

Transformations: Revitalizing Disfigured Landscapes
Four all new sites, plus three demonstration gardens!

Desert-Wise Living 
**LANDSCAPE
TOUR**

15TH ANNUAL

**Sunday April 19, 2026
9am-4pm**



photo by Martha Weir



MORONGO BASIN CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION
mbconservation.org/tour

Welcome!

Here we are again – today for our 15th Annual Desert-Wise Landscape Tour! The theme this year is:

Transformations: Revitalizing Disfigured Landscapes

Why build a Tour around once-damaged landscapes? Because most high-desert gardeners know this story. Scraped ground, compacted soil, junk and damage left behind by someone else. The hosts on this Tour are living with it too—and showing how they worked their way back.

Pre-Tour Events

We hope you were able to participate in our events prior to Tour day: a pollinator & native plant talk and art show and guided botanist walk, all held Saturday April 18th. Look for these extras next year by becoming a member! MBCA members enjoy early notifications and priority access to our events:

mbconservation.org/join

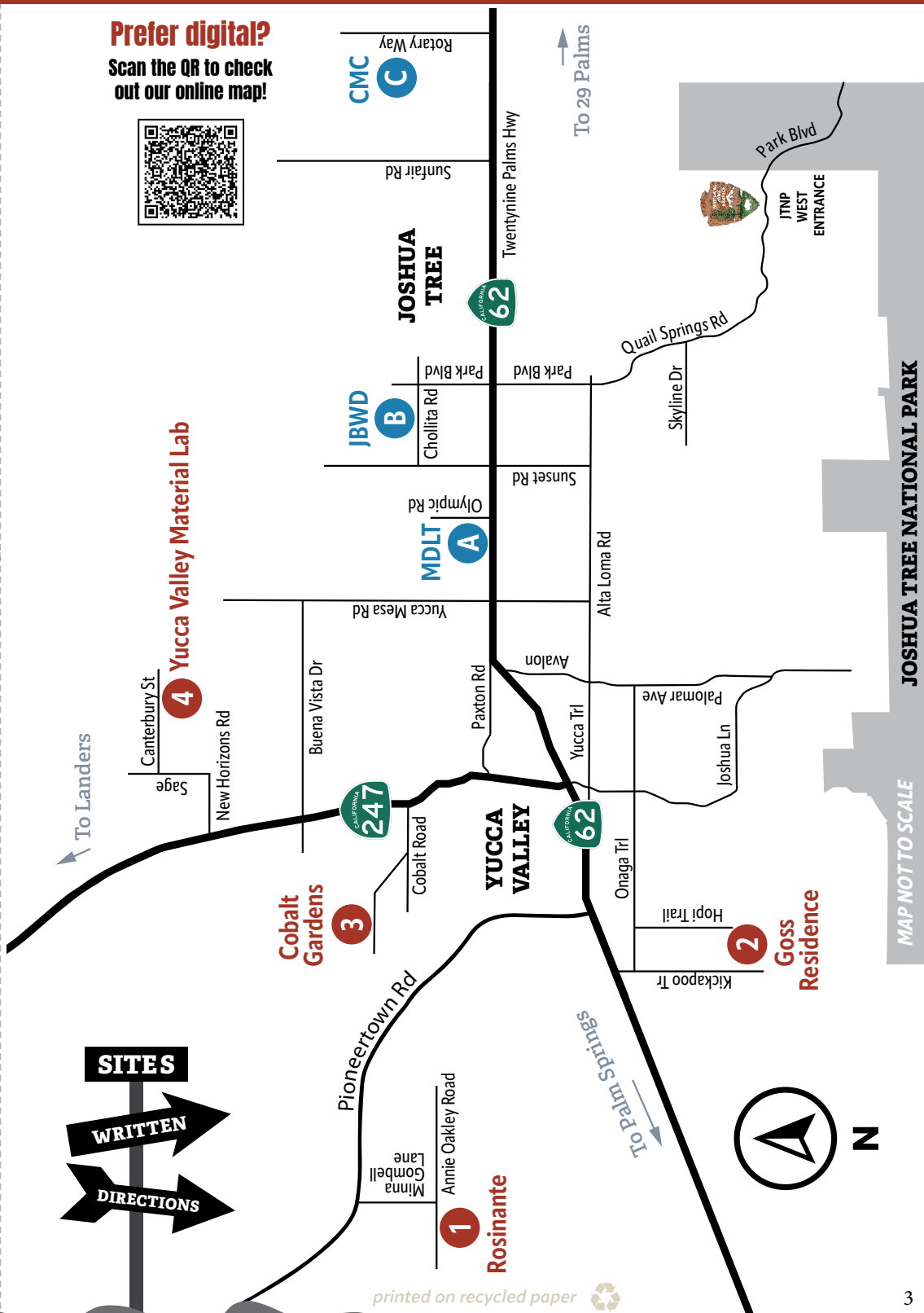
Don't Get Lost - Follow Our Site Directions

Use the written directions for the surest and easiest route to sites. You can also check out our print map, or follow our curated Google map. Just scan the QR code on the next page!

