Tempe Urban Forestry Masterplan & Action Plan Update

Issue Review Session
January 29, 2015

City of Tempe
PUBLIC WORKS

Background

Develop an Urban Forestry Masterplan & Action Plan to implement the strategic economic, environmental & quality of life values of the General Plan 2040 (pg. 7-8).

Background

Tree initiatives & criteria exist in multiple departments:

- Trees for Tempe

- Living Tree Memorial Program

- Adopt-a-Path, a-Park, a-Street

- Storefront Improvement Program

- Energy Initiatives

- Character Area Plans

- Tree Planting/Neighborhood Grants

- Community Gardens

- Low Impact Development Workgroup

- ADA Accessibility Transition Plan

Background

Urban Forestry Masterplan Considers

- Walkable City/20 minute city
- Character Areas planning
- Multi-departmental tree/shade efforts
- Low impact development standards
- Engineering details
- Design guidelines
- Social, environmental & economic benefits of urban forest

Masterplan & Action Plan

- Increase tree canopy, replace missing/diseased trees, update sparse landscape in ROW, parks, & City properties
- Identify best practices i.e. water resources: low impact development; economic ROI; heat island; etc.
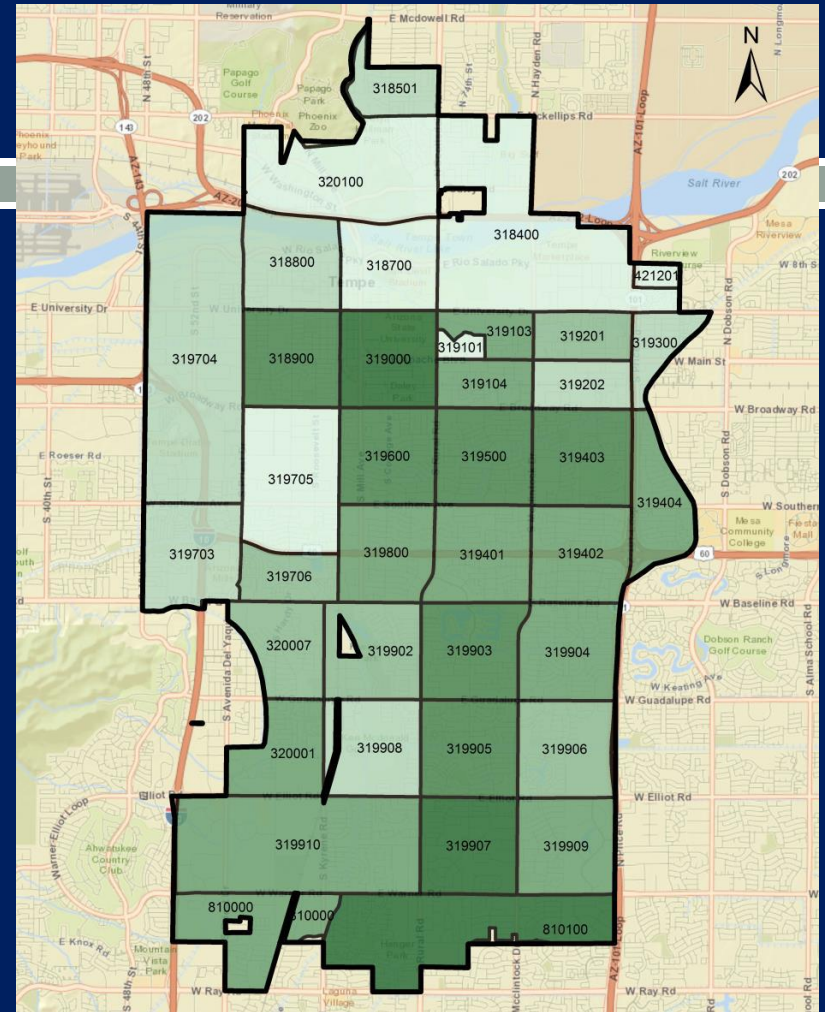
Masterplan & Action Plan will:

- Increase park use, walking, biking, access to bus and rail and improve mobility
- Identify asset value & maintenance costs
- Increase awareness & support of Tempe's urban forest

Phase 1 (completed 2014)

- ASU's Global Sustainability Solutions Services (GS3) developed 'Assessment of Tempe's Tree Canopy Coverage.'

