

Inflation's impact on Scottsdale's Capital Improvement Program

When Scottsdale voters approved 58 bond projects in November 2019, project budgets were based upon the best estimates available at the time. Since then, the ripples of a global pandemic have impacted city construction projects significantly — projects cost more to build — much more in some cases.

While 11 of the 2019 bond projects are already complete, and 20 more are in progress with no additional funding currently needed, the Fiscal Year 2023/24 Capital Improvement Program budget proposes to use about \$54 million in one-time funding to add money to 10 projects to cover the cost of inflation. The additional funding comes from unanticipated revenue above projections and savings from other areas.

Some of the priority projects in need of additional funding include Thompson Peak Park Dog Park, a new fire station near Hayden Road and Loop 101, repairs to the lakes and irrigation in the Indian Bend Wash, an expansion to Via Linda Senior Center and improvements to the 911 call center and city jail. These projects will begin design or construction in the next year.

During the 2019 bond election, the city committed to voters that the secondary property tax rate would not increase more than the rate at the time of the vote to pay for the new projects, and that commitment is being met. To see an interactive map with project details and cost breakdowns, visit [ScottsdaleAZ.gov](https://www.scottsdaleaz.gov/bond2019), search “Bond 2019.”

Scottsdale residents report a high quality of life and consider the community an excellent place to live, according to the National Community Survey conducted in December and January.

Among the results, 98% of residents rate the city as an “excellent” or “good” place to

live and 95% are satisfied with their overall quality of life. Residents reported high levels of satisfaction with safety in the community and ranked the local economy as a top priority.

The biennial survey provides insight into how residents feel about their community, about their local government, and about their interactions with both. Find more information and the full report at [ScottsdaleAZ.gov](https://www.scottsdaleaz.gov/survey), search “survey.”

Historic preservation effort keeps City Hall true to community's vision

Dignified. Distinctive. Reflective of the Southwest and the spirit of Scottsdale. Those were the goals when a growing community sought to build a new local government center in the mid-1960s.

Scottsdale City Hall opened in October 1968. Arizona architect Bennie Gonzales' design for the building, the adjacent Civic Center Library and the surrounding open space beat out 35 other proposals.

More than five decades later, the City Council recently initiated both a Zoning District Map Amendment and a Historic Preservation Case to retain the community's original vision for Scottsdale City Hall and preserve one of Arizona's most prominent public spaces.

City Hall, the library, Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts and those open spaces — now known as the Scottsdale Civic Center — were designed to be special. The open chamber in City Hall, patterned after the Hopi Indians' ceremonial Kiva, was a symbolic nod to Native American culture and accessible government.

“A goal of Scottsdale General Plan 2035 is to identify and protect Scottsdale's historic, archeological and cultural resources and sustain community character,” Planning & Development Area Manager Adam Yaron said. “The Old Town Scottsdale Character Area Plan reinforces the idea that to strengthen and enhance Old Town's character, it's important to protect prominent historic resources. This effort supports both of those plans.”

No changes are proposed to City Hall, but rezoning and historical designation will establish City Hall as a significant local resource, protecting and preserving it into the future, and allowing the spirit and the vision of those residents who first conceived the project to live on.

Following further recommendations from the Historic Preservation and Planning commissions, City Council is scheduled to consider adoption June 13.

Learn more about the project and City Hall's history at [ScottsdaleAZ.gov](https://www.scottsdaleaz.gov/cityhall), search “City Hall.”



Bennie Gonzales with a model of Scottsdale Civic Center circa mid-1960s. Scottsdale Historical Society photo.



Ready, Set, Go for summer monsoons

Monsoon season often brings thunderstorms with heavy rain, flash flooding and lightning which can cause wildfires. Prepare now so you know what actions may be

needed when a major storm rolls in. Develop a household emergency plan, and consider items you would need to take and routes you may need to travel in the event of an emergency evacuation.

In the event of an emergency, look for Ready, Set, Go messages on social networks and in the news media. Be **READY**: always be prepared for potential emergencies; get **SET** by maintaining awareness of events that may force evacuation; and **GO**, evacuate immediately as instructed by emergency authorities.

Scottsdale Fire is available to provide Emergency Preparedness/Ready Set Go presentations for neighborhoods, organizations and businesses. Schedule yours at ScottsdaleAZ.gov, search “speaker request.”

Despite wet winter, drought remains

About two-thirds of Scottsdale’s water comes from the Central Arizona Project – 336 miles of aqueducts, tunnels, pumping plants and pipes bringing Colorado River water to Pima, Pinal and Maricopa counties.

Despite a very wet and snowy winter, one good year of precipitation does not erase decades of drought. Further supply shortages on the Colorado River are expected. Residents and businesses are asked to cut water use by at least 5% – and Scottsdale Water can help!

Schedule an irrigation system checkup: a certified irrigation specialist will visit your home to show you how to find leaks and properly program your irrigation system. Call 480-312-5650 to schedule a checkup.

Get paid to save water: check the latest water saving rebates at ScottsdaleAZ.gov, search “residential rebate.”

See water use and save in real time: Water customers can review details of water use and get leak notifications through the WaterSmart portal. Learn more at ScottsdaleAZ.gov, search “WaterSmart.”



A monthlong event you’ll wish was even longer

On the list of most popular months to visit Old Town Scottsdale, June makes a compelling argument to be No. 1.

What began as a fun concept to kick off summer before the heat set in, June Days has become a celebration of all things that make this area so unique.

With daily activities and events – wine tastings, art exhibits, crafting workshops, live performances and family-oriented outings – June Days leaves visitors with suntans and sunny demeanors, and a yearning to return again for more signature Old Town fun.

Plan your June Days at OldTownScottsdaleAZ.com.

Scottsdale’s Community Juneteenth Celebration is 2-7 p.m. Saturday, June 17, at the Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts & Scottsdale Civic Center. Enjoy indoor and outdoor activities, food, music, family fun, art, and wellness information.

Learn more and RSVP at ScottsdaleAZ.gov, search “Juneteenth.”



More things to do

For complete details, search event names at ScottsdaleAZ.gov/events.

- McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park’s **Summer Concert Series** is 7-8:30 p.m. every Sunday through June 25. Pack a picnic, bring a blanket or chair, and enjoy food trucks & tunes. More info at TheRailroadPark.com.
- The **Children’s Learning and Play Festival** features children’s authors and illustrators, live performances, rides, interactive activities and vendors. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, June 24, at WestWorld of Scottsdale.
- Light up the sky at **Scottsdale 4th of July**. Returning to WestWorld for its 10th year, this patriotic celebration unites everyone’s summertime favorites: fabulous food, fireworks and family fun – even a rodeo – while beating the Arizona heat. 5-10 p.m. Tuesday, July 4.

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If you have questions or suggestions, please email communications@ScottsdaleAZ.gov

General city information:
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