

**Urban Waters Federal Partnership
Work Plan Update | October 2025**

Location: Rio Reimagined | Metro Phoenix, Arizona



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I. Background

The [Urban Waters Federal Partnership](#) (UWFP) was launched in 2011 to reconnect urban communities with their waterways. Through partnerships with federal agencies, local governments, Tribes, community organizations, and the private sector, the UWFP aims to improve water quality, restore ecosystems, and revitalize neighborhoods. This work plan reflects an expansive commitment and collaboration among multiple stakeholders that make up the Rio Reimagined partnership.

Rio Reimagined (RIO) spans over 55 miles of river-adjacent land along the Salt and Gila Rivers in central Arizona, encompassing Tribal, city, county, state, and federal jurisdictions. This workplan documents the current scope of partnership activity, key areas of alignment across jurisdictions that present opportunities for federal funding, regional strategies under development, and RIO community profiles that include current project lists. The workplan content itself is time-sensitive and is reflective of the period in which it was written. For status of RIO projects and activities, please see www.rioreimagined.org. This workplan is designed to:

- Align federal involvement with community-led initiatives
- Support long-term planning and governance capacity
- Provide a clear and compelling narrative for funders, agencies, and future partners

II. About the RIO Corridor



Since Rio Reimagined first launched in 2018, there has been an intentional focus on partnership building and the creation of a regional identity for the river corridor. Since then, local communities have invested in planning and projects. RIO is a regional effort traversing the urban metro Phoenix area that is advancing those efforts, and prior community engagement that will serve as a foundation for a future regional-scale vision plan that encompasses the Salt and Gila River corridors and includes municipal, county, and Native nations’ planning priorities.

Maricopa County, one of the fastest-growing counties in the nation, provides essential leadership and services across its unincorporated areas through flood control and regional parks. The Salt River Project (SRP) is also a key RIO partner. SRP manages the water supplies from the Salt and Verde River systems and provides water and power to central Arizona, and as such, contributes critical expertise in river restoration, renewable energy, and partnerships with Tribal nations and RIO communities.

III. Partners

At the heart of the Rio Reimagined initiative are a multitude of communities, organizations, and individuals who have come together to dedicate their time and resources towards the Rio Reimagined vision of a revitalized Salt and Gila River corridor. This informal partnership works to elevate and conjoin priorities, effectively creating a unifying movement for the region.

In 2017, the late Senator McCain convened elected leadership along the river corridor to sign a Statement of Intent. A coalition of six cities (Mesa, Tempe, Phoenix, Avondale, Goodyear, Buckeye), two Native nations (Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community and Gila River Indian Community), Maricopa County, and the Salt River Project (“RIO signatories”) committed to work together to actualize the river corridor as an iconic landmark for the Valley, fostering economic, recreational, and regional sustainability.

As part of this formal initiative launch in 2018, ASU was identified and accepted by public stakeholders as the “facilitator/convener” for the initiative, a role in which the ASU University City Exchange office continues to serve.

RIO Signatories

- Maricopa County
- Gila River Indian Community
- Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
- City of Mesa
- City of Tempe
- City of Phoenix
- City of Avondale
- City of Goodyear
- City of Buckeye
- Salt River Project

Rio Reimagined Partnership

Since 2018, a growing number of public (municipalities, tribal governments, county, state, federal), private, community-based, and non-profit organizations have been meeting every two months as an informal 'Rio Reimagined partnership.' Their work has involved the examination of precedent regional revitalization projects, discussion of local and federal resources for project needs, networking to establish working collaboration, and coalition-building to realize project efficiencies.

As an informal and inclusive coalition, the Rio Reimagined partnership also includes the network of federal agencies that support the Urban Waters Federal Partnership.



