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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CITY OF PHOENIX INSTALLS TREE-FRIENDLY IRRIGATION SYSTEM

SurfaceFlow™ irrigation technology, developed by Jardinier Corporation, will provide low-flow watering to the root systems of trees at Steele Indian School Park.

PHOENIX, Ariz. – The city of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department is looking at a new irrigation technology to better care for its trees.

This week, city work crews installed a SurfaceFlow™ irrigation system in triangular rows around six Bradford pear trees at the park. Rick Templeton, water resources specialist for the city, said the pilot project is being tested to see if the emitter technology does a better job of watering deep into the root canopy of the trees.

“Everybody has the same problem,” Templeton said. “They plant a tree with drips or bubblers in a 5- to 6-foot diameter, but nobody ever moves them. When the tree gets bigger, the roots outgrow the irrigation and the tree is no longer getting the water it needs to stay healthy.”

Templeton said the pear trees at Steele Indian School Park are 8 to 9 years old, but they look as though they’re only 3. “These trees have not reached their genetic potential,” he said. A city specialist in urban forestry will study the growth of the trees in the coming year to determine whether SurfaceFlow™ has been more effective in encouraging growth and overall health of the trees.

“We’re looking at doing this at a couple of other sites, too,” Templeton said. “If it works, this could be the standard of how the city of Phoenix waters its trees.”

Since 1988, Jardinier Corporation of Fountain Valley, Calif., has been developing irrigation systems and reservoir tank system planters that save water, cut maintenance costs and dramatically reduce water runoff. The company’s patented SurfaceFlow™ turf irrigation system, Automated Sub-Irrigation Systems (ASIS) and Reservoir Tank System planters have been used throughout the U.S. and in Europe by major cities, universities, hotels and commercial sites. Visit www.jardiniercorp.com for information.

Matt Schryver, project manager for Jardinier, said SurfaceFlow™ irrigation will benefit the trees because of its emitter technology, which allows for micro-flooding for deep-root zone watering.

“Most people water their trees with turf irrigation systems, which do not enable water to go deep into the root systems of trees,” he explained.

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