

# The Campaign

FOR A

# “Water Wise” Arboretum



BOYCE THOMPSON  
ARBORETUM





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**The mission of Boyce Thompson Arboretum is to inspire appreciation and stewardship of desert plants, wildlife, and ecosystems through education, research and conservation.**

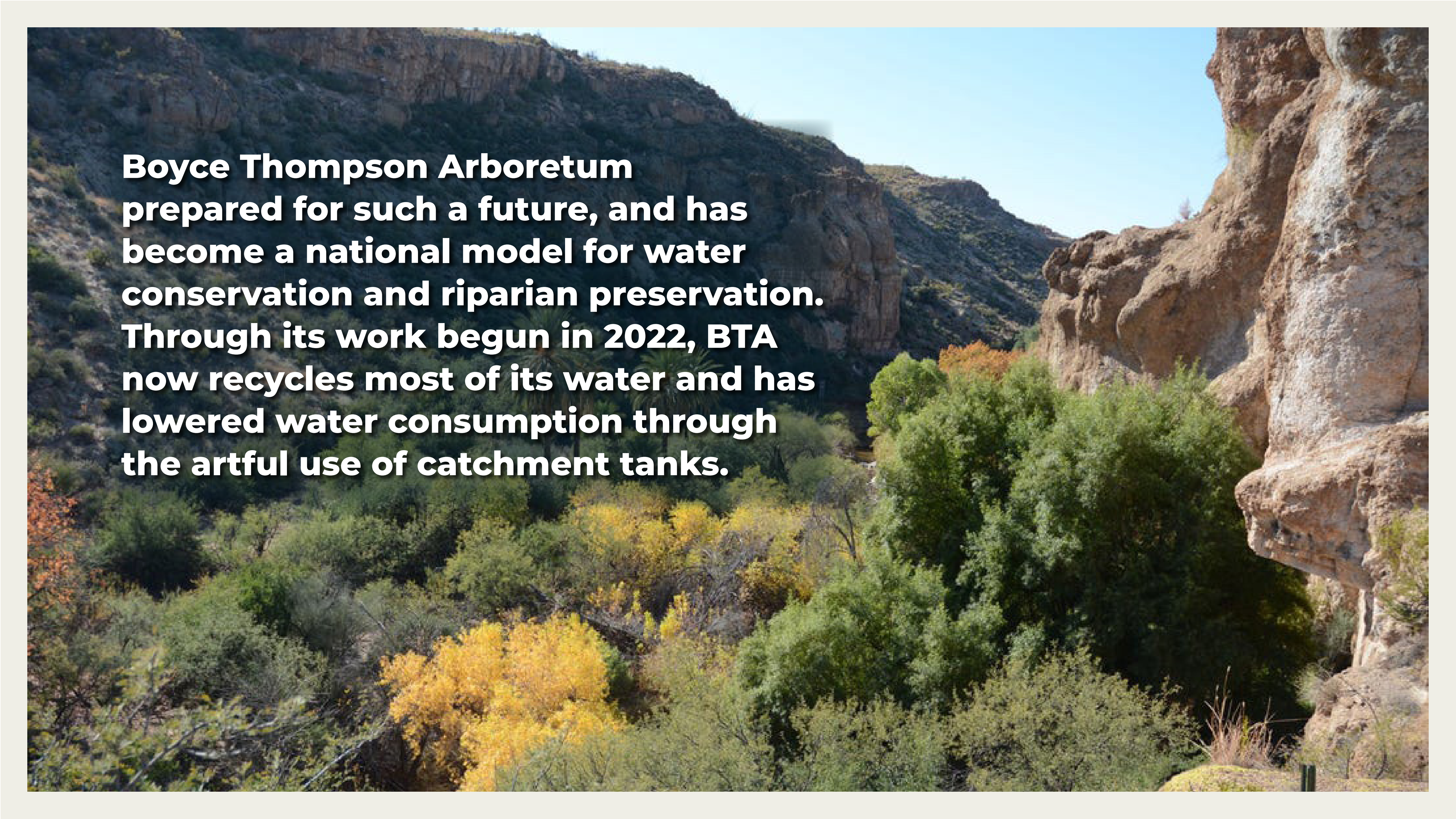


## Imagine...

**It's 2032. Arizona's mega-drought is now in its thirty-second year. Desert plants and animals are struggling, and a number of species are now on the Endangered Species List, including the iconic saguaro. It's just too hot and dry.**

