Rain to Roots Ambassador Program- *October Meeting*

Welcome!

- What is your name?

- Why are you interested in being an Ambassador?

  - Summarize your "why" in 3 words!

Our "Why"

Green Stormwater Infrastructure helps us address…

Record-breaking Extreme Heat

Severe Drought & Water Use
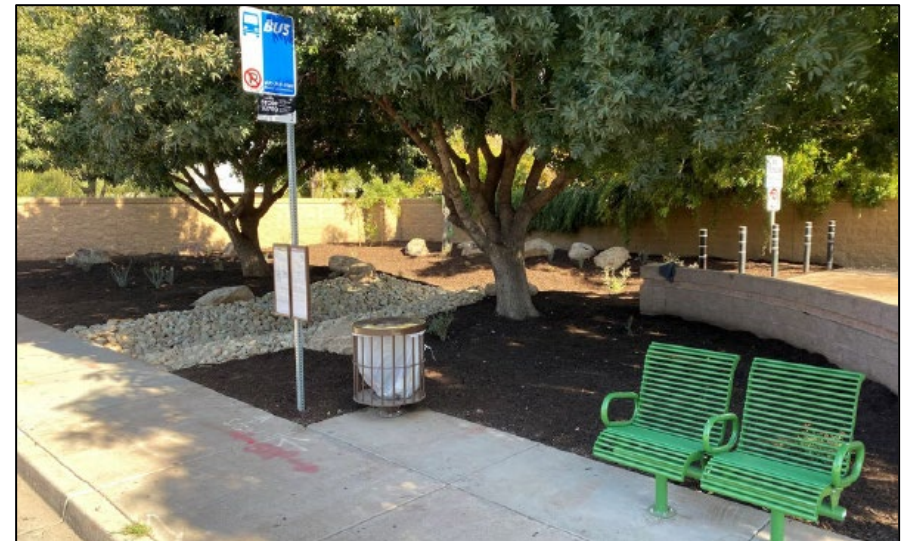

Flooding & Water Quality Concerns

Need for Climate-Ready Vegetation

The Strategy – Green Stormwater Infrastructure

Benefits of GSI:

- Supports tree canopy

- Reduces temperatures

- Reduces potable water use

- Mitigates flooding

- Promotes cleaner waterways

- Creates wildlife habitat

Learn more about GSI and its benefits at Sustainable Tempe – Green Stormwater Infrastructure.

Rain to Roots Master Plan

- **Project Purpose**
  - Expand green infrastructure & urban cooling initiatives.
  - Promote cross-departmental coordination & planning.
  - Identify opportunities for long-term funding.

- **Areas of Opportunity**
  - Streetscapes – Public ROW, traffic calming
  - Multi-Use Paths
  - Parks
  - Neighborhoods
  - Private Development

Project Partners

Internal Partners

- **Sustainability and Resilience Office**
- **Municipal Utilities Department**
  - Water Conservation
  - Environmental Services
- **Community Services Department**
  - Parks & Recreation
- **Engineering and Transportation Department**
  - Transportation Planning
  - Streets Maintenance
  - Engineering
- **Community Development Department**

External Partners

- **Consultants** – Greeley & Hansen, WERK | urban design, & Raftelis
- **Rain to Roots Ambassadors**
- **Tempe Residents**
- **Private Businesses**
- …And More!

Major Goal =
Better Coordination!

Your Voice, Your Future City

Rain to Roots Ambassador

- **Learn** more about stormwater and urban cooling initiatives.

- **Review** project materials.

- **Site visits** on pilot projects.

- **Advise** on direction of programs and policy recommendations to Tempe City Council.

Hybrid meetings on the **1st Wednesday of the month**, 5:30 – 6:30 PM.

Project Overview

Assessing the Current State	**Codes & Standards**
Urban Forestry Master Plan Update	**Future Funding Strategy**

Pilot Projects

Public Outreach

Phase 1: Assessing the Current State

Focused on understanding…

- Existing programs & initiatives.

- Previous GSI projects.

- Stormwater, urban forestry, heat, & equity data.

- Challenges & opportunities for expanding GSI.

… through interviews, document review, & research.

