



SAT Committee

June 8, 2023

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Environmental & Sustainability Department

How we got here



2016

**1984-Present
Promoting
Xeriscape**

**2010 Tree City
USA
Designation**

**2021 Mesa
Climate Action
Plan**

**2009
Environmental
&
Sustainability
Created**

**2013/14
Began
Installation of
Green
Stormwater
Infrastructure**

**2023 Million
Tree Initiative**



Green Stormwater Infrastructure/ Low Impact Development



Mesa Urban Garden Curb Cuts & Rain Garden



Fiesta District Southern Avenue Road Diet & Stormwater Harvest Swales



SOTC 2021 Climate Action Plan

SOTC 2023 Million Tree Initiative





SOTC, Feb. 7, gave away
300 tree seedlings



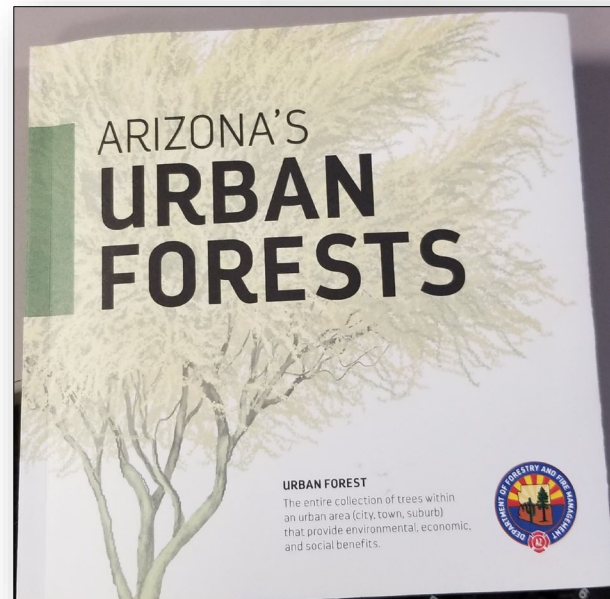
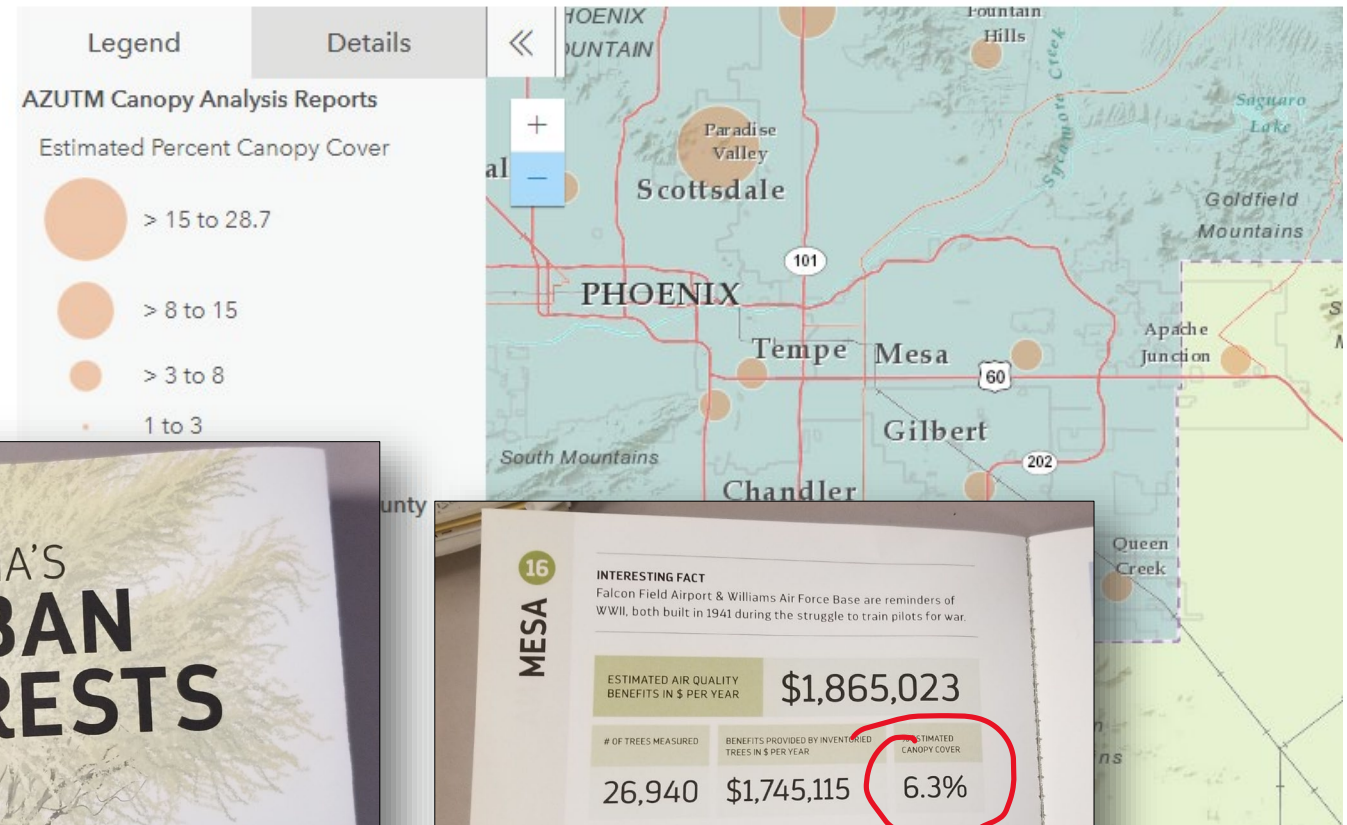
999,700 to go!



