



## You + Conservation = Water, Time and Money Savings

By Kathrine Blomquist, Water and Lake Management Committee Member



Last month's *Conservation Corner* shared 50 easy ways to save water inside and outside the home. Let's dive further into two of the tips and learn what resources are available to help you save not only water, but your time and money as well.

### \* Remove turf and replace with desert landscaping

Removing turf and replacing it with desert landscaping is one of the best things desert dwellers can do to conserve water, especially since over 60% of household water is used outside the home. Take advantage of the City of Mesa's **Grass-to-Xeriscape** program to save water and to say goodbye to mowing. Apply to remove at least 500 sq. ft. of healthy grass and replace it with a desert landscape and you could qualify for \$500. Add on "Trees are Cool" and get an additional \$50 or \$75 (for adding one or two trees). [www.mesaaz.gov](http://www.mesaaz.gov)

If you missed SRP's **Shade Tree Workshop** last spring, you can participate this fall. SRP gives two free desert-adapted shade trees to residential customers that attend a Zoom workshop. Hosted by **Trees Matter**, you will learn about the eligible trees, caring for your trees, the best methods and locations for planting, and more.

Participating in the Shade Tree Workshop is easy; register and attend a free Zoom workshop on either **Saturday, August 20th at 10:00 am**, or **Saturday, September 10th at 10:00 am**. Pick-up your two free 4 ft. to 6 ft. saplings at Mesa Community College on **Saturday, October 1st from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm**. Register today at [www.srpnet.com/shadetrees](http://www.srpnet.com/shadetrees).



### \* If you have a pool, use a cover to help prevent water loss through evaporation

**Lorie Albert** with **Solar Safe Pool Covers**, a participant at this year's Dobson Ranch **Spring Expo**, explains why the use of a pool cover is so important:

"Arizona summers test most people's tolerances, so having a pool to cool off in is almost a necessity! Pool ownership can be costly with the maintenance, chemicals, extra electricity costs and high water usage. Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) states that pools and spas are responsible for about 16% of all outdoor water use.

Solar Safe Pool Covers wants to educate pool owners on best ways to save water. Most pool water loss occurs by evaporation. ADWR advises a standard 16 ft. x 32 ft. uncovered pool loses 4 to 6 feet of water annually due to evaporation, mainly during the summer. Depending on the pool size, that's 20,000+ gallons disappearing, meaning you'll need to replace that water, plus add more chemicals to rebalance chemistry... all at added expense!

By installing a pool cover, you can reduce evaporation over 90% and significantly reduce costs. Pool covers save time and money on maintenance by keeping your pool cleaner (especially during monsoons), cut water and chemical usage, provide safety for kids/pets, and reduce evaporation. Be a smart pool owner – SAVE WATER by minimizing fountain and water feature use, limit splashing while swimming, and install a pool cover!

The City of Mesa, SRP and Solar Safe Pool Covers are here to help you on your conservation journey. Join other Dobson Ranch residents that are switching to desert landscaping and/or using pool covers. The time is now to save water, time and money together. [#DobsonConservation](https://twitter.com/DobsonConservation)



▲ Pool covers reduce evaporation over 90% and save time and money.

▲ Kathrine's Shade Tree Workshop trees (Desert Willow and Willow Acacia) planted March 2021.