



SAT Committee

June 8, 2023

Laura Hyneman &
Donna DiFrancesco

Environmental & Sustainability Department

How we got here



1984-Present
Promoting
Xeriscape

2009
Environmental
&
Sustainability
Created

2010 Tree City
USA
Designation

2013/14
Began
Installation of
Green
Stormwater
Infrastructure

2021 Mesa
Climate Action
Plan

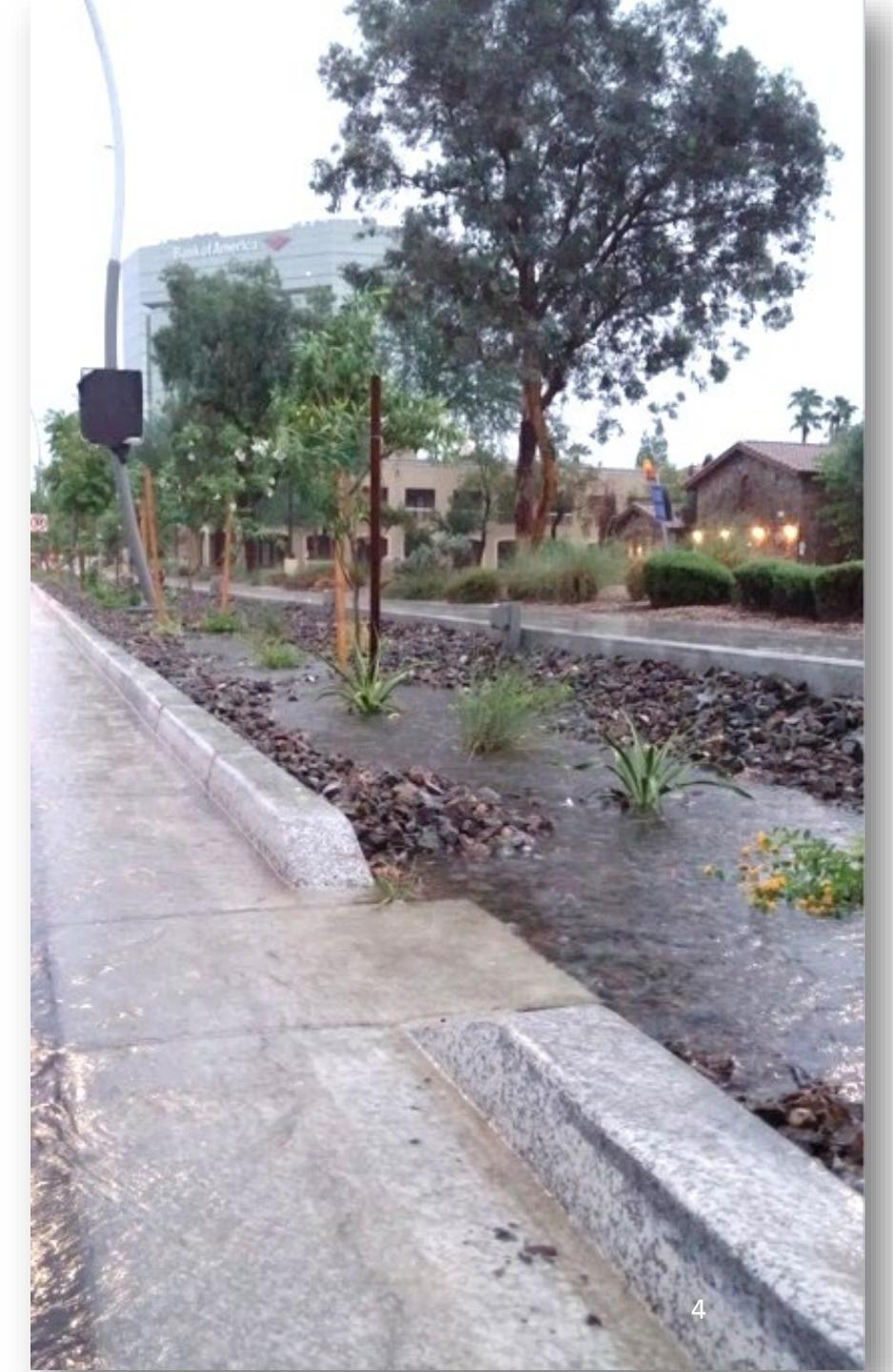
2023 Million
Tree Initiative



Green Stormwater Infrastructure/ Low Impact Development



Mesa Urban Garden Curb Cuts & Rain Garden



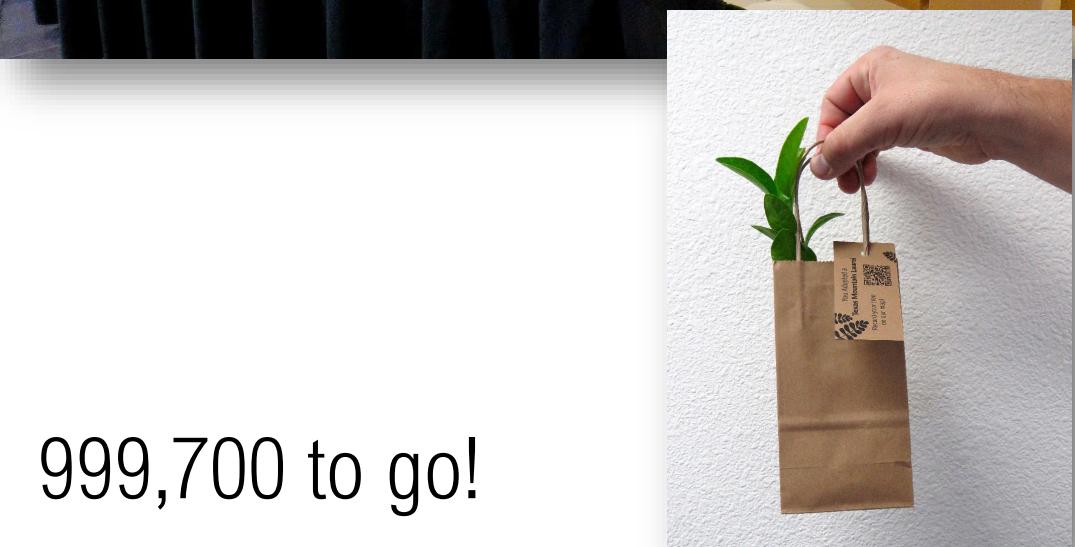
Fiesta District Southern Avenue Road Diet & Stormwater Harvest Swales



