



TOWN OF CAVE CREEK NEWSLETTER APRIL 2024

WATER INTERCONNECT PROJECT WITH THE CITY OF PHOENIX



The Town of Cave Creek is about to break ground on a new water interconnect project with the City of Phoenix and this is great news for everyone! The new connection will enhance the reliability of the Town's water system and provide up to 1.4 million gallons per day, or approximately half the Town's current peak day demand.

Cave Creek needed a new site to tie in the Phoenix water supply and to move the water into our distribution system. Town purchased the 3.6-acre site in 2020 for the new site. New site will be located north of the Lowe's and the storage unit and just south of El Sendero Drive. It's close to existing 16-inch line what will tie to Phoenix and could also be used to replace CAP 4 booster.

The new site provides enough room for new one-million-gallon reservoir and dual zone booster site to move Phoenix water through entire water system. The site will also house a new CAP 4 booster to eliminate one underground vault.

The site layout: all pumps and equipment will be located on the east side of the site (away from residential homes) toward Cave Creek Road. Main equipment area will be surrounded by an 8-foot solid metal panel fence. Landscaped earth berm on west side of the site. Concrete reservoir is partially buried to reduce its height (depressed). Driveway entrance will be from Cave Creek Road.

The Town received a much-needed financial boost from the federal infrastructure bill recently approved by Congress and the President. The funding will help provide design phase assistance and complete construction services for a new potable water supply connection with the City of Phoenix.

"We are extremely grateful for this federal grant. The \$2 million in funding represents about 10% of the total project cost which will significantly reduce the amount of interest and financing paid by the Town of Cave Creek," said Cave Creek Mayor Bob Morris. Most of Cave Creek's general fund revenues are derived from sales tax dollars.

Work on the interconnect is expected to start this April, with the project set to be completed by the Spring of 2026. "Special thanks to our colleagues throughout our local, regional, and federal government for their leadership and support throughout the grant application process. It is a very exciting accomplishment for our Town," concluded Mayor Morris.



Site rendering: Northeast view of the Phoenix Interconnect site

Cave Creek provides water service to approximately 4,400 customers in Cave Creek and Desert Hills. Therefore, providing safe, reliable water and having redundancies are important. All the town's surface water supplies are from the Colorado River, delivered via the Central Arizona Project (CAP). The Town connects to this water from a single 12.5-mile pipeline with four in-line boosters feeding one treatment plant.

There are multiple points of failure that can impact water supplies. Three of the four CAP booster stations are in below ground vaults. Each CAP booster site has three booster pumps. It is very difficult to access for general maintenance work or during emergencies. If it breaks down, we can be completely without water until it gets fixed. A good analogy from the Town's Utilities Director Sean Kreuzwiesner is that "Working on the CAP Pipeline is like trying to fix a plane while you are in the air flying it."

This provides the Town with a new second water supply source which will greatly increase the reliability of the Town's water supplies! This will be a huge boost to our reliability and ability to maintain the system. "Not only will the Phoenix Interconnect greatly increase the reliability of the Town's water supply from CAP, but it will also help maintain the delivery system. In the winter months, the Town could run its system off the interconnect to allow for major maintenance and upgrades on its pipeline, booster pump station, and water treatment plant," according to Kreuzwiesner.

This will be a good thing for us and the City of Phoenix. The city is making several improvements and upgrades to tie onto the Town's existing line on Cave Creek Rd.

TOWN OF CAVE CREEK NEWSLETTER

PLEASE DON'T FLUSH "FLUSHABLE" WIPES



Despite their name, so-called "flushable" wipes should not be flushed. They do not breakdown in the sewer system and cause costly backups that damage equipment and could result in utility rate increases and impacts to services.

The wastewater collection system is only designed to handle a few basic things: water, human waste, and toilet paper. Flushing anything else can mean big problems for private sewer pipes and the public system. Please do your part and flush only toilet paper.

Along with "flushable" wipes, the following items should also never be put down your drain:

- Dental floss
- Hair
- Feminine hygiene products & condoms
- Paper tissues & towels
- Diapers
- Cotton Products
- Cleaning products & toxic chemicals
- Cat litter
- Medications & bandages
- Cigarette butts
- Egg shells
- Coffee grounds & tea leaves
- Pasta, Rice, & oatmeal
- Fats, Cooling oil, & grease
- Food waste
- Produce stickers

BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025



Putting together a budget is nearly a yearlong process and is one of the most important decisions that the Town makes on an annual basis. This effort is a collaborative one between Town staff, Town Council, and you, Town residents.

The Town of Cave Creek is currently producing the Budget for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025. We are encouraging public input and are providing multiple opportunities to provide feedback and learn about the budget process and priorities.

The Town will be hosting two open houses in the Town Hall Council Chambers for public input on the budget:

4/2/2024 Tuesday 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
4/4/2024 Thursday 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

You are also welcome to submit your written comments on the upcoming budget on our website at:

CaveCreekAZ.gov/Budget

2024 PRIMARY ELECTION



The Town of Cave Creek will hold an election on July 30, 2024, for the purpose of electing a Mayor and six Council Members to serve on the Cave Creek Town Council.