Assessing Existing Initiatives – *Urban Forestry*

Assessment:

Conducted Staff Interviews

Reviewed Master Plans
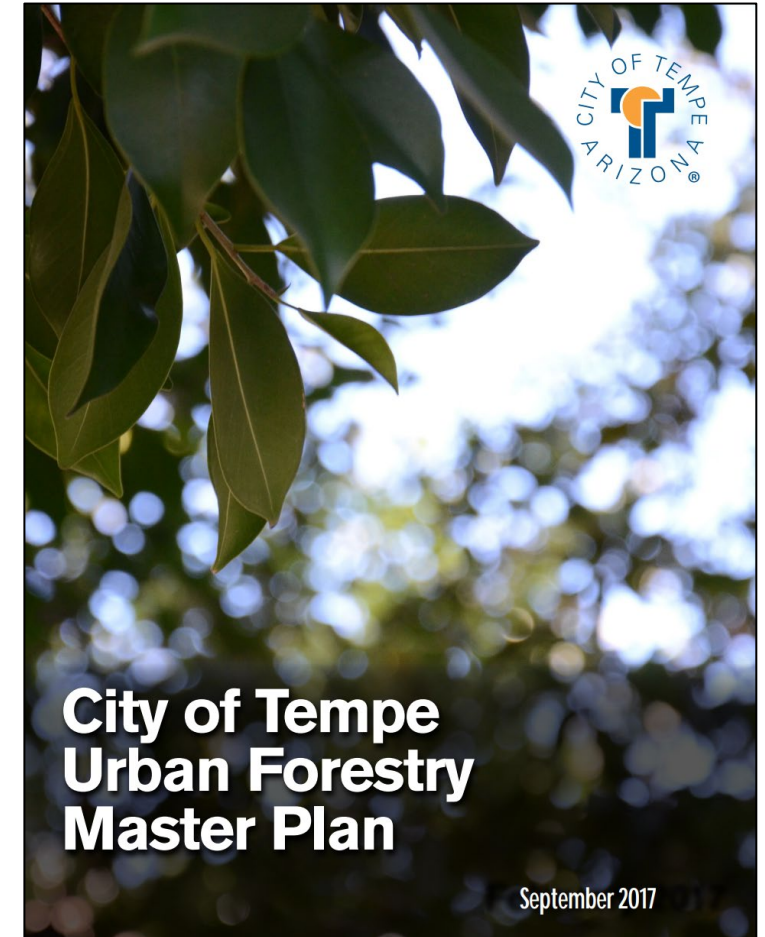
Reviewed GIS Maps/Data

Goals:
Protect existing trees

Increase tree canopy

Support trees' growth by incorporating GSI

Challenges:
Utility conflicts

Viewsheds

Maintenance practices

Partnership w/ private development & residents

Urban Forestry (Continued)

- <u>**Next Steps:**</u>

  - **Updated Master Plan** w/ recommendations for new programs & polices.

  - Updated **tree canopy maps** & assessment of canopy goals.

  - **New city codes and standards** to promote tree protection & maintenance practices.
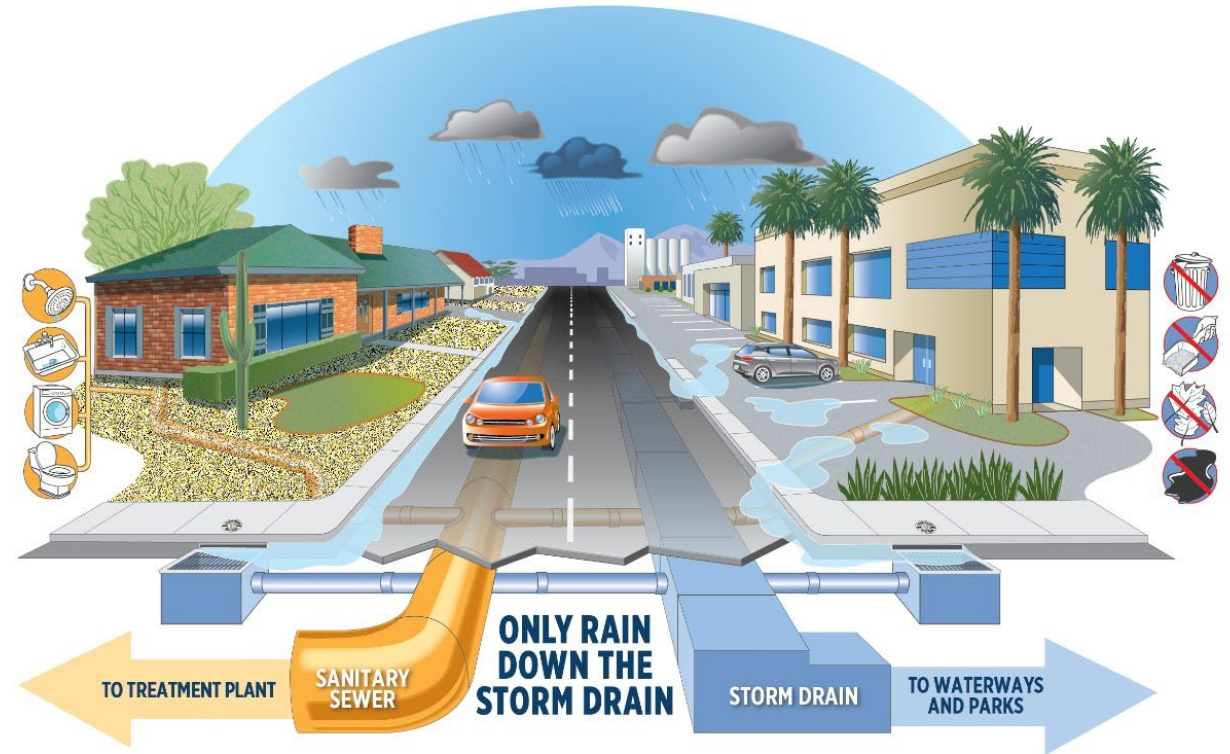
Questions? Comments?

