



## **NEWS**

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### **FOREST HEALTH, BREWING AND WATER AMONG PROJECTS CLAIMING TOP HONORS IN ARIZONA FORWARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS**

PHOENIX (Oct. 6, 2018) – The Northern Arizona Forest Fund took The President's Award, the top honor in the Environmental Excellence Awards presented by SRP, at the Westin Kierland Resort tonight. Jurists also named the Arizona Pure Water Brew Challenge as winner of the Governor's Award for Arizona's Future, and two new categories – Sustainability Champion and Waste Reduction – made their debuts.

Northern Arizona national forests provide the majority of water to the Salt and Verde Rivers. This water flows from the high-elevation forests, down to the desert below and eventually into the homes of millions of metro Phoenix residents. But the health of the forests and watersheds is threatened. The Northern Arizona Forest Fund was created to address these declining forest health conditions. To date, the Northern Arizona Forest Fund has completed over 10,000 acres of projects, reducing severe fire risk by about 25 percent.

The Arizona Pure Water Brew Challenge overturned a long-standing legal prohibition against potable water reuse. It also used craft beer to educate the public about the benefits of the "toilet to tap" revolution. The team took to festivals, conferences, parades and expos to get their message out, which resulted in changing a law and changing many minds statewide.

Arizona Forward celebrated the 38<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its signature awards program, drawing more than 500 social influencers and innovators representing public and private sector interests.

"I've attended the Environmental Excellence Awards as an Arizona Forward member for 20 years, and this year's finalists show how far sustainability has come during that time," said Lori Singleton, Arizona Forward president and CEO. "Every year, we see a wider range of entries that make our communities healthier, more vibrant and more resilient."

Award categories include: the Governor's Award for Arizona's Future; Buildings and Structures; Healthy Communities; Energy and Technology Innovation; and Art, Environmental Education and Communication. The highest award in each category is the coveted Crescordia, a Greek term meaning, "*To Grow in Harmony*." In addition, judges may also present an Award of Distinction to other entries that deserve recognition.

A total of 14 first-place Crescordia winners and 20 Awards of Distinction were presented this year. These projects set standards for achieving a balance between the built and natural environment, impacting the state's physical, technical, social and aesthetic development. Nominations embodied a wide spectrum of public, private, educational and nonprofit interests.

Finalist projects were submitted by both Maricopa and Pima Counties, as well as the cities of Chandler, Flagstaff, Glendale, Peoria, Phoenix, Mesa, Tempe, Tolleson and Tucson.

“The results of this year’s competition reflect visionary efforts in both the public and private sector,” said lead judge **John Flicker**, who serves as president of Prescott College. Before joining Prescott College in 2014, he was president of the National Audubon Society for 15 years during which time he became a leader in the field of environmental education. “The judging panel had the diverse knowledge to evaluate how these projects will impact their communities well into the future. It was an honor for us to be part of this process.”

Joining Flicker on the panel were: **Hunter Moore**, natural resources policy advisor to the governor; **Christiana Moss**, principal at Studio Ma; **Maria Salenger**, senior associate at Jones Studio; **Galen Drake**, senior landscape architect at J2 Engineering; **Linda Morales**, CEO and principal of the Entitlements Division; **Jason Mikkelsen**, managing principal at HDR; **Liz Shipley**, public affairs director at Intel; **Pat Dinkel**, vice president, environmental and chief sustainability officer at APS; **John Trujillo**, principal at Circonomy Solutions; **Ted Decker**, director/curator/co-founder at Phoenix Institute for Contemporary Art; and **Anna Maria Maldonado**, director of sales and marketing at Care1st Health Plan of Arizona.

Since its inception in 1969 as Valley Forward, Arizona Forward has brought business and civic leaders together to convene thoughtful public dialogue on regional issues and to improve the sustainability of communities throughout the state. The organization operates with the belief that businesses must take a leadership role in solving the complex and sometimes controversial problems that confront growing population centers.

***In addition to the Northern Arizona Forest Fund and the Arizona Pure Water Brew Challenge, Crescordia winners include:***

**WURTH HOUSE** (Kimber Lanning) – Buildings & Structures (Civic and Historic Preservation)

Local First Arizona founder Kimber Lanning saved a bungalow that was slated for demolition and gave it new life as the Local First Arizona headquarters. The process took more than three years to complete. Today, more than 30,000 people see the restored bungalow during monthly First Friday events.

**OCOTILLO RESTAURANT** (TRUEFORM landscape architecture studio) – Buildings & Structures (Commercial and Institutional)

The Ocotillo Restaurant features desert-adaptive materials and water-harvesting elements that blend perfectly into the Southwest. Desert palo brea and mesquite trees provide shade, while the restaurant’s namesake ocotillo plants are featured at key locations. A sunken lawn provides a versatile gathering place and harvests water.

