Plan Tucson is the City’s General & Sustainability Plan which lays out Tucson’s vision for the future and a road-map for how to get there.

Plan Tucson was adopted by voters in 2013 after an extensive public outreach process. It established 180 policies organized into over 20 elements within four focus areas:

- Social Environment
- Economic Environment
- Natural Environment
- Built Environment

In 2020, the City will start engaging with residents to begin the conversation about our vision and goals for the decade to come. Per state law the City must update our General Plan again by 2023.

5 Years of Progress

- In the five years since Plan Tucson was adopted, our City has made great strides in realizing the vision of the general plan. Just a few of our achievements include:
  - The opening of the SunLink streetcar, catalyzing redevelopment downtown
  - UNESCO designation as a City of Gastronomy, recognizing our unique food culture and spurring increased tourism
  - A growing job base – including the expansion of GEICO and arrival of Caterpillar
  - Increasing and safeguarding our long-term water supply, making our city more sustainable and resilient
- There is still more to do to accomplish the goals set out in our general plan to ensure economic opportunity across our city, promote safe and sustainable neighborhoods, and provide exceptional quality of life.
- This report provides a snapshot of what has been accomplished in the past five years to implement the policies and achieve the goals of Plan Tucson, as well as areas of ongoing work.
- Additional information can be found at https://www.tucsonaz.gov/pdsd/plan-tucson.

What Comes Next

- City departments, in partnership with community residents, businesses, organizations, and institutions, will continue to implement the goals and priorities of Plan Tucson.
- You can look forward to future reports such as this one to track our accomplishments in the coming years.
THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

• Housing
• Public Safety
• Parks & Recreation
• Arts & Culture
• Public Health
• Urban Agriculture
• Education
• Governance & Participation

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

✓ **Housing:** The City has developed more than 700 units of affordable housing since 2014 and has hired two Outreach Workers to help connect persons experiencing homelessness to the broad range of services available.

✓ **Public Safety:** Voters made a significant investment in public safety by approving a five-year, half-cent sales tax to support public safety and road repair in 2017. Funds have already been used to purchase 200 vehicles, protective gear, and upgraded IT equipment.

✓ **Parks & Recreation:** (1) In 2018, more than 12,000 people participated in Parks programs, including 607 recipients of discounted swim lessons. (2) A $2 million improvement project at Jesse Owens Park, completed in 2018, brought new ball fields and playground facilities as well as a new water-saving irrigation system.

✓ **Arts & Culture:** The Tucson Festival of Books, Tucson Meet Yourself and All Souls Procession each draw more than 100,000 visitors to enjoy Tucson’s unique cultural offerings.

✓ **Public Health:** St. Elizabeth clinic began operating at Tucson House (City public housing) to provide more immediately accessible health care to residents.

✓ **Urban Agriculture:** In 2015, the Mayor and Council adopted the Urban Agriculture Ordinance, enabling backyard farming and promoting local food production.

✓ **Education:** The Mayor’s Community Schools program, focused on connecting families to services and increasing high school graduation rates, served 7,300 students over two years, and the Count Me In program aimed to reduce Tucson’s high truancy rates through individualized outreach and service.

✓ **Governance & Participation:** The City has increased the number of ways for citizens to obtain data and engage with their government through resources such as through Notice Me, MapTucson and social media.

ONGOING IMPLEMENTATION

✓ **Parks & Connections bond** approved by voters in November 2018 will fund $225 million in parks and greenway improvements.

✓ **Choice Neighborhood Planning Initiative** in Oracle Road area is developing strategies for affordable housing, economic opportunity, crime reduction and neighborhood stability.
THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

• Jobs & Workforce Development
• Business Climate
• Regional & Global Positioning
• Tourism & Quality of Life

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

✔ Jobs & Workforce Development: Tucson’s unemployment rate dropped from its 10-year high of 10.1% in 2010 to 4.2% in November 2018.*

✔ Business Climate: (1) GEICO increased its local workforce by 700, and Caterpillar relocated its Surface Mining Division headquarters to Tucson, bringing 600 jobs to the area. (2) New development through the Infill Incentive District (IID) continues to spur economic development. The City has seen $1.3 Billion dollars of investment using this program.