- Please be respectful about Tour start and end times: **9am - 4pm**
- We welcome official service dogs, but otherwise your pets are not allowed.
- Be mindful of vehicle travelling speeds because of wildlife crossings and for dust prevention.
- Alert an MBCA site docent if you need to park very close to site due to mobility issues.



Keep an eye out for directional signage along the route!



Prefer digital?
Scan the QR to check out our online map!



JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK
MAP NOT TO SCALE

Four All New Homesites (from West to East – Look for our Tour signs)

Note: Highway 62 is also called Twentynine Palms Highway.

GPDPC = GALLONS PER DAY, PER CAPITA (capita=person).
Includes interior and exterior usage.



photo by Kelly Newfield

Rosinante
53265 Annie Oakley Road | Pioneertown
Elevation 4070, 1.6 acres, well water (low usage)

After the Sawtooth Complex Fire of 2006 left this landscape disfigured, these homeowners began a careful native plant restoration with legendary botanist Robin Kobaly. This site exemplifies how native plants can help heal the soil.

DIRECTIONS TO 53265 ANNIE OAKLEY ROAD, PIONEERTOWN: In Old Town Yucca Valley, from Hwy 62 turn north at the light on Pioneertown Rd. Continue 4.9 miles on Pioneertown Rd. Turn left (west) into Minna Gombell Lane (unpaved) and travel .1 mile to Annie Oakley Rd. Turn right (north) onto Annie Oakley Rd (unpaved) and travel 200 yards along split rail wooden fence to property driveway. Park in open, cleared driveway, avoiding native plants or the island.



photo by Tessa Goss

Goss Residence
8108 Hopi Trail | Yucca Valley
Elevation 3840, 5 acres, 25 kW solar (24 panels @ 105 watts each), 123 GPDPC

On a lot once scraped (except for a specimen juniper and a Joshua Tree), this homeowner / landscape designer brought in more than 200 tons of soil to revive the landscape with berms—creating visual interest and redirecting run-off.

DIRECTIONS TO 8108 HOPI TRAIL, YUCCA VALLEY: From Hwy 62 in Yucca Valley, turn south onto Kickapoo Trail. Travel 0.3 miles, then turn left (east) onto Onaga Trail. Continue 0.3 miles, then turn right (south) onto Hopi Trail. Follow Hopi Trail for 0.4 miles to the dead end. Continue past a metal residential gate at home located next door (to the left) to 8108 Hopi Trail. Look for Tour signs. Continue up the long driveway to the parking area.

Cobalt Gardens
56356 Cobalt Road | Yucca Valley
Elevation 3970, 2.5 Acres, 33.78 kW (28 panels @ 135 watts each), 82 GPDPC

This landscape was badly scraped of native vegetation a decade ago. The homeowners will share photos of their starting point and discuss the challenges they've faced during this work in progress.

DIRECTIONS TO 56356 COBALT ROAD, YUCCA VALLEY: From the intersection of Hwy 62 and Hwy 247 in Yucca Valley, travel north on Hwy 247 (Old Woman Springs Road) 1.9 miles to Cobalt Road. Turn left (west) on Cobalt Road (unpaved). Travel .5 miles on Cobalt and bear to the right. Continue an additional .4 miles to 56356 Cobalt Road. Park on Cobalt Road, outside of property, adjacent to the gated driveway.

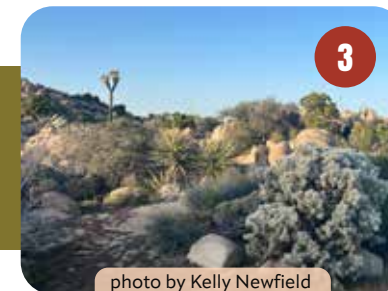


photo by Kelly Newfield

Yucca Valley Material Lab
57275 Canterbury Street | Yucca Valley
Elevation 3300, 2 acres, 30 KWh solar 39 panels @ 770 watts, 53 GPDPC

After the removal of seven industrial dumpster loads of debris, tamarisk trees, and invasive weeds, this former junkyard has been artistically sculpted into a series of outdoor rooms used for creative activities.

