

PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA

Sustainability & Resilience Commission

MEETING DATE

Monday, March 18, 2024
4:30 pm – 6:30 pm

MEETING LOCATION

Tempe Transportation Center
Don Cassano Room
200 E 5th St., Tempe, AZ 85281

AGENDA ITEM	PRESENTER	ACTION or DISCUSSION
1. Welcome and SRC Mission	Shawn Swisher, Chair (4:30 – 4:35 pm)	
2. Public Appearances The Sustainability Commission welcomes public comment for items listed on this agenda. There is a <i>three-minute time limit</i> per citizen.	Shawn Swisher, Chair (4:33 – 4:35 pm)	
3. Review of Meeting Minutes The Commission will be asked to review meeting minutes from the January 22, 2024 meeting.	Shawn Swisher, Chair (4:35 – 4:37 pm)	Action
4. General Plan 2050 – Approved by Voters	Brianne Fisher, Climate Action Manager (4:37 – 4:52 pm)	Discussion
5. Character Area 6 Planning	Ambika Adhikari, Principal Planner Jacob Payne, Senior Planner (4:52pm – 5:20pm)	Discussion
6. Growing Together – IRA Grant Funding Program	Richard Adkins, Urban Forester Maddie Mercer, Neighborhood Resilience Coordinator (5:20 – 5:40 pm)	Discussion
7. Sustainability and Resilience Office Budget Update	Brianne Fisher, Climate Action Manager Tom Duensing, Deputy City Manager (5:40pm-6:00pm)	Discussion
8. Sustainability and Resilience Commission Dates of Interest Calendar	Eric Iwersen, Transportation and Sustainability Director (6:00pm-6:05pm)	Discussion
9. Sustainability and Resilience Office Updates and Housekeeping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighborhood Celebration Event • Transportation and Sustainability Department 	Eric Iwersen, Transportation and Sustainability Director (6:05 – 6:20 pm)	Discussion
10. Future Agenda Items - Commission may request future agenda items.	Shawn Swisher, Chair (6:20 – 6:30pm)	Action

According to the Arizona Open Meeting Law, the Sustainability Commission may only discuss matters listed on the agenda. The City of Tempe endeavors to make all public meetings accessible to persons with disabilities. With 48 hours advance notice, special assistance is available at public meetings for sight and/or hearing-impaired persons. Please call 350-2775 (voice) or 350-8400 (TDD) to request an a

Our Charge

To **research**, **advise**, and **recommend** to the city council policies and programs that advance sustainability in Tempe...



Tempe

Our Scope

...with particular attention to sustainability in the following areas:

- Energy management
- Climate Action Plan
- Local food & agriculture
- Livable neighborhoods & happy communities
- Land use & development
- Building practices
- Purchasing practices
- Economic development
- Solid waste, recycling, & hazardous waste
- Water & wastewater management
- Transportation
- Dark skies
- Air quality
- Environmental justice
- Preparedness and resiliency



Our Objective

- **Assist** city departments **in executing** approved **policies and programs**;
- To **support education and outreach** related to the city's sustainability practices;
- To **identify** potential sustainability **partnerships** with public, private and educational entities; and
- To **recommend** for city council consideration a comprehensive sustainability **plan with measurable goals and benchmarks** to ensure year-to-year progress (Ord. No. O2015.24, 6-25-15)



Mission Statement

To be a culture-catalyst.

To provide leadership, education, and guidance on sustainability programs and policies to City Council and for our entire community to transform Tempe into a healthy and resilient city that inspires the region, the nation, and the world.



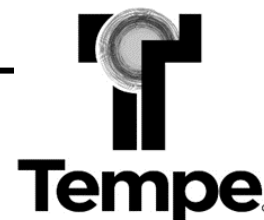
Tempe.

Strategic Priorities

Council Priority: Implementing sustainable growth and development strategies, including improving Tempe's public transit system to meet future needs, by actively seeking innovative technologies and leading the way in creating a more sustainable community

- **Priority #1: Roadmap for CAP Highlights**
- **Priority #2: CAP 2021 Public Engagement**
- **Priority #3: Monitor and recommend**





Minutes

City of Tempe Sustainability Commission February 24, 2024

Minutes of the Tempe Sustainability Commission meeting held on Monday, February 26, 2024, 4:30 p.m. in person at Tempe Transportation Center, Don Cassano Community Room, 200 E. 5th Street, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Kendon Jung (Vice Chair)
Barbie Burke
Morgan Winburn
Erin Boyd
Jake Swanson

Taylor Conley
Ben Paulat
Joshua Randall
Jacob Bethem

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Shawn Swisher (Chair)

City Staff Present:

Eric Iwersen
Brienne Fisher
Andy Escobar
Maddie Mercer
Carissa Fowler
Evelyn Brumfield
Dawn Ratcliffe
Tom Duensing

Guests Present:

Bob Wall
Michael McCaffrey
Bob Pane
Patricia DiRoss
Guillaume Evain
Andy Johnson

Agenda Item 1 – Welcome and SRC Mission

Vice Chair Jung called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and read the commissions' charge and mission.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances

No public comments were shared.

Agenda Item 3 – Review of Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the January 22, 2024, meeting were accepted.

Motion: Commissioner Ben Paulat

Second: Commissioner Taylor Conley

Voted to Approve: 9-0

Agenda Item 4 – Salt River Project – Solar Mounted Canals Initiative

Andy Johnson, SRP Engineering Manager, gave a presentation on SRP's Solar Mounted Over Canals. The project's objective is to install solar power panels on the canals with the purpose of increasing solar energy capacity and reducing evaporative water loss. He introduced three existing projects and gave an overview of each one. These projects were in India, Gila River Indian Community by Wild Horse Pass and I-10, and Turlock Irrigation District in CA. Some of the potential benefits of this initiative include multi-use of existing canal land, evaporation savings, extending lifespan of existing water infrastructure, impacts to aquatic vegetation growth, renewable generation source, and less power transmission losses. The projects concerns are the public safety since the public had full access to the canal, clearance for equipment, reduce maintenance efficiencies and increase cost, increase shade may increase infestation of quagga mussels.

SRP is working with ASU on evaporation and feasibility project research to study evaporation reduction and savings. Bob Pane, SRP Water Engineering and Transmission Director, explained the study with ASU is far more precise, with a better evaporation savings indicator, by offering an opportunity to correlating with additional scientific data. A consultant company, George Cairo Engineering, was hired by SRP to help with the solar structure design. SRP will focus on a basic structure to can again access underneath. The Pera Club, SRP facility located east of Desert Botanical Garden, and Arizona Falls located on the Arizona Canal along the Indian School Road, are the two potential pilot locations. Next step, GCE is working on some preliminary conceptual design, and SRP will evaluate the cost of it, and will look for federal and other sources of fundings.

Questions:

- Vice Chair Jung Chair asked the anticipated generation of Kilowatts hours, if there is any potential to link this with those that are heat insecure, and the capacity of solar energy space storage.
 - o Andy said they anticipate under 1 megawatt generation and explained the study will focus on evaporation component primarily. If the project moves forward, SRP will have opportunities to study and investigate different impacts and aspects of the project.

- Bob Pane mentioned that SRP within the next 10 years will be adding a great amount of solar panels and other renewable power generation capability, including the Roosevelt Lake pumped back storage
- Commissioner Joshua Randall asked what environmental permitting process SRP needs to go through.
 - Andy and Bob explained since SRP is structured as quasi-governmental entity, they usually don't need to get permits, but they will work very closely with Federal Bureau Reclamation throughout the process.
- Commissioner Jake Swanson asked what battery aspect capacity the project will add to the grid, and the study threshold.
 - Andy said since this project generates just one megawatt, they will focus on the evaporation component since there are only two studies out there, and none of them has provided a real data field measurement.
 - Bob added that the biggest SRP challenge is having the canals open to the public due to public safety.
- Commissioner Barbie Burke asked how long the pilot project would take place, and how soon will Wild Horse Canal project start.
 - Andy said they are in the early stage of conceptual design and looking for funding source. They will also need to go through all levels of approval from SRP board and council, therefore he can't give a timeframe. He also doesn't have the exact starting date for the Wild Horse Project, but he heard they were to breaking ground. It should be a more immediate event.
- Person from the chat asked if there any architects involved in the study? I believe there could be an opportunity for design to improve the pedestrian cyclist experience along the canal as well.
 - Andy said the Pera Club location has some adjoin multi-use pass offering alternative opportunities for improvements, and GCU Consultants has some architects involved in conceptual design.
- Commissioner Ben Paulet asked what the start date for breaking ground and project duration will be.
 - Andy explained the canals solar panels are in the concept study phase, and the evaporation study is well under way. There is no breaking ground date yet, but they expect by the end of April, 50% of the design phase to be finalized. In May, SRP will be moving to the next phase of full design, cost estimate and finding fundings. He foresees several years out for breaking ground.

Eric Iwersen, Transportation and Sustainability Director, mentioned that a letter of support, signed by the City Manager, was sent out to support these next steps SRP is taking.

Agenda Item 5 – SmartPower Intro and Proclamation

Brianne, Climate Action Manager, provided some opening and context regarding the Proclamation presented to the Mayor's Office by Bob Wall, Vice President of SmartPower, and Michael McCaffrey, Tempe Resident. The Mayor's Office asked the Commission to hear more about SmartPower and review the Proclamation language.

Bob Wall gave an overall view about SmartPower, a nonprofit marketing firm, focusing on energy efficiency and clean energy. He highlighted their program, Solarize, intended to work with communities, municipalities and local organizations throughout an outreach campaign designed to increase residential solar while driving down the soft cost.

Questions:

- Vice Chair Jung asked what the difficulties are to have solar in Tempe.
 - o Brianne explained that each household has different incentives expectations like shorter payouts or financial returns, therefore the challenges of having solar power are subjective to the household outcomes.
 - o She also mentioned the Sustainability and Resilience Office is dedicated to the high heat priority neighborhood, focusing on the most socially vulnerable and the ones with lack of inventory. She also clarified this is a presentation to educate the commission, and the highlight future opportunities.

- Commission Boyd asked if this is mostly for residential or commercial clients?
 - o Bob clarified this is a residential campaign.

- Commissioner Burke asked who gets the Federal and State Tax Credits for Solar Panels?
 - o Bob - It depends on the method of the acquisition. Customers purchasing solar panels with cash or finance by loan, get the federal tax credit. If purchased through a lease, a third-party owner receives the incentives.

- Commissioner Taylor – How do you incentivize landlords to take advantage of solar opportunities, and could this increase the cost for renters in Tempe?
 - o Bob - It depends on the size of the units.

- Vice Chair Jung – Is there an additional fee for the 20-weeks community-based education and outreach campaign?
 - o Bob said there will be no charges during the campaign or planning phase, therefore no cost to Tempe.

Discussion about solar program and the next step.

Vice Chair Jung made a motion to bring this back in the fall and include a presentation from city staff with all the different components that are related to an accelerating community solar work.

Motion: Vice Chair Kendon Jung

Second: Commissioner Taylor Conley

Voted to Approve: 9-0

Agenda Item 6 – 2024 Neighborhood Awards – Call for Nominations

Brianne shared the five nominations and sustainability category scoring sheet.

Vice Chair Jung mentioned last meeting discussion that future awards pivot away from singling out individuals to celebrating collective efforts such as a collaboration of individuals or groups. He also reminded the language amended for next year's award. He asked if staff could provide additional resources to increase the number of nominations.

Nominees:

- Let's Go Compost – Non-profit
- Ana Aguilar – Individual
- Keep Tempe Beautiful – Non-profit
- Cocina Chiwas – Business
- Filter Clean – Business

A roll-call vote was called, and Ana Aguilar is the 2024 Neighborhood Awards winner.

Agenda Item 7 – Sustainability and Resilience Commission Dates of Interest Calendar

Iwersen brought up the calendar presented to the commission last month. Commissioners may weigh in on the calendar. The calendar gives the commissioners a better perspective of upcoming events, and a chance to prepare ahead of time. He focused on the upcoming March events and gave feedback on the February presentations and council meetings.

Erin gave shout out to Commissioner Jake Swanson for bringing a Q&A with Tempe City Council Candidates focusing on Sustainability to the Emerging Leader Program.

Eric mentioned the grants received for several of our programs due to the staff efforts. He pointed out the upcoming budget meetings and emphasized the importance of the commission throughout the budget process.

Vice Chair Jung reminded how the Sustainability Commissions was successful getting \$500,000 in permanent funding and secure sustainability staff and programs. He highlighted the importance and effectiveness of advocating at these budget meetings. He asked staff, in preparation for these upcoming meetings, to have a discussion about what is above the line and below the line.

Agenda Item 8 – Sustainability and Resilience Office Updates and Housekeeping

Eric gave kudos to the team for all the tree related grants. He also mentioned the changes to the commission composition language. The second hearing was on February 15, and it will take effect on March 15.

Agenda Item 9 – Future Agenda Item

Chair Jung requested:

Coordinating Solar Efforts during the fall.

Bring above the line conversation about Budget.

Character Area 6 Planning

Growing together Program Grant Funding – March

S&RO Grant Activity

Commissioner Randall would like the opportunity to meet with commissions from other cities. Commissioner Swanson is also interested in the same settings and would like to meet with other City of Tempe commissions.

Commissioner Paulat motions to adjourn the meeting at 6:12 p.m.

Motion: Commissioner Ben Paulat

Second: Commissioner Swanson

Decision: Approved 8-0

The meeting was adjourned at 6:13pm.

Prepared by: Carla Sidi

Reviewed by: Brianne Fisher

General Plan 2050 – Voter Approval

How is the General Plan used?



The General Plan guides how our City plans for development, land use, sustainability, transportation, transit, economic development, historic preservation, neighborhood enhancement, open space and recreation, public art, cultural amenities, and human services.

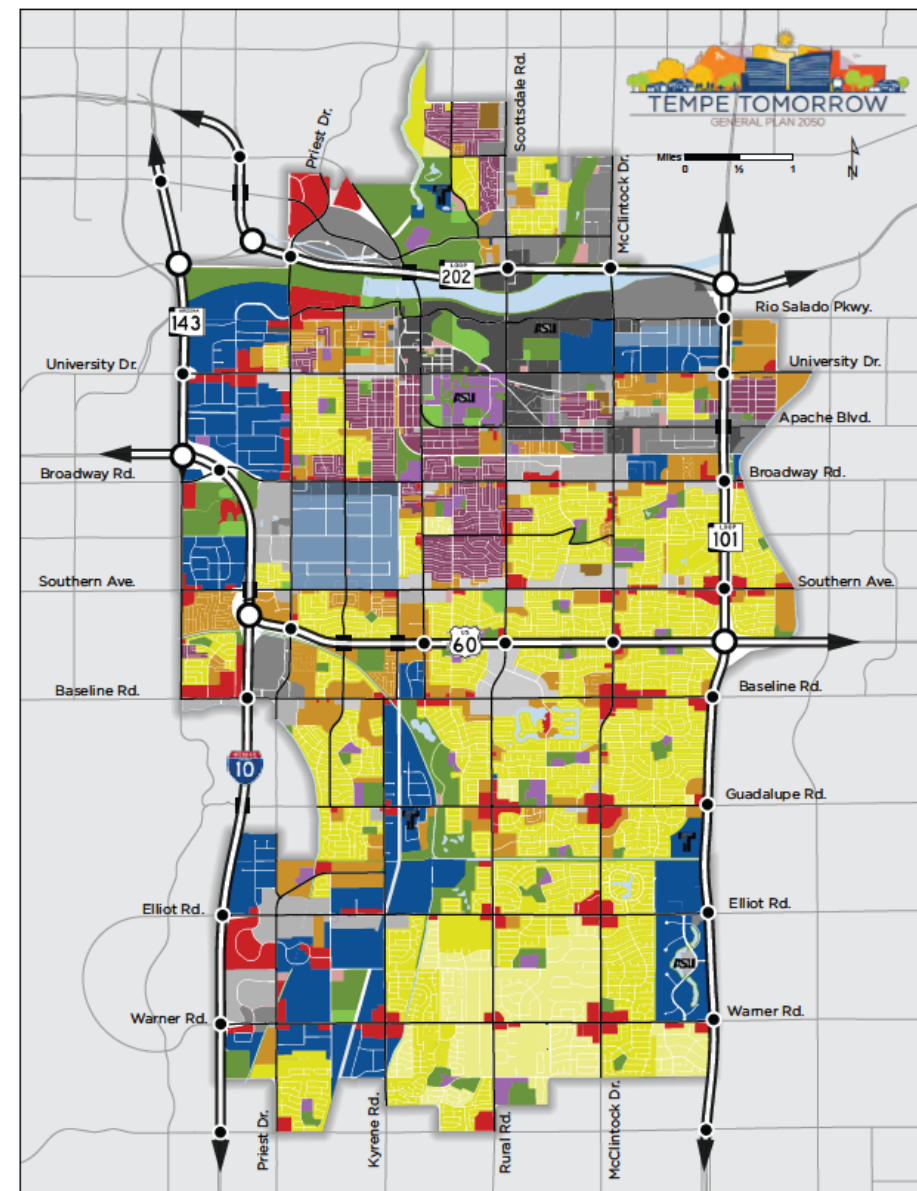
The General Plan is referred to when implementing zoning requests, for building permits, for economic development decisions, and when designing roads, parks, paths, and public facilities.