**But an oasis remains...**

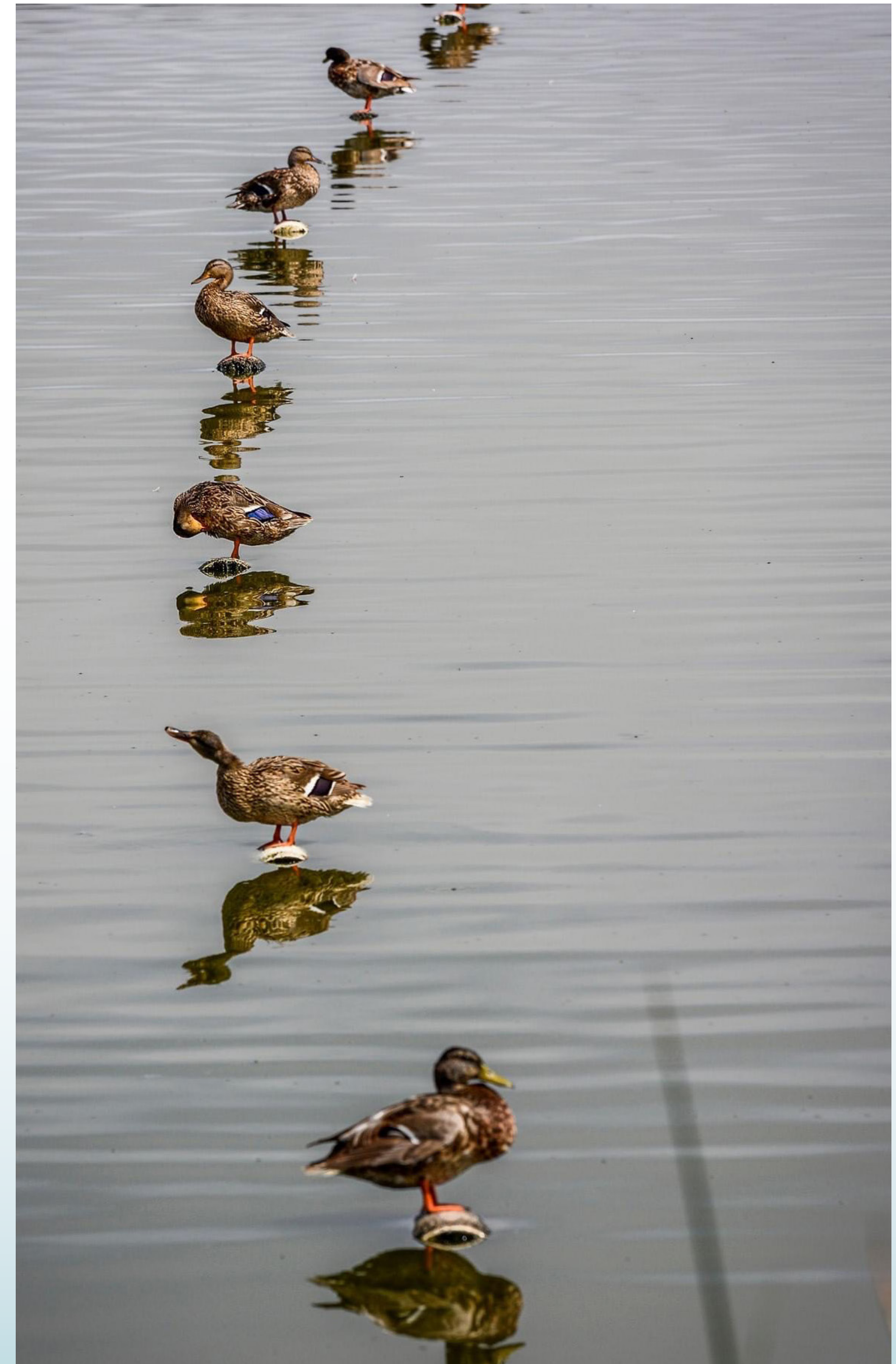


A scenic view of a canyon with a river, surrounded by lush green and yellow trees, and a large rock formation on the right. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