SOTC 2021 Climate Action Plan

SOTC 2023 Million Tree Initiative





SOTC, Feb. 7, gave away
300 tree seedlings

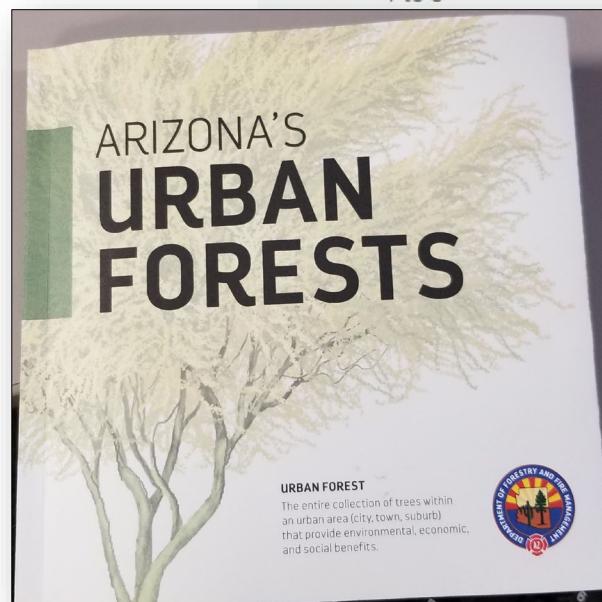
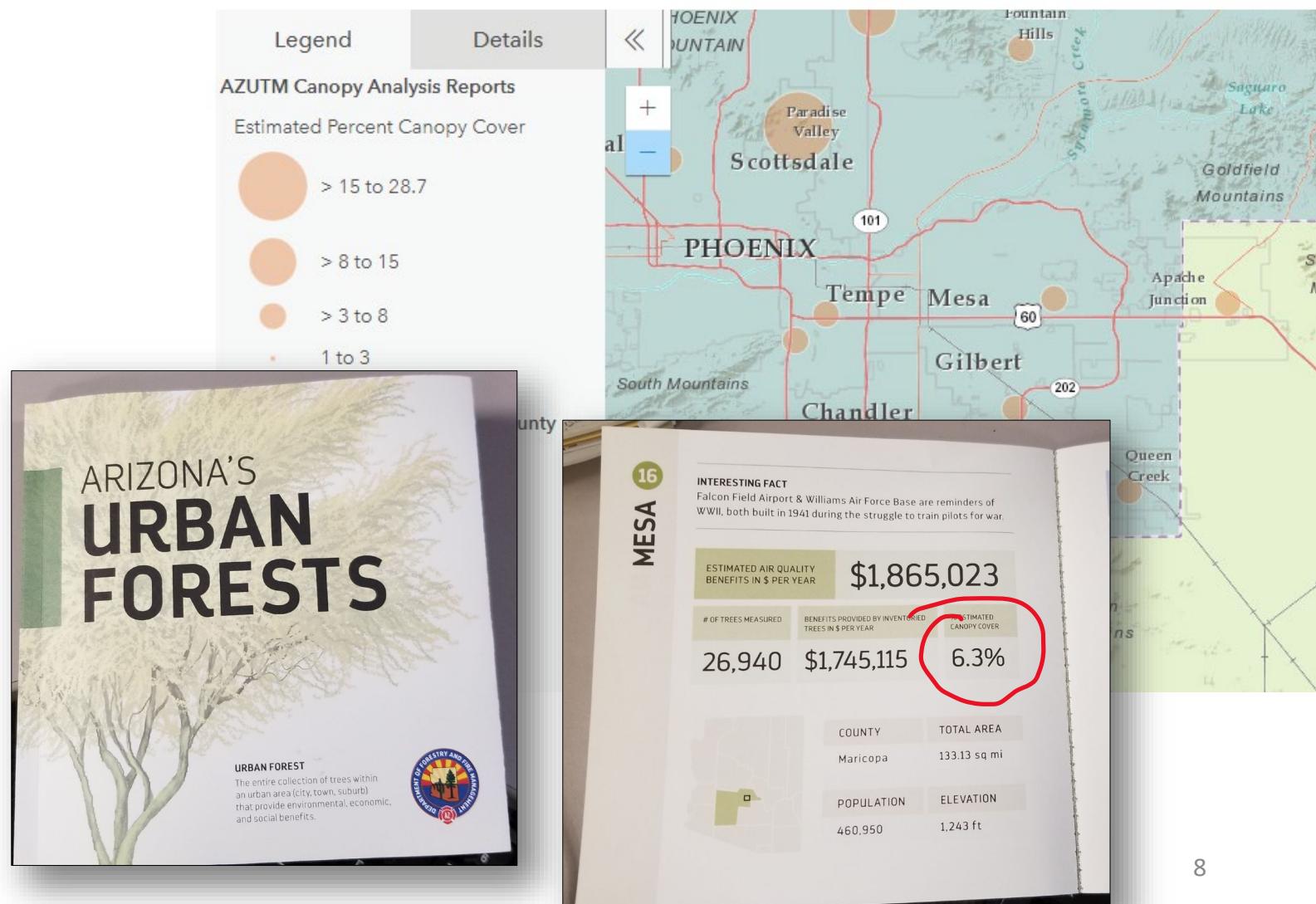
999,700 to go!

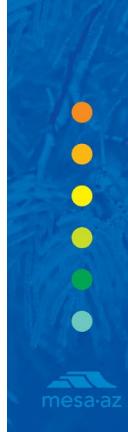


Science Behind Mesa's Million Tree Challenge

- 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](#)





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.



Help Us Grow a Cooler Community

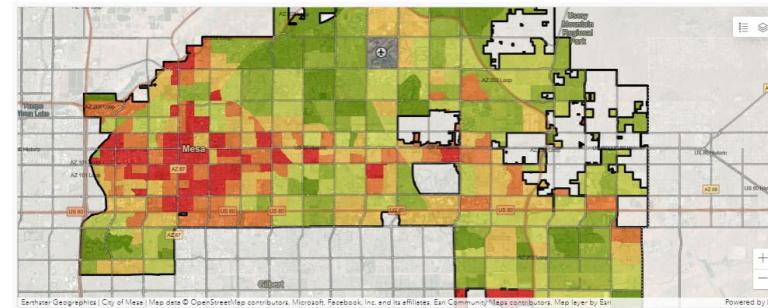
The Trees Are Cool initiative will increase Mesa's tree canopy coverage and help mitigate the effects of climate change. Help us achieve this goal by recording your newly planted trees.



Tree Planting Priority Map

The interactive map below illustrates tree planting priority areas by census block. It was created by analyzing air quality 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, Mesa Fire and Medical Heat-Related Incidents, Percent Unemployed, Percent Over 65, Percentage Under 200% 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 mesa.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.

