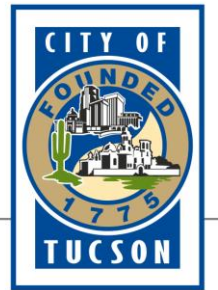


Tucson HOA Landscape Transformation Program

Presented to:
Sunflower Community
March 24, 2021



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
Cooperative Extension

Presentation Overview

- Introduction to Smartscape
- Tucson HOA Landscape Transformation Program Goals & Benefits
- How does it work, and how can you implement the Program in your community?



What is Smartscape?

- Research-based training program for landscape professionals
- For nearly 30 years the gold standard for design, installation, & maintenance of sustainable, desert-adapted landscapes.
- Collaboratively developed by:
 - Tucson Water
 - AZ Municipal Water Users Association
 - UA Cooperative Extension
 - AZ Nursery Association
 - AZ Landscape Contractors Association
 - Other industry representatives



A Smartscape *makes sense...*

- It is designed to accommodate local environmental conditions.
- It requires minimal maintenance.
- It uses resources wisely.
- It looks good, feels good, & raises property values!





Smartscaapes:

*beautiful & functional
landscapes that
require LESS water &
maintenance!*

Landscapes are Neighborhood Amenities

*Similar to community
pools, ball courts, &
walking paths*



Beautiful, vibrant communities
are not just homes and
pavement



Sustainable landscapes offer
opportunities for healthy living

One of the most common landscaping mistakes:

Selecting designs and plant materials that maximize the *initial* appeal of the landscape but are not properly maintained & deteriorate over a few years

Why can HOA landscapes fail to perform through time?

- **SITE:** poor plant selection & placement; consider mature sizes of plants & adaptability to local climate and conditions. *Wrong plant, wrong place!*
- **DESIGN:** improper groupings of plants based on water needs
- **SOIL:** soil types and compaction affect drainage and plant performance
- **INSTALLATION:** improper planting techniques
- **MAINTENANCE:** adjustments needed by season and as plants mature; improper pruning



Smartscape's Tucson HOA Landscape Rehabilitation Program can help with challenges such as:



Aging Landscape
Vegetation



Deteriorating
Infrastructure



Rising Utility Costs



Regional Water Issues



Rising Temperatures &
Urban Heat Island
Impacts



Ineffective
Maintenance Practices





**Smartscape builds on
Xeriscape principles**

Guiding Principles

- **PLANNING & DESIGN:** have a plan, consider site constraints
- **SOIL:** drainage, earthworks
- **TURF:** minimize, find alternatives
- **PLANTS:** native and/or drought-tolerant
- **IRRIGATION:** efficient and conservative; water harvesting
- **MULCH:** retain soil moisture, add nutrients
- **MAINTENANCE:** don't over-do it.





Native and desert-
adapted plants provide
beauty, economic, &
ecological benefits



Limit the need for water, maintenance, fertilizers, & pesticides while attracting hummingbirds, butterflies & other wildlife!

Maximize Diversity

- growth forms (grasses, succulents, trees, shrubs, flowers)
- many species
- always something in bloom
- color, shape, texture





Conserve Water

Rainwater Harvesting & Green Infrastructure

- EXAMPLES: swales, berms, basins, roof capture
- Utilize free water to reduce water demand
- Reduce erosion
- Reduce flood impacts
- Address drainage issues





Efficient Irrigation

- Plants with similar water needs are grouped (none, low, medium, high)
- Drip irrigation
 - regular maintenance to repair leaks and damage
 - seasonal adjustment of watering schedules
 - adjusting emitter placement as plants mature
- Save money & resources!



Plant Massacre!

Most HOA Landscapes are OVER-PRUNED

- There is no need for constant pruning and trimming
 - Unnecessary expense
 - Does not promote plant health
 - Reduces or eliminates habitat value
 - Prune at the right time of year, and it should not be necessary every year
 - If plants are too crowded, consider removing some instead of pruning them into unnatural shapes
-





Which do you prefer?

Uniform Pruning / Shearing

- Frequent trimming into uniform, unnatural shapes
- Reduces flowering
- Decreases longevity of shrubs





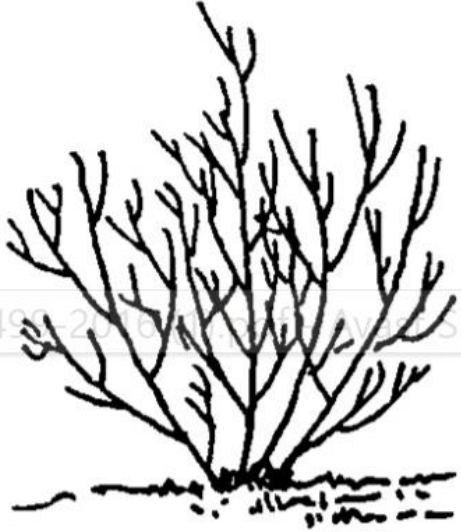
Figure 3. Rejuvenating shrubs that are overgrown starts by cutting them at 12-18 inches above the ground in late winter or early spring. By fall the shrubs have grown a full new canopy.