**Boyce Thompson Arboretum prepared for such a future, and has become a national model for water conservation and riparian preservation. Through its work begun in 2022, BTA now recycles most of its water and has lowered water consumption through the artful use of catchment tanks.**

**Ayer Lake has become a refuge  
for desert fauna, and BTA  
riparian education programs  
have led to restoration programs  
in adjacent Arnett and Telegraph  
Canyons.**

**Boyce Thompson Arboretum has  
survived—even thrived—in the  
face of a warming climate.**



## **Tracking Change:**

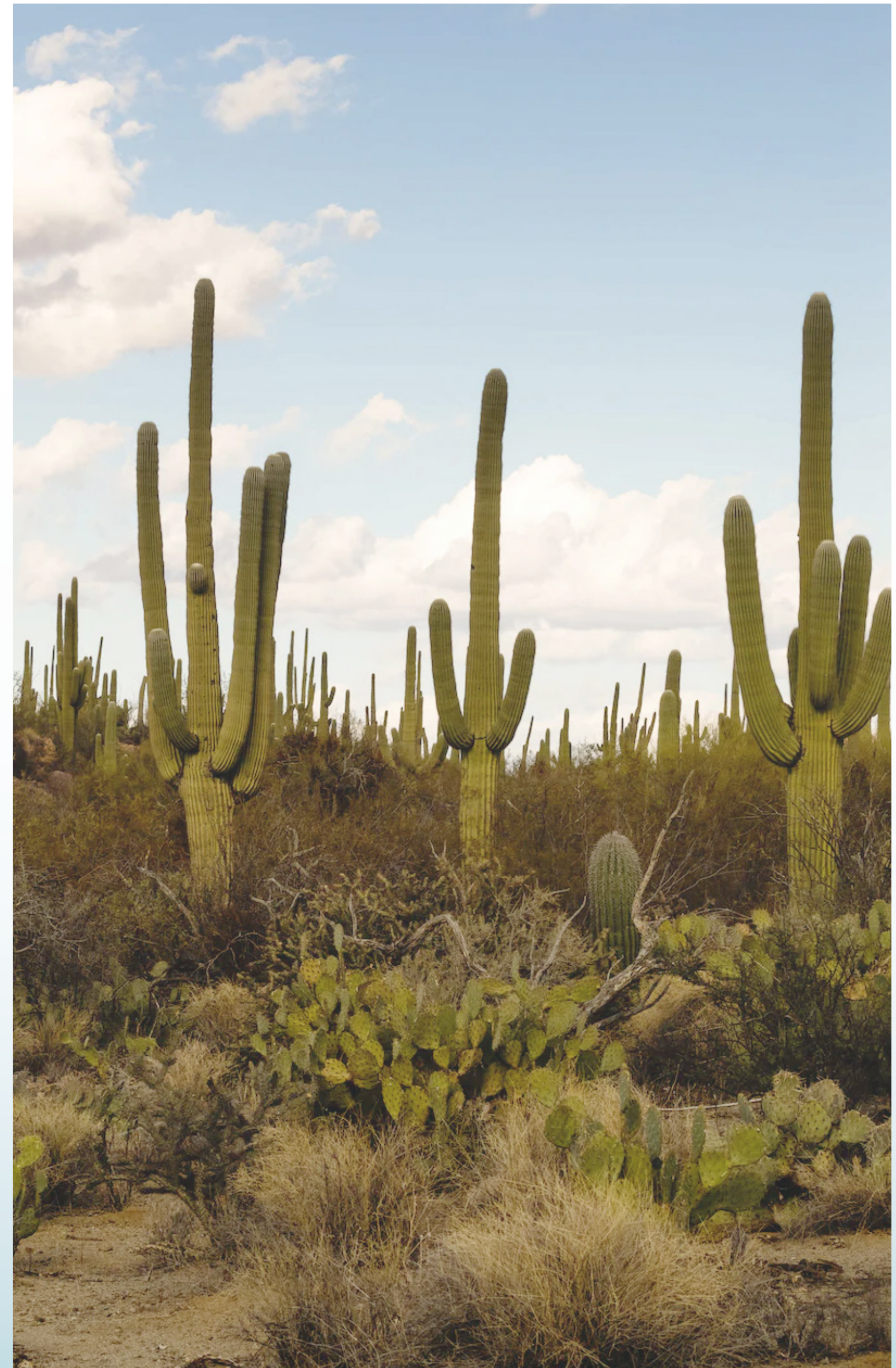
**When William Boyce Thompson founded the Arboretum 98 years ago, Arizona's weather and climate were vastly different from today's.**

