



City of Glendale
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GLENDALE'S WATER SERVICES DEPARTMENT HARVESTS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD FOR ITS DESERT FOOD FOREST

GLENDALE, Ariz. –The city of Glendale's Water Services Department has been honored with a 2018 Crescordia award for its one-of-a-kind Desert Food Forest program. The innovative garden was recognized in the category of Environmental Education and Communication. The award was announced at Arizona Forward's 38th Annual Environmental Excellence Awards ceremony on Oct. 6.

The Desert Food Forest, located at Glendale's Main Library, is part regenerative landscape and part outdoor classroom. It introduces residents and visitors to the Sonoran Desert's array of over 100 water-wise edible plants and shows them how those plants, with their alternating fruiting seasons, can produce year-round food for both people and wildlife.

"This prestigious award shows that Glendale is a leader in Arizona when it comes to instilling environmental excellence, conservation and sustainability into everything we do," said Glendale's Director of Water Services Craig Johnson. "I'm very proud of our conservation and sustainable-living team for their dedication and professional expertise and it's their outstanding work that has resulted in this esteemed recognition."

"The Desert Food Forest is an ideal setting for ongoing public education and outreach activities, such as our free classes about sustainable landscaping and growing desert edibles," said Joanne Toms, Glendale's administrator of the conservation and sustainable living division programs. "The classes are fun and encourage people to sample desert foods, such as agave syrup, prickly pear candy and pomegranate juice."

The Desert Food Forest is part of a public-private partnership, funded through an Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management grant and involved several partners, including the Glendale Public Library, Linking Edible Arizona Forests Network, Maricopa County Master Gardener program, and Trees Matter.

The Arizona Forward Environmental Excellence Awards program is considered the benchmark for promoting sustainability and inspiring civic and business leaders to preserve Arizona's future.

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