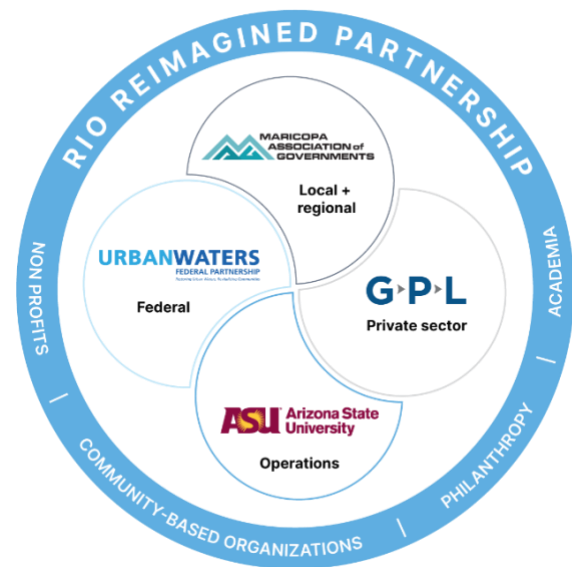
Rio Reimagined Core Operations Team

As the initiative has matured, a “Core Operations Team” has formed to strengthen and expand the organizational leadership of RIO. The RIO Core Operations Team includes ASU, the Maricopa Association of Governments, Greater Phoenix Leadership, and the RIO Ambassador to the Urban Waters Federal Partnership.

- **ASU, University City Exchange (ASU UCX)**

The [University City Exchange](#) is an extension of the ASU Office of University Affairs that brings the University’s research and discovery to life in the development of innovative, real-world, place-based applications to support the economic, social, cultural, and overall health of the communities it serves. In this role, the UCX applies best practices and “design thinking” to a wide array of complex challenges in the service of the University and its charter. Dedicated to advancing the Phoenix metro region, UCX provides creative and unique conceptualization, visualization, engagement, and execution of collaborative projects, partnerships, and initiatives with the goal of realizing thoughtful solutions for more resilient and sustainable futures.

- **Greater Phoenix Leadership (GPL)**



[Greater Phoenix Leadership](#) is an organization of leading CEOs in the greater Phoenix region, aligning leadership and resources at the intersection of the business, education, philanthropy, and public policy sectors to improve economic vitality and quality of life. Through its members, GPL works to push forward initiatives, public policy, and projects that will strengthen the future of Arizona.

- **Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG)**

The [Maricopa Association of Governments](#) is the Metropolitan Planning Organization and Council of Governments for the greater Phoenix region, encompassing a planning area of approximately 10,600 square miles. MAG Member Agencies include 27 cities and towns, 3 Native nations, Maricopa County, portions of Pinal County, and the Arizona Department of Transportation.

- **Ambassador to Urban Waters**

The Ambassador is the local liaison between Rio Reimagined and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Urban Waters Federal Partnership program. The Ambassador for RIO is funded by nine of the ten RIO signatories and two federal agencies.

IV. Regional Coordination & Strategy

The RIO corridor encompasses a range of landscapes, community identities, and challenges—from dense urban redevelopment zones to invasive species that challenge flood control measures and fire risk mitigation efforts. Across this diversity, the rivers themselves remain a unifying element.

Since the 2018 signing of the Statement of Intent, the initiative has had an intentional focus on partnership building and regional identity of RIO. This work has resulted in:

- Strong federal engagement and designation in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s [Urban Waters Federal Partnership](#) program, which serves as a gateway to federal resources
- The hire of an Ambassador to the Urban Waters Federal Partnership, a professional dedicated to supporting the work of community partners by building capacity for RIO-related projects and hosted at the Maricopa Association of Governments.
- Expansion of the Rio Reimagined Partnership to include public sector representation from all levels of government; Native nations; non-profit, community-based, and philanthropic organizations; private sector; and academia.

- Expanded emphasis on Rio Reimagined from the public sector within the corridor, from municipal bond investments focused on river redevelopment and trail connectivity, to new staff, and more focused planning for the RIO.
- An increase in discrete plans and projects within the RIO study area and an influx of over \$53 million in grant funding for RIO partner projects since 2018.
- Centralized Rio Reimagined communications, branding, and coordination of projects, partnerships, collaborations, events, and volunteer opportunities to connect communities to the river.
- A commitment by the Maricopa Association of Governments to develop an active transportation plan for Rio Reimagined.
- Efforts by Greater Phoenix Leadership to form a new 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the RIO initiative.