**Queen Creek was a perennial stream. The average annual temperature in the Phoenix area was 71 degrees, and fewer than 80 days rose above 100 degrees. Nighttime temperatures during the summer often dropped into the low 70s, and monsoon rains were more predictable.**



## **Today?**

**The average temperature in 2020 was 77.2° and 145 days were 100° and above. Queen Creek rarely runs. The entire state has been in a megadrought for 22 years, and it's the driest it's been in 1,200 years. We have all lived through the results: wildfire, water shortages, and dying plants.**





## **We've seen the changes here at BTA.**

**Spring comes earlier now, and with it, higher temperatures. Trees that previously didn't need to be irrigated now need supplemental water. Our well production and water levels are decreasing. Our rare and threatened species are even more threatened. And the Telegraph fire came within 320 feet of our gardens.**



# Becoming a Water Wise Arboretum

**As we work to fulfill our mission and plan for the future, we've come to the conclusion that the most important thing we can do is to conserve water.**

**We live in an arid state that is facing water shortages as it becomes hotter and drier. Average precipitation in Phoenix is about 8 inches; at the Arboretum it's about 15 inches and each inch is critical.**



**Climate change has disrupted weather patterns, and we cannot count on our winter or monsoon rains.**

**Stewardship is vital, and we must educate our visitors about the importance of water conservation and riparian areas in Arizona.**



*BTA's current irrigation system is a daisy-chain of antiquated and inadequate pumps, pipes and hoses enlisted throughout the years*



