds. It has been raining so much that they are having a hard time keeping up with the weeds. Keep in mind they are only here 3 hours per week. Please be patient with them. They are trying to address areas as fast as they can.

Storm damage- A fair amount of landscape work was put on hold in the beginning of the summer to address storm damage to trees and to correctively pruning them to hopefully prevent future damage. There was also a fair amount of cleanup in other areas due to storm damage.

Projects – There have been many projects that have been started and are ongoing as well as some that have been completed. The following is a list:

Neighborhood nursery area has been created outside the pool area and there have been numerous cactus moved to that area to await transplanting to other landscape areas as they are ready.

The front of the pool has been cleaned up, junipers removed, dead plant material removed, Texas rangers removed, ground reworked for water retention and rock waterways redone. As weather permits there will be nandinas planted on the north side to match the south side to make this area more aesthetically pleasing. There has also been a beautiful blue curiosity cactus placed in this area that was donated by a resident.

The bulk of the landscape work so far has been concentrated on removal and cleanup of dead material in the neighborhood. This is a huge job due to extensive dead material and added dead material due to storms. We have also lost a fair amount of cactus due to the rains. They simply got too top heavy with the rain and fell over. Unfortunately these big ones cannot be transplanted.

The landscapers will continue to remove dead material, prickly pear and agaves that are rotting and

infected with rat nests. They will also focus on selectively removing Texas rangers that are growing together or are just too numerous for certain areas. We will leave some Texas rangers in, but the goal is to cut them back properly and allow them to regenerate properly.

Rock waterway work will continue. These will be re-worked and directed to areas that they are actually watering future plant material rather than running off into the street. The huge amounts of rain have given us a really good picture as to which waterways are actually necessary. Waterways that are not necessary will be reworked.

Reminders;

Clippings- please do not throw these over your walls into common areas or into wash areas

Cigarette butts and trash- There have been a fair amount of cigarette butts and trash items cleaned up in parking areas and areas surrounding parking areas. Please keep these areas clean. Do not throw cigarette butts out in any area in the neighborhood. If you have visitors using these areas please notify them as well.

Yard boundaries- Everything from the corner of your wall toward your garage in front is considered your yard and your responsibility. From the corner of your wall toward your neighbor in the front is common area. If you are an inner unit this may differ. If you are in doubt as to where your boundaries are please let us know and we will walk it with you.

Trees- Please keep your trees trimmed up and back from the street so that trash trucks and other vehicles can get under them.

Please be aware that we do have many elderly people in the neighborhood. If you notice that they are having a hard time maintaining their yards either offer some help or let the landscape committee know and we will try to get some volunteers together to help. As fall nears we will be trying to implement some community projects and events as the weather cools.

**SUNRISE CANYON HOA
LANDSCAPE
COMMITTEE
NEWSLETTER**

CLAIRE CONNOLLY, CHAIR

JIM OLSEN

BETTY BRAINERD



New landscape contractor

We are happy to announce that we have changed our landscape contractor to Infinity Earthworks. They will be starting May 7. Please welcome them as you see them in the neighborhood

Why Infinity?

They specialize in xeriscaping and water capture. Both of these are necessary going forward due to longer periods of drought and lack of irrigation.

What's the Plan?

We will be developing an overall neighborhood landscape design that will focus on xeriscaping -- landscaping in a style that requires little or no irrigation. We will be changing to indigenous plant material that is drought resistant. This is necessary due to more extended periods of drought and irrigation restrictions. We will focus on a mixture of streetscaping and hardscaping that will be in keeping with the challenges of the Tucson environment. This will be a multiphase plan that will need several years to accomplish. Please be patient with us, and Infinity, as we work to achieve a revamped and beautiful landscape for the neighborhood.

New Procedures for Landscaping Requests

The new procedures for neighborhood landscaping requests will be as follows:

If you have a request for a landscape maintenance issue in the common area outside your property walls please do the following:

Fill out a landscape maintenance request form and submit by mail or e-mail to the landscape committee. (A copy of the request form will be available, for downloading and printing, on the [Sunrise Canyon HOA Matters](#) page of our website.)

The committee will then review and either approve or disapprove your request.

If your request is approved, the work will be completed when the landscaping crew is working in your zone. This allows for more efficiency of time and manpower for our crews. Exceptions to this scheduling approach would be made if the issue could cause potential damage to your property.

If you are unable to print out the form, you will be able to send an email, containing all the information specified on the form, to the Landscape Committee. The email address for the Landscape Committee is: **sunrisecanyonlandscape@gmail.com**