

## LANDSCAPE DESIGN AND REVIEW (Green Team--May 2015)

From the beginning, Stone Curves has encouraged native and other low water plantings in harmony with our desert environment, and in accord with a prudent use of our water resources. In keeping with that commitment, the Green Team includes a Landscape Design Review Committee, chosen from interested members of the Green Team or the community. The Committee will act as resource for those seeking advice on backyard and village plantings, and as a reviewer of landscape projects affecting the larger community.

Backyard and village plantings are the responsibility of individual residents and villages, with the understanding that these plantings do affect neighbors as well as the larger community's water costs. The Design Review Committee can advise on plantings for low water use, aesthetics, bird attraction and other issues such as allergies, using among other things the longstanding Stone Curves Backyard Planting guidelines. (The Guidelines are available on the website; copies also available with landscape books in our library).

Plantings within the larger community common areas are funded from Green Team's Plant Replacement budget line item and from donations. Because these areas especially affect the entire community, plans and ideas for new plantings or other changes in common area landscaping projects should be submitted (verbally or in written form, according to the size of the project) to the Landscape Design Review Committee.

In reviewing common area plans or suggesting alternatives or alternations, the Committee will take into account:

- overall design considerations,
- water use,
- visibility,
- mature size of plant, and the
- cost of installation and maintenance.

The Committee will refer larger projects to the Green Team. Green Team will refer major projects to the community.

For further information, in addition to our own Backyard Planting Guidelines, the Stone Curves library has many books on desert plantings and landscape ideas. A booklet that is particularly useful is *Landscape Plants for the Arizona Desert*, published by the Arizona Municipal Water Users Association.