City of Tempe
Urban Forestry
Master Plan

September 2017

Assessing Existing Initiatives – *Stormwater*

Assessment:

Conducted Staff Interviews

Reviewed Drainage Studies & Master Plans

Reviewed Stormwater CIP Plan

Goals:

Compliance w/ MS4 Permit

Promote Stormwater Quality

Manage Stormwater Quantity

Integrate GSI into Stormwater CIP Projects

TO TREATMENT PLANT   SANITARY SEWER   **ONLY RAIN DOWN THE STORM DRAIN**   STORM DRAIN   TO WATERWAYS AND PARKS

Stormwater (continued)

- **Next Steps:**

  - **Assess** GSI methods that can address both <u>stormwater quantity</u> *(flooding)* and <u>stormwater quality</u> *(pollution)* concerns.

  - **Identify** opportunities to integrate GSI into existing & future stormwater CIP projects.
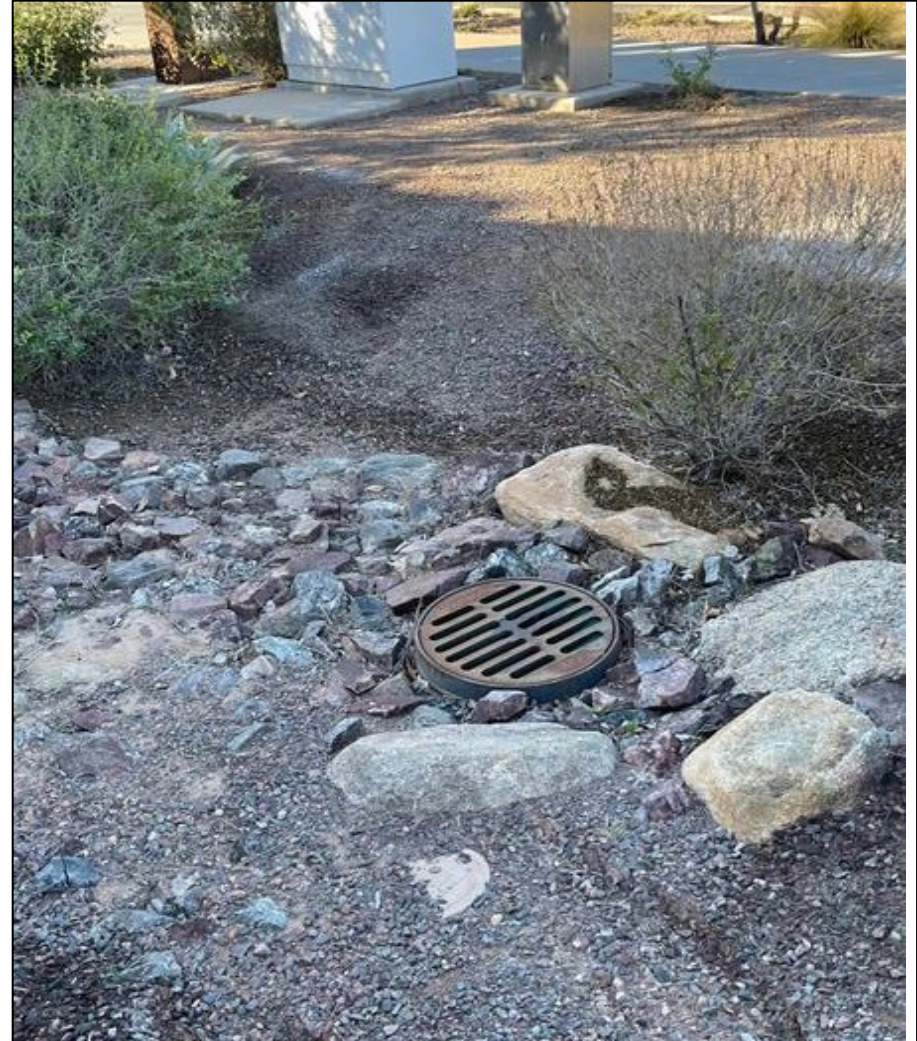
Questions? Comments?

