

BMPs: Sustainable Desert Community Parks

Prepared for Lisa Estrada, City of Peoria



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Project Context

- New **\$30 million** multi-use **Community Park**
- **Early** design process + chosen location
 - opportunity for strategic implementation of sustainability principles
- Buy-in from leadership
- Intra-city competition

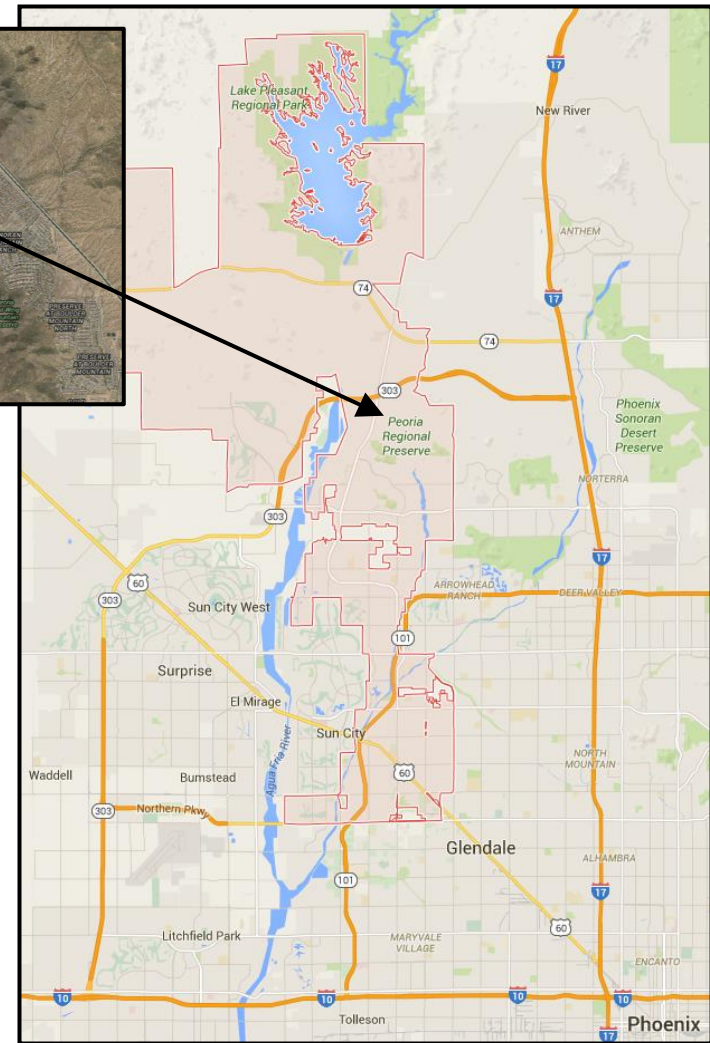
“As these communities grow, the need grows for more parks and places to gather and play.”
- **Mayor Carlat**

“Our amazing quality of life is what attracts people.”
- **Mayor Carlat**



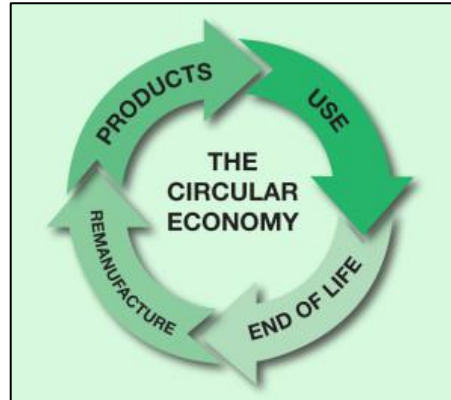
City of Peoria

- 174.4 sq mi
- Pop: 166,900 (**growing**)
- 26% under 18
- 14.3% 65+ (**increasing**)
- Homeownership rate of 71%
- Park: 457.5 acres, ~80 dedicated to facilities



Guiding Principles: Park Design & Operations

- Design for **all** ages and capabilities.
- Plan for increased **population**, **heat**, and **drought**.
- Purchase with **end** of product **life** in mind.
- Utilize **durable**, local, **recycled**, and **non-toxic** materials
- Create a **unique** park to **attract** citizens, tourists, and media.



Park Design & Landscaping

- Low water + maintenance reqs
- Chemical-free: protect water + kids
- Green infrastructure
- Community gardens + edible forests
 - education + food + social resilience
- Artistic + low impact shade
 - partnerships!



