

Landscape Standards Update



City Council
12.12.22



Landscape Standards Update

BACKGROUND

- Majority of city undeveloped
- 2021: 101,662 to 2040: 192,200*
- Water Conservation Committee
- 2019 Shade Study
- Tree City USA (2021)
- Joint Council & Commission worksession
 - September 9, 2021
 - Promote water efficiencies
 - Maintain look of city
- Update to landscape standards appropriate



*Maricopa Association of Governments



Landscape Standards Update

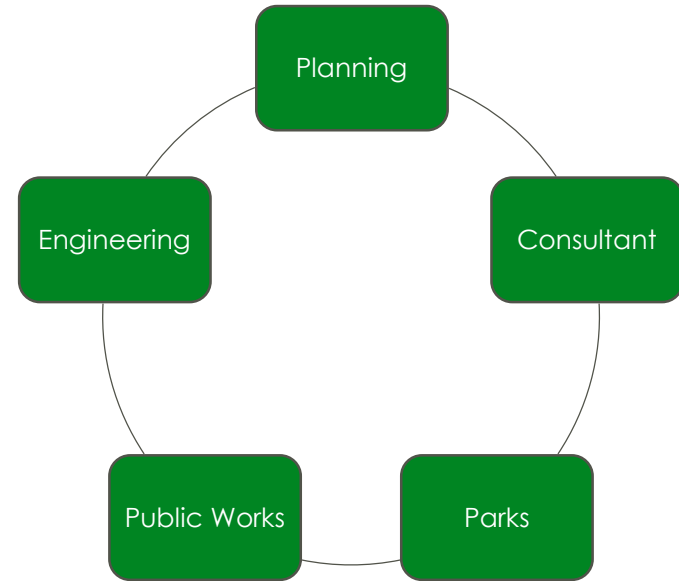
PURPOSE

- Landscape standards within Zoning Ordinance
- Zoning Ordinance regulates development within city
- Current version 1999, as amended
- Address water efficiencies
- Address development on private property
- Incremental update
- Comprehensive code update after General Plan update

Landscape Standards Update

CORE TEAM

- Reviewed initial drafts
- Input & recommendations
- Multi-disciplinary
- Varied perspectives
- Expansive experience
- Landscape Architecture



Landscape Standards Update

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Create plant matrix
- Water efficiency
- Maintain city aesthetic
- Address residential HOA common areas & MF
- Single-family ownership
- Ensure proper maintenance



Landscape Standards Update

CODE REVISIONS

- Remove unnecessary definitions
- New Article 5-1
- Updated standards
 - New approved plant matrix
 - Limit turf to active recreation areas
 - Tree spacing
 - Buffers
 - Planting standards
- Incremental update – Comprehensive update 2024



Landscape Standards Update

PLANT MATRIX

Approved Plant Matrix

- Consistent with ADWR Low Water Use Plant list
- Maintains look of city
- Provides planting characteristics
- Guide staff & designers
- Right tree, right place

Landscape Standards Update

WATER EFFICIENCIES

- Turf limited to active areas (no ornamental turf)
- Limitations on amount of turf
- One acre desert landscape uses 1.4 M gallons less water/year than comparable acre of over-seeded turf
- Tree spacing increased by 5'
- One less tree per 150' street frontage
- Nine less trees over ¼ mile
- Typical mature desert tree needs 1,550 gallons water per year



Landscape Standards Update

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Highlighted at several Developer Forums
- Circulated to development community (June)
- Collaborated with Home Builders Association (July)
- Posted on website
- Public Hearing Notice
- Commission Hearing - 11.30.22
- No opposition to date



Google Maps

Landscape Standards Update

RECOMMENDATION

Staff & Commission recommend approval

- Promotes recommendation from Water Conservation Committee
- Promotes water efficiency
- Promotes goals & objectives of the General Plan
- Updates the city's landscape standards

