



# Scottsdale: Building Community in the Desert

Scottsdale’s dedication to building a community known for outstanding livability, community prosperity and distinctive character is evident in thoughtfully designed civic spaces and engaging programs. These resources invite residents of many backgrounds and experiences to gather, connect and engage. Each park, plaza and public venue is a testament to Scottsdale’s commitment to strengthening community bonds and celebrating the unique spirit of the city through placemaking. This focus is guided by General Plan 2035, which was approved by voters in November of 2021, and envisions Scottsdale as a city that provides exceptional experience, outstanding livability, community prosperity and distinctive character.

Scottsdale’s General Plan 2035 comprises seven different community values, which provide focus to this year’s achievements and next year’s objectives. Continue reading to learn how Scottsdale is striving to fulfill the community’s aspirations and ensuring a sustainable and successful future for residents.

If you have comments or suggestions on how we can improve this document, please contact the City Manager’s Office: 480-312-2800 | [citymanager@ScottsdaleAZ.gov](mailto:citymanager@ScottsdaleAZ.gov).

## Connecting the Community through Civic Center and Old Town Events



**25,000+**

visitors attended events at Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts



**130,000**

people attended the 2024 Spring Training season



**11,400**

children and their parents sat in for storytelling at Civic Center Library



**30+**

residents graduated the Government 101 Citizen Academy



## Respect Character and Culture

*Scottsdale protects and enhances the community’s unique features*



**Learn more at [ScottsdaleAZ.gov](https://www.scottsdaleaz.gov), search “get involved”**

## Highlighted Accomplishments

- This year’s Arabian Horse Show saw its highest participation ever recorded, with 250,000 attendees. This longstanding event, running for 68 years in Scottsdale, supports charitable organizations including Phoenix Children’s Hospital and March of Dimes with its proceeds.
- The Development Review Board approved amendments to the Old Town Scottsdale Urban Design & Architectural Guidelines to ensure the community’s aesthetic vision for Scottsdale’s downtown area aligns with recent City Council-adopted amendments to the Old Town Scottsdale Character Area Plan and the city’s Zoning Ordinance.



## Looking Forward

- In 2024/25, the city will once again conduct the National Community Survey, a biennial effort to gather community wide feedback through a random sample survey. Results are used throughout the organization to improve service and identify emerging priorities.



## Conserve and Preserve the Environment

Scottsdale leads in the stewardship of the Sonoran Desert environment

### Highlighted Accomplishments

- The Parks and Recreation team participated in the Tree City USA program for the 42nd consecutive year, planting 471 trees for a total of over 24,000 trees across Scottsdale.
- Scottsdale residents have saved 9.3 million gallons of water, thanks to the WaterSmart portal leak detection system. This tool monitors water usage, alerts customers to potential leaks, and optimizes water conservation.

### Looking Forward

- The Solid Waste Transfer Station will be upgraded to enable businesses to divert green waste from the landfill by bringing it to the transfer station, where it will be repurposed for mulch or compost. These diversion initiatives support sustainability by reducing landfill waste and provide resources for residents.



Learn more at [ScottsdaleAZ.gov](https://www.scottsdaleaz.gov), search "preserve"



### Collaborate and Engage

Scottsdale fosters transparent, responsive and collaborative community involvement



Scottsdale 101 Citizens Academy

### Highlighted Accomplishments

- The Protect and Preserve Scottsdale Task Force provided a final recommendation to City Council on a financial strategy to maintain open spaces in the city.
- Scottsdale was named the Top Digital City for 2023 by the Center for Digital Government (CDG) for cities of our size. This award is an annual recognition given to cities across the United States that demonstrate exemplary use of technology to improve public service, enhance transparency, and engage citizens effectively.
- The Neighborhood College program provides residents and HOAs with resources, information, and tools to become active community leaders. During 2023, 20 classes were held both in-person and virtually, with 642 participants.

### Looking Forward

- There will be public engagement opportunities about sustainability in Fall 2024. Topics for discussion will include energy, water, waste, air quality and extreme heat.

The **48 square miles** of Scottsdale's McDowell Sonoran Preserve is the equivalent to **36 of New York City's Central Park**



## Reporting issues is EZ

**SCOTTSDALE EZ** 

Residents made 39,184 requests using Scottsdale EZ last year. The number one request? Residential container repair. Have a broken recycling container or other issues? Report it at [ScottsdaleAZ.gov](https://www.scottsdaleaz.gov), search "EZ".