# What are we planning to do?

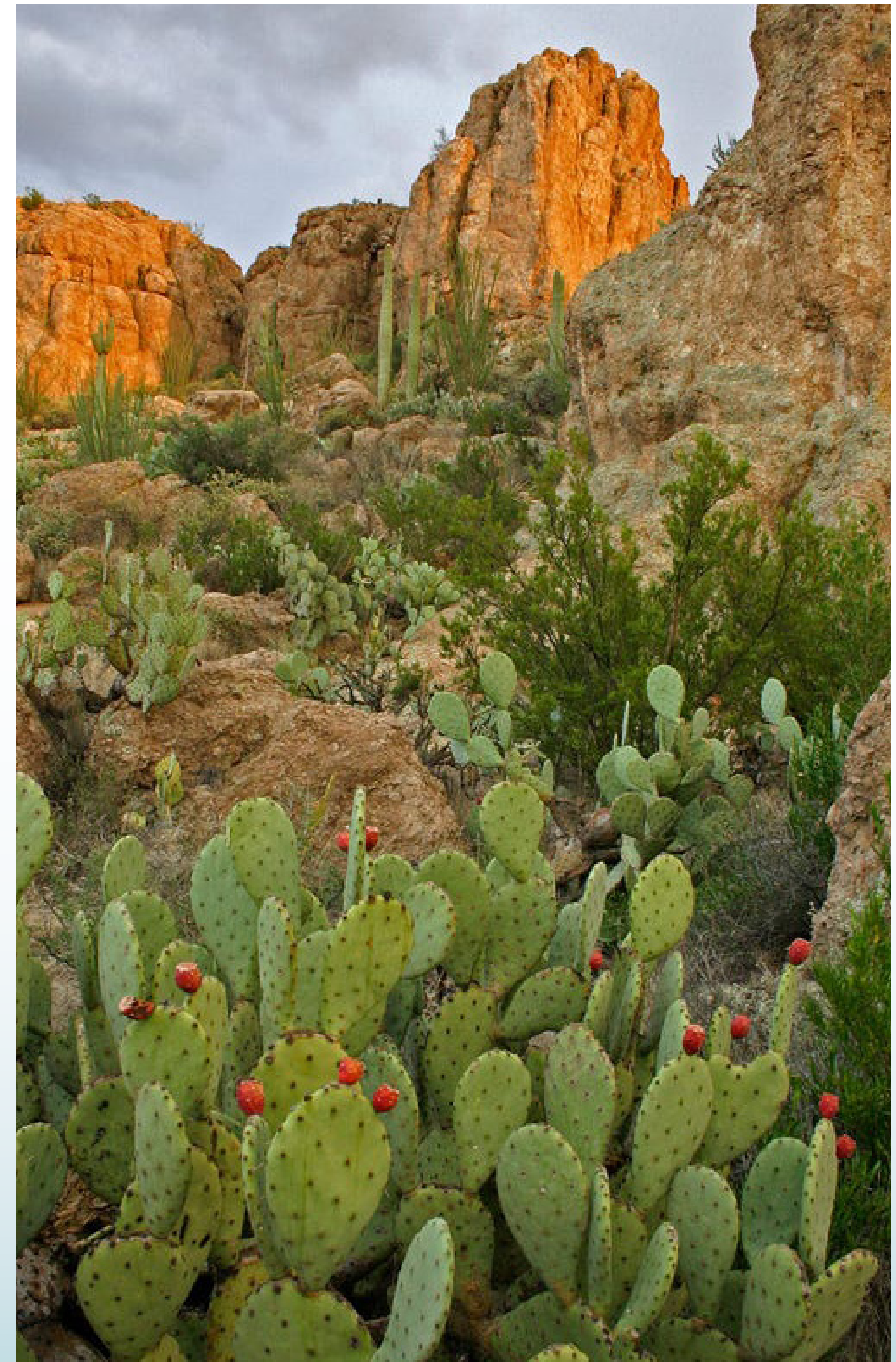
- **Install a computerized and automated irrigation system.**
- **Develop interpretive signage and programs that emphasize water-wise gardening.**
- **Restore the Queen Creek riparian corridor at Boyce Thompson Arboretum.**
- **Establish Ayer Lake as a riparian conservation and education area, complete with boardwalk.**
- **Harvest grey water for irrigation.**
- **Utilize gutters and rain water catchment from structures.**



# Leaders in Climate Adaptation

**BTA is developing a Climate Adaptation Plan, a system-wide, integrated sustainability plan of which our Water Wise Arboretum initiative is just one part. We are:**

- 1. Collaborating with conservation organizations, scientific experts, and other gardens.**
- 2. Assessing our living collections to determine which plants are most vulnerable to climate stressors.**
- 3. Tracking our energy and water usage.**
- 4. Developing climate adaptation strategies.**
- 5. Modifying existing public outreach, education, and engagement to include climate change mitigation and adaptation messaging.**



## How We Will Get There:

**Your generous support will allow BTA to be a conservation and riparian-preservation model for botanical gardens in the west, and to link with other organizations' and municipalities' climate adaptation efforts.**

- **Becoming a Water Wise Arboretum will be at least a \$500,000 investment.**
- **The campaign has already raised just over \$88,000 in private donations. We still have a long way to go.**
- **Work is underway on several projects and will likely be completed before all the funds have been raised.**

*We will design our new irrigation system with water conservation as a top priority, using only the most reliable and efficient products and practices in the industry.*



# What Can You Do?

At Arizona's oldest and largest botanical garden, we depend on a clean, reliable and sustainable water supply. William Boyce Thompson realized 98 years ago what we still believe today: All life depends on plants. We believe that we are stewards of the land—and of all creatures.

