

# ARCADIA CENTRAL

*Newsletter of the Arcadia Camelback Neighborhood Association*

July 2022

## Arcadia Water Company

### Go green with less water waste through flood irrigation and cisterns

A century ago, the entire area south of Camelback Mountain was covered with citrus orchards. The early developers felt scattering home sites among the trees would be an excellent inducement to people in the Midwest and East to move to this garden oasis in the desert. In 1919, the Arcadia Water Company was incorporated specifically to provide the necessary water to feed the groves, allowing them to flourish, and since then the company has dug and maintained the local wells, pumped the water through the complex, aging systems of pipes, providing flood irrigation to the properties. Citrus remains the symbol of Arcadia, and the canopies provided have eased the burden of the summer heat. Not so long ago, we could feel ten-degree cooler temperatures than nearby desert and city neighborhoods.



Unfortunately, over the past couple of decades, we have seen a steady loss in the number of trees and corresponding requests for irrigation. As housing stock was regenerated, new houses were built by blading the property, not just sacrificing trees, but also the berms, valves, and landscaping needed to control the irrigation water, and, sadly, often removing the water lines themselves.

As water rates from Scottsdale and Phoenix continue to rise, however, residents are searching for alternatives to using tap water for keeping their yards and plants adequately watered. With constant reminders that Colorado River water to the city faces future limitations, the costs will probably escalate. Water from the Arcadia Water Company is currently a small fraction of that charged by the cities, aided by the fact that the company owns revenue-generating properties, the income from which is used to subsidize water costs.

Perhaps for this reason, we have begun getting inquiries about ways to again benefit from AWC water. There are two main directions this can take: engineering to reconnect to flood irrigation, or, potentially, putting in a cistern or tank to receive the water, then use for sprinkling the grass. Costs for the former, reconnecting, will vary widely of course, depending on whether pipes are still intact, and similar factors. To inquire about reconnecting to flood irrigation, contact the AWC company office at 480-945-4621.

Regarding cisterns, Arcadia Water has not installed any of these systems. Many earlier homes did have the ability to store water in cisterns both for drinking and for home use, with connections to the water company that allowed filling the tanks. AWC can help direct you to contractors with appropriate experience and, once construction is complete, will implement the connection.

Remember, Arcadia Water Company is your company. Ownership of the company appertains to the property, so the great majority of ACMNA homeowners are automatically shareholders.

*This article was adapted from material provided by Arcadia Water Company.*

# Phoenix Leash Laws

We love our dogs. They are part of our family. And because we love them, when our dogs misbehave, it may not seem like such a big deal to us. But even the sweetest dogs can at times be unpredictable if they become scared or feel that someone is threatening a member of their pack.

Recently, a serious attack took place when an off-leash dog went after a man walking his two dogs, both of which were leashed. One dog was killed, the other mutilated but survived, and the was owner bitten. The individuals involved are working on resolving matters.

The purpose of this article is to make others aware that there is a leash law in the city of Phoenix. City code 8-14 section A states :

*“No dog shall be permitted at large. Each dog shall be confined within an enclosure on the owner’s or custodian’s property, secured so that the dog is confined entirely to the owner’s or custodian’s property, or on a leash not to exceed six feet in length and directly under the owner’s or custodian’s control when not on the owner’s or custodian’s property.”*

Violation of this law is considered a Class 1 Misdemeanor. Fines up to \$5,000 and jail time are possible for multiple offenders. This is serious stuff. This does not include any civil damages that could also result from any incidents that involve an off-leash dog. Insurance companies may also not be too sympathetic if a law has been broken, on purpose or by accident.

It has also been suggested that a dog on a leash is less likely to do something unexpected than a dog not on a leash. An owner certainly has more control with a leash...which is the point.

If you want to allow your dog the freedom of running off leash, there are several parks available throughout the valley. A simple internet search can help you find one that meets your individual needs.

Next time you walk your dog... hook ‘em up to a leash... for their safety and your neighbors comfort. And don’t forget to clean up after them. It’s the neighborly thing to do...



## ASU PALM WALK

*If you attended Arizona State University, you're familiar with the Palm Walk that stretches from University Blvd south to the Student Activity Center. The northern half of the walk was planted in 1916. The southern half stretching from the Life Science building complex south to the Student Recreation Complex were planted between 1937 and 1939. They were about 3 feet tall at the time of planting. Sadly, these tall and majestic pillars were ill-advisedly replaced in 2016 with Phoenix dactylifera (date palms). The "official" reason given for their replacement was that the Mexican fan palms were "near the end of their life cycle at 100 years". This is in fact false. Mexican fan palms have been well documented in the scientific literature to live up to 500 years.*



## Newsletter

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Writers / Contributors:

Andy Gough | Arcadia Water Company

Layout: Lisa Binsfeld

## ACMNA BOARD MEETINGS

The Association Board of Directors meet at 6pm on the first Thursday of the month (Except July and August) Prince of Peace, Choir Room (NW corner).

These meetings are open to the public and Arcadia residents are encouraged to attend. Agendas are posted 5 days prior to meetings at: [www.acmna.org/agendas](http://www.acmna.org/agendas)

ACMNA website: [www.acmna.org](http://www.acmna.org)

Newsletter Archive: [www.arcadiacentral.com](http://www.arcadiacentral.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/ACMNA](http://www.facebook.com/groups/ACMNA)

Sign up for our Email notices (sent only when important issues occur):

[www.acmna.org/join-our-mailing-list](http://www.acmna.org/join-our-mailing-list)

# Prune Your Palms with Care

Palm trees are a common landscape plant in the Arcadia area. Fourteen varieties of palms are typically used in landscapes, but the most common ones seen in Arcadia are the California fan palm (*Washingtonia filifera*), Mexican fan palm (*Washingtonia robusta*), date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera*), and Pigmy date palm (*Phoenix roebelenii*). Unfortunately, many of them are neglected by homeowners who mistake them for desert plants – and so don't water them – or they are abused by overenthusiastic tree trimmers.

