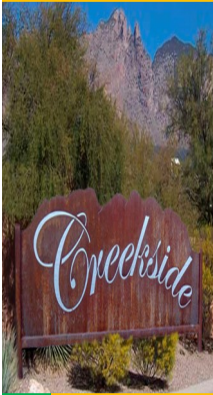


Parking Reminders



- Speed Limit is 15 MPH
- All residents shall park motorized or non-motorized vehicles in their garage.
- Street parking in designated parking areas is reserved for guests.
- Designated street parking may not be used by residents who have chosen to use their garage for storage (including the storage of inoperable or unlicensed vehicles) or other purposes to the exclusion of their motor vehicle(s).
- Parking or storage of recreational vehicles is prohibited on all portions of the property except in the confines of a garage.
- No inoperable, unlicensed, junked, or wrecked vehicles shall be parked on any portion of the property, nor shall any repair or maintenance business be operated in the community.
- As you know, we have very limited guest parking, especially in Creekside II. Please be courteous to guests and keep a couple parking spots open for them.



Guest Parking violations will start to be enforced.

Creekside Community News

Lights



KEEP THE LIGHTS SHINING!

Please remember to keep on your front porch lights at night. This ensures more security and allows you to see who is approaching your door.

“Tiny Library”

Let’s Get It Started!

We are now accepting donations to have a ‘tiny library’ installed in the community.

If you would like to contribute to this please contact Stephanie Luellen, the Association Manager.



Wildlife



Keep Wildlife Wild! Please Don’t Feed!

Feeding, attracting, or enticing wildlife (except birds and tree squirrels) is illegal in Pima, Pinal and Maricopa counties. Violations can result in up to a \$300 fine.

AZGFD offers the following reminders to discourage animals from taking up residence in populated areas:

- **Do not intentionally feed wildlife;** animals quickly associate access to food with humans.
- **Keep bird seed off the ground** and out of reach of other wildlife. A platform can be attached to the bottom of most feeders to catch spilled seed.
- **Store all garbage securely.** Do not discard edible garbage where javelina, coyotes, bears and other wildlife can get to it. Garbage cans should be put out on the morning of collection and lids secured to avoid animal scavenging.
- **Feed pets indoors** or remove leftover food immediately. Don’t let your pets roam free; they may end up a meal for coyotes, hawks, owls, bobcats or other predators. Always supervise small pets when outdoors.
- **Fence your garden or yard** to provide a physical barrier to exclude wildlife. Poultry wire laid horizontally and buried just below the soil surface can prevent some wildlife from digging. Plant native vegetation instead of tempting non-ornamentals. Contact your nearest Arizona Game and Fish office for a list of javelina-resistant plants.
- **Securely close all openings** making possible den sites or shelters unavailable, including the crawl spaces under homes, by blocking them with fencing or other barriers. Trim shrubs up from the ground so they don’t create hiding places as well.
- **Discourage wildlife presence** by going out of your way to make them uncomfortable; by making loud noises, spray them with a hose, throwing rocks, etc.
- **Ask your neighbors** to follow these steps. Wildlife that are attracted to one home often visit adjoining lots. Neighbors working together are most effective.

Protecting Cacti/Succulent during Winter & Preparing a Cactus Garden for Spring

In the desert, it's **winter** once again. When the nights are chilly and temperatures can drop dramatically over a few hours, as soon as the sun sets on the Catalina's. Did you know that in climates that experience wind and notable drops in temperature but little or no snow, cacti can become frostbitten? Here are a few tips to keep your cactus and succulents happy and healthy during the winter months.

1. Drape succulents with frost cloth (sold at nurseries) or old bed sheets. Avoid plastic, which traps moisture, doesn't let plants breathe, and intensifies sunlight. Remove collapsed leaves only if it's likely they'll stay moist and decay.
2. Cacti can withstand temperatures from 45°F to 85°F without complaint as long as they are dry. To prevent damage from the cold, they can also carefully be covered with burlap as late in the season as possible. The burlap allows the plants to breathe while protecting them from sun, ice and wind. During rainy winters, a structure, such as a canvas tent, can shelter them from excessive moisture.
3. Most succulents survive freezing temperatures best if the soil around them is dry. Cacti can withstand lowered temperatures but with columnar cacti, such as silver torch, or mexican fence post, they are most vulnerable on the tips. The tip can be covered with a frost cloth, or Styrofoam cups, but take care not to remove spines if possible, since they do not regenerate.
4. Most cacti and succulents go dormant by the time fall arrives and will stop growing as temperatures and daylight decrease. During winter, they only require occasional watering. Overwatering can easily lead to root rot and appears as browning or blackening on leaves, stems and at the base of the plant. Extensive damage from root rot may be too difficult to reverse.
5. Make cacti or succulent happy by placing the dormant plant in an area where it will thrive. For best results, make sure the plant receives at least three to four hours of bright light a day.