With careful planning, landscaping and conservation, we have grown acres of beautiful and important gardens. Will you help BTA be a Water Wise Arboretum and ensure that we can thrive for the next 100 years?

Make a tax-deductible gift at [btarboretum.org/donate](http://btarboretum.org/donate), mail or drop off your check, or contact a member of our fundraising team at (520) 689-4588 to learn more or to donate over the phone.

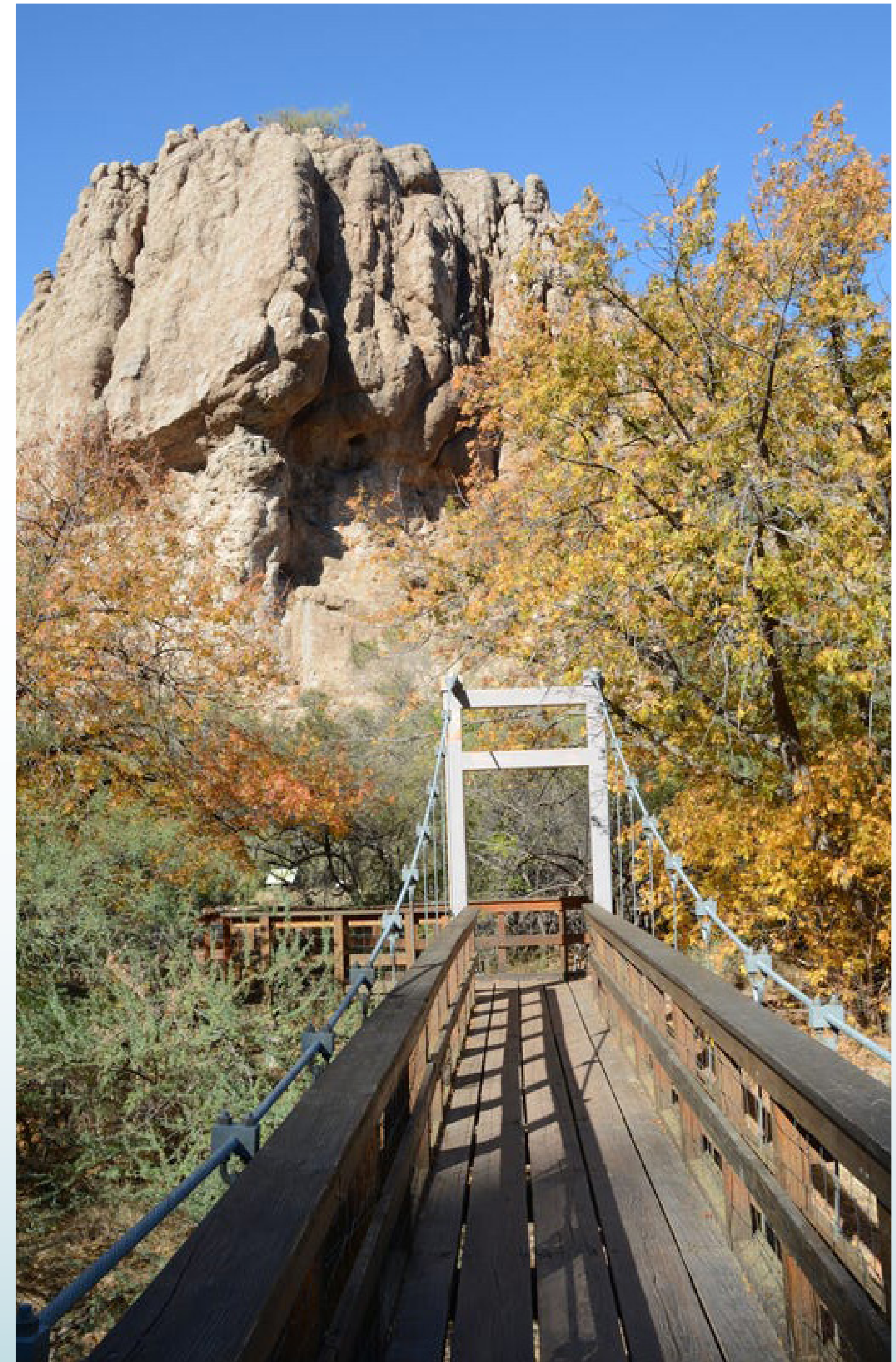


# You Can Help Lead the Way!

**We welcome and appreciate gifts of any size. All donors to this campaign will be recognized as a Water Wise Ambassador on the campaign webpage.**

- Leadership gifts of \$2,500 or more will include donor recognition on signage placed near Ayer Lake and access to special donors-only opportunities such as private tours of the project area with Executive Director Lynne Nemeth and key professional staff.
- Gifts of \$10,000 or more are eligible for a private event fee waiver for up to 100 attendees.\*
- Gifts of \$25,000 and more are eligible for individual naming opportunities (see gift table on next page).

*\* One-time use, subject to availability, a \$1,600 value.*



## To reach our goal we would welcome, but are not limited to, gifts in the below amounts:

Gift Amount	No. of Gifts	Row Total	Cumulative Total	Cumulative Percentage	Individual Naming Opportunities
<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>	<b>40%</b>	Ayer Lake Observation Decks (Two Available)
<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>	<b>50%</b>	Ayer Lake Boardwalk or Interpretive Ramada (One Available)
<b>\$25,000</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>	<b>\$325,000</b>	<b>65%</b>	Educational Signage (Three Available)
<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$375,000</b>	<b>75%</b>	
<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>\$35,000</b>	<b>\$410,000</b>	<b>82%</b>	
<b>\$2,500</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	<b>\$435,000</b>	<b>87%</b>	
<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>\$12,000</b>	<b>\$447,000</b>	<b>89%</b>	
<b>\$500</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>\$12,000</b>	<b>\$459,000</b>	<b>92%</b>	
<b>\$250</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>\$19,000</b>	<b>\$478,000</b>	<b>96%</b>	
<b>\$100</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>\$14,000</b>	<b>\$492,000</b>	<b>98%</b>	
<b>\$50</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>\$8,000</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>	<b>100%</b>	





# BTA Board of Directors

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*Retired Businesswoman*

**Mila Besich**

*Mayor, Town of Superior*

**Victoria Bever**

*Arizona Dept. of Transportation*

**Taimur Burki**

*Intel Corporation*

**Kent Ennis**

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*Coordinator, Superstition Mountain*

