Tempe Urban Forestry Masterplan

& Action Plan

City of Tempe
PUBLIC WORKS

ASU Walton Sustainability Solutions Initiatives
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

Master Plan & Action Plan

Identify best practices:

- water resources
- low impact development
- economic ROI
- heat island

Increase tree canopy:

- replace missing trees
- update sparse landscape in ROW, parks, & city properties

Masterplan & Action Plan

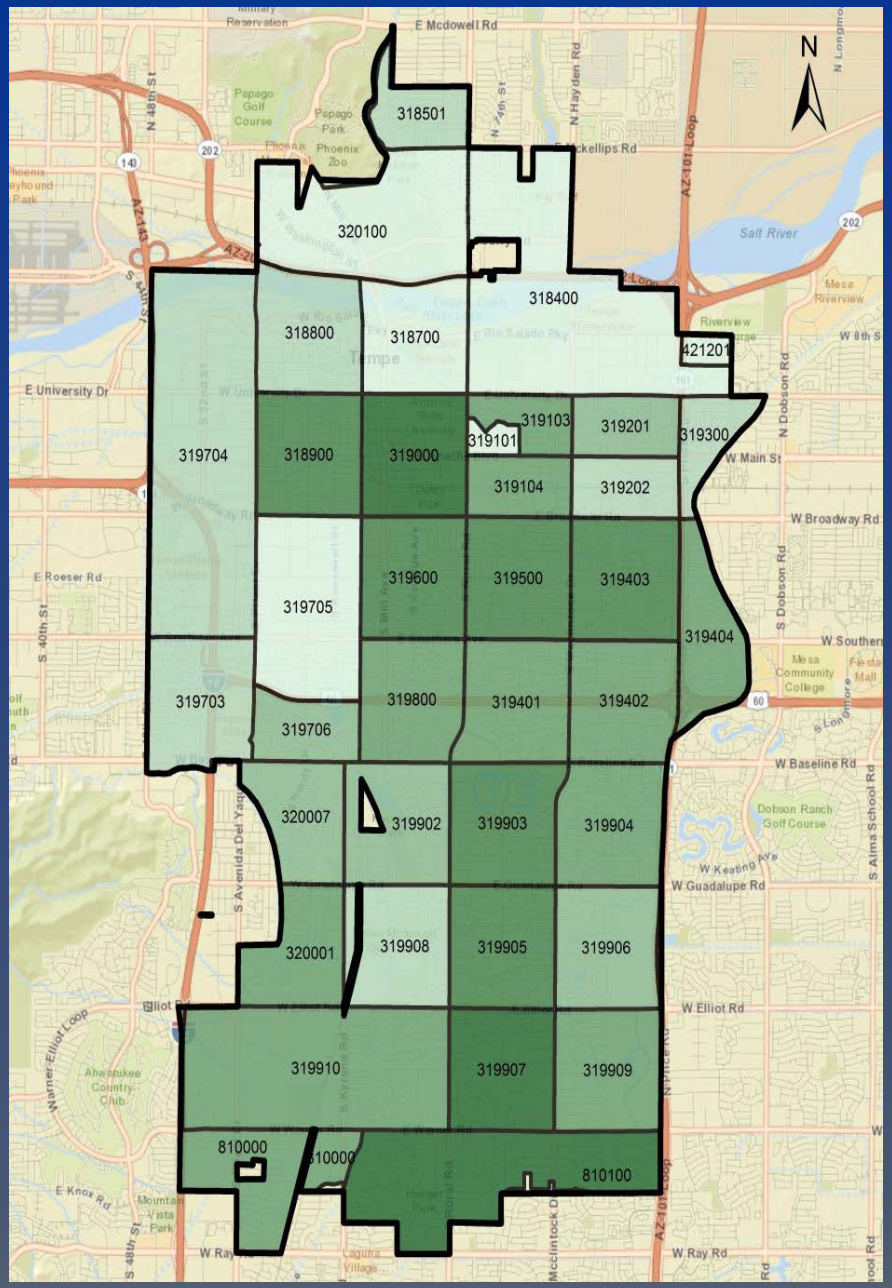
- increase park use, walking, biking, access to bus and rail and improve mobility
- identify asset value & management costs of trees
- develop ‘living’ inventories and assessment tools
- increase awareness & support of Tempe’s urban forest

Assessment of Tempe's Tree Canopy Coverage

Benchmarked entire tree canopy (public & private) across city limits by

- census tract
- ROW
- character areas and
- irrigated areas

2010 data



RESULTS

- Tree canopy (entire city limits): 13.4%
- Varies among census tracts from 6.8% to 24.2%
- Publicly-owned (COT) canopy includes ROW (1.6%) and Parks/Properties (0.78%)

