



Town of Oro Valley Parks and Recreation

Hello Vistoso Trails Nature Preserve Neighbors,

As most of you know, the Town of Oro Valley officially took ownership of the Vistoso Trails Nature Preserve (formerly the Vistoso Golf Course) in July 2022. Over the past six months, we have been working on the site to ensure the walking paths are clean and clear of debris, and we've started addressing the tumbleweeds issue that stems on the 202 acre-property. Two restrooms have been opened—one on the north end near Vistoso Blvd., and one on the south end, near Desert Fairways. We are working on the third restroom, which will open in the coming months.

The most exciting project is the development of the Master Plan, which will help the Town develop future investments, maintenance standards, and educational programming to name a few. Through a competitive bid process, we selected Sites Southwest to lead us through this process. They hosted several community meetings in November as well as conducted site observations and findings. They will present their first draft plan to the Parks and Recreation Board, February 21.

Thank you to everyone who has attended a community meeting or participated in the process so far. Your input and ideas have been invaluable. During those meetings, there were a few issues that came up in discussion, and I'd like to take a moment to address them so that we're all working together toward the same goal. The conservation easement requires the property to be maintained in an open and relatively natural condition for the purpose of protecting a relatively natural habitat of wildlife, plants, or similar ecosystem.

- **Trees** – Trees are important to the health of Vistoso Trails Nature Preserve. Trees (including dead trees) are a natural habitat for animals that live and migrate through the preserve. As such, dead trees will not be removed as a part of the overall management plan. There may be

exceptions, such as life/safety issues for example. But all trees currently in Vistoso Trails Nature Preserve will remain in place.

- **Beyond the Backyard** – It is important that a nature preserve remains a natural habitat where animals, plants and other organisms can thrive. It has been observed that there are several decorative items, feeders, lights, real estate signs, tables and chairs, etc. that have been placed in the preserve, beyond the backyard. To maintain the integrity of this natural habitat, please help us by removing any items you may have placed beyond your backyard. It has also been observed the landscaping activity, to include removal of vegetation, spraying weed killer, etc. is occurring. Please refrain from this activity.
- **Dogs** – Vistoso Trails Nature Preserve is a wonderful place to get exercise for you and your pet. As a reminder, Oro Valley town ordinance requires domestic animals/pets to be restricted by a leash of not more than six feet in length. The ordinance also includes cleaning up after your pet.
- **Issues/Illegal Activity** – If you see any suspicious activities or issues of concern while you are out enjoying the preserve, please notify us at recreation@orovalleyaz.gov, and someone from the Parks and Recreation office will be in touch. If you see illegal activity, call 911.

Thank you for your continued support of Vistoso Trails Nature Preserve. See you on the trails.

Sincerely,



Kristy Diaz-Trahan, Director

Town of Oro Valley Parks and Recreation
