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## Press Release

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TUCSON, AZ | November 11, 2005 — Governor Janet Napolitano has designated Tohono Chul Park as one of the state's "Arizona Treasures." The Park, a 49-acre nature, arts and culture center celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, will be awarded the State's designation at a special ceremony to be held today, Friday, November 11, at 10:00am, in conjunction with the opening of the Park's Desert Living Courtyard.

In a statement announcing Tohono Chul Park's designation as an Arizona Treasure, Governor Janet Napolitano said: "I am pleased to designate Tohono Chul Park as an Arizona Treasure. Arizona's rich history, tradition and beauty are evident in this stunning setting. I hope everyone in the state has a chance to experience this unique attraction."

Jan Leshner, director of the Governor's Southern Arizona office, will represent the Governor at the ceremony and will present the plaque to the Park. State Senators Gabrielle Giffords (D-28) and Toni Hellon (R-26) also will participate. Originally designed to introduce Arizonans to premiere destination spots within their state, the Arizona Treasures program also provides national prominence to the state's hidden treasures of nature, arts and culture. Tohono Chul Park's new Desert Living Courtyard, which will open in conjunction with the awards ceremony, is one illustration of the unique educational, cultural and environment featured at Tohono Chul Park.

The Courtyard, adjacent to the Park's Desert Discovery Education Center, is divided into ten distinct garden vignettes, each featuring different southwest regional themes, from the arrangement of cacti, succulents, and annuals in pots that highlight their form and color, to a "natural" landscape that attracts native wildlife. This complex of demonstration gardens, with its educational component, is unique to Tucson.

Designed by Jeffrey Trent of Natural Order, with the expertise of Tohono Chul Park staff Russ Buhrow, Curator of Plants, and Lee Mason, Director of General Services, the garden combines color, texture, and function to provide easily replicated take-home ideas for outdoor living spaces. Included in the *Desert Living Courtyard* are: the Barrio Garden; the Container Garden; the Moorish Garden; the Xeriscape Garden; the Wildlife Garden; the Dry Shade Garden; the Winter/Summer Garden; the Meditation Garden; the Outdoor Living Garden, and the Utility Garden. As an educational component to the program, templates suggesting plants, designs and landscape elements will be provided for each of the Courtyard garden vignettes. Materials for download also will be available on the Park's website: [www.tohonochulpark.org](http://www.tohonochulpark.org).

### **About Tohono Chul Park**

Tohono Chul Park, listed by *National Geographic Traveler* as one of the Top 22 Secret Gardens in the US and Canada (March 2005) is the Southwest's center where nature, art, and culture connect. Celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2005, Tohono Chul Park is located at 7366 N. Paseo del Norte, one stoplight west of the intersection of Ina and Oracle Rds. Admission to the Park is free for Park members and children under age 5, \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors (62+), \$3 for students with valid ID, and \$2 for children (5 - 12). The first Tuesday of every month is a no-admission-fee day. For additional information please contact 520-742-6455 x 220 or visit the website: [www.tohonochulpark.org](http://www.tohonochulpark.org)