**NORTHERN ARIZONA POLLINATOR HABITAT INITIATIVE** (Green NAU) – Site Development and Landscape (Landscape and Preserves)

The Northern Arizona Pollinator Habitat Initiative promotes the creation, protection and registration of pollinator habitat across Northern Arizona, while highlighting the important role

pollinators fulfill in the global food supply. The effort increased local pollinator garden registration tenfold in its first year.

**SPACES OF OPPORTUNITY (Orcutt Winslow) – Healthy Communities (Sustainable Communities)**

Spaces of Opportunity addresses community connections, food deserts and social justice on an inspiring scale and allows residents to learn about science, technology, engineering and agriculture. The incubator farm encompasses 3,000 square feet; kale, mustard greens and beets have sprouted this year.

**MESA RIO SALADO – STADIUM CONNECTOR PATHWAY (City of Mesa – Engineering Department) – Healthy Communities (Multimodal Transportation and Connectivity)**

The Mesa Rio Salado-Stadium Connector Pathway filled a critical 3.5-mile gap in the Valley's network of shared-use paths along the Salt River, Crosscut Canal, and adjacent neighborhoods. Community partners include the Chicago Cubs, Oakland A's, Riverview Development, SRP, Arizona Department of Transportation, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, United States Army Corps of Engineers, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, City of Mesa, and the City of Tempe.

**SOUTH MOUNTAIN PARK AND PRESERVE TRAILS MASTER PLAN (SMPTMP) (City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department) – Healthy Communities (Public Policy/Plans)**

The South Mountain Park and Preserve Plan will help this nationally recognized desert mountain preserve address the challenges of increasing popularity so future generations can connect with the desert. The plan identifies 51 miles of existing designated trails to be protected or improved and adopts 38 miles of existing non-designated trails into the designated trail system.

**U-HAUL – THE CONSERVATION FUND (TCF): UPPER GRANITE CREEK ASPEN RESTORATION PROJECT (U-Haul International) – Healthy Communities (Parks and Trails)**

U-Haul designated a portion of customer contributions in 2017-2018 to the National Forest Foundation to support its Prescott Aspen Restoration Project in the Prescott National Forest. One-hundred-fifty acres across two aspen stands were restored, which also protects a watershed that's critical to the area.

**PEORIA POLICE PATROL SERVICES BUILDING (Energy Systems Design, Inc.) – Energy and Technology Innovation**

The City of Peoria's new Patrol Services Building provides an immediate return on investment through ongoing water and energy reduction while providing a comfortable work environment for Peoria's officers and staff. The building's energy costs will be 41 percent less than a typical building, and it is tracking LEED Gold certification.

**GLENDALE DESERT FOOD FOREST** (City of Glendale Water Services Department) – Environmental Education & Communication

Part regenerative landscape and part outdoor classroom, the Glendale Desert Food Forest connects residents to the Sonoran Desert’s array of water-wise edible plants. It includes more than 100 edible plants and involves partners such as the Glendale Public Library, Linking Edible Arizona Forests Network, Maricopa County Master Gardener program, and Trees Matter.

**GREG STANTON** (Greg Stanton Supporters) – Sustainability Champion (Individuals)

Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton worked tirelessly to establish Phoenix as an oasis of pragmatic, economically beneficial environmentalism. He asked Phoenix voters to approve a tax increase to benefit mass transit while running for his own re-election, while also converting 100,000 Phoenix streetlights to efficient LED bulbs. Stanton was also instrumental in developing public-private circular economy partnership through ASU to raise landfill diversion to 30 percent.

**WASTE MANAGEMENT PHOENIX OPEN** (Waste Management of Arizona) – Waste Reduction

The Waste Management Phoenix Open demonstrates Waste Management’s environmental best practices and innovation in sustainable sport programs. Since launching the Zero Waste Challenge in 2012, the event has transformed into a Zero Waste Event that tracks greenhouse gas emissions and minimizes the tournament’s carbon footprint, uses renewable energy, saves and restores water, stores materials and signage for reuse, educates attendees through messaging and on-course activations, and ensures that discarded items go to their next best use.