Before approving development plans, the General Plan is referred to for consistency with the goals, objectives and the projected land use and density maps.

General Plan 2050

What does this mean for the Sustainability and Resilience Commission?

- How does this align with the GP2050 or was there an amendment needed?
- How does this align with the vision in the Sustainability & Resilience Chapter?
 - Conservation element
 - Diversion & Remediation Element
 - Environmental Planning Element
 - Water Resources Element
 - Climate Change & Extreme Heat element
- How does this align with the vision in the Circulation Chapter?
 - Pedestrians & Bikeways Element
 - Transit Element
 - Travelways Element
 - Parking & Access Management Element



PROJECTED LAND USE & RESIDENTIAL DENSITY





July 24, 2023

City of Tempe
P.O. Box 5002
31 East Fifth Street
Tempe, AZ 85280
480-350-8225

Dear Mayor and Council,

The Sustainability & Resilience Commission is writing to express support for the recently improved draft of the Tempe Tomorrow General Plan 2050 issued on July 14th, 2023. The revisions made in this version, compared to the previous draft, demonstrate a significant step forward in shaping a more sustainable and inclusive future for our city, and a pledge to finding solutions that meet the needs of all our communities.

The improvements made to this draft address several crucial aspects that will greatly benefit our community:

1. **Additional, Appropriately Scaled Mixed-Use Density Categories:** We commend the inclusion of additional mixed-use density categories in the General Plan to provide more options for proposed development density. The plan fosters a more balanced and harmonious growth throughout Tempe by offering a range of development density options tailored to each neighborhood's unique characteristics, creating a finer gradient of transition from lower to higher density areas. This approach ensures that each community's unique identity and character are preserved while promoting responsible and sustainable urban development.
2. **Increased Mixed-Use Land Designations in Underutilized Commercial Zones:** We also commend decision to increase mixed-use land designations in otherwise unwalkable commercial zones. By revitalizing these areas with mixed-use developments, the plan transforms them into vibrant, pedestrian-friendly spaces that can catalyze economic activity and create thriving community hubs. This forward-thinking strategy aligns with the principles of sustainable urban planning and enhances the overall quality of life for Tempe residents.
3. **Stronger Language Codifying Sustainability into Long-Term Planning:** We are also encouraged to see the General Plan 2050 now incorporates stronger language that better codifies sustainability into the city's long-term planning. By firmly integrating sustainability policy goals into the General Plan, we now have a clearer path to meeting our carbon reduction goals through commitments to action on imperatives such as greener construction standards, transit-oriented development, and preservation of our natural resources.

The revised plan sets an ambitious path towards a more resilient Tempe for generations. It also demonstrates the city's responsiveness and capacity to build consensus around a future that addresses the needs of all its residents. For these reasons, the Sustainability & Resilience Commission urges you to adopt the improved Tempe Tomorrow General Plan 2050 in its current form.

We thank you for your dedication to the well-being of our city and its residents, and are confident that, with the implementation of the Tempe Tomorrow General Plan 2050, our city will continue to thrive as a beacon of sustainable, innovative, and resilient development in the Southwest, now and in the future.

Sincerely,

Sustainability and Resilience Commission

Kendon Jung, *Chair*

Barbie Burke, *Vice Chair*

Shawn Swisher, *Commissioner and Technical Advisory Group Member*



Character Area 6 Southwest Tempe

Sustainability & Resiliency
Commission

March 18, 2024



Agenda

1. Welcome & staff introductions
2. Character area planning process
3. Overview of area– Numbers and images
4. Highlights of public input from kickoff survey
5. Next steps & timeline
6. Q and A, Discussion



Branding



characterareas.tempe.gov/pages/area6

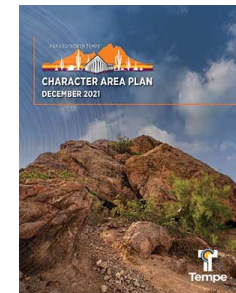


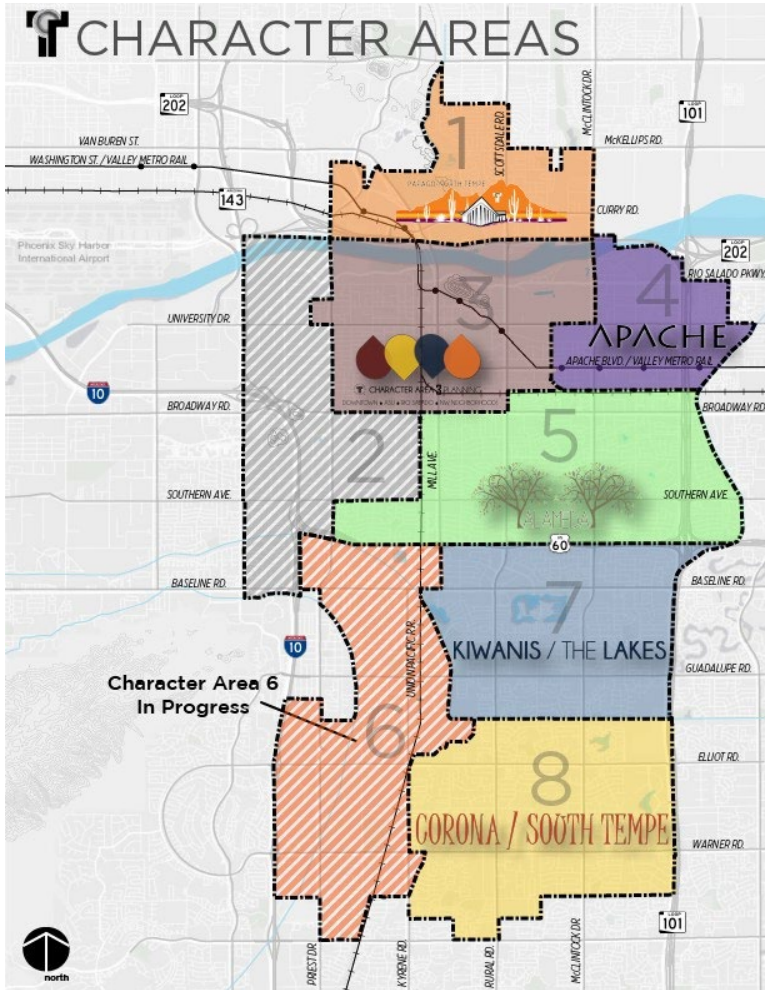
CHARACTER AREA PLANNING PROCESS

CHARACTER AREA PLANNING STATUS



- Tempe is divided into eight Character Areas (CA)
- Six CA plans completed & adopted.
- Plan for CA-6 is now being developed
- CA- 2 planning will be taken up in 2025

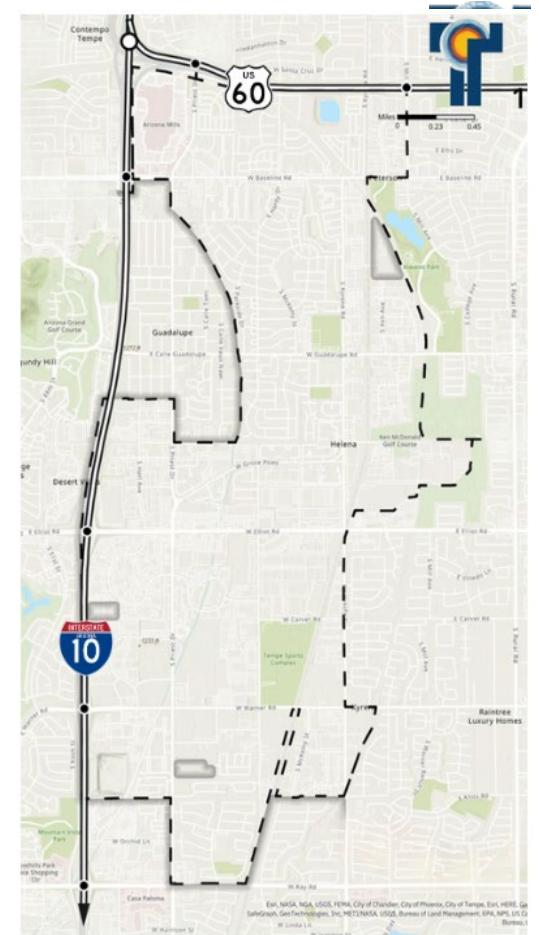




Map Showing the planning status of Character Areas:

- Completed (CA 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8)
- Under planning process (CA 6)
- To be completed (CA 2)

CA 6 aerial map with boundaries 



WHAT IS A CHARACTER AREA?