Healthy palm trees have a great puffy, green canopy, with bright and shiny palm fronds. If the fronds are gray-green and dull, with brown edges and dead ends, the tree is not getting enough water.

## Water and Fertilizer

Palms are not desert or arid plants. They require a lot of water and fertilizer. During their vigorous growth months of May to August, they should get a three-foot deep soaking in a six-foot wide basin every ten to twelve days. Fertilize monthly with an application of ammonium sulphate. In April or May, pound in palm tree fertilizer spikes around palms, which will provide micronutrients (especially magnesium) needed by palms.

## Pruning

Palm trees don't require pruning. Unpruned palms will develop a skirt of dead, gray fronds that shield the trunk from the sun all the way to the ground. This skirt can be a fire hazard and harbor yellowjackets, and most people find it unattractive. Hence most palm trees are pruned at least once a year.

In Arcadia, one typically sees palm trees that have been pruned too severely. Only dead brown fronds should be cut off; any frond showing any sign of green should be retained.

Pruning of palms is often described via analogy to the hands of a clock. Hold your arms up in the 9 o'clock and 3 o'clock positions – that is the area the canopy of your palm tree should end up after pruning. This is



the ideal pruning. A slightly more aggressive pruning to the 10 o'clock and 2 o'clock position is also acceptable. However, never prune a palm tree to the 11 o'clock and 1 o'clock position – the so-called “hurricane prune”, as this exposes the tender “new spear” frond at the heart of the palm to wind stress and damage. It can also cause “pencil-ing,” or narrowing, of the trunk.

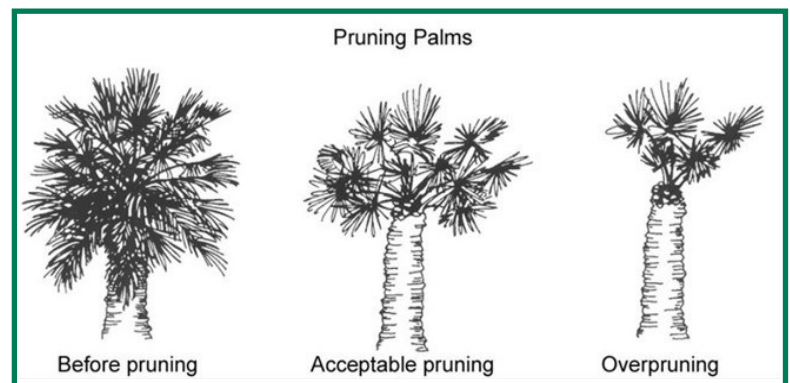
Ignorant and negligent tree trimmers can do even more damage, pruning the tree down to the single central frond – or less, even cutting the central frond. Palms pruned like this are likely to die.

## Don't Climb That Palm Tree

Palm trees grow very tall and climbing that high is a risky activity. Ideally, trimmers should use a hydraulic lift as it is much safer than climbing. If the trimmers you hire do insist on climbing, ask that they not use spiked boots to maintain a grip. The spikes jab into the trunk and cause permanent damage to the bark, creating openings for infection. If a trimmer must wear climbing boots, serrated bars, while still bad, are less damaging than spikes.

Make sure your tree trimmer is licensed, insured, and bonded. This protects you, your property, and the tree trimmer.

If the tree is growing close to overhead power lines, never attempt to prune it yourself. You should hire a professional tree trimmer and arrange to have the power temporarily disconnected while the trimming is performed. See <https://www.srpnet.com/electric/trees.aspx> for more information.



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[www.arcadiacentral.com](http://www.arcadiacentral.com)

4340 E. Indian School Road, Box 21-293

Phoenix, AZ 85018

*Preserving our neighborhood starts with you.*

## IN THIS ISSUE:

- ◆ Returning to flood irrigation or cisterns
- ◆ Phoenix leash laws explained
- ◆ Keep your palm trees healthy
- ◆ Summer construction hours

## Summer Construction Hours

May 1—Sep 30

**6:00 AM—7:00 PM**

**weekdays ONLY**

Per City of Phoenix code, contractors are required to have an extended hours construction permit for **any** weekend or holiday work.

ACMNA recommends contacting the builder or permit holder first.

If necessary, report violations to the  
After-Hours Construction Noise Complaint Program.

Call/Text: 602-320-1071

Email: [constructionnoisecomplaints@  
phoenix.gov](mailto:constructionnoisecomplaints@phoenix.gov)

*Attach a photo if possible.*

For more information visit [www.phoenix.gov](http://www.phoenix.gov).

Please note that inspectors will only investigate projects requiring a permit, not minor residential repairs.

## Keep up with all things Arcadia!

Summer break is here!  
Even though ACMNA does not hold formal meetings in July and August, we are still here working on the preservation of our neighborhood.

**Next Meeting: Thu Sep 1, 6pm  
Prince of Peace Choir Room**

We invite you to keep up with  
all the latest Arcadia news.

**See page 2 of this newsletter for  
website address, Facebook page, or to  
sign up for our newsletter or emails.**

**We wish you all a safe  
and happy summer!**