Science Behind Mesa's Million Tree Challenge

- Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management Canopy Map
- Preliminary assessment at 6.3%
- Canopy cover for Sonoran Desert, 15%
- Setting a goal at one million to be planted by 2050

Arizona Urban Canopy Map



16 MESA

INTERESTING FACT
Falcon Field Airport & Williams Air Force Base are reminders of WWII, both built in 1941 during the struggle to train pilots for war.

ESTIMATED AIR QUALITY BENEFITS IN \$ PER YEAR	\$1,865,023
# OF TREES MEASURED	26,940
BENEFITS PROVIDED BY INVENTORIED TREES IN \$ PER YEAR	\$1,745,115
ESTIMATED CANOPY COVER	6.3%

COUNTY	TOTAL AREA
Maricopa	133.13 sq mi
POPULATION	ELEVATION
460,950	1,243 ft



Trees Are Cool



Mesa has been a leader in implementing sustainable practices for many years. In 2021, the city launched a [Climate Action Plan](#) with bold but attainable goals. As a city, we have already begun shifting our operations to reduce our impact on the environment. Through small steps and changes, everyone can play a part in helping our community reach our Climate Action goals.

One way to make a big impact is to plant a tree. In addition to beautifying yards, parks, and shared spaces, trees have a significant role to play in providing shade, filtering greenhouse gas emissions, and helping to cool our community.

The Trees Are Cool initiative challenges every resident, community group and business to consider what they can do to help reach the goal of planting one million trees in Mesa by 2050. I encourage everyone to get involved in planting trees so we can maintain and grow a healthy, resilient community for generations to come.



John Gales

Help Us Grow a Cooler Community

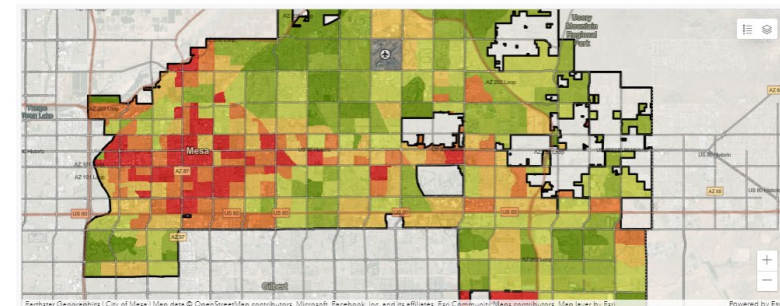
The Trees Are Cool initiative will increase Mesa's tree canopy coverage and help mitigate the effects of climate change. Help us achieve this goal by recording your newly planted trees.



Tree Planting Priority Map

The interactive map below illustrates tree planting priority areas by census block. It was created by analyzing six priority indicators.*

Click on the census blocks to view the data and use the tools in the top right to view additional reference layers.



* Average Temperature, Mean Fire and Medical Heat-Related Incidents, Percent Unemployed, Percent Over 65, Percentages Under 2005 Poverty and Percent Minority

Doing Your Part

- ☒ Record Your Tree
- ☒ Donate to Mesa Parks Foundation Tree Program

Find Great Ideas for Tree Selection

- ☒ Low Water Use Trees

How to Plant and Care for Your Trees

- ☒ All About Trees
- ☒ How to Plant
- ☒ How to Water

Stay Up To Date

Stay up to date with Mesa's tree initiative by signing up for our Living Green newsletter.

Email Address

Submit

Council Strategic Priority



Record Your Tree



We are growing a cooler community with your help. Provide the details below to submit your newly planted tree.

To report multiple tree plantings as an alternative to this individual web form, please email a spreadsheet to maps.info@mesaaz.gov with "City of Mesa Planted Trees" in subject line. Please include all relevant information from form below including planting date, location, and common name.