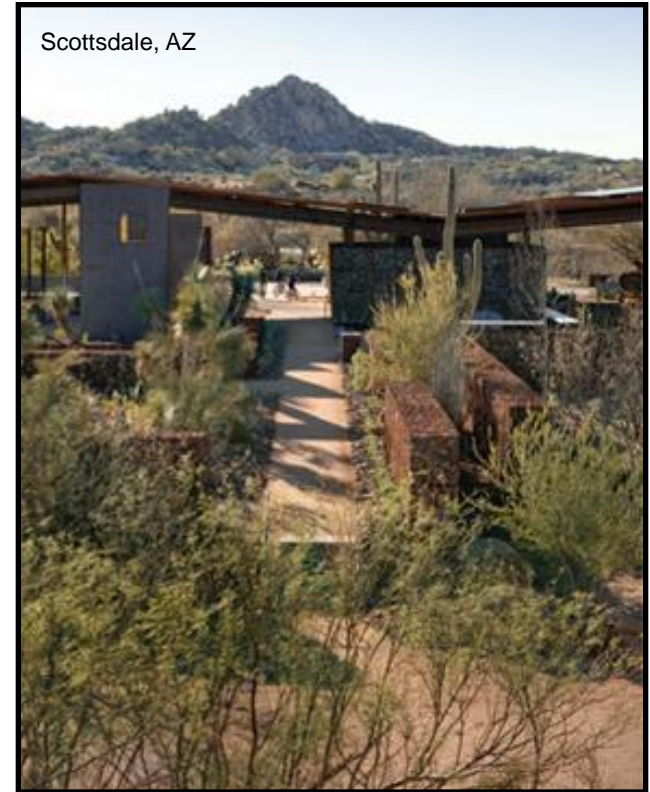
Everyone can play!

- Mixed ages + varied mobility
- Heat-resistant materials:
 - local + recycled content + natural + end-of-life
- Good parks have options
 - adventure parks/ track
 - obstacle course
 - elderly equipment
 - chess tables
 - name that native plant game: Braille + English + Spanish
 - bird watching



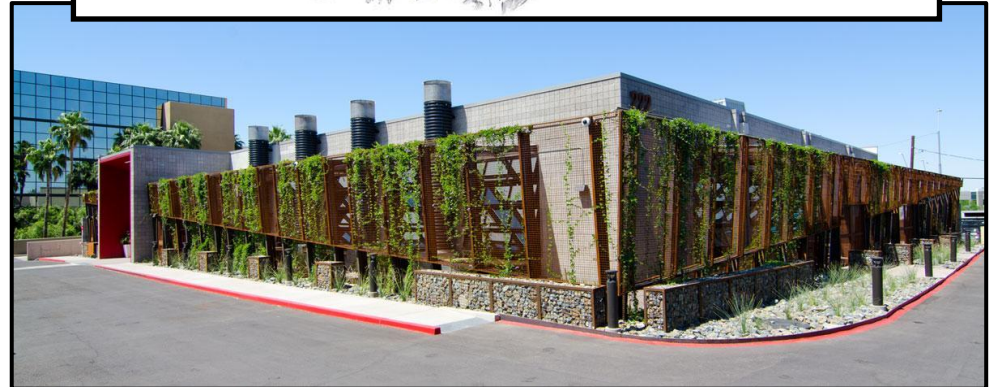
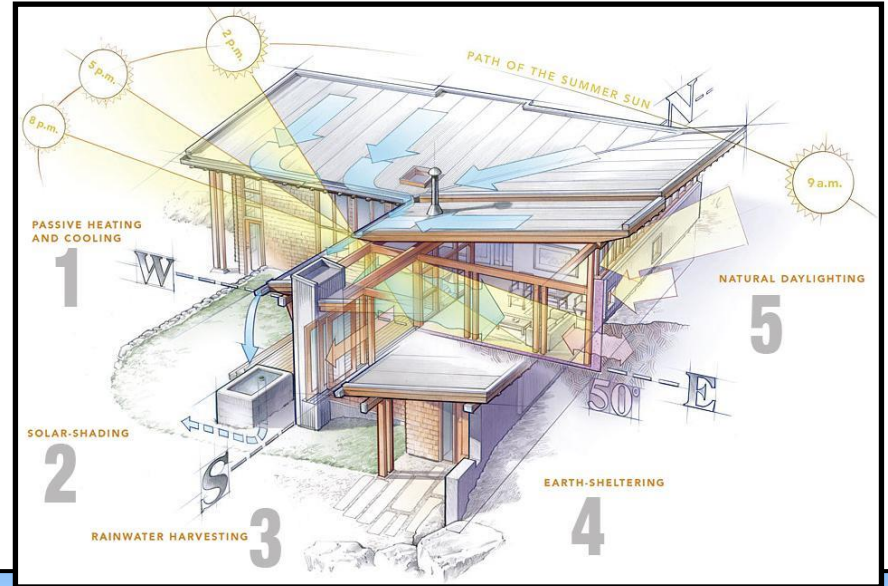
Accessible Gatherings

- Electrified stage: concerts + events
- Reservable picnic areas
- Solar-powered reusable water stations
- Recycling bins + signage
- Accessibility: bus + bike + ADA
- Shaded + solar power enabled bus stops



Facilities

- Materials:
 - ethically sourced
 - reclaimed
 - low/ no VOCs
- Passive heating/cooling
- Living Building Challenge



Key Recommendations

- Meaningfully engage citizenry
- Ensure easy accessibility for all residents
- Plan for future demographic and climatic shifts
- Purchase with end of product life in mind
- Embrace creative innovation in park design



Thanks! Questions?

