

Dear Monument Manor residents,

Alex Ocañas from The Living Desert has asked us to share this information with our community.  
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Baby desert tortoises need your help! Securely cover your outdoor trash cans to eliminate unnatural food sources for ravens! Ravens are now the number one predator of desert tortoises. By reducing ravens near Joshua Tree we can help protect local wildlife.

Monument Manor residents are lucky to have Joshua Tree National Park in our backyard and now those wildlife neighbors need your help! Help protect native wildlife by eliminating unnatural food and water resources and instead providing native, natural sources.

***Check out the attached flyer to catch up on best practices for caring for wildlife neighbors!***

Our human communities have been providing extra, unnatural resources to ravens, like food and water, which have allowed the raven population to grow to nearly 20 times what this natural habitat can reasonably host. Those ravens are consuming an alarming number of native species. They are now the number one threat to long-term desert tortoise survival, as they've learned to prey on baby tortoises, who have soft and vulnerable shells for their first many years of life.

To save the desert tortoise we must eliminate unnatural food and water resources for ravens - especially near protected desert tortoise habitat like Joshua Tree. Will you help in this conservation effort? Check out the attached flyer to learn how to safely provide for wildlife without disrupting natural balances.

Thank you, Monument Manor!

Please email Alex Ocañas with questions or comments at [aocanas@livingdesert.org](mailto:aocanas@livingdesert.org).

**Alex Ocañas**

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# LOCAL WILDLIFE needs your help!

You can do it all from your own yard!

## RAVENS THREATEN LOCAL WILDLIFE

Due to human-provided resources like food, water, and shelter, the common raven population in our California deserts is roughly 17 times LARGER than it was 50 years ago! This over-sized population is disrupting ecosystems by preying on species like the threatened desert tortoise and burrowing owl.

It is our responsibility to keep native wildlife populations healthy, and so we must not invite ravens into our communities or natural areas. To do this, we can remove, or substantially minimize, supplemental resources in our yards and gardens. Otherwise, ravens will benefit from these resources and then negatively impact other wildlife.

Remember to cover  
your trash!

Visit [CoverYourTrash.Org](http://CoverYourTrash.Org)  
for more information.

## FEEDING FAILS WILDLIFE

People who provide unnatural food sources for wildlife have good intentions, but are unaware of the long-term consequences. One or two small bird feeders may be acceptable, but more than that can be harmful to wildlife and human communities.

### Consequences include...

**Oversized Populations** - When one population booms, another will likely decrease.

**Loss of natural behaviors** - Wildlife become dependent on human-provided resources and lose natural foraging skills.

**Health Problems** - Supplemental food resources do not contain the nutrients wildlife require, which are provided in natural sources.

**Spread of Disease** - Wildlife gathered around food sources are likely to spread disease among themselves or to humans.

**Loss of Biodiversity** - Together, these consequences degrade natural habitats and the very wildlife we are trying to help. While food sources may attract certain species, overall you will see fewer species in your area.



# SUPPORT WILDLIFE FROM YOUR OWN YARD WITH RESPONSIBLE RESOURCES.

Communities living near natural areas have a special opportunity to interact with and care for local wildlife. Such a unique opportunity comes with a heightened responsibility to be conscientious neighbors. Managing your yard in a way that extends natural wildlife resources is the best way to care for wildlife without unbalancing local populations.

## How to enrich your local ecosystem:

**Plant Native Plants** - Fill your garden with native plants from a local nursery, which helps sustain local pollinators.

**Provide a Small Water Source** - Providing water to well adapted desert wildlife is unnecessary but if you choose to do so, replace water every 3 days to prevent mosquito development.

**Provide Shelter** - This includes bird or bat houses, brush piles, small shade structures, or native bee houses. You can make your own or buy one pre-made!

Certify your wildlife habitat with the National Wildlife Federation at [nwf.org/garden](http://nwf.org/garden)

## Benefits of Not Feeding Wildlife

Natural-sized raven population



Recovery of desert tortoise populations



Vibrant communities and thriving wildlife!



Please direct questions and comments to

The Living Desert Zoo & Gardens  
(760) 346-5694 x2130  
[Conservation@LivingDesert.org](mailto:Conservation@LivingDesert.org)



THE LIVING DESERT  
ZOO | GARDENS