

**THIV LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT
2/22/2024**

THIV LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE: Marilyn Kern, Chr., Lynne Behrens, Judy Crawford, Barb Gallagher, Tom Gordon, Kathy Hanson, Glenn Miller, Joelle Rubenstein and Stacey Tandberg.

Last year at this time I was delighted to report to all, that during the coming budget year of 2023/24, we would be continuing to move from BIG cleaning, clearing (pack rat nests—sometimes city and county size) and erosion control projects to a weekly routine of “general maintenancev.” GM defined: clearing dead, dying or fallen trees, tree limbs broken, sticks and branches, removing pack rats, raking, keeping stones and sand off of our 14 roadways, seasonal trimmings and removals i.e. bird of Paradise and spent century agave plants, overhanging tree branches etc.

General Maintenance for THIV means that every week the Felix Crews can follow their scheduled plans to cover the whole common ground area of THIV at least every 3 months (4 times per year).

That is what happened during most Fridays of our last year. Each week had and has the possibility of a Special Request from a resident or two or three — that has been shared with the Chair, so it can go on Friday’s Task List for the crew.

We finished 4 of our 6 scheduled large erosion control projects before the summer set in upon us. These were:

- to shore up the west side of the entrance to THIV on Del Monte from Alegria to del Mundo;**
- to re-surface and shore up almost the entire common ground across the road from the 5 lots on the west top of Del Monte.**
 - to re-surface and shore up the roadway of lower Rueda.**
 - shore up the north end caps of Cobre, Solaz and Lazo.**

This year we will re-surface and shore up our last two semi-complex small erosion control projects. These will be on upper Lazo Circle and on Upper Rubies.

If you are a walker, you may have noticed some really special new plantings along the Garden Path — a Healing Garden which

someday (and even now, a little bit) will in a soft wind waft with special aromas to encourage moments of meditation and peace. Right next to this area is to be found another special area of several new plants that it is hoped will one day blossom into a pollinator garden attracting butterflies and other winged pollinators.

The whole idea, the fabulous signs, all of the plants and plantings, all of last summer's diligent watering was created and carried out by a committed cadre of volunteers . Named, they are Jean Otto, Lynne Behrens, Barb Gallagher, Judy Crawford, Mary DeSmidt, Glenn, Miller and David Kern. Not all of the plants made it. (No help from monsoon rains). Many did. Still some of this watering goes on—getting through the first year.

In December we were able to begin one of our 2024/25 goals. With the assistance, excitement and commitment of two of our very newest residents, Stacey Tandberg and Vincent Marcellini, the research of Judy Crawford and Barb Gallagher of the LC, and, of course, Felix Landscaping, we were able to begin improving the huge expanse of nearly barren common land at the north end cap of Rubies Circle. We planted 4 trees. More to come in this area.

Our goals for this coming year include:

- **perfecting routine /completion of "general maintenance."**
- **planting new native plants and re-planting many others to barren spots where they will assist a great deal in erosion control.**
- **updating our planting suggestions found on the website.**
- **completing our two small erosion control projects.**
- **as always, responding to your requests and needs.**

REMINDERS FOR ALL RESIDENTS

- **Get out your THIV map that is marked with an X for all the pickup points for common ground yard waste.**
- **Pick up is twice per month. Every 2nd and 4th Monday.**
- **New cost this year for each dump run; \$180**
- **Put only COMMON GROUND YARD WASTE at pick up points.**

Bird food, as in suet or seed blocks should not be placed on our back walls. Placement there is simply a screaming invite to squirrels. The birds can easily get to their "feed" inside our confined walls and the squirrels will have to work harder to get their share—and, maybe give up thinking they should nest nearby!

Be sure to watch the video that Martin Klotz, webmaster, sent to everyone last Saturday. Glenn Miller made this fabulous, informative video about snakes and general wildlife in THIV. Laury and Bruce Scandling, also talented THIV residents, assisted with editing and narration. Fabulous!

NOW, SAD REMINDERS

You may personally subscribe to the well-known quote that it is very often easier to ask for forgiveness than permission.

NOT SO! IF YOU ARE CONTEMPLATING MAKING ANY CHANGES TO THE LAND, TRIMMING ANY TREES OR CUTTING AWAY ANY OF THE FOLIAGE ON COMMON LAND IN GREEN VALLEY FOOTHILLS TOWNHOUSES IV

!!!! ASK FOR PERMISSION !!!!! - ASK FOR PERMISSION !!!!!

YES, is our favorite response. Often, however, we need to see what you are purposing to establish. What is the overall effect on beauty and wildlife habitat, possible erosion problems, safety, waste removal.

This year we had two residents who ended up paying overcharges for huge piles of common land yard waste they had created. At \$180 for each extra dump run it is quite an expensive "forgiveness." One resident didn't realize that the landscaper they paid to do some of the work should have taken all the waste away — included in his cost! We would have told them, had they asked ... first!

The saddest of all ... Someone (s) has taken to walking around and cutting limbs off of trees. Who? When? No one sees the person. It has happened for over a year on the Garden Path, in Manny's Park, up down and over the top of Del Monte.??? You are NOT helping us, please stop!

Your landscape committee has these issues covered and uses official volunteer, knowledgeable trimmers as well as Bartlett Tree Service and our THIV contracted crews with Felix Landscape, LLC!

The heart breaker has been the giant mesquite at the west end corner of Del Poso meeting Del Monte. We have so successfully been saving our storm damaged, fallen native mesquite for 4 seasons—calling it THIV's Super Mesquite Bush. During January someone decided to cut off all the small branches attached to a huge trunk lying on the ground. Those branches were keeping that trunk alive, and that trunk was supporting our entire THIV Special Bush Tree!!!

Soon, that trunk would die, and a good wind would take our THIV Special Bush away from us all. It is so sad that someone out there with saw in hand, just whacking away brought on a lot of anxiety and tears to those of us who knew what it meant for the long run.

If there had been an ASK, we would have been able to explain what this tree is about and the purpose that huge trunk had for the future existence of the tree. We will now have to put up signage.

(ED. Note). We think we may have circumvented the problem. A huge boulder was purchased and brought to put under the arm of the tree. Time will tell.

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Thanks to all of you for all the wonderful care you take of your own property and even many of you for all the attention you give to the common land beyond your back walls and side yards. We certainly have a lot to be proud of in our "native green" community.