

TOWN OF PARADISE VALLEY

Discussion regarding Native Plant Preservation

May 14, 2020



TODAY'S GOAL

Provide information to the Town Council regarding Town Code and process concerning Native Plant Preservation.



AGENDA

- **Summarize Previous Council Study Session Discussion**
- **Comparison to other Communities**
- **Possible Process Improvements**



JANUARY STUDY SESSION ITEMS

- **Staff Suggested the following:**
 - **Clarifying need for Native Plant Preservation Plan for Grading Plan**
 - **Requiring a pre-inspection prior to start of grading/building activity**
 - **Provide residents a list of contractors**
 - **Expand the list of protected plants found in Maricopa County**
- **Council asked that staff research what other municipalities best practices**



NATIVE PLANT PRESERVATION

- Implementation during demolition and construction phases of new homes
 - Any new home or remodel/addition greater than \$500,000 requires a Native Plant Preservation Plan
 - Plan includes an aerial photograph and/or site plan showing all protected native plants within area of disturbance
 - Lists number, species, size, and condition of protective native plants
 - Narrative explaining relocation (if necessary)
 - Reviewed by the Building Division as part of plan review
 - Inspected at Building Final to ensure remain



NATIVE PLANT PRESERVATION

- **Multiple Locations in Town Code that Address Preservation**
 - **Town Code Section 5-8-4 – Single-Family Home Construction**
 - **Zoning Ordinance Article 22 – Hillside Development**
 - **SUP Review and Stipulations**
- **Today's discussion is focused on the regulation of native plants during the construction of single-family homes.**



COMPARISON TO OTHER COMMUNITIES

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Carefree

- Regulates landscaping on private property, transition landscaping from the structure to surrounding native landscaping
- Requires landscape plan for all building/grading permit
- Native plants cannot be touched outside of the building envelope, except to prune diseased or dying trees or remove packrat nests

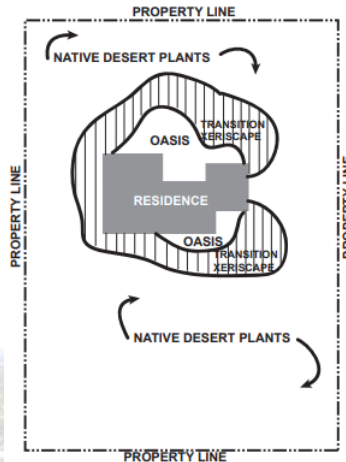


Table 9.1: Protected Plants (Trees and Shrubs).

Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Acacia constricta</i>	Whitethorn acacia
<i>Acacia greggii</i>	Catclaw acacia
<i>Canotia holocantha</i>	Crucifixion thorn
<i>Celtis reticulata</i>	Hackberry
<i>Cercidium floridum</i>	Blue palo verde
<i>Cercidium microphyllum</i>	Foothills palo verde
<i>Chilopsis linearis</i>	Desert willow
<i>Olney tesota</i>	Ironwood
<i>Populus fremontii</i>	Cottonwood
<i>Prosopis species</i>	Mesquite
<i>Quercus species</i>	Scrub oak
<i>Rhus ovata</i>	Sugar sumac
<i>Vauquelinea californica</i>	Arizona rosewood



COMPARISON TO OTHER COMMUNITIES

Cave Creek

- **Regulates landscaping on private property, transition landscaping from the structure to surrounding native landscaping**
- **Has maximum lot disturbances, cannot landscape outside of that area**
- **Requires landscape plan for all building/grading permit**
- **Requires a Financial Assurance with building permits so the Town can revegetate disturbed areas**
- **Inspections include, field walk, prelim inspection, nursery inspection, and final inspection**



COMPARISON TO OTHER COMMUNITIES

Sedona

- Does not have a Native Plant Preservation Ordinance
- Regulates landscaping on private property, primarily trees
- No trees can be removed unless it is within the building envelope, a fire hazard, is an invasive species, dead or diseased
- Requires trees to be saved during construction activities to be fenced off
- Utilizes incentives (keeping 1 native tree is equivalent to planting 4 new ones)



COMPARISON TO OTHER COMMUNITIES

Scottsdale

- **Adopted a Native Plant Preservation Ordinance in 1981**
- **Regulates landscaping on private property**
- **Single-family projects are required to submit a native plant inventory report and site plan at time of building permit submittal**
- **Requires a pre-inspection and post-inspection**



POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS

1. **Update to current list of plants (Code Change)**
2. **Revise Section 5-10-5 “Grading and Dust Regulations” to clearly define a Native Plant Preservation Plan is required as part of a grading permit application (Code Change)**
3. **Require as part of a Storm Water Pollution Protection Plan Inspection the inspection of the native plants on site (Policy Decision – Staff Implementation)**
4. **Provide, through the permitting process, a list of approved contractors (Policy Decision – Staff Implementation)**



CURRENTLY PROTECTED PLANTS

Currently Town Code Specifically protects trees that are over 4 inches in caliper

White Thorn Acacia

Catclaw Acacia

Foothill Palo Verde

Blue Palo Verde

Ironwood

Mesquite

And Cacti which are three feet or greater in height

Saguaro

Barrel

Ocotillo

Desert Night Blooming Cereus



ADDITIONAL PROTECTED PLANTS

Staff suggests adding trees that are over 4 inches in caliper

Red Barberry

Cruxifiction Thron

Desert Hackberry

Desert Willow

Juniper

Cottonwood

And one additional cactus, Soaptree Yucca



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THANK YOU

Additional Questions?