✔ Regional & Global Positioning: (1) Tucson’s mayor met with the Mexican president and ambassador, participated in trade missions to Mexico, and hosted two annual Borderlands Trade Conference events to increase the amount of trade activity with Mexico. (2) The Port of Tucson began accepting international shipments as an approved inland port in 2013, taking more than 240 trucks off the road each year and reducing the cost of international freight. In 2018, a local partnership with the Port succeeded in attracting a new Amazon fulfillment center, promising to create an additional 1,500 jobs.

✔ Tourism & Quality of Life: (1) Visitors spent $2.9 billion in Pima County in 2017, supporting 25,500 jobs.** (2) In 2018, Tucson International Airport added nonstop flights to Austin, Bellingham, Charlotte, Denver, and Provo, and opened a new terminal for ultra-low-cost airlines, giving Tucsonans more travel options and making Tucson a more competitive vacation destination.

ONGOING IMPLEMENTATION

✔ The City is formalizing an adaptive reuse program building upon past successes to further encourage reuse of vacant commercial and historic sites for new businesses.

* U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
** Arizona Office of Tourism, Tucson & Southern Region 2017 Year-End Data Review
TIMELINE OF PLAN TUCSON ACCOMPLISHMENTS & 2023 UPDATE

**November 2013**
- Plan Tucson, the City of Tucson General & Sustainability Plan, was ratified by voters at the November 5, 2013 General Election and the results declared on November 13, 2013, Resolution #22160.

**2013**
- Plan Tucson Update, the City of Tucson General & Sustainability Plan, was ratified by voters at the November 5, 2013 General Election and the results declared on November 13, 2013, Resolution #22160.

**2014**
- Tucson Convention Center Improvements via Rio Nuevo funding including new bathrooms, lighting, seats, a revamped sound system, a new kitchen, video scoreboard and the transfer of management to SMG.
- Mister Car Wash moves its headquarters to 6th Avenue signaling a commitment to reinvestment in downtown.
- Sun Link Streetcar opens doors to its first riders. The $200 million transit investment has generated more than $2.4 billion in economic impact and generated nearly 4 million rides since opening.

**2015**
- Infill Incentive District (IID) revisions adopted. Since adoption, the district has facilitated 28 new developments with more than $1.3 billion in economic impact.
- Urban Agriculture ordinance adopted enabling backyard farming and promoting local food production.
- City of Gastronomy designation awarded by UNESCO in recognition of Tucson's unique culinary heritage.
- The AC Marriott Hotel breaks ground, the first hotel to be built in downtown in over a decade.

**2016**
- Frequent Transit Network frequency of the Plan Tucson development process and modify Major Streets and Routes setback to help spur infill and redevelopment in Tucson.
- Historic Landmark revisions to clarify and streamline the process of applying for a historic landmark zoning overlay.
- HomeGoods Distribution Center opens their 850,000sf distribution center, adding 1,000 jobs.

**2017**
- Proposition 101 approved by voters establishing a sales tax for roads and public safety.
- Caterpillar announced the relocation of its surface mining and technology division to Tucson, bringing more than 600 jobs to the City over the next five years.
- Congress Street designated Great Street by the American Planning Association.
- Tugo Bike Share launches w/ 36 stations.
- Sign Code Revisions adopted by Mayor and Council to streamline processes.

**2018**
- GEICO announces plans to expand operations in Tucson adding 700 new jobs to their existing 2,100 employees.
- Amazon distribution center announced, creating 1,500 new jobs.
- LA Doce Foodways report released, highlighting the culinary and cultural assets of S. 12th Avenue corridor.
- Grant Road Urban Overlay District approved for phases 1 & 2 of roadway project, to allow for regulatory flexibility and more pedestrian friendly mixed-use development to coincide with the roadway completed improvement project.
- Parks and Connections Bond, funding $225 million in parks improvements, approved by voters.
- Deep Discount and Universal Access Passes initiated as pilot project to boost transit ridership.
- HUD Choice Neighborhood $1.3 million planning grant to improve housing options and economic opportunity in the Oracle Road area.

**2019**
- Citywide Mobility Plan TDOt begins the process of developing a Mobility Master Plan that will include a comprehensive look at multi-modal transportation networks within Tucson.
- Complete Streets Policy adopted, setting a strategic direction for planning and designing a safe, connected, and equitable transportation network for everyone.
- Broadway planning initiative to promote adaptive reuse, new development, and a multi-modal environment.
- Evaluate Plan Tucson goals and policy implementation to date, assessment of key accomplishments and citywide indicators.
- Capitol Improvement Plan (CIP) The City is reviewing the CIP and researching strategies for a more coordinated approach across all departments.

