

Rain to Roots Ambassador Program- *February Meeting*

Welcome!

- What is your name?
- Share one word that captures your vision for a future Tempe.



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](#).

Rio Salado Pkwy. & Hardy Dr.



Lemon St. & Dorsey Ln.

Examples of GSI in Action



S. College Ave.



Lemon St. & Dorsey Ln.



Photos taken on 12/22/24

Rain to Roots Master Plan

- **Project Purpose**

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

Green Stormwater Infrastructure helps us address...



Record-breaking
Extreme Heat



Severe Drought &
Water Use



Flooding & Water
Quality Concerns



Need for Climate-
Ready Vegetation

Project Overview



**Assessing the
Current State**

**Codes &
Standards**

**Urban Forestry
Master Plan
Update**

**Future
Funding
Strategy**

**Pilot
Projects**

**Public
Outreach**

City of Tempe – Stormwater & Water Quality

- *Dedicated to...*
 - Minimizing the potential for stormwater runoff to impair waterways.
 - Raising public awareness on proper use and disposal of products such as motor oil, antifreeze and pesticides.



Visit tempe.gov/Stormwater to learn how you can help prevent water pollution.

What's the Problem?

Stormwater runoff is one of the leading causes of water pollution.



If runoff contains pollutants, bacteria, or hazardous materials, it can negatively impact the health of our protected waterways.

Solution - Stormwater Management Plan

Describes how staff will...

- **Monitor** outfalls & non-stormwater flows.
- **Support** public education, involvement and participation.
- **Promote** best management practices (BMPs) to control sources of pollutants.

...to reduce the discharge of pollutants and protect the water quality in the receiving bodies of water.



CITY OF TEMPE,
ARIZONA
STORMWATER
MANAGEMENT
PLAN

Prepared by the City of Tempe
Municipal Utilities Department,
Water Utilities Division,
Environmental Services Section
As prescribed by
AZPDES Permit No. AZS000005-2010
Appendix C
January 2012
Updated January 2021

Stormwater Management Programs

SWMP Includes:

- Public education & outreach
- Illicit discharge detection & elimination (*outfall inspections*)
- Municipal facility assessment
- Industrial/commercial inspection
- Construction & post-construction site inspection



Stormwater Education & Outreach

Offerings Include:

- [Communications \(eNewsletter\)](#)
- [Stormwater tips for residents and businesses](#)
- [Household Product Collection Center \(HPCC\)](#)
- [Annual Stormwater Workshop](#)
 - [Details:](#)
 - February 29, 2024
 - 11:00am – 1:00pm
 - Tempe Public Library



Stormwater Education & Outreach

Residential Tips

- [Around the House PDF](#)
- [Charitable Car Washes](#)
- [Fat and Grease Disposal PDF](#)
- [Home Repair PDF](#)
- [Household Wastes PDF](#)
- [Leaf Blowers PDF](#)
- [Pet Waste PDF](#)
- [Pollution Prevention Videos](#)
- [Pool Discharge PDF](#)
- [Stormwater Structure Maintenance Guide PDF](#)
- [Vehicle Care PDF](#)
- [Wipes Disposal PDF](#)
- [Yard and Garden Care PDF](#)

Commercial Tips

- [Automotive Service PDF](#)
- [Business and Industrial PDF](#)
- [Construction PDF](#)
- [Cooling Towers PDF](#)
- [Downtown Tempe/Tempe Town Lake PDF](#)
- [Exterior Cleaning PDF](#)
- [Food Service Fats Oils and Grease PDF](#)
- [Restaurant BMPs PDF](#)
- [Retention BMPs PDF](#)
- [Track Out PDF](#)
- [Why Does City of Tempe Perform Inspections at Commercial Facilities? PDF](#)

City of Tempe – Water Conservation

- *Dedicated to...*
 - Educating the community on ways to reduce water waste and increase efficiency to help sustain Tempe's water supply now and for years to come.



Visit tempe.gov/conservation to learn how you can help conserve water.

Water Conservation Programs

Offerings Include:

- [Water consults](#)
- [Rebates](#)
- [Workshops](#)
- [WaterSmart portal](#)
- [Resource library](#)
- [Communications \(eNewsletters\)](#)



Visit tempe.gov/conservation to learn how you can help conserve water.

Water Conservation Consults

- Water Conservation offers **free WaterSmart consultations** for **Tempe residents** and **businesses**.
- Consultations are available by phone, video chat, or on-site.
- Specialists will...
 - **Check** for leaks.
 - **Review** irrigation controller settings.
 - **Discuss** past water use trends.
 - **Make recommendations** on ways to save water, improve plant health, & reduce utility costs.



Learn how to save water and money

**Residents and businesses
can sign up for a water
consultation with Tempe
Water Conservation.**



Visit tempe.gov/conservation and click on the "Water Consultation" tab to learn more.

