

**THIV LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2/24/22**

Since the beginning of formal landscape planning in THIV our major work priorities have been

- erosion control
- pack rat nests and removal
- resident special requests — often are about the first two priorities
- keeping the roadways cleared of sand, stones and rocks

These are still our major priorities with a couple of additions because of the maturing of our natural common ground foliage.

- trimming, thinning (sometimes removing) our many trees and varieties of cactus.
- constant clearing of broken limbs and branches and dead “anything.”

The mega drought that the southwest is experiencing is a major complication for all things involved in THIV’s landscaping issues. Two years—2019 and 2020 of NO significant rain and then last summer’s wild monsoon season with TOO MUCH rain definitely has taken its toll on our common land care and management. Lazo Circle, the far West end of the South Arroyo, the culverts of both of our huge arroyos and several of our large trees were the hardest hit with moderate to severe damage.

Lower Lazo has received nearly a complete make over—just finished in January. The problems of the West end of the South Arroyo on both side are still being assessed and researched as it is obvious that professional engineering advice and contracted work is needed. Pima County Flood Control was responsible for the bottom land area of both of our arroyos. The South Arroyo was so clogged that in September they had to come with earthmovers and bulldozers to remove 100 feet of accumulated debris!! Felix Landscaping had already cleared the culverts 4 times before the county got in here to assist! (The Del Poso Arroyo was able to be handled by Felix Landscaping.).

Two of our big trees were damaged. One we are still “trying” to save—the biggest and oldest mesquite tree at the northwest corner of Del Poso and Del Monte. This tree was first severely damaged 4 summers ago in another microburst experience, but survived. Last summer it fell over in the middle of the night, but did not lose its major root system and now looks like a “new” mesquite variety, we, on the landscape committee affectionately call “our mesquite bush.” The jury is not in on our “bush” quite yet. But, it has been 6 months and fully two and a half seasons and it still seems to be surviving OK. We have put 4 plants around it, cleared out all the underlying cactus to provide a place for people to be shaded— — will soon get a bench for sitting. We don’t know??? August is our deadline month for decision making. So far. So good.

We have now been contracted with the second generation of Felix Landscaping, Inc. for 4 entire budget years. During our first 3 years we were gradually transitioning

from our long term (45 years) relationship with our Friend and Constant Landscape Guru, Manuel Felix, to the younger generation of Felix Landscaping, Gabriel Felix and his various crews. At the beginning we identified 18 giant projects that needed our attention — (eventually they morphed into 27, then 28 with last summer's monsoon destruction on Lazo.). We are at this point, finally, done with big projects — the size and character of which has often distracted our weekly attention away from just regular common ground maintenance and care.

So, beginning this 5h year, there is a general sense of relief from constant huge assignments of “cutting, clearing and removing.” Now, we can be a little laid back in our desire to see huge changes, as general maintenance now takes the lead. Our new contract is for two years and will be up for review in the THIV fiscal year that will end January, 2024.

Our primary goals for this coming year are to focus on “normal” maintenance and landscape management. We will especially concentrate on erosion control “fixes” on upper Lazo, along Del Monte's end caps at the Rueda Circle loop, several spots along Del Poso and the Garden Path. Unless Mother Nature intervenes in a grand and negative way this summer, most of our plans for this year will be able to be worked into

In the last newsletter we had a list of small volunteer landscape projects we were asking for interested residents to sign on to do. Three folks did call, but we can still use more!!!!

A couple of reminders:

1. Please put **common ground yard waste** at a pick up point or call Marilyn Kern to arrange for it to be picked up behind or in front of your property. Pick up days by **Felix Landscaping crews are the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month. Titan Recycling and Trash picks up yard waste from your front and back yard each Tuesday!** Please do not confuse these two yard waste types of pick up process. Every load of yard waste going to the dump on the 2nd and 4th Mondays costs the landscape budget \$170. We have only 42 loads allotted for this new budget year. Common ground yard waste is NOT picked up by Titan Trash. They pick up our private property yard waste and that is part of the fee each of us individually pays them.
2. Felix Landscaping comes to work in THIV all day on every Friday of the year. That is it — one day, once per week. We make lists and schedules every week based on general observation needs, the specific demands of the seasons of the year and residents' requests. Of course there are provisions for emergency problems—most likely trees during the monsoon season — but, count on every Friday.

We thank you all for your cooperation and continued support of our efforts to keep THIV natural, vibrant and safe. We, the committee, seem often to be straddling

that tenuous line of deciding too much or too little. Your observations and suggestions really help. They bring up issues that have not been seen nor thought of before and it is usually something quite good, helpful and possible. We will always encourage questions and comments! Just call, text or email any one of us on the committee.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marilyn Kern, Chr.

### **MANNY'S PARK UPDATE THIV ANNUAL MEETING 2/24/22**

**Sure feels like many of us are enjoying Manny's Park —more and more each year and month. Brings smiles to us all! Even though Manny's Park is, as planned, still supported by contributions from residents and does not fall under the annual budget of the THIV Landscape budget, it is appropriate that the landscape committee author an update of the park at our annual meeting time.**

**Still a work in progress . . . Currently, the primary caretaker of Manny's Park is Manuel Felix himself! He loves the place—and, still, THIV. Every week on Monday or Tuesday you can see him raking, watering, planting more cactus.**

**Also on the list of heroes are two residents Bill Helfmann and Kathy Hanson. Both of these residents over the last two years have used their strengths and creative genius to clear and establish a definite large walkway and lay out its boundaries with artistic brick placement and design! Bill has helped so much to rake, water and establish the east end of Manny's Park. He does this all year — even on summer evenings.**

**Just plain THANKS is hardly enough for these two residents—let alone, Manny. But THANKS is what we can say to any of them when we see them!**

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#### **Three extra specials**

- 1. We put an automatic irrigation system into Manny's Park last May.**
- 2. By mid-March this year Manny's Park will be home to a Little Library. You can see the post is in—the library box to follow soon.**
- 3. Manny's Park has been the special gathering place for two fabulous art/craft bazaars for local artists and crafters to display their talents. Both events sponsored by the THIV Member Services Committee.**



