

During rainstorms, washes are the main pathways that collect the water running off the mountains and through the town. As evidenced with recent storms, severe flooding can occur when wash capacities are exceeded or their ability to carry the water effectively is impeded. Preserving our washes' beauty while maintaining their ability to safely convey storm water is a shared, ongoing responsibility.

**For all residents:**

If you see a wash that needs attention, please contact the Town Administrator (see contact information, below).

Dumping trash or objects into a wash is illegal and, if observed, should be reported.

**Contact Us**

**Town Administrator**  
Town of Carefree  
PO Box 740  
8 Sundial Circle  
Carefree, AZ 85377  
(480) 488-3686  
gary@carefree.org

**More information is available online:**



<https://www.facebook.com/TownOfCarefree/>

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# Town of Carefree

## *Natural Washes and Arroyos: Information for Residents*



Nestled among distinctive mountain peaks and threaded with vibrantly-colored washes, the Town of Carefree is blessed with incredible natural beauty. While these washes greatly distinguish our town, they also serve an important function for our safety.

## Wash Maintenance Prevents Flooding

**For residents with washes on your property:**  
You should maintain washes on your property.

Washes should be maintained or restored to a natural condition at least once a year before the monsoon season (beginning June 15 and ending September 30).

Sediment, debris, downed trees, and other obstructions should be cleared from the wash as soon as possible to reduce the risk of flooding during the next storm.

### During clean-up:

- Remove built-up sediment and debris (tree limbs, dislodged bushes, trash, etc.)
- Prune or selectively remove shrubs growing in the wash that might choke its ability to carry storm water
- Prune tree limbs that block the wash and trap debris during storms
- Clear any trash racks of debris or other obstructions

### Be aware:

- State law prohibits blocking washes (ARS 48-3613)
- Do not store materials in the flow path of a wash, even temporarily
- Fencing over a wash requires a permit, and must be installed above the wash flow-line
- Contact the Town Engineering Department prior to grading or adding riprap in a wash, so we can help identify what you can do without a permit or assist you in the permit application process, if required
- Remember, an unmaintained wash can not only result in flooding your home and property, it can also affect your neighbors and expose you to liability

