

ELEMENT 11: PUBLIC BUILDINGS, SERVICES, AND FACILITIES

VISION

The *Regional Vision* goal is to improve all existing governmental services and facilities to provide efficient, equitable, safe, and accessible delivery of public services and enforcement of codes. This will include economical allocation of responsibility for service/facility maintenance among various levels of governments or private providers.



Community programs and facilities respond to the needs of the people.

Public wastewater and sanitary sewer facility improvements will be coordinated with new developments in the region and will recognize existing and programmed capacity plans. Virtually all new developments within the region's urban area will be connected to public sanitary sewers. Only restricted, low-density unincorporated areas meeting strict criteria will be allowed to use septic systems.

The number and percentage of people at risk due to environmental health hazards will be reduced through vigorous regulation of the storage and disposal of solid and hazardous wastes. The location and provision of fire and police protection, hospital and human care services, and other community and governmental facilities will be based on reliable long-range land use plans.

Master plans to provide water service and public utilities will be designed, programmed, and implemented to integrate with long-range land use plans.



Local governments reflect the unique aspirations of each community.

The vision includes an excellent system of high quality public education at all levels, accessible to each member of the community. The reservation of future public school sites will be coordinated between the region's long-range land use plans and those of public school districts. New school construction will utilize energy conserving design techniques.

LIVABLE TUCSON GOALS

Engaged Community and Responsive Government

Includes involvement of citizens in the community, volunteering, neighborhood participation, responsiveness of government organizations to citizen input, and the connection between government and the people.

Caring, Healthy Families and Youth

Includes opportunities, services, and conditions that support Tucson's families and youth.

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Excellent Public Education

Includes the quality of education at all levels - youth to adult, as well as vocational, life skills, cultural, and civic training.

People-Oriented Neighborhoods

Includes designing new neighborhoods and investing in old neighborhoods to promote a mix of commercial and residential uses, a pedestrian focus, landscaping and aesthetics, and interaction among residents.

Reduced Poverty and Greater Equality of Opportunity

Includes providing a fair distribution of resources, creating opportunities to overcome poverty, and reducing social and economic inequality.

Safe Neighborhoods

Includes how safe people feel in their neighborhoods, crime, policing, and risk perceptions.

Equitable Dispersion of Public Services

Background The City continues to be committed to pursuing a high level of public service provision. Community buildings, libraries, services, and facilities can enhance the identity of the community and reinforce public commitment to community. The City shall anticipate and plan for suitable and desirable locations for appropriate public facilities.

The continued expansion of the city's physical land area, coupled with population increases and requests for various types of services, requires the City to consider the strategic location of facilities throughout the community to maximize limited resources.

The term "public service provider" includes not only the City of Tucson, but also all entities (public or private) with infrastructure, which may serve not only the City of Tucson, but also a population which extends beyond the city's boundaries.

Utility companies providing telephone, natural gas, and electric services design, install, and maintain facilities across the region. While not directly responsible for the provision of these services, the City has an important role in coordinating with utility entities in the planning of future utility services.

Policy 1: **Promote efficient and equitable location and distribution of City services. (The current distribution of public facilities is displayed in the Public Facilities Map, at the end of this element.)**

Supporting Policies

1.1 Promote geographic dispersion of service facilities throughout the city, utilizing substations, mobile units, commercial leases, and acquisition opportunities.

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1.2 Tailor service delivery programs based on local area requirements, such as elderly recreation, children's services, libraries reflecting community and service area needs, crime deterrents, or other specific purposes.

1.3 Invest in public access to information, such as personal computers with Internet access, at libraries and neighborhood centers and at kiosks in key locations scattered throughout the city.

1.4 Coordinate with utility companies and other public service providers for the planning of infrastructure, facilities, and services in undeveloped parts of the city and in future annexation areas. Construction of public service infrastructure should be sensitive in design and location to environmental resources and should comply with land use plans and development standards.

1.5 Encourage utility companies to consider solar power and other renewable resources when planning for future infrastructure and services.

1.6 Support and continue to improve the energy efficiency of all City-owned buildings in order to meet and/or exceed the Tucson Sustainable Energy Standards for building design.

1.7 Encourage the integration of public service centers to include, but not be limited to, libraries, police and fire stations, health clinics, and senior and youth services.



Public Service Standards

Background

In response to changing community needs and desires, service standards have risen over time. Departments have demonstrated persistence in maintaining or improving response times, service accessibility, frequency of delivery, and the quality of services offered to the community, within the financial constraints facing the City. Such productivity increases have raised public expectations about service delivery. With limitations on financial resources to provide more and better service, creativity and flexibility are necessary to reconcile demands with available resources. The City will continue its efforts to

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maintain equitable service standards throughout the community. The key to this is finding and using the most cost-effective methods available for service delivery.

Policy 2: Maintain service standards.

Supporting Policy 2.1 Encourage technological or programmatic innovations that enhance unit productivity.

Action 2.1.A Encourage demonstration phases to test economic savings or service benefits versus cost expenditures.

Supporting Policies 2.2 Consider a variety of funding recovery options, such as improvement districts, public-private partnerships, and changes in operating characteristics or other mechanisms as identified in the Cost of Development Element, to provide programs and services.

2.3 Through public libraries, continue to maintain free and equitable access for residents to information needed for full participation in the community, for the enrichment of individual lives, and for life-long learning.

2.4 Continue to pursue high levels of standards in traffic safety in the metropolitan area.

2.5 Continue to improve the cost efficiency and effectiveness of citywide refuse collection management techniques.

2.6 Encourage state and federal agencies to design facilities which are compatible with the areas in which they are located.

Project Community Growth and Maintain Existing Neighborhood Public Services

Background Balancing the maintenance needs of existing infrastructure and facilities with the construction of new infrastructure and facilities needed to serve developing areas is a challenge faced by many growing communities. The balance of maintenance and new construction can best be met by the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) coordinated through the Action Plan Areas, as established under the guidelines of the Growth Areas and Population Element. Close coordination of the CIP process can achieve a fiscally equitable balance in maintenance of existing facilities and infrastructure and the provision of new facilities and infrastructure.

The complex financing and budgeting required to ensure the provision of public services over multiyear phases requires careful coordination with many different departments. Determining needs, defining the service areas, identifying site locations, sizing and designing facilities, and phasing construction are all-important steps toward achieving a fiscally equitable balance of development.

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Policy 3: Continue to utilize the CIP to coordinate service provision within the City of Tucson.

Supporting Policies

3.1 Schedule and stage public works projects to reduce inconvenience to the public and residents and coordinate with utility and other needed improvements, where possible.

3.2 Where appropriate, enhance the effect of budget expenditures by clustering locations for public services.

3.3 Demonstrate fiscal balance between provision of service to new areas and renovating service in existing neighborhoods.

3.4 Utilize land use plans, facilities plans, regional growth projections, fiscal analysis, and environmental analysis to identify the primary and secondary impacts of service extensions, locational siting, and the timing of capital projects.

3.5 Support and expand public education and promotion of recycling.