## Foster Well-Being

Scottsdale promotes a culture of physical and mental health, safety and well-being

### Highlighted Accomplishments

- Through the Bridge Housing Program, Human Services achieved an 86 percent success rate providing a safe and stable place to stay for seniors and families with minor children who have been displaced from their Scottsdale home. The program includes supportive services to assist participants with securing stable housing within 120 days and has served 168 participants since its start.
- Scottsdale Police Department hosted the largest department event in history, a Town Hall to address the dinnertime burglaries. 1,500 residents attended the event in-person, and another 2,000 joined the session online!

### Looking Forward

- The construction of the Thomas A. Hontz Police and Fire Training Facility is scheduled to be completed in Fall 2024. This public safety facility is a Bond 2019 project.
- An ambulance program will launch services in January 2025. The addition of ambulatory training to the fire department will improve the level of emergency medical care for Scottsdale residents.



## Connect the Community

Scottsdale connects all community members through safe and efficient mobility options

### Highlighted Accomplishments

- The Council's policy decisions and the infrastructure initiatives led by the Transportation and Streets Department have resulted in a nearly 66 percent decrease in serious vehicular collisions over the last 30 years, accompanied by a reduction in fatal collisions. Initiatives include roundabouts, enhancements at intersections, safety upgrades and the strategic diversion of city traffic to freeways.
- Scottsdale received the gold-level Bicycle Friendly Community award from the League of American Bicyclists for the 4th year in a row. Achieving the gold level has many requirements which span across five categories, known as "the 5 Es": engineering, education, encouragement, evaluation and planning, and equity and accessibility.

### Looking Forward

- The construction of a pedestrian tunnel will provide residents with a safe route under Chaparral Road connecting Chaparral and Camelback parks. This project exemplifies ongoing infrastructure efforts aimed at enhancing pedestrian safety and reducing injuries from vehicular accidents.



**6:07 minutes** average police response time.



**5:22 minutes** average fire response time.



Fire Department public education and outreach connected with **45,000 people**.



Scottsdale libraries welcomed more than **109,519 visitors**.



**322 volunteers** with Vista del Camino & Paiute neighborhood centers.



**20,001 food boxes** provided at senior and community centers.



Scottsdale's McDowell Sonoran Preserve had **815,000 visits**.



## Advance Innovation and Prosperity

Scottsdale embraces a diverse and innovative economy

### Highlighted Accomplishments

- In support of the Buy Local initiative, Scottsdale sponsored participants for the ImpactAZ 2025 program, resulting in public education workshops to assist local businesses with bidding and contracting procedures that will allow them to do business with the city.

### Looking Forward

- The High Performance and Innovation Team relaunched as the Scottsdale Innovation team. In Fiscal Year 2024/25, this team has secured new funding to launch innovative pilot projects throughout the city. The funding will provide seed funds to develop projects using innovative technologies, programs and services.
- The Scottsdale College Promise agreement was approved by City Council in June of 2024, giving way to the creation of a scholarship fund for Scottsdale high school graduates and Scottsdale residents. Looking ahead, the city will work with its educational partners to develop an accompanying internship program to encourage public service career pathways for students.



# Revitalize Responsibly

Scottsdale vigorously evaluates the short and long-term impacts of development and redevelopment decisions

## Highlighted Accomplishments

- On May 6, 2024, the City Council passed ordinance changes to address negative impacts of vacation rentals. These include prohibiting minors from renting properties, adding promoters as a responsible party, and giving police authority to ask non-residents to leave a property after a nuisance party is declared.