In addition to these indicators of regional impact, local projects and planning work have been underway within the RIO study area for years. These local projects, plans, and prior community engagement efforts will serve as a foundation for a future regional-scale vision plan for Rio Reimagined. A RIO Vision Plan can help us collectively to:

- Ensure meaningful community engagement and competitiveness for funding.
- Leverage current momentum of local interest and amplify for maximum impact.
- Connect and expand the impact of existing local projects.
- Identify and implement new regional projects.
- Create a regional sense of place and identity for river corridor.
- Align diverse priorities.

Current Regional-Scale Work Efforts

Regional Vision Planning

The development of a [RIO regional-scale vision plan](#) will be approached in phases. In June 2024, elected leadership of the RIO communities voiced their support for the initial phase to scope components, type and process of a regional plan for the river corridor. The process will:

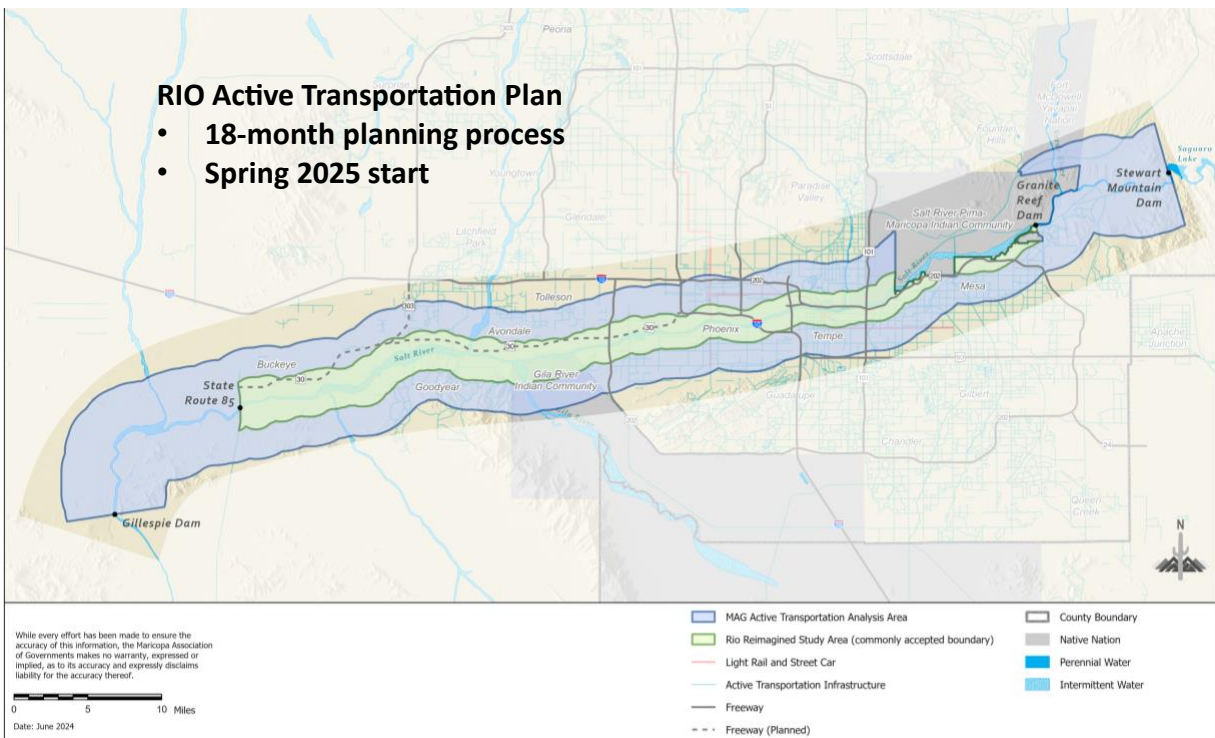
- Gather community input across jurisdictions and Tribal communities
- Surface shared values and priorities
- Inform a long-term, community-rooted vision for restorative environmental, economic, and community stewardship of the urban Salt and Gila River corridor.

RIO Nonprofit Social Impact Organization

The [Greater Phoenix Leadership](#) (GPL), in collaboration with Rio Reimagined partners, is supporting the development of a 501(c)(3) social impact organization. GPL has engaged a consultant team to assist the newfound organization as it is formally developed.

