

Resources for Sustainable Living

The Springs Preserve offers a variety of resources to educate the community about what can be done in our everyday lives to conserve resources and live more sustainably. There are permanent displays and exhibits throughout the facility such as the Sustainability Gallery, which includes the Sustainable Home exhibit showing visitors how small changes they can make in their own homes can save precious resources as well as money. The Gardens at the Preserve showcase eight acres of water-efficient landscaping in a living exhibit of more than 250,000 native and desert adapted plants that are beautiful as they are sustainable. Educational classes and workshops are held each weekend with topics changing monthly in such areas as desert gardening, drip irrigation instruction, energy conservation and solar options, “green” gourmet cooking and more.

The Sustainable Home – The Sustainable Home exhibit, at the Springs Preserve's Desert Living Center, is built to look like an average house, until closer inspection. The entire house is made up of readily available sustainable building materials, accessories and furnishings. The exhibits speak to the usage of resources, particularly water and energy, as well as other principles behind being sustainable, such as re-using or retrofitting existing houses. The gallery features cork and bamboo flooring, rammed earth and straw-bale construction, various materials for countertops and cabinetry, energy and water efficient appliances, hemp upholstery, dishes made from recycled glass, and low-VOC paints. The benefits of these green materials are explained through interpretive text panels and labels placed throughout the gallery. Admission to the Sustainability Gallery is included with a general admission ticket.

The Gardens at the Springs Preserve – The 8-acre garden is a beautiful, creative, innovative learning environment where visitors can explore native and non-native desert-adapted plant life through interpretive stations and hands-on activity, as well as learn about landscaping techniques and different ways to enhance outdoor space with water-smart landscaping. Sustainable themes run throughout these “living exhibits,” crushed granite paths wind throughout the Gardens, a bridge crosses the bio-filtration wetland area where water from the entire Springs Preserve facility is recycled for reuse, through a bench-lined rose trellis, past the Watering Can Theater along Cactus Boulevard and to the Frame House, which is completely outfitted for outdoor cooking classes and demonstrations. The Gardens are open 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. seven days a week and are free (suggested donation and a ticket is required for admittance) to the public, as are the trails and all outdoor areas. Docent-led tours of the Gardens are available with reservations and Master Gardeners are always on-hand to lend their expertise. Additional resources include an entire section of SpringsPreserve.org dedicated to the Gardens where information on classes, a plant search, an Ask the Experts feature and watering guide can be found.

Educational Programming at the Springs Preserve –The Springs Preserve offers classes and workshops revolving around “green” and sustainable living. Classes are held evenings and weekends and many are free or offered at a minimal fee. Instructors are experts in their fields. The class schedule is available on the Springs Preserve website via the "Events & Programs" link.