- “... that contain(s) common design, land use and commercial characteristics distinct from neighboring areas.”
- “ (has)similarities in age of housing, styles of architecture, patterns of development, materials, land use or street patterns, lot size, landscaping, landmarks, and/or physical barriers ...”.



USING CHARACTER AREA PLAN



- A plan for the community, ownership of stakeholders
- Reference for developers & other stakeholders
- Reference for staff for reviewing development proposals
- Input for other City plans
- To further the Council Performance Measures
- To guide investment decisions



WHAT IS INCLUDED IN CHARACTER AREA PLAN



✓ SCOPE

A high-level vision; and policy-level plan. Not a regulatory plan.

✓ VISION

Vision of the future. Ideal for housing options, landscaping, sustainability, traffic and transportation, public open spaces, mix of commercial and industrial land use, and overall aesthetics and urban character

✓ CHARACTER DEFINING TRAITS

History, unique qualities, common themes, design, materials, patterns, landscaping

✓ DESIGN GUIDELINES/PRINCIPLES

Quality of design, walkability, bikeability, sustainability, connectivity, landscaping, building materials, public realm, affordable housing, aging in place, canal-oriented design

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED IN CHARACTER AREA PLAN



✘ **Changes** to a parcel's **Land Use / Density**

General Plan 2040

✘ **Changes** to a parcel's **Zoning**

Zoning & Development Code

✘ **Changes** to **Private Property Rights**

Property Right Laws including AZ Proposition 207
“Private Property Rights Protection Act”

✘ **Residential / Commercial Code Compliance**

311 – One Call To City Hall; Online complaint form

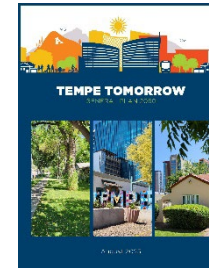
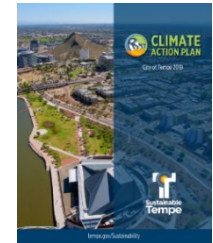
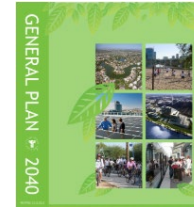
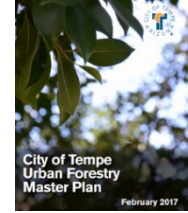
✘ **Public Safety / Homelessness**

Other departments work on these issues

ADDITIONAL PLANS & ISSUES OF INTEREST



- Tempe General Plan
- Previously adopted Character Area Plans
- Affordable Housing Strategy, 2019
- Forestry Master Pan, 2017
- Climate Action Plan, 2019, Update 2021
- Transportation Master Plan, 2015
- Parks and Recreation Master Plan, 2021
- International Green Construction Code (IgCC), 2021 as adopted by the City of Tempe with modifications
- Greater Phoenix Green Infrastructure & LID Handbook, 2019





CHARACTER AREA 6: BY THE NUMBERS

CITY-WIDE STATS FOR COMPARISON (2023)

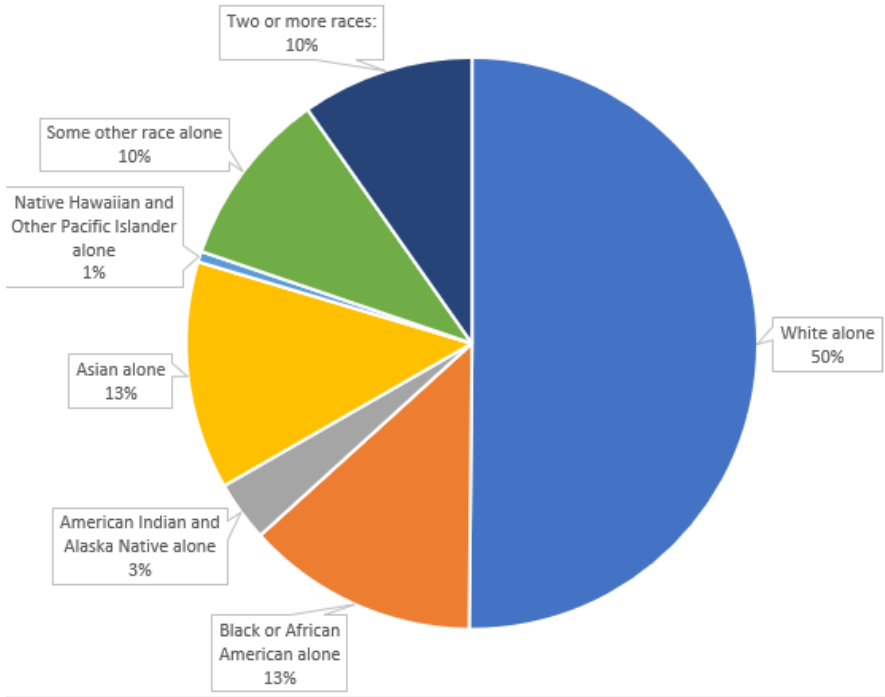


	CA-6	Tempe (2022)
Planning Area (including 0.12 sq. miles of county islands)	6.21 sq. miles	40.1 sq. miles
Population	28,450	185,950
Median Age	33.6	29.5 years
Median Household Income	\$72,769	\$64,080 (2020 \$)
Housing Units	12,630	83,039
High School diploma or higher degree	94%	93%
Owner/Renter Occupied Units	30%/70%	40%/60%