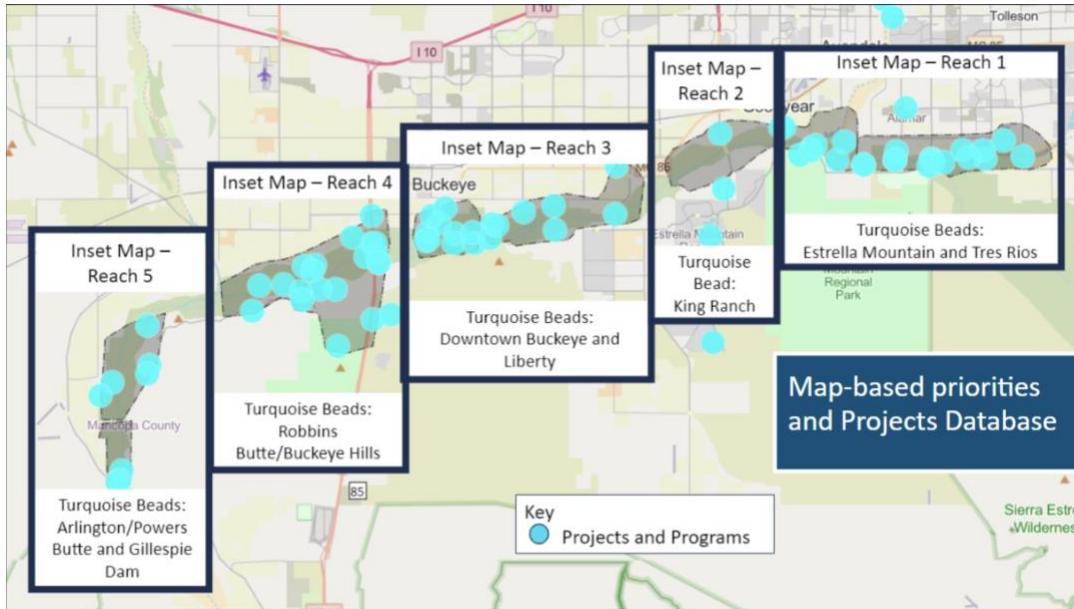
Active Transportation Plan

An [Active Transportation Plan](#), led by the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) and supported by Rio Reimagined partners, is advancing regional strategies for trail connectivity, riverfront access, and safe multi-modal transportation infrastructure by establishing vital links to neighboring communities and pinpointing essential enhancements to existing infrastructure. The study is underway and will be completed by Fall 2026.



Lower Gila River Collaborative

Operating within the western portion of the Rio Reimagined corridor, the [Lower Gila River Collaborative](#) (LGRC) is a place-based partnership advancing habitat restoration, invasive species management, and interagency collaboration. The LGRC released its Strategic Action Plan in 2024 for the next five years and includes map-based priorities, key strategies with specific actions, and additional resources and tools.



V. Emerging Areas of Alignment

While final priorities for Rio Reimagined will be determined through the upcoming vision planning process, RIO community profiles already highlight projects identified at the community level. Increasingly, these projects show common themes and shared objectives across multiple jurisdictions, pointing to opportunities for sub-regional or regional initiatives. Such alignment not only strengthens collaboration but also positions these projects to be more competitive for federal funding. Emerging areas of alignment include:

Riverfront Access and Mobility

- Shared interest in expanding access to river corridors for pedestrians, cyclists, and multimodal users
- Connectivity goals linked to economic development, public health, and safe infrastructure

Water and Habitat Restoration

- Restoration of riparian ecosystems, wetlands, and habitat corridors
- Invasive species management and water quality improvements

Brownfield Reuse and Economic and Workforce Development

- Reuse and remediation of river-adjacent properties
- Jurisdictions exploring creative redevelopment of former landfill and industrial parcels

Community Engagement and Governance Innovation

- Emphasis on community voices in planning processes
- Exploration of new governance models to manage corridor-wide efforts

Resilience and Conservation

- Flood mitigation, green infrastructure, and urban heat island reduction
- Attention to community in infrastructure and investment planning

VI. Community Profiles & Projects

Several jurisdictions within the Rio Reimagined corridor have developed a *Community Profile* that are included here as attachment or linked; they include a current project list¹ that outlines:

- Current projects and planning activities
- RIO-related infrastructure goals
- Local partnerships and planning strategies

Jurisdiction

[Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community](#)

Maricopa County

Avondale

Buckeye

Goodyear

Mesa

Tempe

¹ Project lists are current as of October 2025.