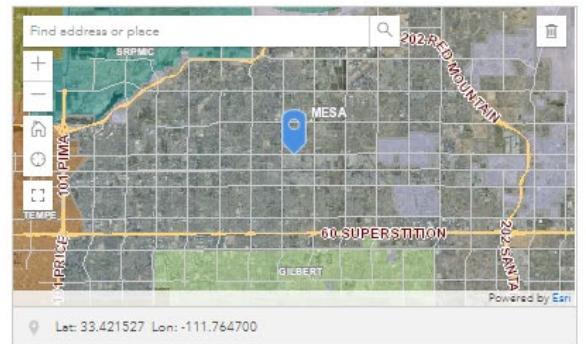
Tree - Common Name*

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)

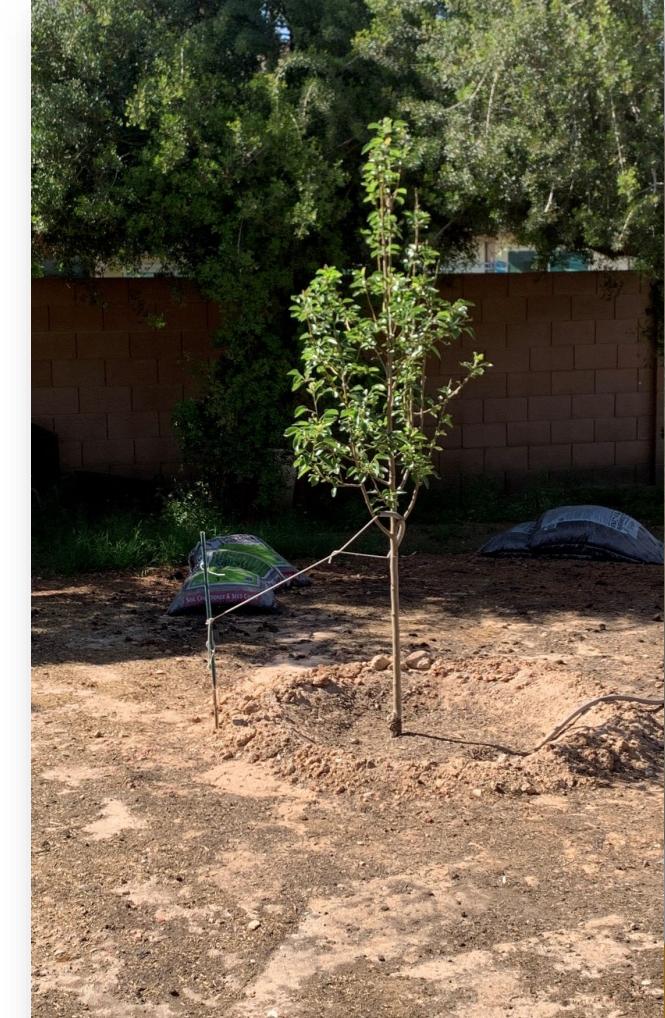
Drop image here or select image

Name/Group

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

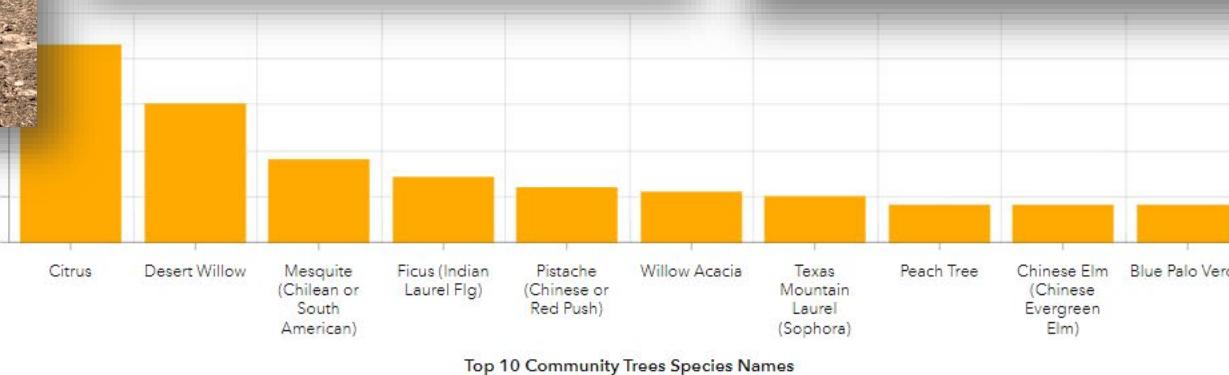
MesaListens.com/trees-are-cool
Record Your Newly Planted Tree!

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

Dobson Ranch Library Tree Seedling Giveaway, April 8



DESERT WILLOW

Chiopsis linearis

This small tree has beautiful flowers and no thorns. Ask the nursery for variations of color and form.

Select this tree...