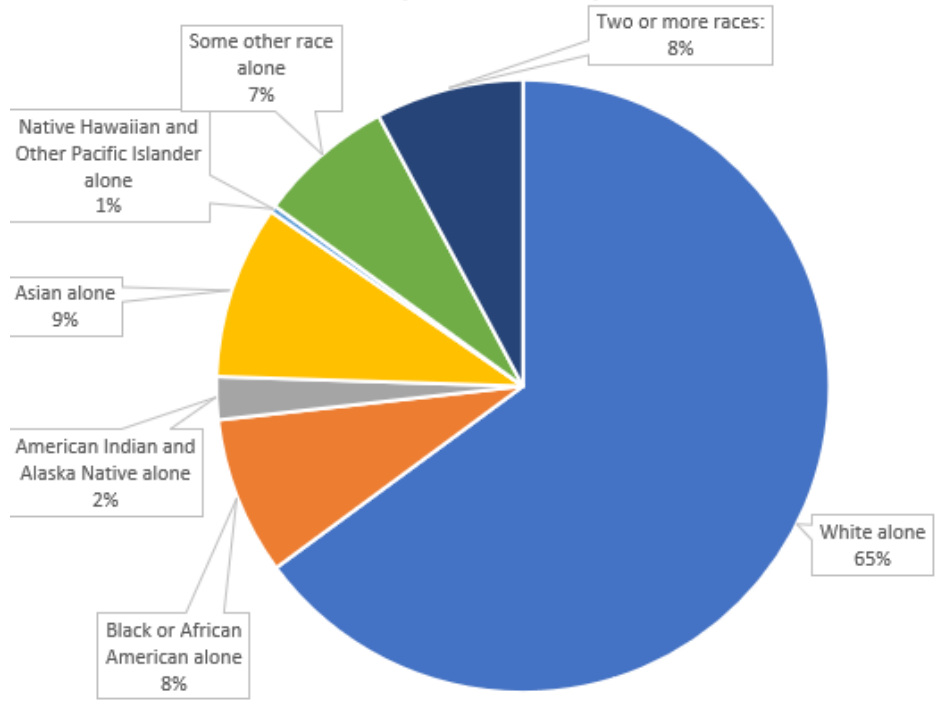
COMPARATIVE RACIAL COMPOSITION 2023



Character Area 6 Racial Composition



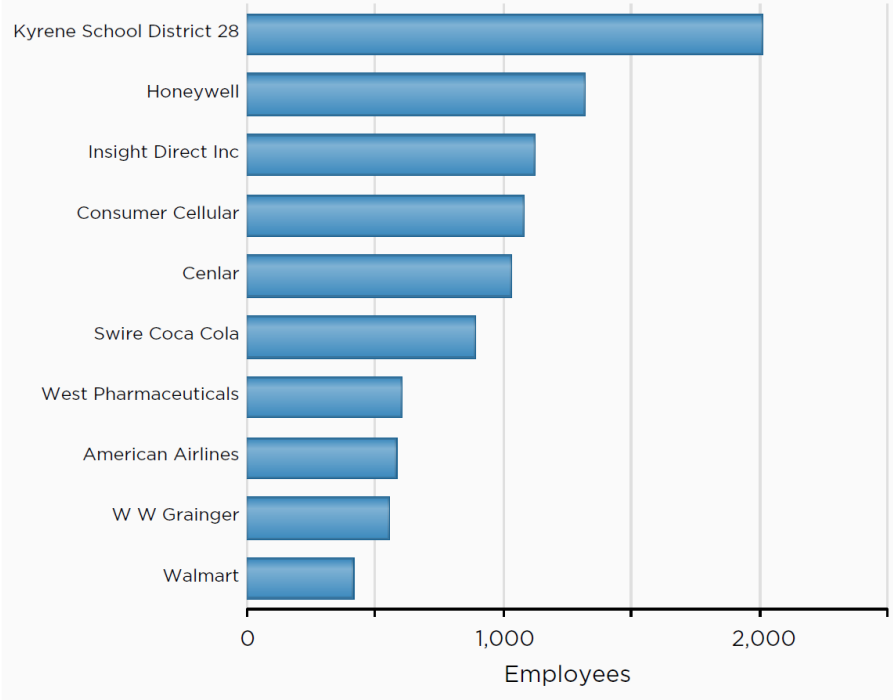
Tempe Racial Composition



EMPLOYMENT 2023

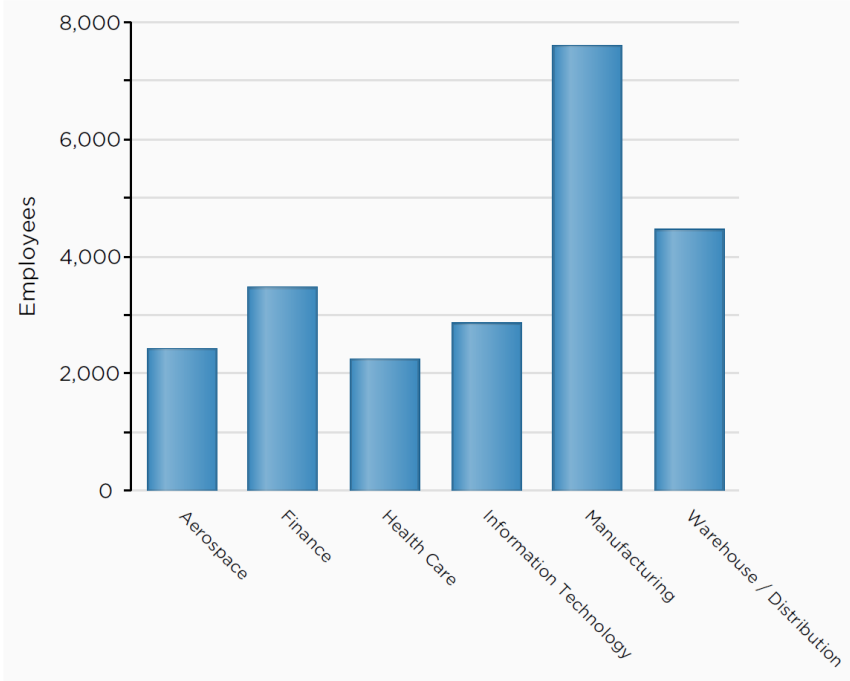


Largest Employers (Grouped by Name)



Key Industries

*Note: Employers can be counted in multiple key industries



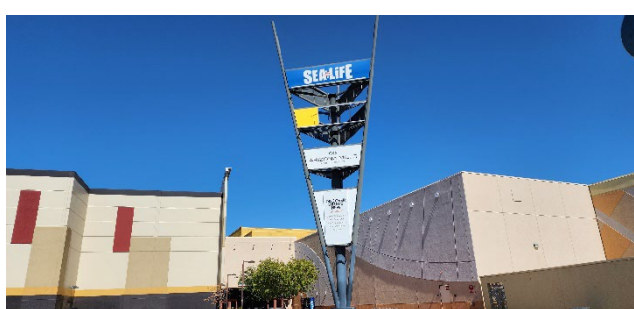
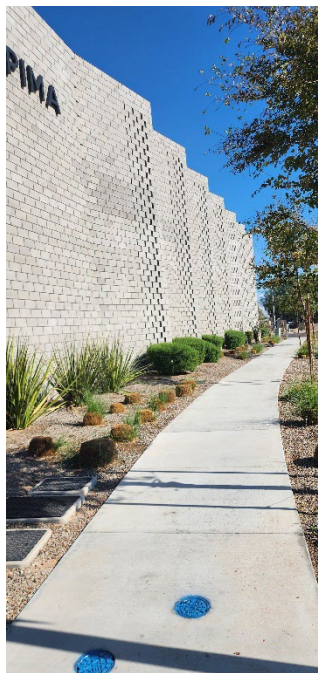


AREA IMAGES

AREA WIDE IMAGES



AREA WIDE IMAGES



AREA WIDE IMAGES



AREA WIDE IMAGES





Area Highlights - Observation

- Single-Family Residential
- Multi-family Residential
- Arizona Cardinals
- Big Boxes: Arizona Mills, IKEA, Costco
- Industrial Uses
- Emerald Center
- Autoplex: Car Dealership
- Canals: Western, Highline Lateral , Kyrene Branch
- Tempe Sports Complex, Arizona Cardinal HQ
- Vacant Sites
- Union Pacific Railway tracks
- Generating Stations



JAN 24- FEB 16 KICKOFF SURVEY INPUT HIGHLIGHTS

Kickoff Survey Highlights

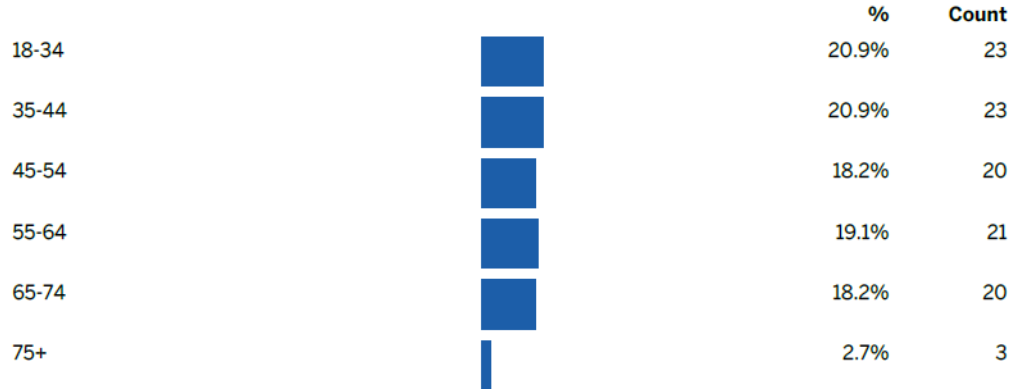


Kickoff Survey, Jan 24th - Feb 16th. Survey responses: 118

Do you live, work or have a connection to this character area?