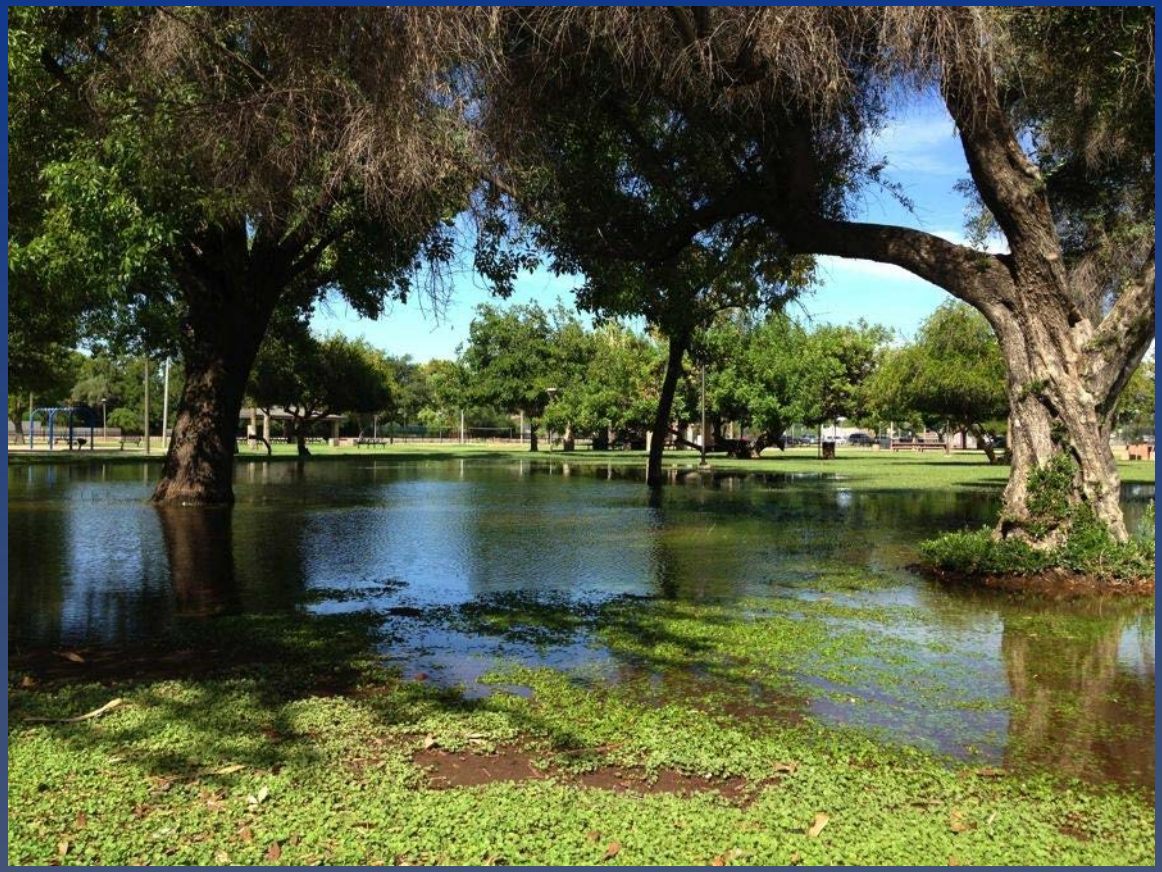
Sustainability Principles for Urban Forestry

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is NOW - Chinese Proverb

Maximize Urban Cooling

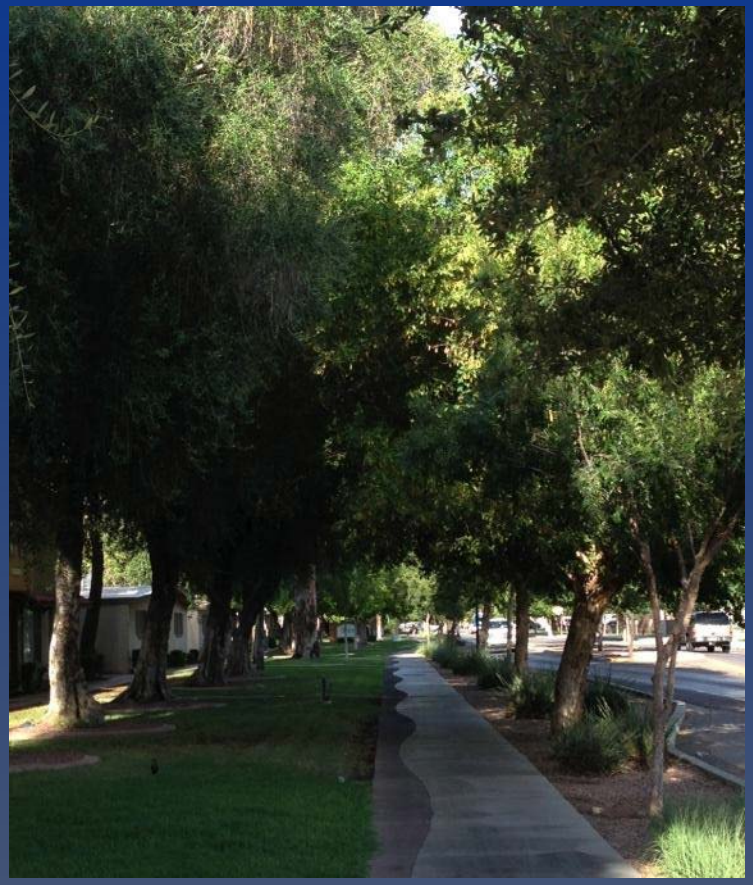
Use trees and construction materials that reduce the urban heat island and makes a more walkable city.

Wise Use of Water



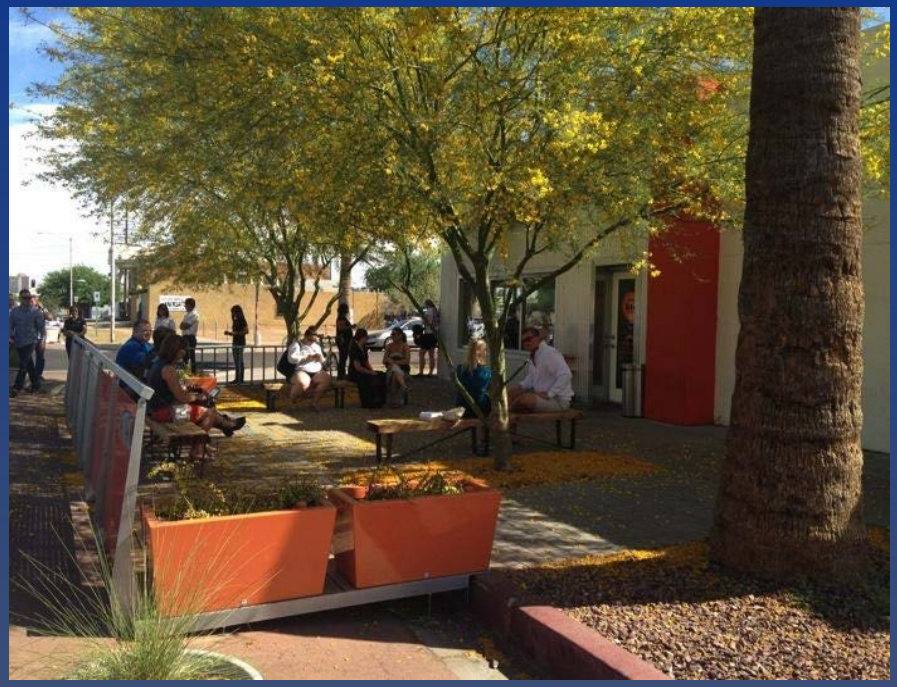
Plant and maintain trees and landscapes that use water efficiently.

Expand Shade



Create shade to produce a walkable 20-minute city benefiting public health and economic development.

Increase Property Values



Plant and maintain trees that increase property values and attract new businesses, retail customers and residents.

Support Biodiversity

Plant diverse species of trees that absorb potential shocks, including extreme heat and species-specific disease.

Respect Habitat

Develop a healthy urban forest that provides natural habitat for birds, animals and pollinators.

Coordinate Infrastructure

Plant and maintain trees that are compatible with infrastructure (i.e. street lighting, underground utilities and power lines).