**The typical Scottsdale household pays less for monthly water, wastewater, trash and recycling services than the average rates for other Valley cities.**  
Source: 2024 Comparative Cost of Services

City	Monthly Cost
CHANDLER	\$74
SCOTTSDALE	\$106
AVERAGE*	\$116
MESA	\$147

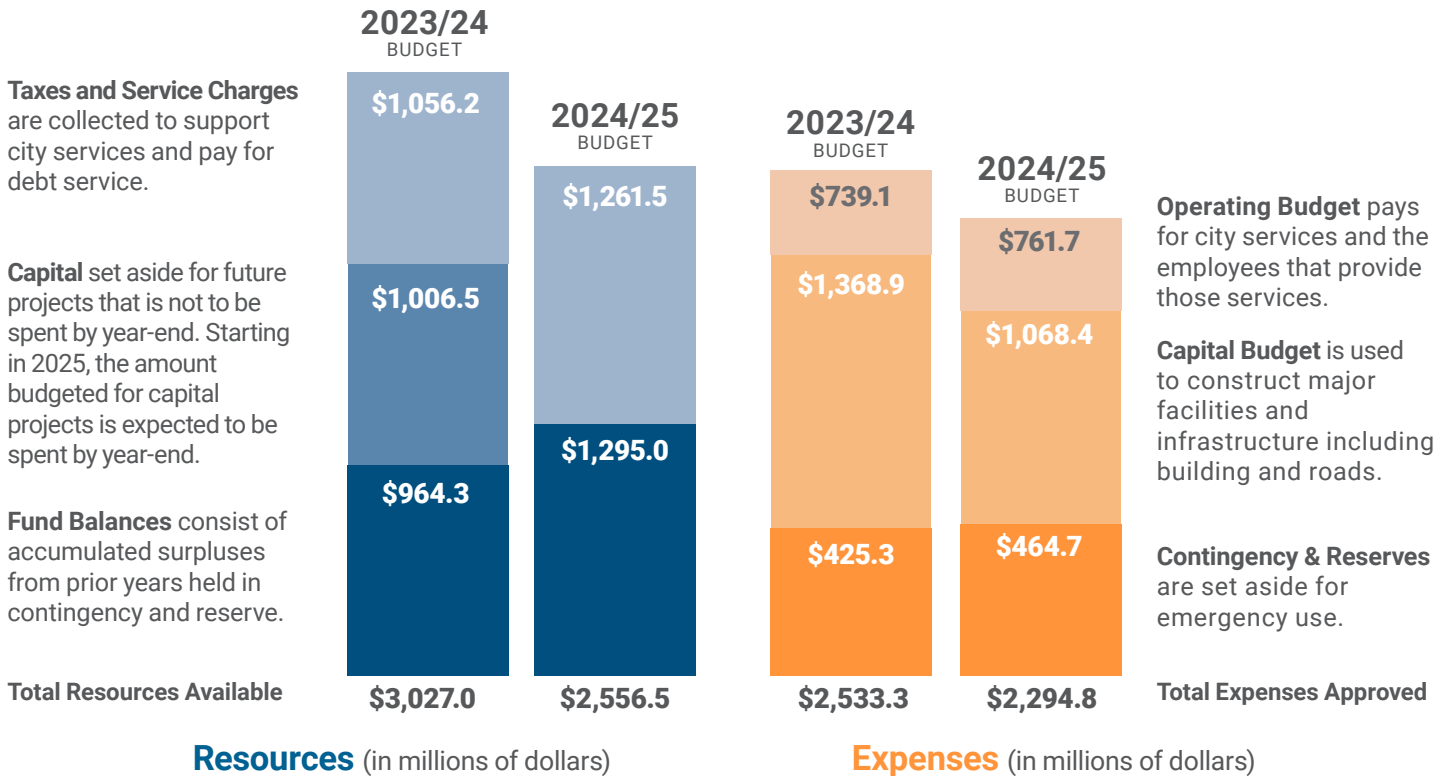
Values are rounded to the nearest dollar. Bills may vary based on actual usage and size of property  
\*Average of the eight largest cities in the Valley

## Looking Forward

- The Special Noise Violations Ordinance staff working group continues to address sound concerns while balancing special events and business needs with residents' quality of life. A City Council Work Study has been completed, and a draft ordinance is in progress to be presented to the public for community input this fall. The ordinance seeks to maintain a vibrant entertainment culture while managing impacts of sound on nearby residential neighborhoods.

## Resources and Expenses

Scottsdale is required by law to adopt a budget each year and cannot spend more than the total budgeted amount. This includes all city funds for the fiscal year ending June 30. City Council adopted the Fiscal Year 2024/25 budget in June 2024. The city's financial statements are audited annually by an independent auditor.



[Learn more at ScottsdaleAZ.gov](https://www.scottsdaleaz.gov), search "finance"

Rounding differences may occur