- Benchmarked entire tree canopy (public and private) across city limits by census tract, ROW, character areas and irrigated areas (2010 data).
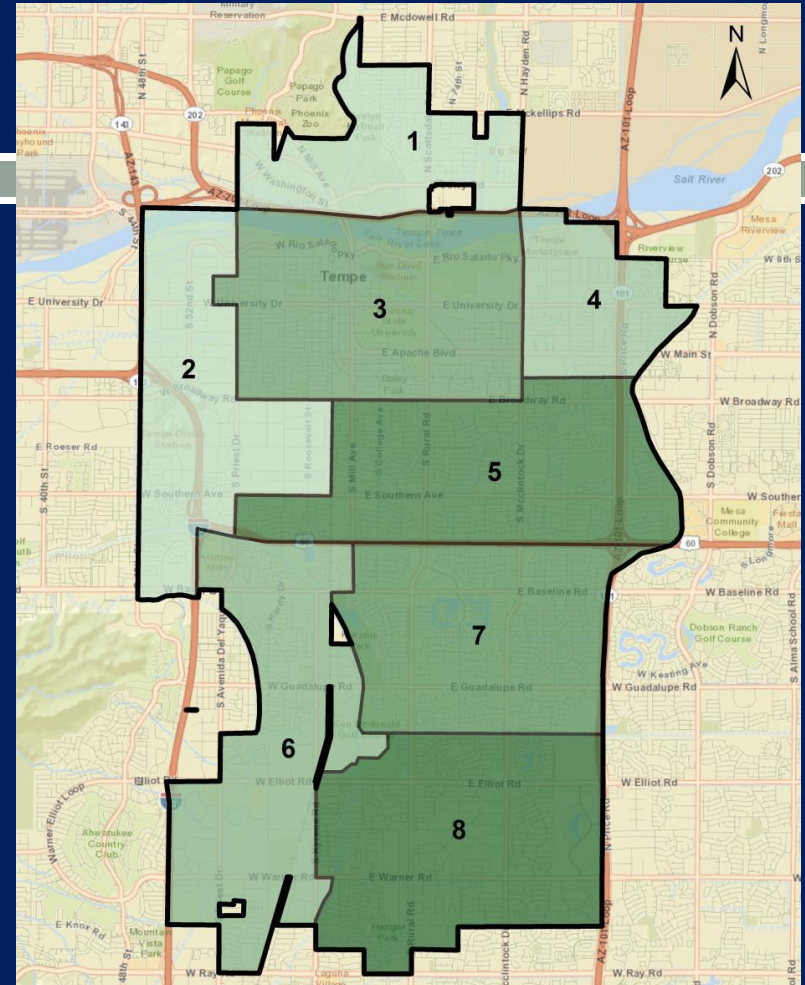
Phase 1

- 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%)

Phase 1

Tree Canopy Cover in Tempe by Character Area

	Character Areas	canopy cover [%]	canopy cover [acres]
1	Papago/North Tempe	8.5	176
2	Diablo/Double Butte	8.5	262
3	Rio Salado/Downtown/ASU	12.1	461
4	Escalante/Marketplace	9.2	137
5	Central City/Shalimar	15.9	611
6	AZ Mills/Emerald Center	11.2	413
7	Kiwanis/The Lakes	15.4	531
8	Corona/South Tempe	20.5	827

6.8%   24%

Phase 2: Stage 1

Tasks include:

- Calculate asset value of Tempe's public trees

- Develop 2-3 scenarios with incremental cost/benefit analysis

- Begin development of Masterplan & Action Plan

    - Emphasis on practical, incremental actions to quickly initiate planting

Phase 2: Stage 1

Tasks include:

- Goal-setting:
  - covers the total city limits (typically 25-30% canopy)
  - incorporates good stewardship
  - establishes policies that represent best practices in our desert environment
  - promotes programs and events (Arbor Day, green organics, etc.) that support tree planting and care; and includes residents, businesses and school children.

Phase 2: Stage 2

Begins 2015-16; tasks include:

- Develop strategies, identify barriers/solutions to meet tree & shade goals

- Budget estimates to implement strategies
  - Accounting for shade, water use, VOC emissions, maintenance, etc.

- Prepare draft, interdepartmental review, comments, revise

- Final Urban Forestry Masterplan & Action Plan adopted by Council (2016)

Community Challenge Grant

$13K for Urban Forestry Masterplan & Action Plan

- AZ State Forestry Division, Urban & Community Forestry, & USDA Forest Service
- Approved by Council for 2015

Community Challenge Grant

- Outreach to Tempe residents, schools
- Communications via website, social media, water bill
- Events: tree planting workshops, Arbor Day activities, community volunteers training, celebrations
- Project kickoff: February 2015