Trees for Tucson to provide two schools with free trees from over $900 in donations

From July 30 to August 7, 2012, Trees for Tucson accepted donations in partnership with Groupon Grassroots—and community donations during this short timeframe totaled more than $900! Thank you to our members, volunteers, family and friends for allowing our organization to provide two additional schools with at least 10 trees each (and possibly more), completely free of charge! Thank you for helping to shade our community’s schoolyards.

The Trees for Tucson Tree Bank accepts donations year-round to reduce the cost of trees provided for community tree planting. Simply mail a check or contribute online at www.tucsoncleanandbeautiful.org and designate your contribution to the “Tree Bank”!

(continued on page 3)
Tucson Clean & Beautiful is very appreciative of our many volunteers from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base. Various divisions and organizations affiliated with the air base have been recognized for, or are in the process of, adopting a total of 17 sites including parks, roadways, and washes around Tucson.

Special thanks as well to Starbucks at Grant and Swan, along with their fellow employees at nearly a dozen Tucson area stores who are in the process of adopting Arthur Pack Park in Pima County. Their efforts also resulted in a $1,000 Starbucks Community Service Grant to further TCB volunteer programs!

Would your business or community group like to adopt a local street, park, or wash? Help beautify your surroundings—call (520) 791-3109 or email adoptapark@tucsonaz.gov today to learn more and sign up!
Fruit trees? Use water wisely & be sure to harvest!

While fruit and nut trees can take additional water beyond the drought-tolerant varieties that Trees for Tucson encourages people to plant, there are many food-bearing trees that can withstand Tucson’s temperature extremes and produce tasty treats at certain seasons!

Invest your water wisely—use water harvesting techniques to direct water runoff toward the root zones around your trees (don’t let water pool right at the base of the tree!). Please also remember that limited supplemental irrigation is appropriate in extreme dry spells: a few pennies of water can protect a tree investment that grows to be valued at hundreds or thousands of dollars!

Once trees are established, and you’ve invested water in them—please also don’t let the fruit go to waste! If you are unable to use all of your harvest or cannot pick the fruit, ask friends, family or neighbors for assistance, share the bounty, or consider contacting Iskashitaa refugee harvesting network to collect the fruit from your yard. Visit www.iskashitaa.org or call (520) 440-0100 for info.

Thank you as well to the many other contributors who add a few extra dollars to their shade tree application, or give a contribution directly to Trees for Tucson. Those donations reduce the cost of planting trees at schools, neighborhood streets, parks, wash restoration projects, and more—and help to build community, as all of our projects require community volunteer involvement!

Every tree planted at homes, and every dollar contributed toward these types of community projects make a difference to our community’s tree canopy from the estimated present tree canopy coverage of 11-12%, to progress toward the 25% that it should be for a beautiful and well-shaded desert city.

Springtime is the most popular planting season with the focus of Earth Day and Arbor Day, but fall is also a great time to plant desert shade trees. Trees for Tucson delivers several thousand trees each year to help provide shade to homes throughout much of metro Tucson. This includes homes within an approximately 30 mile radius from downtown Tucson, whether in the TEP or Trico service area. Home tree eligibility is once per calendar year.

- Tucson Electric Power customers: visit www.treesfortucson.org for an application or call (520) 791-3109
- Trico Electric Cooperative residential members: visit www.trico.coop or call (520) 744-2944
- For community groups: Please call Trees for Tucson staff at (520) 791-3109 to discuss your project!
Buffelgrass has reared its ugly (seed) heads, and its bright green foliage has sprouted seemingly everywhere we look! So, let’s get out there and work to remove this invasive plant that threatens our safety as well as our Sonoran Desert ecology! Upcoming work days:

- 9/22/2012: Kennedy Park, near Mission Rd. and Ajo Way
- 9/29/2012: Manville Road, between Saguaro National Park & Ironwood Forest National Monument
- 10/13/2012: A Mountain area, 8-10:30am, exact location TBD
- 10/27/2012: Greasewood/Anklam area

Please email happydesert@gmail.com or call (520) 837-6832 for more information and to sign up as a group or individually for these volunteer projects to dig up invasive plants along scenic corridors!

Help improve your own neighborhood: If you can’t make these events but would be interested in learning to identify and remove buffelgrass in your own neighborhood, borrow supplies, or to arrange for a presentation to your association or organization, please also be in touch!

Tucson Clean & Beautiful Annual Meeting Breakfast: Sept. 26

The Board of Directors of Tucson Clean & Beautiful, Inc. cordially invite you to attend the 2012 Annual Meeting on Wednesday, September 26, 2012 at the Arizona Inn, 2200 East Elm Street, Tucson, Arizona 85719. Check-in 7:30 a.m., meeting 8:00-10:00 a.m. Pre-registration required, $40.00 per person. Includes breakfast buffet. RSVP by Friday, September 21, 2012, by calling (520) 791-3109, or by email to tcb@tucsonaz.gov—or send names of registrants and a check for $40.00 per person (memo: Annual Meeting) to: Tucson Clean & Beautiful, P.O. Box 27210, Tucson, AZ 85726

Water harvesting: Success, but help needed with maintenance

During a recent heavy monsoon storm it was easy to compare neighborhoods with and without roadside water harvesting features, and see water harvesting in action! Formerly flooded neighborhood streets are giving way to much gentler flows. Recently planted roadside vegetation is thriving with this runoff, in turn filtering pollutants from the water!

However these features need to be consistently maintained for optimal performance. Volunteers are needed to remove weeds and litter, and keep trees trimmed appropriately. If you are part of a group that would like to help, call (520) 837-6834 or email adotapark@tucsonaz.gov. For individual volunteer opportunities and in-depth workshops, contact Lisa Shipek at Watershed Management Group, lisa@watershedmg.org or call (520) 396-3266.

With and without water harvesting: A tale of two neighborhood intersections just after the end of a heavy storm.

Looking for additional resources on water harvesting? Visit TCB’s website: