



Environmental Integrity Focus Area Green Infrastructure Element

BACKGROUND

This working document presents draft goal and policies which emerged from Green Infrastructure stakeholder working group meetings during the Fall of 2011. The Green Infrastructure Element covers natural open space, the urban forest, washes and on-site stormwater management using vegetation and landforms. The green infrastructure concept includes the connections between open space as well as the open space itself and the role that this network plays in mitigating urban heat, creating community resilience to climate change, providing wildlife habitat, and managing stormwater, among other ecosystem services.

To build a sustainable community, the City will need to plan for and implement policies to achieve the goals set forth in two nationally and internally acclaimed documents: the Mayor's Climate Change Agreement and the Urban Accords, approved by the Mayor and City Council in 2005 and 2006. The Green Infrastructure element goals and policies below will contribute to general public health and will help build a clean, attractive, and safe community.

GOALS FOR GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

- I. Preserve, enhance and restore natural open space
- II. Manage the urban forest for multiple benefits
- III. Increase the use of green infrastructure to manage stormwater

POLICIES FOR EACH GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE GOAL

- I. **Preserve, enhance and restore natural open space**
 - A. Re-establish and restore, when possible, natural ecology and hydrologic function and structure in washes and riparian areas
 - B. Require that post-development hydrology mimics pre-development runoff rates and volumes
 - C. Integrate transportation planning with habitat protection
 - D. Minimize land disturbance and destruction of mature native vegetation and preserve biologically rich open space and habitat
 - E. Use natural drainage systems to support and extend green infrastructure networks
 - F. Create a green infrastructure ordinance for new development and redevelopment to support stormwater harvesting infrastructure and associated native trees and plants
 - G. Encourage greater development and use of wash corridors and linear greenways by expanding trail connections between City and County parks, green nodes and common destinations



- H. Ensure that regulations enforce preservation of habitat and support improved tree planting and maintenance of existing vegetation
- I. Educate the community about native plants and wildlife, including ways to minimize human-wildlife conflicts
- J. Incorporate green space requirements into new development, infill and redevelopment projects
- K. Encourage development of small, naturally-vegetated mini-parks in neighborhoods and integrate with traffic calming opportunities.

II. Manage the urban forest for multiple benefits

- A. Create an urban forestry master plan for Tucson in which City-wide tree canopy goals are set and strategies and funding identified for the achievement of goals
- B. Increase the number of trees and amount of other vegetation along bicycle and walking routes, and along/within roadways by incorporating tree requirements into street improvement and transportation projects
- C. Minimize removal and destruction of mature and healthy trees
- D. Ensure that best practices are followed to support improved tree planting and maintenance of existing vegetation
- E. Use available, harvested water to support desirable plant growth wherever possible
- F. Expand partnerships with neighborhood and community groups for the installation and maintenance of neighborhood trees
- G. Increase percentage of land that must be dedicated to open space and/or walking and biking trails in new developments

III. Increase the use of green infrastructure to manage stormwater

- A. Retrofit water retention and conveyance infrastructure (washes, detention basins) to mimic natural systems and functions, and to daylight washes, wherever possible
- B. Encourage the use of green infrastructure for stormwater management in public and private new development and redevelopment projects
- C. Use natural drainage systems to support and extend green infrastructure networks
- D. Retrofit existing public property to meet low impact development and rainwater harvesting best management practices