***\*EDITOR’S NOTE: Project photos, additional details and Award of Distinction descriptions can be provided upon request.***

***A complete list of 2018 Environmental Excellence Award Winners and categories are included below and on the pages that follow.***

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**2018 ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS  
COMPLETE LIST OF WINNERS**

**GOVERNOR’S AWARD FOR ARIZONA’S FUTURE**

**CRESCORDIA**

Arizona Pure Water Brew Challenge

Submitted by: Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department

**AWARD OF DISTINCTION**

RISN Incubator - A partnership between the City of Phoenix and ASU

Submitted by: ASU Rob and Melanie Walton Sustainability Solutions Initiative

**AWARD OF DISTINCTION**

Salt and Verde Alliance

Submitted by: The Nature Conservancy

**BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES**

Civic

**AWARD OF DISTINCTION**

LEED Gold Tolleson Fire Station + Administration Building

Submitted by: LEA-Architects, LLC

**BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES**

Historic Preservation

**CRESCORDIA**

Wurth House

Submitted by: Kimber Lanning

**AWARD OF DISTINCTION**

South Mountain Park and Preserve Big Ramada

Submitted by: City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department

**BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES**

Commercial & Institutional

**CRESCORDIA**

Ocotillo Restaurant

Submitted by: TRUEFORM landscape architecture studio

**AWARD OF DISTINCTION**

Arizona State University - Biodesign Institute C

Submitted by: McCarthy Building Companies, Inc.

**SITE DEVELOPMENT AND LANDSCAPE**

**CRESCORDIA**

Northern Arizona Pollinator Habitat Initiative

Submitted by: Green NAU

**CRESCORDIA**

Tohono Chul Park Master Plan

Submitted by: John Douglas Architects

**AWARD OF DISTINCTION**

Renaissance Phoenix Downtown Hotel

Submitted by: TRUEFORM landscape architecture studio

**HEALTHY COMMUNITIES**

Sustainable Communities

**CRESCORDIA**

Spaces of Opportunity

Submitted by: Orcutt Winslow

**AWARD OF DISTINCTION**

Downtown Chandler Infrastructure Improvements: Commonwealth Avenue and Dakota Street Extension

Submitted by: Achen-Gardner Constructions, LLC

**HEALTHY COMMUNITIES**

Multimodal Transportation and Connectivity

**CRESCORDIA**

Mesa Rio Salado - Stadium Connector Pathway

Submitted by: City of Mesa – Engineering Department

**AWARD OF DISTINCTION**

Tempe Bike Share Program

Submitted by: City of Tempe

**HEALTHY COMMUNITIES**

Public Policy/Plans

**CRESCORDIA**

South Mountain Park and Preserve Trail Master Plan

Submitted by: City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation

**HEALTHY COMMUNITIES**

Sustainable Workplaces

**AWARD OF DISTINCTION**

Orcutt Winslow Office

Submitted by: Orcutt Winslow

**AWARD OF DISTINCTION**

CBRE Phoenix Workplace 360

Submitted by: Gensler

**HEALTHY COMMUNITIES**

Parks and Trails

**CRESCORDIA**

U-Haul - The Conservation Fund (TCF): Upper Granite Creek Aspen Restoration Project

Submitted by: U-Haul International

**AWARD OF DISTINCTION**

Pioneer Park  
Submitted by: Dig Studio, Inc.

**ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION**

**CRESCORDIA**

Peoria Police Patrol Services Building  
Submitted by: Energy Systems Design, Inc.

**ART IN PUBLIC PLACES**

**AWARD OF DISTINCTION**

El Paso Greenway Project  
Submitted by: Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department

**ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION & COMMUNICATION**

**CRESCORDIA**

Glendale Desert Food Forest  
Submitted by: City of Glendale Water Services Department

**AWARD OF DISTINCTION**

"Up in the Air" an Air Pollution Education Program  
Submitted by: Maricopa County Air Quality Department

**AWARD OF DISTINCTION**

Master Recycler Program  
Submitted by: City of Flagstaff Sustainability Section

**SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPION**

Organizations and Projects

**CRESCORDIA**

Northern Arizona Forest Fund  
Submitted by: National Forest Foundation

**AWARD OF DISTINCTION**

Arizona Pure Water Brew Challenge  
Submitted by: Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department

**SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPION**

Individuals

**CRESCORDIA**

Greg Stanton, Sustainability Champion  
Submitted by: Greg Stanton Supporters

**AWARD OF DISTINCTION**

Bill Auberle

Submitted by: Pinyon Environmental, Audubon Arizona, Northern Arizona University

**AWARD OF DISTINCTION**

U-Haul Sustainability Champion: Alexia Bednarz

Submitted by: U-Haul International

**AWARD OF DISTINCTION**

Tim Thomure, Director, Tucson Water

Submitted by: Tucson Water

**WASTE REDUCTION**

**CRESCORDIA**

Waste Management Phoenix Open

Submitted by: Waste Management of Arizona

**AWARD OF DISTINCTION**

Global Water Resources - Total Water Management

Submitted by: Global Water Resources

**AWARD OF DISTINCTION**

Barley to Beer: Saving the Verde River

Submitted by: The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

**PRESIDENT'S AWARD**

Northern Arizona Forest Fund

Submitted by: National Forest Foundation

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