



BOYCE THOMPSON
ARBORETUM®

Protecting Arizona's Living Desert

Because of your support, Boyce Thompson Arboretum, Arizona's oldest and largest botanical garden, is restoring fragile ecosystems, safeguarding rare plant species, and inspiring thousands of future desert stewards every year.



20,000+

ARID-LAND PLANTS
CONSERVED



4,124

TAXA
REPRESENTED



372

ACRES
STEWARDED



135,000+

ANNUAL
VISITORS

The Desert Is Changing. Together, We Are Responding.

The Sonoran Desert is one of the most biologically diverse deserts in the world.

Yet increasing drought, water scarcity, invasive species, wildfire risk, and climate pressures continue to threaten the plants and wildlife that call it home.

Protecting these landscapes requires more than preservation. It requires action.

Every day at Boyce Thompson Arboretum, conservationists, horticulturists, educators, researchers, volunteers, and supporters work together to restore habitats, protect vulnerable species, and connect people to the natural world.

Because of your support, this work is happening *right now*.

RESTORE

In The Desert, Every Drop of Water Matters

Water has always shaped life in the desert.

As drought conditions become more common across the Southwest, responsible water stewardship has become one of the most important conservation challenges we face.

This year, thanks to the successful completion of the Water Wise Arboretum Campaign, Boyce Thompson Arboretum completed a major modernization of its irrigation system, improving how water is delivered throughout the garden while significantly reducing water use.

Through upgraded technology, improved system management, and targeted conservation efforts, we significantly reduced water use while strengthening the health of our collections.

THE RESULT IS A LANDSCAPE THAT IS MORE RESILIENT, MORE SUSTAINABLE, AND BETTER PREPARED FOR THE FUTURE.



- **37% reduction** in peak-season water demand
- **30% reduction** in off-season water use
- Chronic system leaks **eliminated**
- Stronger root systems and **healthier plants**

GROW

From Construction Site to Conservation Collection

Conservation begins long before a species becomes endangered.

Sometimes it begins with a rescue. Earlier this year, members of our team traveled to El Paso, Texas to help preserve rare desert cacti that would otherwise have been lost to real estate development.

Working alongside partners from the El Paso Cactus and Rock Club and the El Paso Desert Botanical Garden, more than 300 cacti were rescued from land being prepared for construction.

Without intervention, many of these plants would likely have been crushed, buried, or destroyed as the development project moved forward.

Half of the rescued plant species were entrusted to Boyce Thompson Arboretum, where they will become part of the Arboretum's Chihuahuan Desert collection and contribute to future conservation, education, and research efforts.



**AMONG THE
300 RESCUED
CACTI WERE**

100 *Echinocactus
horizontalis*

COMMONLY KNOWN AS EAGLE'S
CLAW OR TURK'S HEAD CACTUS
Currently re-establishing healthy
root systems and will be added to
the collection in the coming year

50 *Pelecypora
macromeris*

COMMONLY KNOWN AS
NIPPLE BEEHIVE CACTUS
Planted in the Arboretum's
Chihuahuan Desert Exhibit, we would
like to welcome you to visit them!

150 Rescued cacti added
to the Arboretum

2 SPECIES PROTECTED FROM
HABITAT LOSS
We hold over 20,000+ arid-plants and over
4,000 taxa with around 30% of the species
identified as a conservation concern



About the Program

- **40 teachers** participating this summer
- Partnership with Arizona Game and Fish Department
- Curriculum aligned with Arizona State Science Standards
- Professional development experience and teacher stipends provided
- Supporting STEM education throughout the Copper Corridor

EDUCATE

When Teachers Learn, Thousands of Students Benefit

This summer, 40 teachers from across Arizona will participate in a specialized professional development program designed to bring hands-on science education into their classrooms before the new school year begins.

Made possible through a partnership with Resolution Copper, the program equips educators with classroom-ready lessons that connect desert ecology, STEM learning, and Arizona State Science Standards. Teachers leave with lesson plans, presentations, hands-on activities, educational materials, and educational supplies including a classroom set of plants they can immediately apply in their classrooms.

Focused on supporting schools throughout the Copper Corridor, the program helps strengthen STEM education while connecting students to Arizona's unique desert ecosystems.

The impact extends far beyond a single workshop. Every teacher who participates has the potential to reach hundreds of students, creating a ripple effect that strengthens science education, environmental literacy, and stewardship across Arizona.



Thank You

Everything highlighted in this report was made possible through the generosity of donors, members, volunteers, and community partners who believe Arizona's desert landscapes are worth protecting.

Together, we are protecting rare species, restoring fragile ecosystems, stewarding precious water resources, and inspiring future generations to care for the Sonoran Desert.

The challenges facing the desert are real.
So is the impact you are making.



Thank you for helping protect Arizona's living desert.

As you have seen throughout these pages, the challenges facing the Sonoran Desert are significant, but so is the impact we can make when we work together. Every restored habitat, every rare plant propagated, every student inspired, and every conservation milestone achieved is possible because of a community that believes these extraordinary landscapes are worth protecting.

Your generosity fuels this work each day, allowing Boyce Thompson Arboretum to respond to today's challenges while preparing for tomorrow's opportunities.

Thank you for being an essential part of this mission. Together, we are ensuring that the Sonoran Desert remains a place of beauty, biodiversity, and discovery for generations to come.

While there is still important work ahead, I am filled with hope because of supporters like you who continue to invest in a thriving future for our desert, its wildlife, and the people who will be inspired by it.

We are deeply grateful for your partnership and look forward to growing this impact together.



Kim Gray
Executive Director

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If you'd like to learn more about the impact of your support, explore giving opportunities that align with your passions, or schedule a personal tour of Boyce Thompson Arboretum, I would be delighted to connect with you.

Please feel free to contact me directly at 520-689-4716 or Torrie.Young@btarboretum.org

Thank you for being an important part of the Boyce Thompson Arboretum family, I look forward to hearing from you.



Torrie Young
Director of Development

