

Foothills Clusters HOA Landscape Committee: 2025 Report

Dec. 5, 2025. Committee Members: Ron Steffens (chair). Jerry Milewski. Dan Weisz.

2025 Expenditures - Landscape Committee

Month	Cost	Actions	Notes
February	\$994	Entrance Lighting	Repair of power box, timers at entrances.
March	\$4361	Hard-scaping (with donated materials)	Water flow management on HOA/Master Association properties, to moderate flow over Ventana Canyon Dr.
March	\$2769	Swale installation, hard-scoping (with donated	Water flow management north of Ventana Canyon Dr. to moderate flow over road.
Nov-Dec	\$0	Invasive Grass eradication	Pima County sprays on right of way after notice by Landscape Committee.
Scheduled for Jan 2026		Community Green Waste Collection	Estimated 2026 cost: \$6700-7700.
TOTAL	\$8124		
Proposed 2026 Budget	\$9000		To support green waste collection and invasive species management.

Community Green Waste Collection (5-year Analysis)

YEAR	COST (total)	Invasive Plant Removal (subset of total costs)	Collections/year	Amount Collected
2021	\$7904	\$2500	2 collections (May, Nov)	No specific information
2022	\$3974	Included in total	1 collection (May 2022). ROW clearing for paving project was separate.	No specific information
2023	\$7156	Included in total	1 collection (January 2023)	17 tons (20 trucks)
2024	\$6716	Included in total	1 collection (December 2024)	80-90 households
2025-26 (estimate)	\$7700	To be determined	1 collection (January 2026)	No estimate
Annual Average	\$6690		Cost per participant (~120 participants, estimated 1/3 of property owners)	\$56
			Cost per property owner (367 lots)	\$18

Accomplishments

1. Invasive plants outreach and monitoring, with control actions by Pima County and Foothills Homeowners Master Association.
2. Utilization of donated rocks to complete planned water flow management projects in upper Campbell Wash and Ventana Canyon Drive.
3. Utilization of large donated rocks to prevent damage to and encroachment of common area by contractors to west side of Evans Mountain Drive.
4. The committee recommends continued green waste collection, with the 2025 collection postponed to January 2026, due to seasonal delay and to remain within 2025 budget.
 - A note on green waste collection: an average annual cost per property owner of \$18/lot is a cost-effective benefit to the HOA community, including management of wildfire risk and desert. In comparison, a bulk pickup via the primary waste collection service is an estimated \$290/lot. An individual hauling a similar load to green-waste recycling, via pickup truck, would pay \$25/load.

Recommendations from 2024 Committee Report (with 2025 status)

1. Continue with **one green material collection per year**. Consider reducing recommended pile size. Review processes to consider chipping in place for local mulch.
STATUS: Green waste collection proposed January 2026, with proposal cost of \$6700-7700. This is one regular and unifying service the HOA provides community members and is well utilized. Continue to assess community need, utilization and cost. At present, no plan for individual billing. Options to consider include billing via a Zelle-type system, or adding voluntary green waste surcharge to annual assessment. Cost savings include (1) Contractor chipping materials in place or in a community compost/restoration area; (2) An initiative encouraging HOA members to compost green waste on site.
2. Continue with and expand outreach to highlight the **value of native vegetation** (climate adapted, less pruning and water use, reduced wildfire hazard compared with non-native plants) and to support **removal of flammable invasive grasses**. STATUS: Monitoring continues. County notified of invasive grasses in right of way, treatment completed.
3. Work with Master Association on **removal of invasive non-native grasses and plants**, to build on significant progress in prior years to maintain a wildfire-adapted and safer community. STATUS: Potential for fountain grass re-treatment in upper Campbell Wash. This may be initially conducted by volunteers.
4. **Water-flow management in washes** that may impact roadways or HOA members.
STATUS: Completed. Two piles of rock surplus remain in place for future projects. Sand re-routing and sweeping in Campbell Wash/Ventana Drive crossing completed by volunteers.
5. **Assess current and projected community needs regarding landscape management**. This may include an online community survey to assess needs and pre-identify lots for green-waste collection. A survey may help determine HOA priorities and reduce costs by targeting pickup lots. The survey also supports outreach efforts in Recommendations #2, #3.
STATUS: Survey of lots participating in 2024 collection: 80-90 lots. A number of HOA members have stated their preference for maintaining annual green waste collection.
6. Consider **long-term planning for entrance lighting and monuments** and for **desert-adapted vegetation in cul-de-sacs**. STATUS: Entrance lighting repair is a medium-term fix for lighting issues. Consider brick repair and a more contemporary look for entrance monuments. Some cul-de-sac improvements have been completed by volunteers.