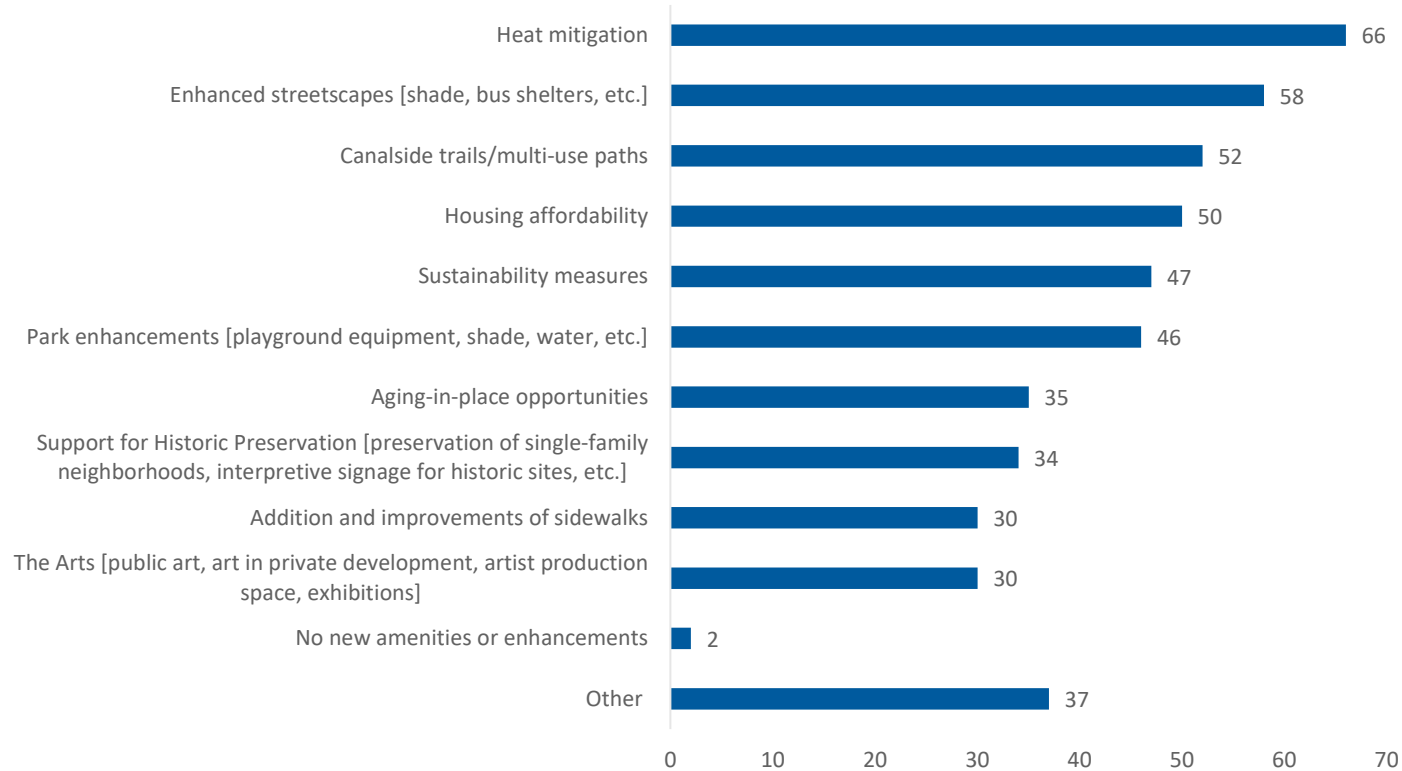


What is your age? (will not appear if you chose to share other responses)



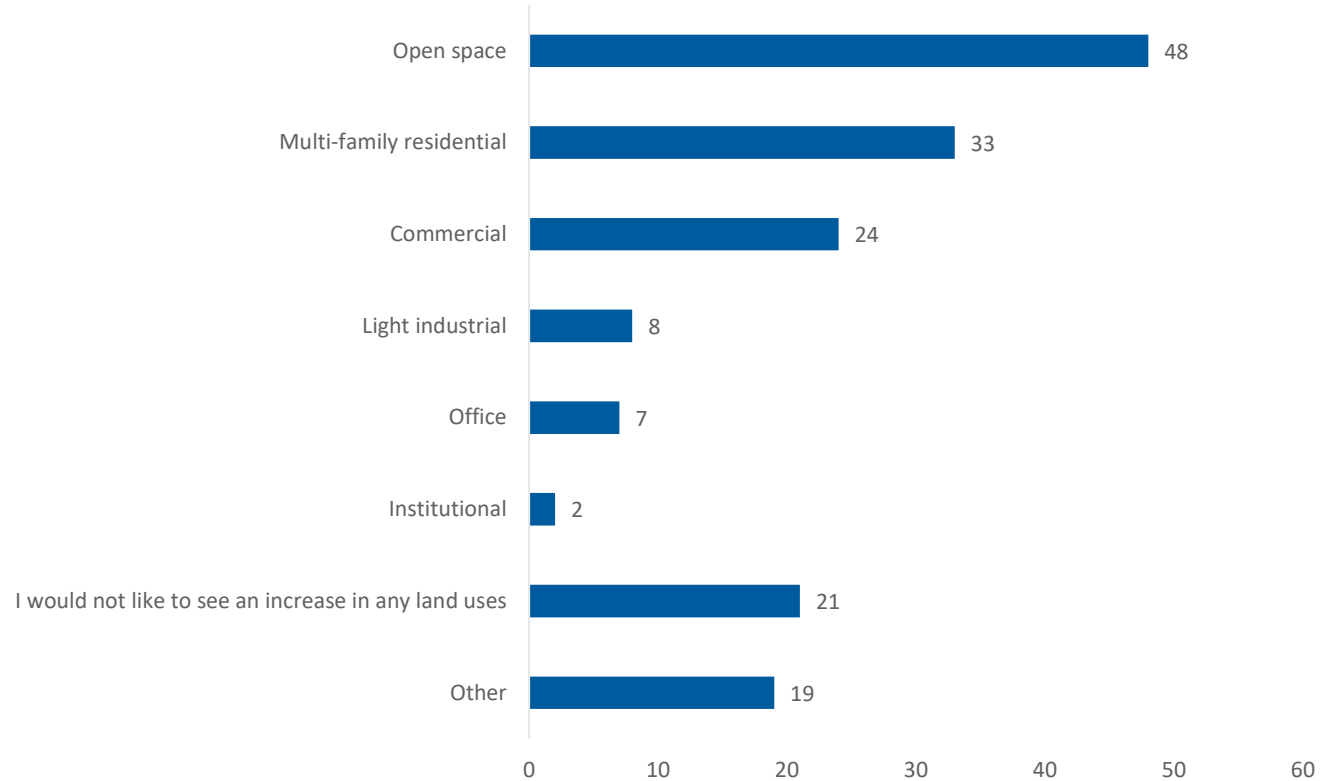
Complete public input summary and outreach on project page

Kickoff Survey Highlights



Complete public input summary and outreach on project page

Kickoff Survey Highlights



Complete public input summary and outreach on project page

Kickoff Survey Highlights



Which of the following design elements would you prioritize to enhance the quality of future development in the area? (Place the most important principle as the 1st priority and the least important as the last.)

1. Pedestrian-oriented design principles (ensuring that development is pedestrian friendly)
2. Plant, shrub and ground cover recommend species list
3. Canal-oriented design principles for pathways, landscaping and structures on canal sides
4. Mobility and connectivity (e.g., forms of transportation and infrastructure)
5. Solar shades and building orientation to reduce heat gain
6. Solar photo-voltaic panels on building or site
7. Variation in color, form, height, and pattern in new buildings
8. High quality and natural building materials
9. Other
10. None

Does this area include the types of places, businesses, and infrastructure people look for when deciding where to live, conduct business, or invest?