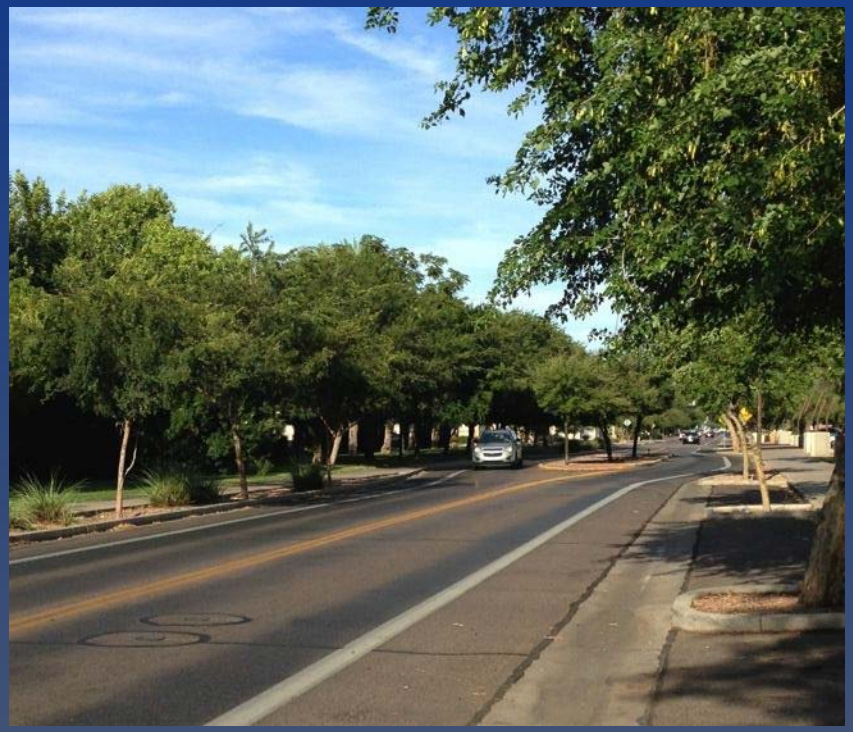
Preserve Viewsheds

Support tree growth that preserves important viewsheds (i.e. mountain views, signage and traffic line of sight).

Enhance Walkability

Plant trees and design landscapes that improve pedestrian accessibility and walkability to retail and services.

Achieve Equity



Ensure trees and shade benefit all residents.

Beautify Tempe

Create beautiful landscapes and ensure trees are part of the urban form and promote attractive neighborhoods.

Cultivate Collective Action

Utilize the efforts of volunteers, businesses, city staff & public-private partnerships to grow & maintain the urban forest.

Community Challenge Grant

$13K for Urban Forestry Master Plan & Action Plan

US Forest Service

AZ State Forestry Division

Urban & Community Forestry

- John Richardson
- Alix Rogstad

Tempe is a 'ReLeaf City'!

$100,000 funding & assistance
assessment
restoration
public outreach
support for policy efforts
volunteer event launches restoration phase
primary local corporate sponsor: Bank of America

- urban forest assessment,
- restoration, and
- outreach & education

Tree Donation Program

Corporations, groups, and individuals fund the donation of trees for planting by citizens and organizations, such as community services groups, volunteer teams, clubs, and youth groups. City of Tempe partners with local nursery to provide trees. This strategy is currently used in LA, Chicago, and Houston.

Votes	Comments

Homeowner Association Tree Program

[illegible] real estate values, cooling costs, and aesthetic appeal. Additional information is provided on tree selection, planting tips, incentives, and maintenance. This type of HOA-focused model is currently used by the City of Gilbert in a program promoting water conservation through targeted education.

Votes	Comments

Master Urban Forester Program

Through a robust offering of activities, tours, lectures, volunteer opportunities, and discussions, community members in the Master Urban Forester program will be prepared to assist their neighbors and others in making long-lasting positive change in the community. The focus of this training is to empower citizens to preserve and enhance the comfort, health, and beauty provided by Tempe's urban forest. Similar citizen empowerment programs exist in Portland and Baltimore.

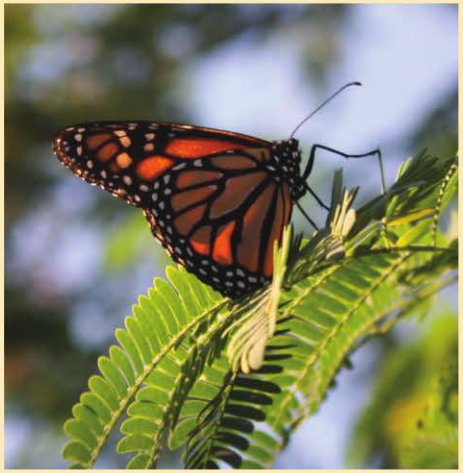
Votes	Comments

Online Tree Portal

Through an online portal, citizens can order trees to plant or 'sign up' to take care of certain trees in their community. This portal will provide the additional service of a platform for citizens to share stories and memories about certain trees. In New York City's tree program citizens can sign-up to maintain trees and the storytelling component is utilized in Melbourne, Australia.

Votes	Comments

Pollinator and/or Bird Program



[illegible] Citizens who register their plants with the City will receive a sign to place along the sidewalk to educate others on what services their vegetation provide. Austin, Texas has a similar program encouraging residents to plant pollinator-friendly native plants.

Votes	Comments

Community Workshops for All Ages

Teach youth and adult community members about tree planting and care at local community centers and libraries. Simultaneously, children can attend tree-related events including trivia, reading circles, crafts, and games. A similar community engagement model exists in New York City.

Votes	Comments

Tempe Urban Forest Workshop & EXPO

www.tempe.gov/urbanforest

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walking the way to health