Rio Reimagined **MARICOPA COUNTY** Community Profile

I. PLANS/STUDIES

Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department (MCPRD)

- [Maricopa County Trails Master Plan](#) (2004)
- [Maricopa County Parks Vision 2030](#) (2023)
- [Estrella Master Plan Update \(2016-2036\), including trails](#)
- [Estrella Mountain Regional Park Master Plan Amendment](#) (2022)
 - Expansion of the existing Tres Rios Golf Course to provide golf programs for underserved youth in the Maricopa County communities.
 - May require trail rerouting.
 - Junior National Championship Golf Course – [Exhibit A](#) and [Exhibit B](#)
- [2024 Maricopa County Parks Natural Resources Master Plan](#)
- [1970s Maricopa County Open Space Map](#)
- 3-year Update to Estrella Mountain Regional Park Masterplan – 2025
 - [Engagement/Survey Site](#)

Flood Control District of Maricopa County (FCDMC)

- [Agua Fria Watercourse Master Plan](#)
- [El Rio Vision](#) – MultiAgency Review & Response to Planning & Policy Opportunities on the Gila River (1999)
- [El Rio Watercourse Master Plan](#) (2006)
 - [Overview, Final Report, March 2006 \(WCMP, ADMP\)](#)
 - [Attachment 7, Environmental Resources Report, Final Report, July 2003 \(WCMP, ADMP\)](#)
 - [Attachment 8, Funding and Implementation Strategies, Final Report, Revised April 2006 \(WCMP, ADMP\)](#)
 - [El Rio Scenery and Recreation Resources Data Collection and Analysis Report](#) (2004)
- [El Rio WCMP \(Technical Report - Riparian Restoration Framework for the Upper Gila River, Arizona\) Salt Cedar Management Plan](#) (Walton Family Foundation for the Gila Watershed Partnership of AZ)
- [El Rio Watercourse Master Plan, Landscape Management Guidelines \(WCMP\)](#) (EDAW with Avondale, Goodyear Buckeye, MCFlood Control; 2015) Rio Reimagined



- [El Rio Design Guidelines and Planning Standards, A Guide for Land Management and Implementation of the Watercourse Master Plan \(WCMP\)](#) 2015, J2 Matrix Design Group for Cities of Avondale, Goodyear, Buckeye, FCDMC, MCDOT
- [El Rio Vegetation Management Plan, Lower Gila River, Maricopa County, AZ, Volume 2: Data Collection and Analysis, Final Technical Report](#), 2016 Stillwater Sciences
- [2020 Floodplain Management Plan for Unincorporated Maricopa County - FINAL](#)
- [2020 Recommendations for Integrating Green Infrastructure into the Maricopa County Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan](#) (U.S. EPA technical assistance grant funded, with cities of Phoenix, Tempe, ASU Sustainable Cities Network, FEMA, Urban Waters, etc. Based on 2019 Workshop)
 - [References | GI/LID References](#)- presentations and links from 2019 Workshop
- El Rio Confluence Lake (2021)
 - Gila River FLO2D at Agua Fria River: Adverse Impacts Analysis – Grade Control and Water Impoundment Structure (2021)
- [Structure Evaluation for Integrated Water Resources Management Opportunities \(2022\)](#)
- El Rio Pilot Projects Maintenance and Monitoring Recommendations (2022)
- Best Practices for Alternative Flood Hazard Mitigation Measures
- Lower Gila River Collaborative – Partner Accomplishments 2024-2025
- FCDMC has identified opportunities for multiple GI strategies (2023)
- El Rio State Route 85 40-acre Pilot restoration site - document effective techniques of salt cedar removal (2017) and native tall pot planting (2018), with detailed costs and monitoring (2018-2023).
- [El Rio Confluence Lake Concept](#) – Feasibility Study- 2020 [You Tube Presentation](#) by FCDMC
- [2022 Evaluation of FCD Structures for 10 integrated water resource management strategies](#)
- [2019 Lower Gila River Science Assessment](#), prepared by GeoSystems Analysis Report, commissioned by Resources Legacy Fund
- 2020 USGS/ FCDMC Urban Waters Cooperative Matching Fund Grant: Surface & Ground Water Characterization of Native Vegetation for the Lower Gila River for the Rio Salado



Project- water quality sampling and monitoring to inform replanting of native species in RIO/LGRC restoration projects. Annual USGS funding of \$60K matched by FCDMC through 2024-25.