		%	Count
Yes		60.3%	70
No		20.7%	24
Not sure		19.0%	22

Complete public input summary and outreach on project page



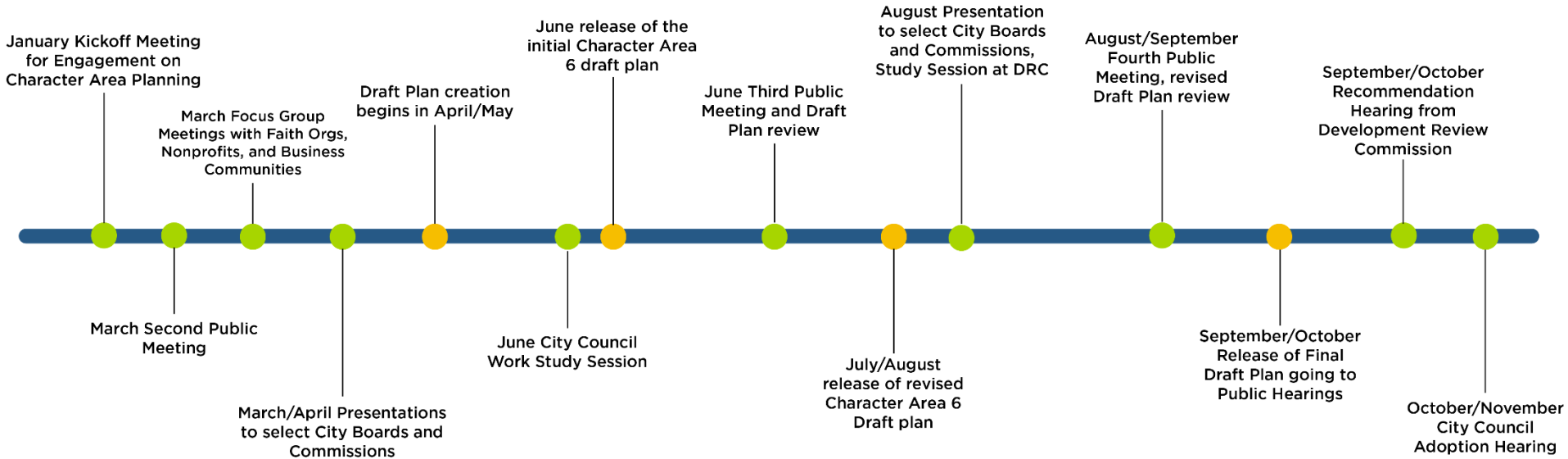
NEXT STEPS & TIMELINE



PHASE I - ENGAGE

PHASE II - DRAFT & REFINE

PHASE III - FINALIZE & ADOPT



CHARACTER AREA 6 - PLANNING TIMELINE 2024

Info Sessions, Survey, Presentations, & Outreach



- *Virtual kickoff meeting, Wednesday, Jan. 24,*
- *In-person Kickoff meeting Wood Elementary School*
- *Thursday, Jan. 25, Info table at Tempe Sports Complex Dog Park*
- *Saturday, Jan. 27, Info table at Highline Canal Path behind PetSmart*
- *Thursday, Feb. 8, Info table at Pepperwood Plaza*
- *Thursday, Feb. 15, Info table at Celaya Park*
- *Friday, March 1, Noon - 1 pm “Dotocracy” meeting via Zoom*
- *Saturday, March 2, 9 -10 am, “Dotocracy” meeting, Celaya Park*
- *Tuesday March 5, 5:30 - 7:00 pm with seniors in the area, 215 W Lodge Dr.*
- *Friday, March 8, 9 – 10 am with businesses in the area via Zoom*
- *Friday, March 8, 12 -1 pm with faith and nonprofit orgs via Zoom*
- *Thursday, March 14 & March 21 Pepperwood Plaza, Campbell Park & apartment communities*

Info Sessions, Survey, Presentations, & Outreach



Boards and commission meetings

- Development Review Commission
- Historic Preservation Commission
- Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission
- Municipal Arts Commission
- Neighborhood Advisory Commission
- Parks, Recreation, Golf and Cemetery Board
- Sustainability and Resilience Commission
- Transportation Commission



QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION; CONTACTS



PLANNING

Ambika Adhikari

ambika_adhikari@tempe.gov

Jacob Payne

jacob_payne@tempe.gov

Lucas Jensen

lucas_jensen@tempe.gov

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

Shauna Warner

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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Growing Together

A Tree Stewardship & Workforce Development Program

Maddie Mercer & Richard Adkins

Transportation & Sustainability Department, Community Services Department



Related Tempe Performance Measures

- **4.11 Tree and Shade Canopy**

- Achieve a citywide (City and private property) 25% tree and shade canopy by 2040.

- **4.18 Community Carbon Neutrality**

- Achieve community carbon neutrality by 2050 with equitable outcomes.

- **3.31 Poverty Rate**

- Achieve a rate of households living below the Federal Poverty level less than Maricopa County as measured by the United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

- **3.34 Community Health & Well-being**

- Achieve a Community Health and Well-Being score of 90% thriving as measured by the annual community survey.

Approved Plans

Climate Action Plan

Agendas

Community voices are included in the 2021 CAP Update to reflect our city's culture and values. The City of Tempe held engagement events to allow community members to share thoughts, advice, lived experiences, and ideas on how to invest and where to take action. Four stakeholder agendas emerged from our continued engagement. We worked with local partners, residents and businesses to co-create the following agendas:

	Youth Food and transportation equity and partnerships with school boards and leaders 26
	Business Saving money, conserving resources and connecting to community 30
	Climate Justice Extreme heat and energy equity and land stewardship 34
	Neighborhoods Extreme heat and partnering with community-based organizations 38

Urban Forestry Master Plan

Vision for a Healthy Urban Forest

A healthy urban forest that supports the City of Tempe's goal of becoming a 20-Minute City by 2040 requires active management and participation by municipal staff and City residents. There are many potential future directions that Tempe's urban forest could take in the next several decades. Future scenarios depend on a complex web of interconnected factors including City and property owner actions, or inaction, in areas such as investment, maintenance, and infrastructure improvements. Other factors impacting future tree canopy include climate change, water availability, pests and disease.

Without definitive investments in the maintenance of existing trees and in the planting of new trees, Tempe's urban forest will decline.

Possible Futures

Tempe currently has approximately 13% canopy coverage and due to budget constraints has not made major investments to maintain the urban forest. Moving forward, City officials and residents can help shape a healthier, cooler future city through active management of the urban forest. For example, enhancing tree biodiversity could prevent the loss of a current tree population to disease.

However, developing and preserving a healthy urban forest is dependent on maintaining a generational continuum of municipal and residential collective action. The level to which this can be achieved will define the future of Tempe's urban forest.



Growing Together - Overview

Purpose: Expand Tempe's urban forest to mitigate extreme heat.

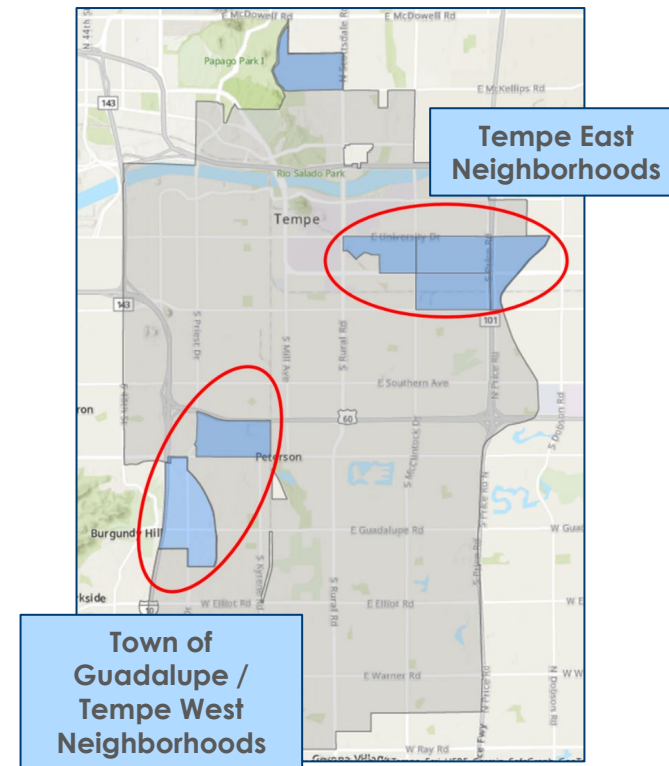
Project Area: Northeast Tempe & Town of Guadalupe/Southwest Tempe

Total Funding Amount: \$1.6 million

Timeline: April 2024 – March 2027 (3 years)

Funding Sources:

- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service
- AZ Department of Forestry & Fire Management (DFFM)



Growing Together - Goals

- Expand (and maintain) Tempe's urban **tree canopy**.
- Promote **equitable urban cooling** and **resilience** to extreme heat.
- Create **workforce development** opportunities through on-the-job training programs and professional development scholarships.
- Expand **capacity** for green infrastructure installation and maintenance by creating new temporary staff positions.
- Develop **connections** between the city's urban forestry, green stormwater infrastructure, and urban agriculture initiatives.