Also on the ballot will be staggered four-year terms for Mayor and Council and the consideration of renewal of a Local Alternative Expenditure Limitation - Home Rule Option (first approved by voters in May 1999 and renewed in May 2003, May 2007, May 2011, August 2016, and August 2020. Here is where you can go to see how to vote and for more information:

CaveCreekAZ.gov/Elections

APRIL 2024

WILDFIRE SEASON IS APPROACHING - WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PREVENT FIRES

The Town was fortunate not to have any major fires or wildland fire loss during the 2023 fire season. This is primarily because the increased level of wildfire awareness throughout this community is still very high and because many residents and businesses took the initiative to manage the fuel loads on their properties and establish proper defensible space.

What does this mean for the upcoming fire season?

- Due to the significant winter rains we experienced, it's expected to be another banner growth year for increased native vegetation, and with invasive weeds such as globe chamomile.
- Evaluate the individual risk on your property.
- Debris such as weeds, leaves, brush, and small branches that are around your home could be the main source of wildfire fuel.
- Take advantage of the opportunity to load up plant cuttings, dried vegetation, and drop them off free at the Town's green debris events.
- Again this year, the Town will assist by providing increased firefighter staffing on the Town's new Brush Truck during the critical wildfire season.
- The Town will also provide a free "Firewise" wildland fire evaluation for any property located within this community. **To schedule a free wildland fire property evaluation, call 480-488-6600 or 480-437-3583.**
- Check our website and/or social media for more information.
- Register for Cave Creek emergency alerts CaveCreekAZ.gov/CodeRED

Town Hosted Brush Drive-Thru & Drop Off For Town Residents
April 13th | Cave Creek Water Ranch
4300 E. Carefree Hwy | 8AM – 12PM

Desert living means tending to nature to ensure safety in the event of a wildfire.

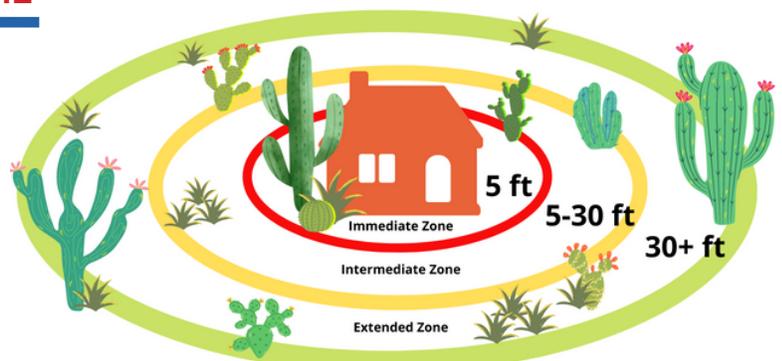
The primary sources of wildfire fuel around our homes are dried non-native (or invasive) weeds and grasses. Now is the time to inspect your property and remove these.

- Create a 30-foot defensible space around your home. Free of dried grass, heavy accumulations of ground litter/debris and other highly flammable vegetation. This will aid in keeping flames away from your home and also provide an areas where firefighters can position themselves to protect your home if the need arises.
- Remove invasive species such as globe chamomile (AKA stinknet), buffelgrass, red brome, Malta starthistle, fiddleneck and desert broom which starve our native fauna of water and act as accelerants in the event of fires.
- Native shrubs are actually a good thing: bursage, brittlebush, jojoba, creosote, and turpentine are the primary native groundcovers and help keep many of the aforementioned weeds from completely taking over the desert.
- Prune back tree limbs growing into other trees, remove branches from trees where the canopy is close to a roofline or window. Address the tree canopies in these areas by raising them to 4ft to 6ft, and remove and dispose of any dead branches or limbs.

KNOW THE 3 ZONES AROUND YOUR HOME

Immediate Zone: 5 feet around structures: It's highly recommended that you clear a safe and defensible area five feet around structures on your property, from the furthest attached exterior point of your home or structure. Clear this area of flammable materials: stacked wood, weeds, tall grasses, dead shrubs, or any other combustibles as well as gutter.

It's also important to clear anything flammable in the **Intermediate Zone:** 5 – 30 feet as well as in the **Extended Zone:** 30 – 100 feet from dwelling feet from structures. Integrating breaks and clearing space in this zone can influence and help to decrease fire behavior.



For more information:
CaveCreekAZ.gov/DefensibleSpace



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TOWN OF CAVE CREEK CONTACTS

Town Hall Main Line: 480-488-6600
Utilities Main Line: 480-488-6620
Utilities *after hours* (emergency line only): 602-667-4574
Engineering/Public Works: 480-488-6625
Development Services Department
Permits: 480-488-6622
Zoning: 480-488-6633

For Emergencies Dial 911

Public Safety (Non-Emergency) Numbers:

Town Marshal's Office: 480-488-6636
Maricopa County Sheriffs Dept: 602-876-1000
Cave Creek Fire Station: 623-465-7400
Cave Creek Fire + Medical Services Information: 480-437-3583
Maricopa County Animal Control: 602-506-7387
Snake Removal: 602-253-1191

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It's easier than ever to stay in touch with us by signing up for email updates with the Town.

Via this QR code or link below, you can sign up for general Town News emails, Town Council Meeting Information, and/or emails of interest to Town Business owners and managers. More email lists will be added in the future.

[CaveCreekAZ.gov/
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