



City of Tempe Tree and Shade Analysis

THE PROBLEM The City of Tempe's General Plan 2040 outlines a goal and strategies to establish Tempe as a "20-minute city," enabling citizens to get to and from any hub of services in the city within 20 minutes without the use of a personal car. Despite already being one of Arizona's most walkable cities, Tempe residents and businesses are still challenged in taking advantage of the city's extensive urban pedestrian and bicycling infrastructure during certain seasons because of hot temperatures and a lack of shade. To encourage walking and biking and to take advantage of all the additional benefits of trees, the City of Tempe Public Works Department wants to develop and implement an urban forestry master plan and action plan.

THE CLIENT City of Tempe Public Works Department

THE SERVICE Geo-spatial assessment of Tempe's current tree canopy coverage relative to various city character areas, water infrastructure and planning goals and a comprehensive report on the qualitative benefits of trees to urban settings.

THE SOLUTIONS The report, "The Qualitative Value of Trees," outlines the economic, environmental, health and social benefits of urban forests to illustrate the positive effects urban forestry investments could have on Tempe. The tree canopy assessment provides an urban forest baseline the city's Public Works Department can use to develop and implement an urban forestry program.

THE OUTLOOK With the data provided by the tree canopy assessment and the knowledge gained from the qualitative report, the Public Works Department has now engaged the Global Solutions Services to assist in developing its Urban Forestry Master Plan and Action Plan for Tempe.

"Understanding what trees we have now and where helps us establish a baseline to ensure the proper management, care and future planning of our city's urban forest."

**Don Bessler, Director,
City of Tempe Public Works Department**