Assessing Existing Policies – *Codes & Standards*

Assessment:

Conducted Staff Interviews

Reviewed Engineering Design Criteria

Review Zoning & Development Code

Goals:

Provide Guidance for Integrating GSI

Address Existing Maintenance & Utility Challenges

Streamline GSI Review Process
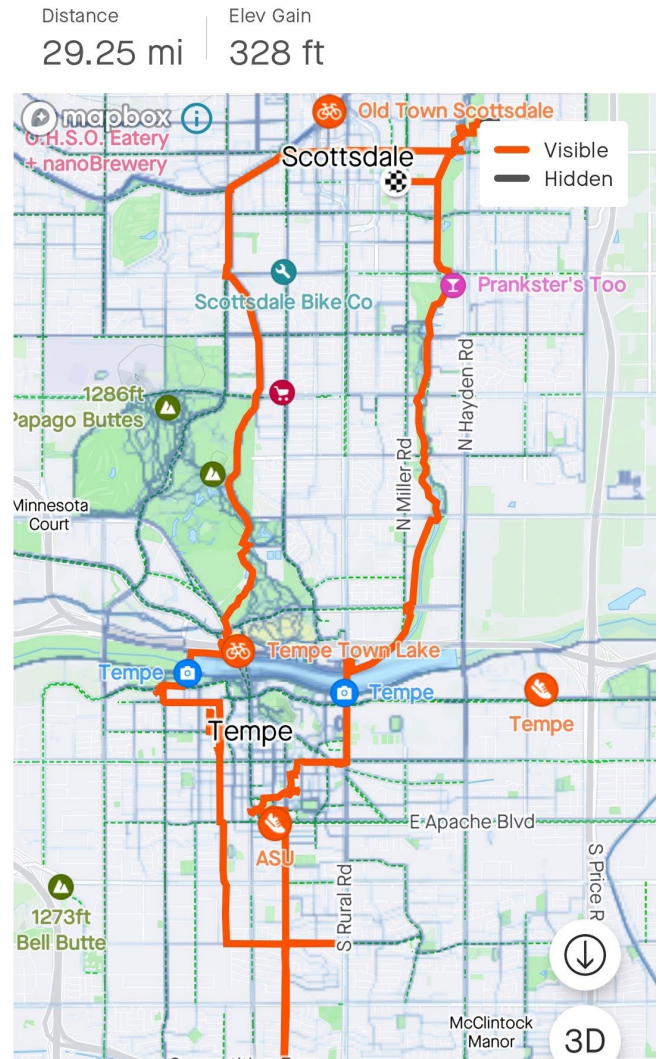
Codes & Standards (continued)

- **Next Steps:**

  - **Develop** Standards of Care

  - **Develop** Native Vegetation & Biodiversity Toolkit

  - **Integrate** GSI details & standards into existing city codes.

    - Engineering Design Criteria *(for public buildings)*

    - Zoning & Development Code *(for private development).*

Questions? Comments?

Assessing Existing & New GSI Projects – *Site Visits*

- ## Assessment:
  - WERK team visited 25 different sites to inventory and assess existing and potential GSI.

  - ***We will discuss this at the December meeting!***

Distance
29.25 mi

Elev Gain
328 ft

Pilot Projects (continued)

- **<u>Next Steps:</u>**

  - **Create** a new GIS map that includes heat, flooding, urban forestry, and equity data.

  - **Develop** a pilot project prioritization tool to identify future projects.

Questions? Comments?

Pilot Projects (continued)

- *Pilot projects will…*
  - Build on the assessment of current state.

  - Demonstrate how GSI can be integrated in different types of projects.

  - Test new codes and standards.

  - Leverage connections with Urban Forestry & Environmental Services.

Future Funding Strategy

Next Steps - Utility Feasibility Study

- **Identify** alternative funding solutions for future GSI projects, such as an Urban Cooling and Stormwater Utility.

- **Review** other cities' strategies for funding stormwater management & urban greening initiatives.

- **Coordinate** with Water Rate Study by Municipal Utilities.

Questions? Comments?

Project Next Steps

- **Project Outcomes**
  - Pilot Project Designs
  - City Codes and Standards
  - Urban Forestry Master Plan Update
  - Sustainable Funding Strategy

- **Upcoming Ambassador Program Meetings:**
  - **November 1st:** Urban Forestry
  - **December 6th**: Pilot Projects
  - **January 3rd**: Stormwater

Questions?
Contact Maddie Mercer, Sustainability & Resilience Office

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