- FCDMC also participating with City of Phoenix/USGS Cooperative Matching Fund Grant downstream of 91st Avenue WWTP/Tres Rios Wetlands to evaluate base flows and seepage impact of inflows from treatment plant.
- Drone monitoring of restoration sites – Maricopa County has GIS technical team led by [Christopher Turner, GIS Analyst](#) that have met with LGRC partners to discuss multispectral drone operation and footage. Resource challenges include time, large amounts of data analysis, multi-agency coordination and work flows. MC GIS team met with Audubon/AZGFD and LGRC Monitoring Committee to discuss best practices, technology, etc. Audubon has new drone technology through RESOLVE/Resolution Copper grant (\$150K, 5 year term)

Planning & Development Department

- [Maricopa County Vision 2030 Comprehensive Plan](#) (2016). This plan covers a variety of topics that are important to this region's future, including land use, transportation, environment, economic growth, areas of future growth, open space, water resources, energy, and fiscal impacts. The plan includes strategies and policies to help address these important issues and ensure a strong and vibrant region for years to come. The County is currently preparing an update to this plan which is expected to be adopted in 2026.

II. PROJECTS

Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department (MCPRD)

- Estrella Mountain Regional Park (EMRP)
 - [New Campground](#) at Estrella Mountain Regional Park
 - Per the 2016 Master Plan, a [new campground](#) will be constructed in the area that once housed the rodeo arena and will include 50 camp sites.
 - Riparian Habitat Enhancement project (Spring/Fall 2023)
 - 100 acre tamarisk area on the north side of EMRP.
 - Funding from Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM). FCDMC provided tall pot trees to plant. MCPRD is responsible for maintenance.
 - MCPRD staff worked with FCDMC /GIS on monitoring protocols for invasive species projects.
 - El Rio Restoration project at Bullard Road
 - On MCPRD land; Dragonfly kiosk. FCDMC designed and built the site, but MCPRD maintains it.
 - EMRP Pollinator Garden (2022-2023)
 - Multi-year MCPRD project supported with Rio Reimagined Healthy Urban Rivers Ecosystem grant from DFFM, and catalyzed additional funds from



Arizona Forward (Super Bowl \$). Wildlife Habitat Council served as fiscal grant manager, and included Arizona Rock Products Association (ARPA) members (Vulcan) in public planting events.

- Trail Maintenance and Construction Project (2022)
 - COVID stimulus grant funded workforce development project
 - Four youth crews (24 people) partnered with American Conservation Experience (ACE) and Southwest Conservation Crew (SWCC) to do trail maintenance.



III. MISCELLANEOUS – EVENTS & FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

Maricopa County Parks and Recreation

- [Usery Mountain Regional Park](#) in Mesa has a great opportunity for future projects (pollinator garden? RIO events?) – there has been no RIO connectivity to date at this site. The National Forest Foundation and Lower Salt River restoration work are adjacent and could be partners. The location is on the south side of the Salt River, just east of the Granite Reef Dam, which may be outside the RIO study area. Potential to link McDowell CAP Trail to Maricopa Trail.
- [Buckeye Hills Regional Park](#) – just outside of the RIO study area, to the west of SR-85. MCPRD will be looking into the regional park amenity needs for Buckeye Hills in 2025 as part of the Park Master Plan Updates.
- [El Rio Confluence Lake Concept](#) – Feasibility Study (2020). MCPRD was seen as a possible lead for the Confluence Lake project. FCDMC sponsored a feasibility study, but said they would not serve as the lead.
- [Trail Town Program](#) - Maricopa Trail + Park Foundation (mctpf.org). Potential opportunity to include portions of the Sun Circle trail in the Sun Corridor Trail Town program.

