Green Infrastructure Progress in the Tucson Metro / Pima County Region

Sustainable Cities Network, April 2022
Discussion with Mead Mier-Welborn, Sustainability Coordinator, PAG
LID Working Group co-lead
Value of Regional Coordination

Integrate disciplines, agencies and jurisdictions

Share lessons, samples and information for improved planning

Build on momentum, fill gaps

Create consistency to ease effective implementation for practitioners
Outline

History of the LID Working Group

Recent Progress in the Region

Who is involved
LID Working Group History

- City/County Water Study
- 2011 – RFCD Working Group and Workshops
- 2015- Regional Collaborative-team of leads, Rotation of chairs, PDEQ host
Partners

- **MULTI-SECTOR:**
  local governments, non-profits, consultants/designers and academics

- **MULTI-DISCIPLINE:**
  flood control engineers, water resources planners, stormwater quality outreach, transportation, UHE, environment and community

- **ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDE:**
  RFCD, PAG, Tucson Water, UArizona, PC DEQ and Housing Center, WMG, Community Food Bank, Tucson Audubon, WLB, Wheat Design Group and more.

- **COLLABORATION:**
  Santa Cruz Watershed Collaborative – One Water Group, Cross-Watershed Network, Conserve 2 Enhance
Past LIDWG Accomplishments

- Workshops
- **Guidance Manual**
- **Case Studies** and Awards
- Regional Council Resolutions
- Cost/Benefit Studies,
  **Flood mitigation modeling**
Regional Policies and Resources

PAST
- City of Tucson’s Commercial Ordinance and Green Streets Active Practice Guidelines
- Detention Retention requirements
- Integration into Drought Response Plans

RECENT
- Complete Streets Design Guide
- Tucson Water Rainwater harvesting equity evaluation and subsidy updates.
- Work with SERI Low Income Programs
- Spanish Language trainings, resources
PAG Accomplishments with Network

PAST

- GIS Online Prioritization Mapping Tool
- Stormwater (MS4) Outreach Materials (Watershed Pocket Guide)
- Policy Inventory

RECENT

- Sonoran Desert Green Infrastructure Resource Library: A Playbook for Transportation
- New heat and tree data development feedback
- Regional Green Stormwater Infrastructure Plan
## GSI Plan: Geographic Data Analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Analysis</th>
<th>Examples</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assess current state, needs and gaps</td>
<td>3 million trees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measure goals</td>
<td>375,000 trees/year to reach 25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calculate Comparisons, Locate Opportunities</td>
<td>Metro Area has 10% rooftops, 21% pavement, 29% ground veg, 7% tree cover</td>
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<tr>
<td>Track change, Performance</td>
<td>2008 and 2015 Tree Canopy, 2019 Available Soon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Define and highlight priorities</td>
<td>Ward One is 2° hotter and 5.5% less tree canopy than Neighborhood Association average</td>
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Last Year of Regional Accomplishments

- Urban Heat Island Workshops reinitiated
- City and RFCD began Standards and Specifications updates
- Tucson Water’s Green Stormwater Infrastructure Fund - fee on bill, staff, multi-dept, training, maintenance and implementation
- Tucson 1 Million Trees Goal- New Urban Forestry Program and Manager, Equity Map, site inventory
Future Growth and Goals

- Health and climate work
- Habitat, Shallow groundwater dependent ecosystems, Drought Response Planning (policies, rebates)
- Environmental Justice, Green space access, Workforce Development, Community feedback, Installer/Practitioner engagement
- Regional Standards and Specifications
- Certification requirements
Recent Meeting Topics

- Rural LID/GI studies
- Funding opportunities, collaborative EJ grant effort
- New tree guide, Reclamation studies, Tour, Designs and Specs.
- **Coming up:**
  - UA Research update
  - Maintenance developments
- **Second Mondays at 3pm**
Working Group Format

- Monthly meetings
- Presentations for feedback and collaboration, Share and hear updates
- Information sharing to reduce redundant efforts, build off each-other
- Stay current, relevant, learn
- Assess and set new collaborative goals based on individual member pursuits and shared vision
Questions and Discussion

To join LIDWG meetings please contact LIDWorkingGroup@gmail.com
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