Rejuvenation Pruning

- Technique for rehabilitating shrubs that have been pruned improperly
- Severe pruning can look shocking, but plants recover with fresh growth!

FROM: Pruning Shrubs in the Low and Mid-Elevation Deserts in Arizona. Ursula K. Schuch. extension.arizona.edu/pubs/az1499-2016.pdf

Before



After



Before



After



Figure 1. Selective thinning removes the branches back to the point of attachment (left) or to the base of the plant (right) and preserves the natural shape of the plant.

Selective Pruning

- Technique to retain the natural shape of the plant

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**Benefits of
incorporating
Smartscape principles**



Economic Benefits

- Reduces potential damage and hazards like falling trees and limbs
- Improves natural aesthetic and curb appeal
- Increases plant life expectancy, which decreases plant replacement costs
- Decreases maintenance costs
- Reduces water use



Increased Property Values

The American Society of Landscape Architects has found that beautiful landscaping can increase property resale values by 15 – 20%!

Additional Benefits

- **VISUAL:** Landscape looks great and enhances structures and land by providing texture, color, variety
- **PSYCHOLOGICAL:** Vegetation adds a level of comfort for most people
- **PHYSICAL**
 - Microclimate
 - Air purification
 - Noise reduction
 - Erosion control



Be a Part of Something BIGGER:

Working on a Neighborhood Scale

- Common areas create important patches of wildlife habitat
- Inspiration for residents to replicate what they see in their own yards!
- Roadsides and medians provide corridors and connections for wildlife
- Meaningful water conservation
- Mitigating impacts of climate change





Sunflower Smartscaping

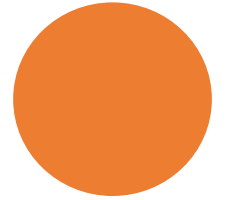
Sunflower Board has:

1. Adopted Smartscaping to transform our community.
2. Approved a motion to partner with Pima County Smartscape and Tucson Water to have Sunflower be a demonstration area for other HOA's.
3. Approved a community survey to determine design concepts favored by residents.

We hope to make our community landscaping a premier community amenity and an interactive experience for residents.

How do you use/want to use your neighborhood landscape? What amenities do you value?

- Shade
- Wildlife
- Quiet
- Gathering
- Exercise
- Natural areas
- Interaction
- Other



Design Concepts

- Smartscape is customizable
 - Concepts can be altered & combined
- Plant choice will vary based on use of landscape area
- How will the community be using the space?
- Creating focal points in the landscape that connect design to use and function
- ***NEXT SLIDES: DESIGN CONCEPTS FOR THE SURVEY!***






**Wildlife & Pollinator
Habitat:**
layered planting and year-
round blooms

A collage of desert plants including cacti and succulents in a garden setting. The image is split into two panels. The left panel shows a garden bed with various cacti and succulents, including a large agave-like succulent and several cacti of different shapes and sizes, set against a stone wall with the word 'Ariz.' in a decorative font. The right panel shows a desert landscape with a large saguaro cactus, a cholla cactus, and other desert plants under a cloudy sky. A white diamond-shaped graphic is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the text.

Cactus & Succulents:
diversity of shapes & forms

A photograph of a garden path lined with trees and plants. The path is made of light-colored gravel and is flanked by various green plants, including tall grasses and smaller shrubs. Large trees with thick, dark trunks and dense green foliage are positioned along the path, creating a shaded area. In the foreground, there are two purple, ornate garden stools. A white diamond-shaped text box is overlaid in the center of the image, containing the text "Shade / Oasis: tree-lined walkways and resting areas".

Shade / Oasis:
tree-lined walkways and
resting areas



Native Grasses
low maintenance,
wildlife values



Special Garden Themes

Zen * Herbs * Sensory * Other Ideas!



How can you implement Smartscapes?

- Attend FREE Smartscape Programs
- Hire design and landscape companies that practice Smartscape principles
- Be PROACTIVE! Be sure your landscape professionals know that you prefer Smartscapes!

Get involved, take the Sunflower Survey to help guide our Smartscape Design Plan

Survey will be sent to residents today!



Questions?

- *Andrea Eisenhauer* – Sunflower Community Association
- *Michele Girard* - Sunflower resident and Landscape Committee Chair
- *Luis Meraz* – BrightView
- *Karen Hanshaw* – Pima Smartscape
- *Carianne Campbell* – Pima Smartscape