Rio Reimagined **AVONDALE** Community Profile

PLANS

- [General Plan 2030 – - Adopted December 2023](#)
 - OS/Strategy 1: Complete a Comprehensive Master Trails Plan.
 - OS/Strategy 4: Require ped and bike circulation systems in new development to connect to public access trails.
 - Gila River Scenic District (p.48).
- [El Rio Design Guidelines and Planning Standards](#)
- [Active Transportation Plan](#)
- [Stormwater Management Plan](#)
- [Avondale Community Sustainability Plan](#)
- Update to [2017 Avondale Transportation Plan](#) – includes active transportation, community engagement tool -
- [Parks and Rec Master Plan Update Executive Summary](#)
- Parks, Recreation Facilities and Libraries Master Plan scheduled for adoption on February 10, 2025.
- Base & Meridian Wildlife Area Master Plan – currently in discussion with AZGFD, City of Avondale and MCDOT, whether this is needed. City Council funded a master plan in FY25.

PROJECTS:

- Base & Meridian – March 2023 post dam release cleanup work (requested \$630k federal earmark) and seeking IGA with AZGFD and others to master plan B&M/Monument Hill/Raceway area. RIO provided letter of support for federal earmark request.
- [Rio Reimagined Brownfields Coalition Grant-](#) 2020-2024, with cities of Phoenix and Tempe. Created brownfields inventory for Avondale (norm is ½ mile from the river). Changeover in staff impacted city involvement. Avondale’s area of study for grant funding expanded north up Agua Fria River due to lack of parcels along Gila River.
- Agua Fria Pedestrian Bridge – This bridge will connect trails within Friendship Park south across an ADOT drainage channel to trails under I-10 continuing south along the eastern embankment.
- Trail Crossings at MC85 / Buckeye Road and UPRR. Trail would drop off eastern embankment, run south under UPRR, cross river bottom east/west, continue south along western embankment under MC85.
- New Trailhead at MC85 – The city is investigating purchase of a parcel of County land to the south of MC85 and to the west of the Agua Fria River for a trailhead.
- Trail Crossing at Lower Buckeye – Trail connection north of Lower Buckeye with a HAWK signal to cross Lower Buckeye, then continuing along western levee to Festival Fields.
- For Salt/Gila River we currently have 1 project, to remediate an area owned by flood control, AXGFD, GRIC, and the State of Arizona, following damage from a high-water release two years ago.
- The city would like to partner with Rio Reimagined for funding to continue the existing trail system along the north side of the Salt in Phoenix through to the three rivers confluence and continuing north along the Agua Fria.

Rio Reimagined **AVONDALE** Community Profile

ASSETS/INFRASTRUCTURE

- [Phoenix Raceway](#) – international motorsport track on banks of Gila River / Base & Meridian, which hosts multiple NASCAR events.
- [Alamar Community](#) – large masterplan community 1 mile north of Gila River.
- [State Route 30](#)
- [Avondale Water Reclamation Facility](#) – the city recharges 100% of their effluent as well as their surface water supplies in the Agua Fria River corridor, creating a supply for groundwater pumping, landscape irrigation, use at parks, etc. The plant is at 4800 S Dysart Rd, on the east side of the Agua Fria, 1.2 miles north of the Gila River.
- [Festival Fields Park](#) – located at 101 E. Lower Buckeye Road, adjacent to the Agua Fria – phase 2 development includes a trailhead; trail connectivity to El Rio Trail (planned), Sun Circle and Maricopa Trails.
 - Salt Cedar tamarisk removal is an issue adjacent to park¹
- [Jimmie Johnson Bridge/ Jimmy Johnson Drive](#)- located south of Southern Avenue and north of the Phoenix Raceway crossing over Trios Rios Greenway.
- [Base and Meridian Wildlife Area](#)- 200 acres of riparian area on the north and south banks of the Gila River, at 115th Avenue in the City of Avondale, with bordering communities of Phoenix and Gila River Indian Community. City covers all O&M expenses – no funding from AZGFD.
 - City of Avondale Parks organizes [bimonthly “Tres Rios Clean-up” events at Base and Meridian Wildlife Area](#). The City also has a history of organizing “Plogging” events (walkers/runners collecting trash) with help from school districts.
 - 2021 Planning Manager expressed interest in an IGA with AZGFD and MCFCD to address management needs and funding.
 - Site of significant tamarisk, invasive plant species issues. AZGFD and GRIC have both coordinated burns of tamarisk in this area.
 - Parks Department challenged by illegal use of area, trash, lack of funds for communication. Interest in ‘Wise Water Stewards’ program with conservation messaging through schools.
 - High public use of area, but no city budget for water quality testing. ADEQ and MS4 plan- new requirement stormwater characterization study - 78 diff chemicals to characterize - any funding or support for this would be of interest as City does not have budget for it.
 - Site of annual [Tres Rios Nature Festival](#), large public riverfront event with 4000+ attendees, dedicated to recreation (kayaking, etc.) and conservation education, with active Rio Reimagined engagement and partners.