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## Campaign Staff

**Lynne Nemeth**

*Executive Director*

(928) 255-2541

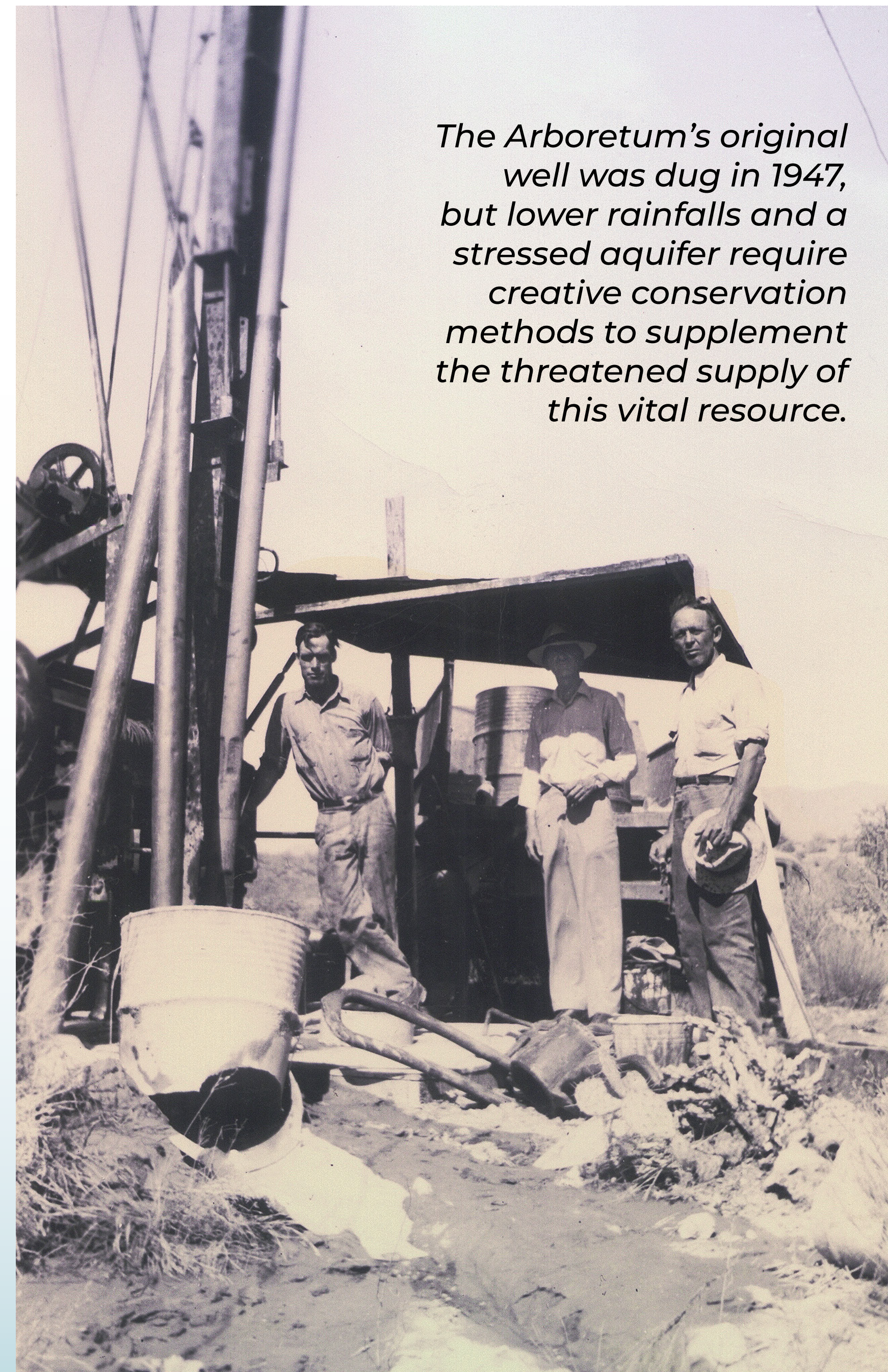
[lynne.nemeth@btarboretum.org](mailto:lynne.nemeth@btarboretum.org)

**Allison Lester**

*Director of Membership and Development*

(520) 689-4588

[allison.lester@btarboretum.org](mailto:allison.lester@btarboretum.org)



*The Arboretum's original well was dug in 1947, but lower rainfalls and a stressed aquifer require creative conservation methods to supplement the threatened supply of this vital resource.*

# Be Tax Savvy!

- Make a gift of stock (and avoid paying capital gains taxes)
- Make a completely untaxed qualified charitable distribution from your IRA

For assistance, please call Director of Development Allison Lester  
at (520) 689-4588 or email [support@btarboretum.org](mailto:support@btarboretum.org)

## Learn More:

To arrange a meeting or private tour, please contact one of the campaign staff  
(see previous page). Virtual meetings are also available via Zoom and Google Meet.



BOYCE THOMPSON  
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37615 E Arboretum Way  
Superior, AZ 85173  
Phone: (520) 689-7273  
[www.btarboretum.org](http://www.btarboretum.org)