



## CONSERVATION ELEMENT<sup>‡</sup>

Scottsdale is continuously improving efforts to safeguard and conserve its environmental resources. The community is dedicated to the efficient use of natural resources and steadfastly works toward the long-term sustainability of non-renewable resources. Many resources, such as wildlife, watersheds, and others, however, cross geographic and jurisdictional boundaries. Therefore, regional coordination is essential in achieving the community's conservation goals.

One natural resource that is critical to our daily lives is water. As citizens, we can contribute to water conservation by consuming less, using water more efficiently, and avoiding waste; installing rainwater harvesting systems; maximizing the use of native plants for landscaping; and reusing treated wastewater.

As Scottsdale matures, development will place pressure on lands at the urban fringe. This can have unintended consequences on the natural environment, including degradation of water quality, loss of habitat, and diminished scenic views. The challenge remains in achieving a balance between orderly development and the protection of Scottsdale's natural resources.

The goals and policies in this element guide Scottsdale's conservation efforts to provide a healthy and diverse environment for future generations.

## Goals and Policies

### Goal CONSV 1 †

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**Achieve a sustainable balance between the conservation of natural resources and development of the built environment.**

#### *Policies*

**CONSV 1.1** Promote local and regional public and private partnerships to reduce natural resource consumption, such as aggressive conservation, reuse, and recycling programs. *[Cross-reference Environmental Planning and Public Services & Facilities Elements]*

**CONSV 1.2** Use best practices in natural resource management to enhance, restore, and sustain our Sonoran Desert ecosystem. *[Cross-reference Environmental Planning and Public Services & Facilities Elements]*

**CONSV 1.3** Promote local and regional cooperation among natural resource management agencies, professionals, and local school districts in developing environmental education materials and outreach programs. *[Cross-reference Environmental Planning Element]*

**CONSV 1.4** Encourage landscape designs that promote water conservation, prevent erosion, reduce the heat island effect, and decrease stormwater runoff. *[Cross-reference Character & Design; Open Space; and Environmental Planning Elements]*

**CONSV 1.5** Protect and restore ecosystems that maintain water quality, reduce flooding, and enhance sustainable resource development. *[Cross-reference Environmental Planning; Water Resources; and Safety Elements]*



## Goal CONSV 2 †

Protect and manage Sonoran Desert biodiversity and native ecosystems.

### Policies

- CONSV 2.1** Preserve, salvage, and/or restore native plants, wildlife habitat, and natural resources to maintain the biodiversity and long-term sustainability of the area's desert ecology and character. *[Cross-reference Character & Design and Environmental Planning Elements]*
- CONSV 2.2** Encourage landscaping that limits the amount of grass and makes optimal use of native desert plants. *[Cross-reference Character & Design and Environmental Planning Elements]*
- CONSV 2.3** Maintain natural washes as wildlife movement corridors and avoid disturbances to preserve habitat linkages. *[Cross-reference Open Space and Environmental Planning Elements]*
- CONSV 2.4** Identify, protect, and restore habitats for endangered, rare, and threatened species. *[Cross-reference Environmental Planning Element]*
- CONSV 2.5** Prevent the introduction and control further spread of invasive species. *[Cross-reference Environmental Planning Element]*
- CONSV 2.6** Incorporate and maintain wildlife habitat elements in park design and common area landscaped areas. *[Cross-reference Character & Design; Open Space; Recreation; and Environmental Planning Elements]*
- CONSV 2.7** Strive to reduce pesticide use by employing non-chemical and less-toxic pest management strategies.



Goal CONSV 3 †

Protect the integrity of watersheds.

*Policies*

**CONSV 3.1 †** Identify potential sources of watershed contamination, continue to remediate groundwater contamination, and apply preventative measures to avoid future contamination of groundwater resources. *[Cross-reference Environmental Planning and Water Resources Elements]*

**CONSV 3.2** Monitor stormwater runoff to identify opportunities to reduce surface water pollution. *[Cross-reference Environmental Planning Element]*

**CONSV 3.3** Improve stormwater quality through best management practices.

**CONSV 3.4** Explore groundwater contamination prevention techniques, such as minimizing use of chemicals for landscape maintenance. *[Cross-reference Environmental Planning Element]*

**CONSV 3.5** Identify sources responsible for watershed contamination and educate the community on watershed pollution prevention measures. *[Cross-reference Environmental Planning and Water Resources Elements]*

**CONSV 3.6** Use natural watercourse and watershed pollution management techniques, such as “green” or low-impact infrastructure, vegetation, erosion control measures, and settling ponds. *[Cross-reference Environmental Planning Element]*



## Goal CONSV 4 †

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### Conserve water and encourage the reuse of wastewater.

#### *Policies*

- CONSV 4.1** Continue to maintain and expand the reclaimed water distribution system, as feasible, and continue to develop and implement a salinity reduction program for reuse of reclaimed water. *[Cross-reference Water Resources Element]*
- CONSV 4.2** Consider multiple-use facilities when planning resource conservation programs, including the integration of recharge sites with natural or constructed habitat, as allowed per the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and Arizona Department of Water Resources.
- CONSV 4.3** Continue to thoroughly review development impacts on water use, and encourage development design that fosters water conservation. *[Cross-reference Character & Design; Environmental Planning; Water Resources; and Cost of Development Elements]*
- CONSV 4.4** Effectively monitor and maintain the water distribution system to minimize water conveyance loss. *[Cross-reference Water Resources Element]*
- CONSV 4.5** Increase recycled water use and encourage the adoption of water conservation measures and best management practices by local industries. *[Cross-reference Water Resources Element]*
- CONSV 4.6** Continue to inform, educate, and incentivize the community regarding water conservation practices. *[Cross-reference Water Resources Element]*
- CONSV 4.7** Support rainwater harvesting and stormwater capture in site planning and building design. *[Cross-reference Character & Design; Environmental Planning; and Water Resources Elements]*
- CONSV 4.8** Explore new and evolving water conservation and reuse technologies and use them as appropriate. *[Cross-reference Water Resources Element]*
- CONSV 4.9** Review and revise city code and ordinance requirements that potentially hinder water conservation practices. *[Cross-reference Water Resources Element]*

Goal CONSV 5 †

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Retain and prevent erosion of significant watercourses and water bodies.

*Policies*

**CONSV 5.1** Discourage and minimize clearing and grading within sites located in areas designated as Environmentally Sensitive Lands (ESL). *[Cross-reference Character & Design; Open Space; and Land Use Elements]*

**CONSV 5.2 †** Maintain existing and promote wise placement of native plants as the primary means to control erosion and retain Sonoran Desert character. *[Cross-reference Character & Design and Environmental Planning Elements]*

**CONSV 5.3 †** Strive to restore erosion-damaged areas to their previous conditions to reduce water consumption and restore desert wildlife habitat. *[Cross-reference Environmental Planning Element]*

**CONSV 5.4 †** Encourage preservation of the 100-year floodplains and washes as natural drainage ways, where possible. If hazard prevention measures are necessary, use context-sensitive design elements. *[Cross-reference Character & Design; Open Space; and Safety Elements]*

**CONSV 5.5** Manage streams, washes, and floodplains to maintain their multiple biological, physical, and social values.

**CONSV 5.6** For flood control channel design, a high priority should be placed on:

- Sensitive aesthetic treatment;
- Neighborhood character compatibility; and
- Effects on the entire ecosystem, including plant and animal habitat.

*[Cross-reference Character & Design; Environmental Planning; and Neighborhood Preservation & Revitalization Elements]*