**2020**
- Plan Tucson Update goal and policy implementation, set priorities and prepare public participation program for Plan Tucson update.
- Parks and Connections Bond begin implementation of park and greenway improvements funded by Parks and Connections Bond.

**2021**
- Plan Tucson Update community engagement is underway to begin to define community vision and goals.

**2022**
- Plan Tucson Update goals and policies are developed based on community input.

**2023**
- Plan Tucson Update, the City of Tucson General & Sustainability Plan, was ratified by voters at the November 5, 2013 General Election.
THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

• Energy & Climate Readiness
• Water Resources
• Green Infrastructure
• Environmental Quality

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

✔ Energy & Climate Readiness: (1) Retrofitted the city’s 21,500 streetlights to LED, saving an estimated $2.6 million over 10 years. (2) Tucson Electric Power’s renewable capacity has more than doubled since 2013. In 2017, TEP’s system distributed enough renewable energy to power 70,400 homes for one year.

✔ Water Resources: (1) Over 2,000 rainwater harvesting and gray water installations have been rebated to Tucson Water customers, including over 200 low-income households who received rebates, in addition to grants and loans to make these projects more accessible. (2) Tucson Water has built up our long-term supply of water, storing at least 4 years of supply based on current demand.

✔ Green Infrastructure: Planted 50,672 new trees since 2013 as part of the 10,000 Trees campaign increasing our urban canopy and helping keep our city cool by counteracting the urban heat island effect.

✔ Environmental Quality: (1) The Tucson Environmental Services Department diverted over 30,000 tons of green waste from the landfill by converting it into mulch and using as slope cover to reduce erosion. (2) Through the Household Hazardous Waste Program over 375,000 pounds of hazardous waste has been collected from over 12,000 residents in 2018.

ONGOING IMPLEMENTATION

✔ The Neighborhood-scale Stormwater Program, managed by Tucson Water and it’s partner, Tucson Clean & Beautiful, will award $45,000 per ward annually through community grants to install green stormwater infrastructure projects in neighborhoods throughout the city. To date, three projects have been completed with several more in design and construction.
THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

• Historic Preservation
• Public Infrastructure, Facilities, & Cost of Development
• Redevelopment & Revitalization
• Land Use, Transportation, & Urban Design

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

✓ Historic Preservation: In 2018, the Miracle Mile Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places, recognizing the corridor as the original northern automotive gateway to Tucson and its related historic resources, including the motor courts and neon signs.

✓ Public Infrastructure, Facilities & Cost of Development: (1) The Tucson Department of Transportation invested over $2 million in pedestrian and bike infrastructure around South 12th, including new ADA-compliant sidewalks and the Liberty Bike Boulevard, to make the area safer and more accessible for community members. (2) Nearly 250 miles of pavement have been restored to date as a result of the Street Bonds approved by voters in November 2012. (3) The City and RTA have completed the construction of the Kolb Road/Sabino Canyon connection and phases 1 through 5 of the Houghton Road Corridor Project.

✓ Redevelopment and Revitalization: Completed the SunLink streetcar serving downtown, the westside and UA campus, driving an estimated $1.4 billion of new private development and over $2.4 billion overall economic impact in the area.

✓ Land Use, Transportation & Urban Design: (1) The Infill Incentive District, mapped along streetcar route to promote transit-oriented development, has facilitated creation of 1,476 units of housing and 456,204 sf of new commercial space in the greater downtown area. (2) Increased bus frequency to every 15 minutes or less on the most popular bus routes as part of the 2016 launch of the Frequent Transit Network, ensuring predictability and reliability for riders.

ONGOING IMPLEMENTATION:

✓ Complete Streets Ordinance and Citywide Mobility Plan will identify strategies to make getting around the city easier and safer for all users.

✓ Planning for the Sunshine Mile of the Broadway Corridor is underway to promote adaptive reuse as well as redevelopment and create a more walkable, pedestrian-friendly environment along Broadway to complement the planned roadway improvement project.
Key Projects

Oracle Choice Neighborhood Initiative

SunLink Streetcar and Downtown Development

Catepillar, MSA Annex, & Westside Development

South 12th - Infrastructure Assessment & La Doce Foodways Initiative

Grant Road Urban Overlay District

The Bridges - GEICO, UofA Tech Park, & Commercial Center

Jesse Owens Park Improvements

Kolb Road - North Sabino Canyon Connector

Houghton Road Corridor Widening and Improvement Project