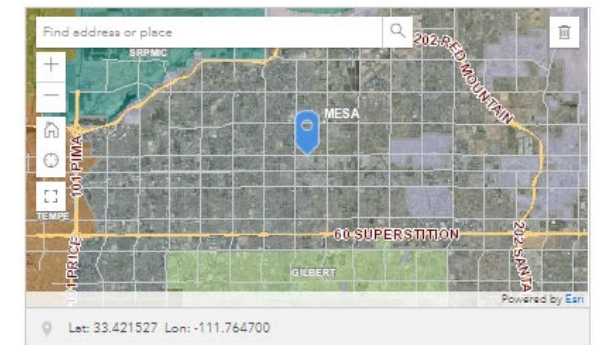
Tree - Common Name*

Choose the tree common name from the list. If you don't see your tree common name, choose "other" and enter the name.

Date Planted*

Tree Location*

Click on the map to move the pin to the location of the planted tree



Tree Photo

Upload a Photo of your planted tree (optional)

Name/Group

This optional field allows the City of Mesa to recognize individuals or groups who contribute to the Trees are Cool initiative.

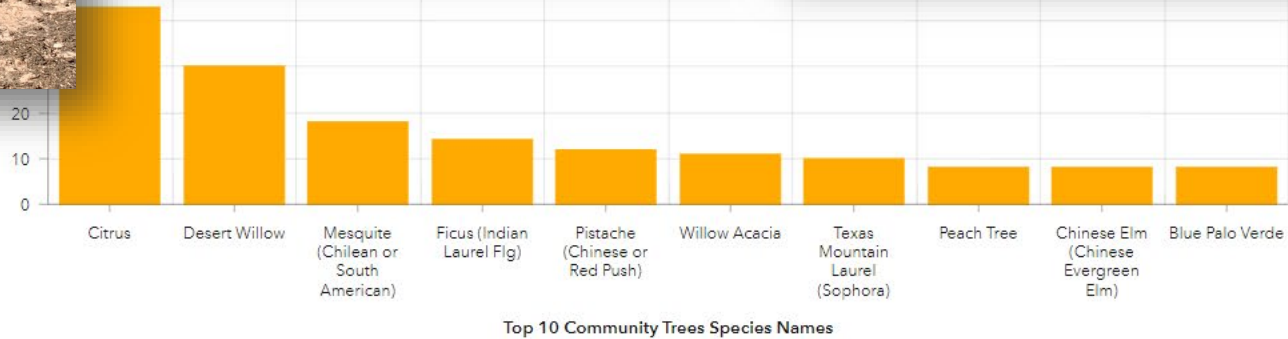
[MesaListens.com/trees-are-cool](https://mesalistsens.com/trees-are-cool)

Record Your Newly Planted Tree!

Trees Registered To Date



Community Trees
328



City-Owned Trees
26.7k

Momentum from Million Tree Initiative

Tree Plantings

- April 15, 1 Tree, Celebrate Mesa: Living Green Village
- April 19, 6 Trees, Emerald Park for National Volunteer Week Proclamation
- April 25, 20 Trees, Skyline Park

27 Trees Planted by Volunteers in Mesa Parks for Arbor Day

Tree Seedling Giveaways

- Feb 7 – 300 Tree Seedling – State of the City
- March 24 – 20 Tree Seedling Giveaway – Customer Appreciation at Spring Training Event – Solid Waste
- April 4 – 100 Tree Seedling Giveaway – Mesa Main Library, Heat-Proof Desert Gardening talk
- April 8 – 50 Tree Seedling Giveaway – Dobson Library, Creative Container Gardening talk
- April 26 – 40 Tree Seedling Giveaway – 6th grade STEM Chief Innovation Officers, City Manager's Office
- April 28 – 75 Tree Seedling Giveaway for Arbor Day – Arbor Day Celebration, Red Mountain Library

585 Tree Seedlings Distributed

Those who have reached out to us about Trees Are Cool since SOTC:

City Departments, Boeing, Shutterfly, PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), AT&T Fiber, Google Fiber, Superstition Springs Center, Arizona Nursery Association, Moon Valley Nurseries, V&P Wholesale Nursery

Great attention by the press





Emerald Park Tree Planting, April 19

PriceWaterhouseCoopers



Boeing, Shutterfly, Skyline High School,
Arizona Sustainability Alliance, West Coast Arborist

Skyline Park Tree Planting, April 25





Skyline High School Students with Trees Are Cool Shirts





Looking Ahead: Staffing

Urban Forester

- Subject matter expert
- Urban forest assessment/tree inventory
- Tree & Shade Plan
- Urban forest protection policies and codes
- Green stormwater infrastructure – growing without straining water resources
- Community education and planting projects
- Increase private urban forest investment
- Regional committees
- Manage grants/programs