Spring is an excellent time of the year when cactus plants grow actively. Early summer is also an ideal season to develop your cactus garden.

It helps to know the difference. All cacti are succulents—plants that can store water in their roots, stems, and leaves—but not all succulents are cacti. It's sometimes difficult to tell which succulent is really a cactus, but there's one identifier you can always look for. All cacti (and only cacti) have spine cushions, called areolas, which appear as small bumps on their flesh. These bumps are where spines, branches, leaves, and flowers will eventually grow on the plant.

A good formula for cactus soil is one-third horticultural sand, one-third cactus compost (regular potting mix with wood or twigs removed can also be used), and one-third grit in the form of pumice, perlite or porous gravel. These ingredients should be mixed together thoroughly before planting and used for both in-ground planting and potting.

Cacti and other succulents don't require large amounts of fertilizer, but can benefit from a low-strength feeding during their growing season, which runs spring through summer. You can also transition cacti grown indoors to the outdoors beginning during the summer when nighttime temperatures are at least 65 degs. Start their outside stay in a protected spot then gradually move them to an area with more sun. When transplanting cacti or succulent from a pot into the ground, the plant's roots need time to heal and will be susceptible to root rot, so waiting a few days to water is best. **Happy Gardening in Tucson!! (information compiled for article from internet sources.)**

Creekside Chorus

It is monsoon season (late spring or early summer) and you are walking in the early morning or in the evening in Creekside. You hear bleating of a sheep or ferryboat whistle, but you know that can't be right. You get closer to the sound, and you discover it is coming from somewhere in the wash filled with water.

The sounds are coming from a chorus of native frogs and toads. These amphibians live in desert brush and migrate to temporary bodies of water in washes to breed. Only the males have the ability to sing. Male toads and frogs serenade their females during over a relatively short period (10-12 days) Then the females lay hundreds of eggs in strings on the bottom or by grasses, which metamorphose into tadpoles.

There are 20 different types of amphibians that live in the Arizonan Sonoran Desert. This article will highlight the ecology of **4 common amphibians** in Creekside neighborhood. All toads and frogs play a vital role in in the food web by eating insect pests. If you happen to see one, and are tempted to pick one up, *proceed with caution*. Their first line of defense is to secrete a toxin from their skin when touched which can cause allergic reactions in humans. For more information, please refer to the websites at the end of this article.



The distinguishing traits of the 3-inch **Red-Spotted Toad** are the multiple red warts scattered against its pale tan skin. These toads are active at night or early morning; they spend their days in underneath plant debris. Their song is a high-pitched cricket like trill that lasts about 10 seconds.



The **Sonoran Green Toad** averages 2.5 inches in size. It is bright green with a black net-like pattern on its back and legs. These toads are found in washes along mesquite and creosote grassland communities. The call has been described as “ventriloquistic” because it is difficult for one person to locate the specific source. The male call sounds like a combination of a buzz and whistle.



The **Couch's Spadefoot Toad** can grow to almost 4 inches. Their skin is yellow green. Their name comes from a spade-like growth on the base of each of their hind feet. They live in short grass and desert brush. Their diet is made up of beetles, grasshoppers, and ants. Their call can be compared to the bleat of a lamb. They spend much of the year burrowed underground to avoid the hot and dry climate; some for more than a year. They emerge only after a very penetrating monsoon rain. The main defense of Couch's Spadefoot is a toxin in their skin that can cause sneezing and watery eyes when touched.



The **Sonoran Desert Toad** (aka Colorado River Toad) is the largest toad native to North America. They can grow 7 inches in length. They have smooth olive gray skin with 2 very large glands on their head. They live in creosote desert scrub and feed on a variety of insects and even small vertebrates. Their call lasts under a second and sounds like a ferryboat whistle.

The Sonoran Desert Toad has a reputation as the “Psychedelic Toad”. Its venom is illegally harvested and used as a hallucinogenic drug. It is even classified as a controlled substance. The defensive toxin from their glands is released when animals try to eat them. *Large dogs, who accidentally eat them, have been known to be paralyzed or die from the venom.*

Further reading:

<https://birdwatchinghq.com/toads-in-arizona/>

<https://tucsonherpsociety.org/amphibians-reptiles/amphibians/>

Board Members & Management

Jeannie Tucker—President & Landscape Committee

Chris Renner—Vice President

Carol Sack—Treasurer & Social Committee

Stephanie Luellen, Association Manager

Copper Rose Community Management

6601 E 22nd St Tucson, Az 85710

StephanieL@copperrosellc.com - 520.888.0474

Creekside HOA Board of Directors would like to extend a welcome to all of the new homeowners who have joined our community!