Growing Together - Partners

- City of Tempe (Transportation & Sustainability, Community Services)
- Town of Guadalupe
- RAIL CDC
- Unlimited Potential
- ASU Walton Sustainability Solutions Service
- Tempe Elementary School District
- Kyrene School District
- **Tempe / Guadalupe Residents**
 - Tempe Neighborhoods: University Heights, Alegre, Escalante, La Victoria, Baseline/Hardy

Growing Together - Components

Community Tree Stewards Program	School Greening & Grounds Maintenance Program	Food Forest Pilot Projects
<p>Pay Tempe residents to grow, plant, and maintain trees in neighborhoods with low canopy coverage & high heat vulnerability.</p>	<p>Provide additional capacity for school greening through new staff roles and professional development trainings.</p>	<p>Develop two new food forests to provide shade and increase community food access.</p>

Community Tree Stewards Program

Overview:

- Cohort-based, on-the-job training program.
- 6 cohorts, 10 residents per cohort (**60 total participants**).
- Participants paid **\$20/hour**, 12 hours/month.

During the three-month program, participants will...

- **Learn** how to grow, plant, and care for native and low-water-use trees.
- **Spend time** in the classroom, in the nursery, and in their neighborhood.
- **Provide** their neighbors with trees, supplies, and information.
- **Explore** additional education & career/entrepreneurial pathways.

School Greening & Grounds Maintenance Program

Overview:

- Expands school districts' **capacity to plant and maintain trees** on school campuses.
- Involves hiring **temporary staff** to provide additional grounds maintenance support.
- Includes **training & professional development** opportunities.
- Builds on the city's previous **investments in school greening** through the State Farm Century for Good Grant.



2023 Tempe Tree-a-thon at
Connolly Middle School

Food Forest Pilot Projects

Overview:

- Develops **two community food forests**, one at a public school and one at a city-owned property.
 - *Proposed sites are McClintock High School & the EnVision Center/Apache Central Center*
- Includes funding for **site design** and **assessment, installation, programming, & maintenance**.
- Builds on plans & partnerships developed through SRO's **Grow Local Tempe** initiative.



**2024 Community Food Showcase
& EnVision Open House**

Growing Together – Next Steps

May - July 2024

- CTS Program Development
- Hire new CTS & school greening staff (*5 total*)

September 2024

- CTS Cohort 1 Begins
- Complete food forest designs

April 2024

Project Kickoff

August - September 2024

- CTS Program Recruitment
- Begin capacity-building trainings w/ schools

November 2024

CTS Cohort 1
Ends

CTS = Community Tree Stewards

Questions?

Contact Maddie Mercer or Richard Adkins

Maddie Mercer

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Sustainability & Resilience Office

Transportation & Sustainability Department

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**Sustainability & Resilience Office
5 Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP)**

CIP	Balance to roll forward	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29	5 Year Total
Energy Conservation	\$659,000	\$675,000	\$975,000	\$175,000	\$175,000	\$175,000	\$2,834,000
Solar Power Partnerships	\$457,794	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$1,457,794
Community EV Charging Infrastructure	\$300,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$800,000
Green Infrastructure	\$775,020	\$375,000	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,500,000	\$6,450,000
Energy Hubs & Microgrids	\$768,900	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$1,900,000
Energy Efficiency and Renewable energy federal grant contingency	NA	\$3,000,000					

Month	SRC Agenda	City of Tempe Calendar
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local First Composting Pilot Program • Neighborhood Awards • Calendar Events • S&RO Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 18 SRP Solar Choice Select Agreement • January 20 recap • Commission composition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Feb 1 - 1st hearing ○ Feb 15 - 2nd hearing 	<p><u>Council:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 18 RCM SRP Solar Choice Select Agreement • January 30 South Tempe Candidate Forum <p><u>Public Meetings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 20 EnVision Open House & Community Food Showcase • January 22 Mill Avenue Refresh
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SRP Solar Canals • Solarize Tempe (Mayor Proclamation + Outreach) • Neighborhood Award Selection 	<p><u>Council:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feb 1 RCM Commission Composition 1st hearing • Feb 7 Kiwanis Club Candidate Forum • Feb 15 Commission Composition 2nd hearing • Feb., 21 at noon Resilience Hub Initiative Update to HSCS Council Committee • Feb 22 WSS Financial Forecast and Intro for CIP <p><u>Public Meetings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feb., 6 at noon via Zoom - virtual budget forum • Feb., 6 at 6pm Tempe History

		<p>Museum - in person budget forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feb., 12 at noon via Zoom - virtual Resilience Hub Initiative Public Meeting • Feb., 12 at 6pm at EnVision - Resilience Hub Public Meeting • Feb. 13 at 5-6pm at Virtual - Sustainability Candidate Forum
<p>March</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Plan 2050 Update • Character Area 6 Planning Process (Ambika and Jacob) • S&RO Budget Overview (CIP) • Growing Together (ASU+DFFM) (Maddie + Richard) 	<p><u>Council:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 7 - Growing Together grant funding accepted by Council • March 12 - Tempe Election • March 25 WSS Tree & Shade Canopy Strategies Overview • March 25 WSS CIP And Acceleration Strategies <p><u>Public Meetings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 8 Growing Together Press Release
<p>April</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADU Community Development (Ryan and Brenda) • Rain to Roots Update • Heat Relief Communications/Cooling Center Plan 	<p><u>Council:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 4 RCM - Earth Month Proclamation • April 12 Council Retreat

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matt Salenger/Regenerative Design - tentative • S&RO Grant Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (Helene) • Growing Together • Gaming Grant • EECBG • CFI/Charging & Facility Infrastructure • Composting/Circular Economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 12 Sustainability and Economic Vitality Council Committee presentation on Growing Together Grant • April 18 WSS Operating, CIP and Acceleration Strategies • April 18 WSS Energy Equity Program Overview • SEV Growing Together - TBD <p><u>Public Meetings/Events:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 6 at 8am Neighborhood Award Celebration at Kiwanis Park • See Earth Month Events Calendar • Growing Together - NAC & Parks tentative
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste Diversion and Composting • City of Tempe Weatherization Program (EECBG) 	<p><u>Council:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 2 WSS Budget Review Operating and CIP (if needed) • May 2 WSS Resilience Hub Initiative Overview • May 13 Joint Council and DRC Meeting • May 16 WSS Accessory Dwelling Units Zoning and Development Code Update

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 21 Special Budget Meeting (adoption) <p><u>Public Meetings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 6 at 5:30pm Rain to Roots Ambassador Program • March 21 at 2pm Resilience Hub Network Monthly Meeting
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RETREAT 	<p><u>Council:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 6 Special Budget Meeting CIP and Property Tax Levy 1st Hearing • June 27 Final Property Tax Hearing <p><u>Public Meetings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 3 at 5:30pm Rain to Roots Ambassador Meeting • April 18 at 3pm Resilience Hub Network Monthly Meeting
July		<p><u>Council:</u></p> <p><u>Public Meetings:</u></p>
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grow Local Tempe Roadmap 	<p><u>Council:</u></p> <p><u>Public Meetings:</u></p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Equity Roadmap • Grow Local Tempe Roadmap (Maddie)
September		<p><u>Council:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grow Local Tempe Roadmap Approved by Council <p><u>Public Meetings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Equity Roadmap draft recommendations
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Equity Roadmap draft recommendations 	<p><u>Council:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Equity Roadmap draft recommendations • National Clean Energy Month Proclamation <p><u>Public Meetings:</u></p>
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IgCC Status Report 	<p><u>Council:</u></p> <p><u>Public Meetings:</u></p>
December		<p><u>Council:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WSS IgCC Voluntary Program Update <p><u>Public Meetings:</u></p>

		<p><u>Council:</u></p> <p><u>Public Meetings:</u></p>
<p>PARKING LOT:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intro new Green Codes Plan Reviewer • Climate Emergency Declaration/Proclamation • Desert Conservation Plan • Apache Central Developers // Mosaic Developers • Council Forums - Sustainability next election year • Cross jurisdictional commission meet up • Site visits to initiatives • Water Legislation Update 	
		<p>KEY:</p> <p>WSS - Work Study Session (starts at 4pm)</p> <p>RCM - Regular Council Meeting (starts at 6pm)</p> <p>Green Highlight - S&RO Specific Initiative</p> <p>Resources:</p> <p>Tempe Channel - Watch Tempe Council meetings live (cannot participate)</p> <p>City Council Comment Card</p> <p>How to join and speak virtually at a Council Meeting</p> <p>Council Chambers Address - 31 E 5th St, Tempe, AZ 85281</p>