

# 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**



LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT/  
GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE



# **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





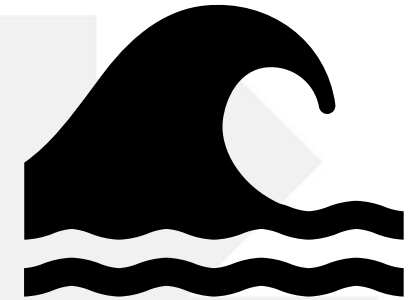
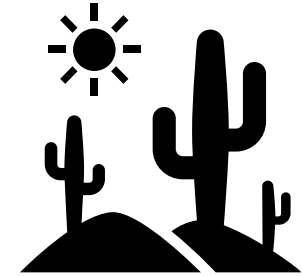
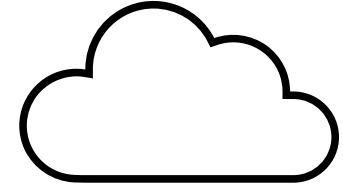
# >> LID Working Group History

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



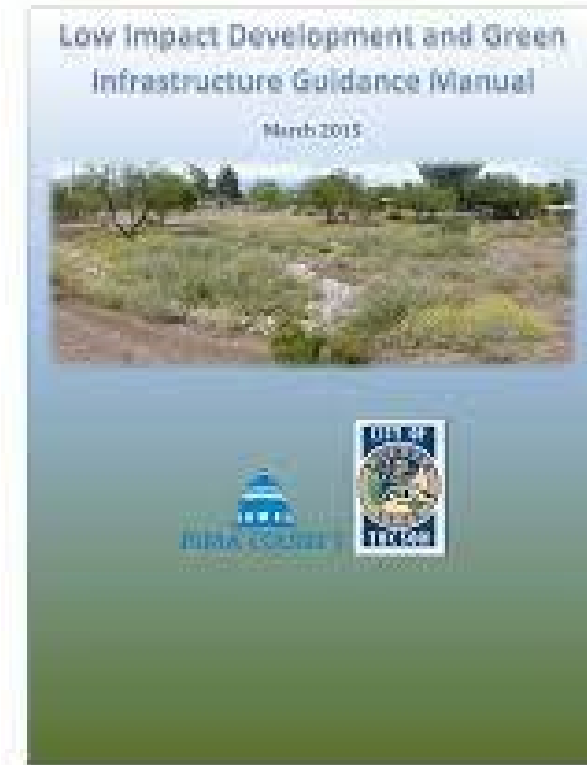
# >> Partners

- **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



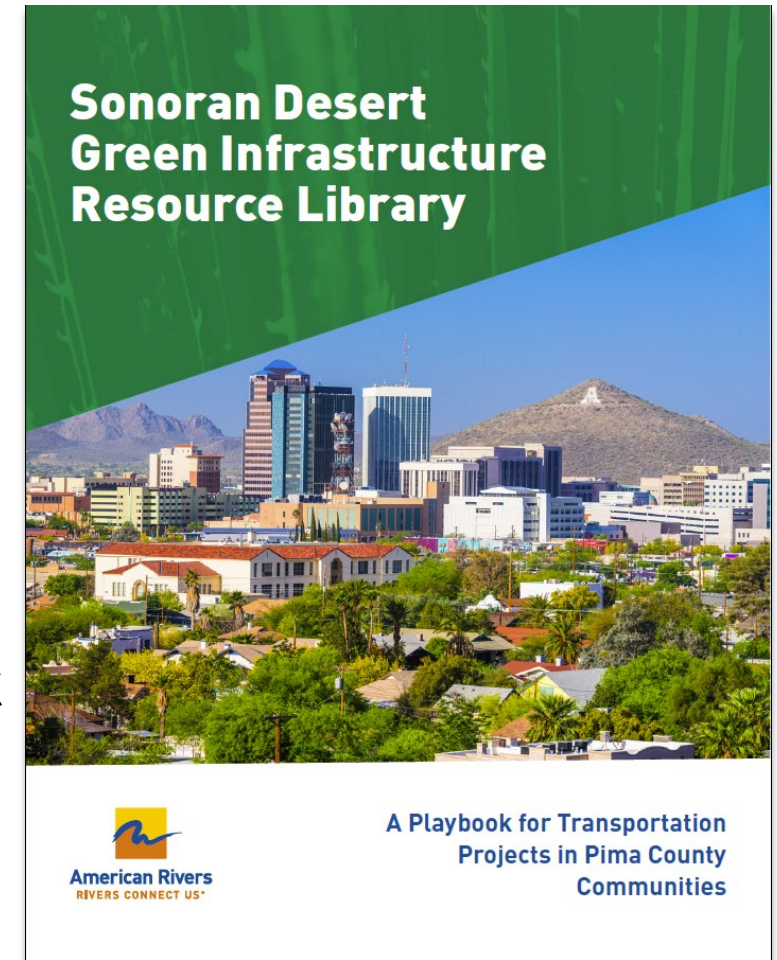
# »» PAG Accomplishments with Network

## PAST

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

## RECENT

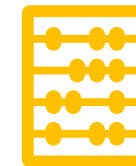
- [Sonoran Desert Green Infrastructure Resource Library](#): A Playbook for Transportation
- New heat and tree data development feedback
- Regional Green Stormwater Infrastructure Plan

