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DESERT MUSEUM OPENS NEW EXHIBIT, SPADEFOOT SPLASH

TUCSON, AZ—The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum is thrilled to announce the opening of Spadefoot Splash. This new exhibit opened to the public last week, with a grand opening celebration scheduled for this Saturday - March 21, 2026 - as part of Nature Fest, a larger Museum-wide event. Thanks to the generosity of over 300 donors, this multifaceted exhibit was brought to life, providing a space that celebrates discovery and connection centered on the power and beauty of water in the desert.

Spadefoot Splash was mindfully designed to foster appreciation and understanding of the concept that water is life. The entrance is a conservation station featuring endangered and threatened species: Couch's Spadefoot toad, Gila chub, and Mexican gartersnake. The conservation station will serve as a bridge between the vital science happening behind the scenes and the collaborative conservation initiatives led by the Desert Museum to protect native species of the Sonoran Desert. This interactive exhibit brings water to the forefront through water play, water recycling, and water-focused art.



At the heart of Spadefoot Splash is a stream that serves as an accessible learning playscape. Neighboring the stream is a patio offering a shaded rest area with movable seating, and a nature trail with interactive elements on the opposite side. To celebrate our most essential resource, art elements are infused throughout the exhibit, including three murals painted by local Tohono O'odham artists.

The all-new Spadefoot Splash at the Desert Museum is officially open! The public is invited to celebrate its grand opening this Saturday at Nature Fest from 10:00 am to 2:00 p.m. Enjoy live music, search for plants and animals, meet the exhibit muralists, chat with community partners in conservation, and discover all this new exhibit has to offer. Both Spadefoot Splash and Nature Fest are included with Museum admission. For more information on the exhibit, visit desertmuseum.org/spadefootsplash.



About the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum: Founded in 1952, the Desert Museum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization widely recognized as a model institution for immersive and innovative interpretation of native plants and animals in their natural habitat. The 98-acre Desert Museum in Tucson, AZ is regularly recognized as a top-tier facility due to its pioneering approach to interpreting the complete natural history of a single region. It is a zoo, botanical garden, art gallery and natural history museum, all rolled into one. The mission of the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum is to inspire people to live in harmony with the natural world by fostering love, appreciation, and understanding of the Sonoran Desert. To learn more, visit www.desertmuseum.org and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).