DIRECTIONS TO 57275 CANTERBURY STREET, YUCCA VALLEY: From Hwy 62 and Highway 247 in Yucca Valley, travel north on Hwy 247 (Old Woman Springs Road), 4.0 miles to New Horizons Road. Turn right (east) onto New Horizons Road (unpaved), and travel .3 miles to Sage Ave. Turn left (north) on Sage (unpaved), travel .2 miles to Canterbury St. Turn right (east) onto Canterbury St (unpaved), travel .5 miles to 57275 Canterbury. Turn onto the property. Ample onsite parking available.



photo by Heidi Schwegler

Three Public Demonstration Gardens All sites are open from 9am-4pm.

Water-smart landscapes can be both beautiful and sustainable—local water districts, a land trust, and a college demonstrate what smart planting and efficient irrigation really look like.



Mojave Desert Land Trust Discovery Garden
60124 Twentynine Palms Hwy | Joshua Tree

Late Registration Headquarters – 9am-12pm

See how landform shaping and real-world trials influence where plants thrive—ideas you can adapt for your own desert-wise landscape. Many will be offered at MDLT's fall plant sale Saturday, October 24, 2026, so start making your wish list, as **fall is the best time to plant!**

DIRECTIONS TO 60124 TWENTYNINE PALMS HWY, JOSHUA TREE: From Hwy 62 (29 Palms Hwy) in Joshua Tree, turn north on Olympic Road (it's across from the cemetery, where there are many tall Italian cypress trees). Mojave Desert Land Trust is immediately on the left (west). Park alongside Olympic Road (unpaved) or in the lot.



Joshua Basin Water District Water-Wise Demonstration Garden

61750 Chollita Road | Joshua Tree

Via thematically arranged areas, this waterwise demonstration garden features an array of drought-tolerant & native plants. Raised areas provide plants with fast drainage, while thirstier ones are installed in depressions to capture water runoff.

DIRECTIONS TO 61750 CHOLLITA ROAD, JOSHUA TREE: At Hwy 62 and Park Blvd. turn north onto Park Blvd. Travel .2 miles on Park Blvd. to Chollita Road, turn left (west). JBWD Demonstration Garden will be on your right. Park in the lot, or alongside the roadways.



Copper Mountain College Demonstration Garden
6162 Rotary Way | Joshua Tree

Jorge's Cafe Open 10am-2pm

From solar-covered parking beds to courtyards and sculpture gardens, native plants tie this campus together. These plantings create a beautiful public space built around drought-tolerant, native choices.

DIRECTIONS TO 6162 ROTARY WAY, JOSHUA TREE: From Park Blvd. and Hwy 62 in Joshua Tree, travel 5.9 miles east toward Twentynine Palms. Turn left (north) onto Rotary Way (at traffic light). Travel .3 miles on Rotary Way to Copper Mountain Campus entrance. Native Garden surrounds the Administration Building parking lot. Look for tour signs.

Regeneration Begins Underground

How thoughtful planting can bring disturbed sites back to life.

We all know the basics: sun, water, nutrients. Dig a hole, plunk in a plant, drag a hose, hope for the best. In the desert, it's rarely that simple. Desert soil isn't just lifeless sand. Healthy desert soil is alive. Plants depend on fungi, bacteria, and other underground helpers to unlock nutrients, protect roots, and move water and air. Disturb that system and our sandy soil becomes dead dirt.

Here's the great news: landscaping can bring it back. Many Tour sites show what recovery looks like. If you're starting with damaged ground, these strategies can help:

- **Remove invasive plants: they steal water and block recovery of soils.**
- **Protect existing natives: they're living anchors of soil life.**
- **Start with pioneer plants—the natives that show up first.**
- **Think of roots as upside-down plants—mix shallow and deep-rooted plants in small patches to rebuild soil life.**
- **Use rock or pebble mulch to hold moisture and protect the soil organisms.**

Who we are

For fifty-seven years, the Morongo Basin Conservation Association's mission has been to advocate and educate for a healthy desert environment which nurtures wildlands and our communities' rural character, cultural abundance, and economic well-being.

MBCA is an all volunteer community-based California Nonprofit Corporation, incorporated in 1969.

Learn More About Native Gardening in the Hi-Desert!

Don't miss out on the extensive content we created just for gardeners like you! Go to mbconservation.org and look for [Desert-Wise Living](#).

Thanks to Our Sponsors!

This homegrown effort, now 15 years strong, thrives thanks to our generous sponsors, who help us share water-wise ideas with the community.



Videos Galore! #mbconservation

Dig deeper into high-desert landscaping success on the [MBCA YouTube channel](#), featuring a 26-video playlist. Don't miss our latest "how-to" video about fall-planting!

