

Vistoso Trails Nature Preserve Buffer Zone Pests Management Prescription

Purpose and Scope

As part of the Vistoso Trails Nature Preserve (VTNP) Standards, derived from the Conservation Easement (CE) on the property, this Prescription outlines the details for how the 8-foot Buffer Zone is to be managed. The purpose of the VTNP CE is for “conserving and forever maintaining the natural, scenic, open space, historical, biological, and cultural character of the Preserve as well as maintaining the Preserve for low impact recreational use.”

Authority and Responsibility

- Preserve Owner (Town of Oro Valley) maintains authority over all Preserve property and amenities
- CE Holder (Archaeology Southwest) ensures compliance with the CE and approves the list of Designated Pest Management Firms (Designated Firms)
- Adjacent landowners, residents, and Homeowner Associations (HOAs) may only perform actions specifically authorized in this Prescription and at their own expense and risk, occurring within the designated buffer zone adjacent to residential property lines
- Designated Firms: authorized by CE Holder to perform pest management consistent with this Prescription only within the 8-foot Buffer Zone. The 8-foot Buffer Zone does not include or extend to within 3 feet of any pathways, sidewalks or Preserve amenities, as those areas are maintained exclusively by Preserve Owner.

Methods for Buffer Zone Management by Parties other than Owner

- **Access:** The Preserve shall be accessed only via established trailheads, sidewalks, walking paths, or other designated access points approved by the Preserve Owner (see attached map).
- **Parking:** Designated firms must park exclusively in established parking areas or other locations expressly approved by the Preserve Owner.
- **Designated “Pest” Species:** Pest management activities shall be limited to the following designated species, when removal or control is necessary for habitat protection, public safety, or infrastructure protection:
 - Packrats, fire ants, wasps, and venomous spiders.
- **Vehicles, Equipment, and Work Areas:** During pest management activities, vehicles, equipment, and materials shall not be staged on trails or pathways and shall be positioned off all pedestrian routes at all times to ensure safe and continuous public access. Prior to demobilization and exit from the Preserve, all trails, pathways, and adjacent areas shall be fully cleared of debris, equipment, and obstructions. All materials, debris, waste, or byproducts generated as a result of pest management activities shall be removed from the Preserve immediately and disposed of at an approved off-site location.
- **Permitted Control Methods:** The use of non-toxic deterrents is permitted. Authorized personnel may remove or relocate nest sites or designated “pest” species, as necessary, for habitat management, public safety, or infrastructure protection.
- **Prohibited Control Methods:** The use of chemical baiting, pesticides, poisons, or toxic substances for pest control is prohibited.
- **Mosquito Control:** Remediation of mosquito breeding sites may occur if caused by infrastructure issues, such as damaged or blocked culverts.
- **Protection of Wildlife and Habitat:** Pest management activities shall not disturb native wildlife, nesting areas, or habitat located outside of the Buffer Zone.
- **Protection of Native and Protected Vegetation:** Walking, staging of equipment, or ground disturbance shall be avoided within the root zones of saguaros, mesquite, or other protected vegetation.

Prohibited Activities

- **Chemical Controls:** Application, placement, or use of pesticides, rodenticides, insecticides, fumigants, or any other chemical agents.
- **Lethal and Mechanical Devices:** Placement or use of lethal traps, chemical bait stations, bait boxes, or mechanical extermination devices.
- **Unauthorized Wildlife Interaction:** Removal, harassment, capture, or harm of native fauna, including reptiles, birds, mammals, and pollinators, other than the Designated Pest Species expressly authorized for management.
- **Biological Control Introduction:** Introduction or release of predator species or domestic animals for the purpose of pest control.
- **Habitat Alteration:** Alteration of soil, vegetation, or natural drainage patterns as part of pest mitigation activities.
- **Harmful Deterrents:** Use of light, noise, repellents, or other deterrent methods that may adversely affect non-target wildlife.
- **Ground Disturbance:** Digging or any alteration of the ground surface, including but not limited to raking, clearing, grubbing, grading, or excavation.
- **Material Import or Removal:** Addition, removal, or relocation of soils, gravel, fill, or other inert materials.
- **Burning or Mechanical Vegetation Removal:** Burning, weed-whacking, or use of any mechanical vegetation removal methods.
- **Liquids and Solids Discharge:** Application, discharge, or introduction of any liquids or solids onto Preserve property, including but not limited to irrigation water and discharges from swimming pools, spas, showers, washing machines, or similar sources.

Cost and Liability

All costs associated with pest management requested or performed by adjacent landowners, residents, or HOAs are their own respective responsibility. These parties hold the Preserve Owner and CE Holder harmless for any injuries or damage resulting from such work. Contractors must carry liability insurance and comply with all Town permit and safety requirements. Work Authorization does not convey ownership, leasehold or management authority. The adjacent landowners, residents, or HOAs will reimburse the Preserve Owner for the full cost of any restoration or repair necessitated by actions that do not conform with this Prescription.