Looking Ahead: Events

Tree Distribution Events

Electric Service Area and Citywide

- Four events per year (spring and fall)
 - Two for Electric Service Area
 - Two Citywide
- 600 5-gallon trees (150 per event)



Looking Ahead: Working in the Community

Planting Projects

- Streets
- Parks
- City Buildings
- Transit Spaces

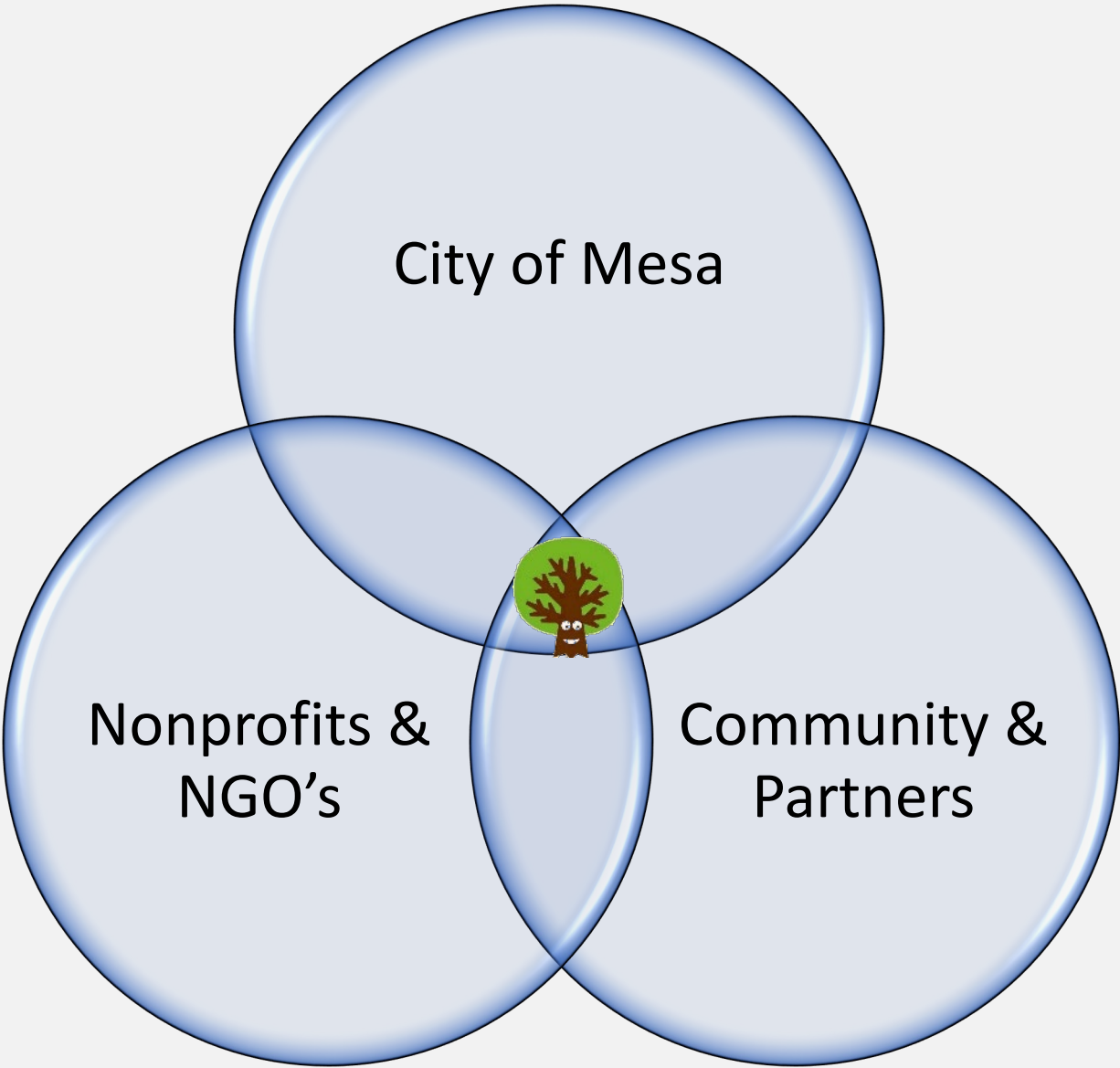


Looking Ahead: Working in the Community

Proposed Grants & Appropriations

- Senator Sinema Appropriation
- ASU IRA USDA Grant Proposal – Neighborhoods
- MPS IRA USDA Grant Proposal – Partnership for trees in schools
- State DFFM Grant Opportunities





Mesa Community College
April 2022





WHAT
COOL
IDEAS DO
YOU HAVE?



CITY OF MESA CLIMATE ACTION PLAN: FOR A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

[MESAAZ.GOV/CLIMATEACTION](https://mesaaz.gov/climateaction)





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