- For streets, medians, or other limited planting areas
- To attract hummingbirds and pollinators
- As a medium accent or patio tree
- To cast summer shade and let in winter sun

AT-A-GLANCE

Size:	25' tall x 20' wide
Flower Color:	White, pink, or purple
Flower Season:	Spring to Fall
Foliation:	Deciduous
Water:	Low water use
Special Features:	Attracts Hummingbirds, Thornless
Native To:	Southwest US & Mexico

CITY OF MESA CLIMATE ACTION PLAN FOR A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY
MESAAZ.GOV/CLIMATEACTION

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

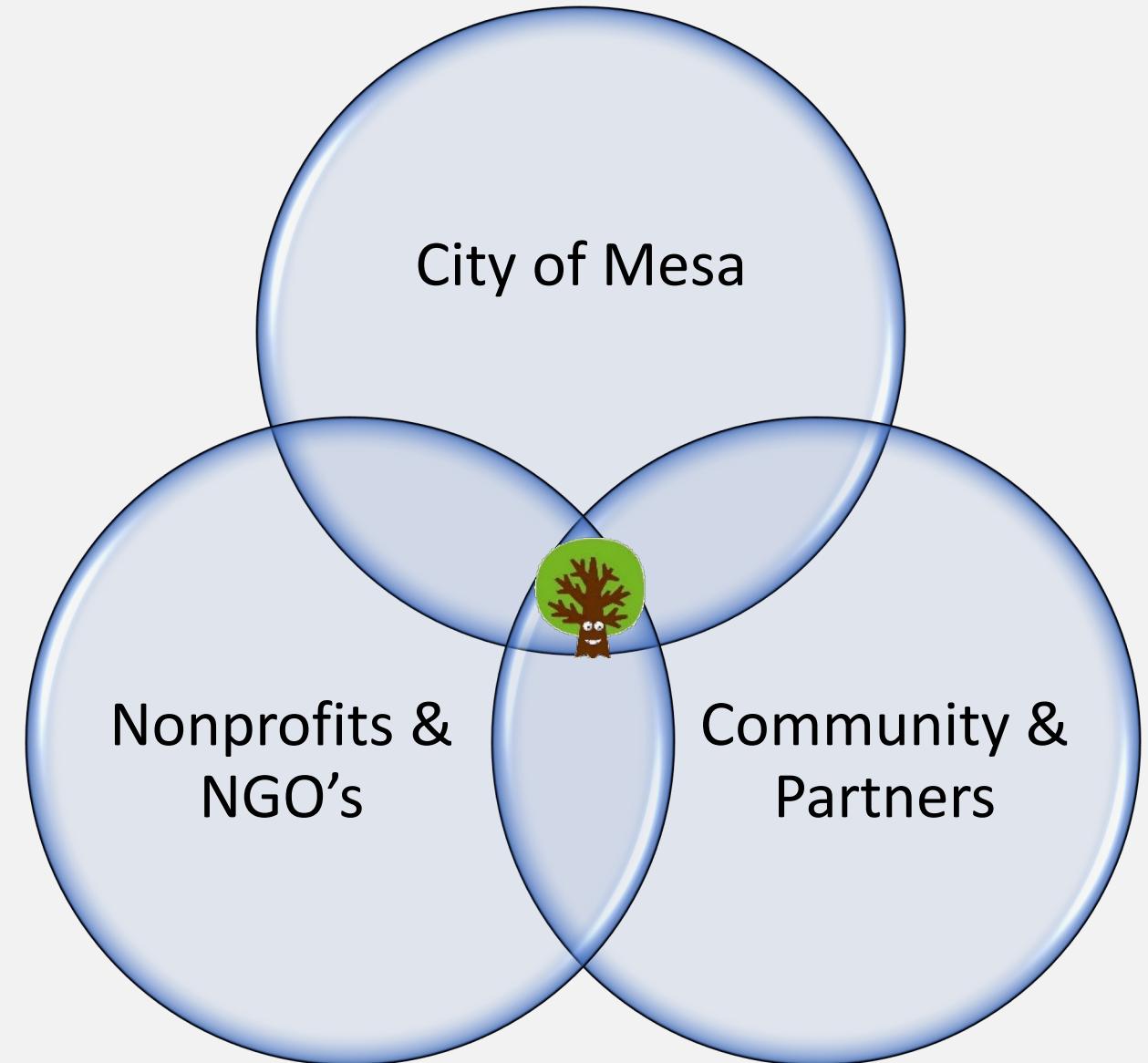


Looking Ahead: Working in the Community

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





mesa·az