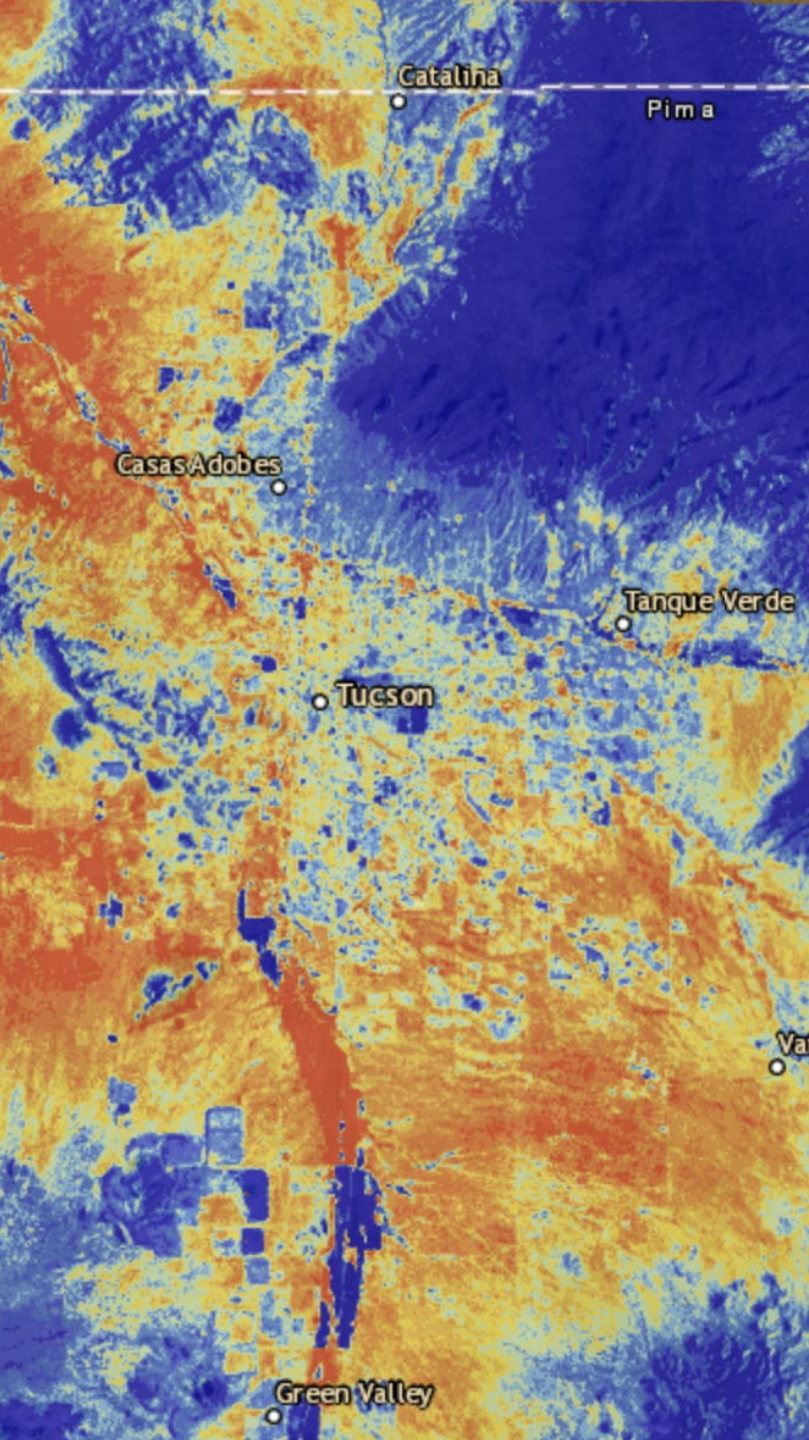




# >> GSI Plan: Geographic Data Analysis

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





# 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

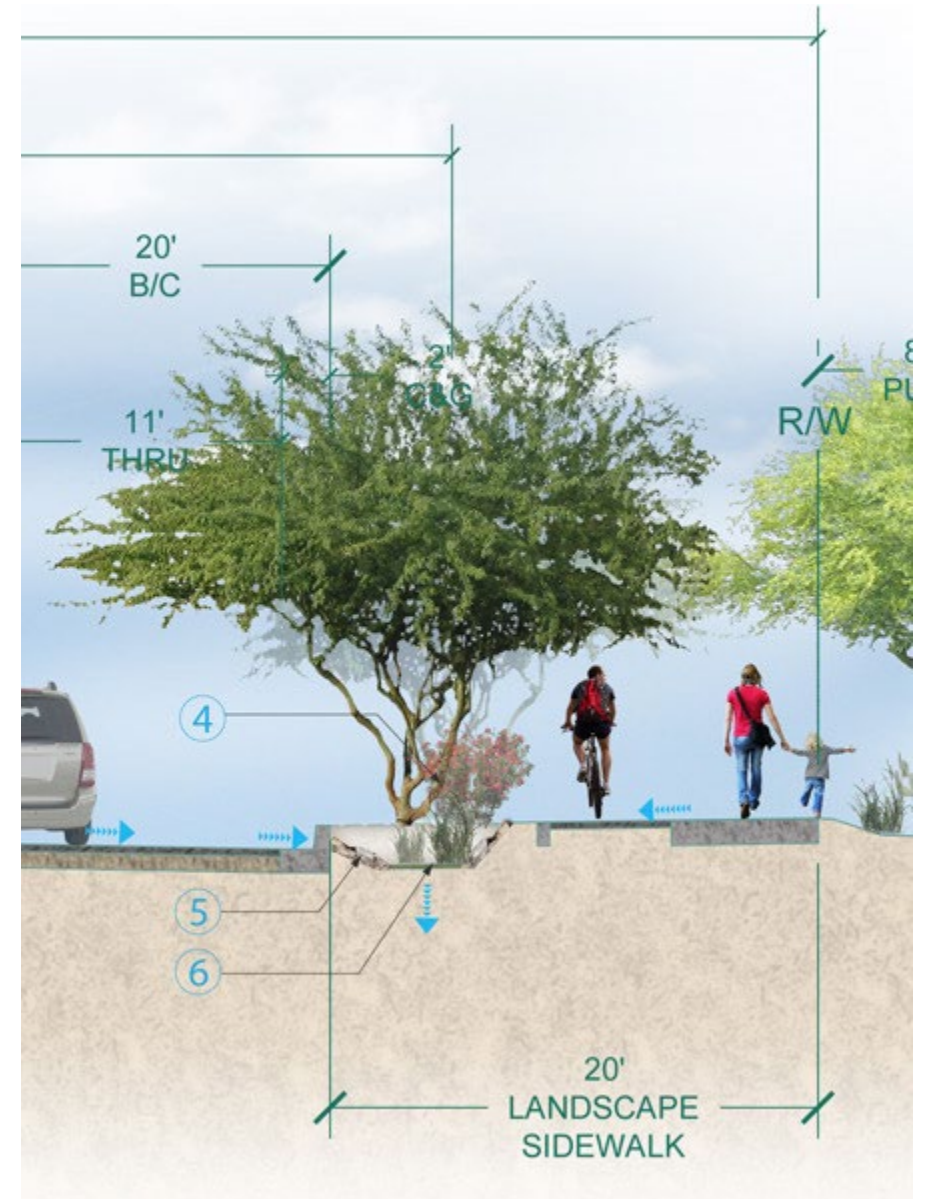
- Health and climate work
- Habitat, Shallow groundwater dependent ecosystems,  
Drought Response Planning (policies, rebates)
- Environmental Justice, Green space access, Workforce Development, Community feedback, Installer/Practitioner engagement
- Regional Standards and Specifications
- Certification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





Mead Mier-Welborn  
Sustainability Coordinator  
PAG  
MMier@PAGregion.com

# Questions and Discussion

To join LIDWG meetings please contact  
[LIDWorkingGroup@gmail.com](mailto:LIDWorkingGroup@gmail.com)





# Disclaimer

*This report and/or data was funded in part through grant[s] from the Federal Highway Administration and/or Federal Transit Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation. The contents of this report and/or data reflect the views and opinions of the author(s) or data source(s) who is responsible for the facts and accuracy of the data presented herein. The contents do not necessarily state or reflect the official views or policies of the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Arizona Department of Transportation, Pima Association of Governments (PAG) or any other State or Federal Agency. This report and/or data does not constitute a standard, specification or regulation. The information in this publication is provided on an “as is” basis, and there are no warranties, express or implied, including, but not limited to, any warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. There are inherent limitations to all reports and/or data presented. PAG does not provide any interpretation of the report and/or data provided herewith. In no event shall PAG be liable for any damages resulting from the use of the information. PAG provides the information in good faith and has endeavored to create and maintain accurate data. The users of this report and/or data are advised to use the information with caution and to independently verify accuracy.*