Water Conservation Rebates

Single-family Residential	Multi-family Residential/HOA	Commercial
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Landscape Conversion Rebate</u>• <u>TreeBate</u>• <u>High-Efficiency Toilet Rebate</u>• <u>High-Efficiency Irrigation Rebate</u>• <u>Gray Water Recycling Systems Rebate</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Homeowners Association (HOA) and Multi-Family Landscape Conversion Rebate</u>• <u>Multi-Family Indoor Efficiency Fixture Rebate</u>• <u>Neighborhood Grants</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Non-Residential Landscape Conversion Rebate</u>• <u>School Landscape Efficiency Rebate</u>• <u>Non-Residential Indoor Fixtures Rebate</u>• <u>Cooling Tower Rebate Pilot Program</u>• <u>Non-residential TreeBate</u>

Water Conservation Workshops

Upcoming Workshops:

- [WaterSmart for Commercial and HOA Properties](#) - Become more familiar with the WaterSmart customer portal and how it can be used to help HOAs and businesses monitor their water use, track multiple sites at once and watch for leaks.
 - **12 to 12:30 p.m., Thursday, February 8, on Microsoft Teams.**
- [Converting from Turf to Xeriscape](#) - Learn best practices for converting from water thirsty grass to native xeriscape and how residents can qualify for up to \$2000 towards a landscape conversion rebate.
 - **11 a.m. to 12 p.m., Saturday, March 16, at the Tempe Public Library.**
- [Gardening to Attract Pollinators](#) - Learn about dozens of desert friendly shrubs, cacti, succulents, groundcover and wildflowers that can add diversity to the landscape and support pollinators. Tempe residents can qualify for up to \$75 from the Treebate when purchasing any of the plants covered in the workshop.
 - **11 a.m. to 12 p.m., Saturday, April 13, at the Tempe Women's Club Park Xeriscape Demonstration Garden, 1265 N College Avenue.**


Program Feedback & Discussion

- **Had you heard about any of the programs we discussed?**
- **Have you used or participated in any of these programs?**
- **Do you experience any barriers to participating in any of these programs?**
- **Are there any additional programs / offerings / topics you'd like to see?**

Neighborhood Grants Announcement

New Neighborhood Grants Category!

- Projects focused on **rainwater harvesting (GSI)**
- *Projects can integrate GSI into...*
 - Neighborhood & collector streets
 - HOA streets
 - Parks
 - Alleys
 - Transit stops
 - Traffic circles & chicanes
 - Other public right-of-way areas



Water Harvesting Guidelines

The City of Tempe Sustainability & Resilience Office (SRO) is developing a city-wide water harvesting program, "Rain to Roots", that will implement [green stormwater infrastructure](#) that channels all rainfall and drainage into existing and new planting areas. Rather than sending rainfall and drainage away to the stormwater system, this program aims to capture and infiltrate the water into the landscape, helping to reduce water consumption while expanding our urban forestry canopy. The Rain to Roots program will provide new plant material, tree canopy and urban forest enhancements, and built infrastructure to maximize rain and drainage collection while addressing the increasing challenge of extreme heat.

Potential projects would include:

- Neighborhood and collector streets
- HOA streets, parks, alleys
- Transit stops
- Other public rights of way that have the ability to create new water harvesting and planting areas.

Rain to Roots projects can be partnered with traffic calming or water conservation projects:

- Traffic circles or chicanes that can capture rain
- Turf conversion projects that include rain capture infrastructure.

Coordination with partner teams at the city may be required (e.g. Transportation) for project affecting a street or other infrastructure. Long term maintenance of any potential project implemented would need to be identified before project funding.

Process:

1. Meet with Sustainability & Resilience Office (SRO) staff to discuss ideas
2. SRO will recommend specific achievable projects
3. Neighborhoods and HOA's host their area meetings to determine project support
4. Project sponsors ensure support from any property immediately adjacent to the new project idea
5. All projects must have licensed contractors for construction and landscape installs
6. Identify long term project maintenance responsibilities.
7. If you are an HOA and are awarded a grant, [your project will be processed through Community Development to amend your HOA's existing landscape plan](#). Your award letter will cover next steps.

Program Contact: Maddie Mercer, Sustainability & Resilience Program Coordinator
480-350-8864 or Maddie_mercer@tempe.gov

Upcoming Ambassador Program Meetings

Meetings on the First Wednesday of the Month, 5:30-6:30 PM

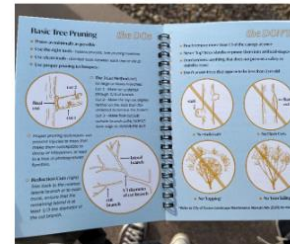
.....

March 6th: Pilot Project Update & Design Review

March: Pilot Project Site Visit (Date/time TBD)

April 3rd: Urban Forestry Master Plan Update & Next Steps

May 1st: Master Plan Deliverable Review



Questions?

Contact Maddie Mercer,
Sustainability & Resilience Office

...

Email: Maddie_Mercer@tempe.gov

Phone: 480-355-8864