¹ Identified as possible opportunity for USACE Silver Jackets Program—invasive species removal plan.

Rio Reimagined **AVONDALE** Community Profile

RESOURCES/MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS OF INTEREST

- Areas of interest for Planning Division: SR30 access for large residential lots and ecotourism; access near Phx Raceway; recreational programming; partner (AZGFD) funding for trail improvements. Connected trail from north Avondale along Agua Fria River to the south side of Festival Fields.
- [Avondale Connect](#) website – public information site on current and future city projects.
- [Rio Reimagined | City of Avondale \(avondalez.gov\)](#)
- Economic Development – [AvondaleEDGE](#) website lists “Specialty Districts”
 - Old Town Avondale, bisected by Union Pacific Railroad, historic small businesses, parcels along the train tracks are opportunities.
 - Health Tech Corridor along McDowell.
- December 2025 - City of Avondale released an RFP for a river masterplan of their Gila River and Agua Fria reaches of the Rio Reimagined study area
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Rio Reimagined **BUCKEYE** Community Profile

PLANS/STUDIES

- [El Rio Vision](#) (1999): Avondale, Buckeye, Goodyear & Maricopa County convened as the El Rio Partnership to create the El Rio Vision – encompassing 17.5 miles – to address flood risk, identify multi-use opportunities, and restore riparian habitat. This effort produced several plans to implement the El Rio Vision, including the [El Rio Watercourse Master Plan \(2006\)](#), [El Rio Design Guidelines & Planning Standards \(2015\)](#), and the FCDMC’s [Vegetation Management Plan \(2016\)](#).
- [Imagine Buckeye 2040 General Plan](#)
- [El Rio District Area Plan](#) – the primary focus of this plan is to support implementation of the 1999 El Rio Vision and the El Rio Watercourse Master Plan. The El Rio District Area Plan is referred to as a “Vision Plan” for Buckeye’s El Rio District and the Gila River. The City’s main concentration over the next 20 years will be planning the connection from Downtown to the river and planning for the future SR30/I-11 corridor and various recreation, open space, and economic development opportunities.
 - Sand and Gravel Reclamation Guidelines
 - Arlington Wildlife Area In-Lieu Fee Program (canceled because credits were affected by 404 permit issues).
- [El Rio Design Guidelines and Planning Standards \(2016\)](#)
- [Parks and Recreation Master Plan](#) 2024-25 Update to 2016 plan: [Buckeye Parks and Recreation Master Plan \(planbuckeyeparks.com\)](#)
- [Connect Buckeye Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan \(2019\)](#)
- [Buckeye Wildlife Corridors Best Practices Guide \(2021\)](#)
- Sampling and Analysis Plan and Quality Assurance Project Plan Addendum: Buckeye-S.Miller Rd. 400-46-010 Buckeye, Targeted Brownfields Assessment (40 acre Priority Pilot Project)
- WaterSmart Land Planning workshop with City of Buckeye - Sonoran Institute/Babbitt Center
- 2024 [Updated Inventory of Brackish Groundwater in Arizona - Study Now Available | Sponsor: Arizona Department of Water Resources \(ADWR\) | INFO](#)
- [Buckeye Downtown Specific Area Plan](#)
- [White Tank Mountains Regional Connectivity Initiative & Conceptual Wildlife Linkage Report \(2024\)](#) – funded by City of Buckeye among others, to identify wildlife corridors in master-planned residential development in north part of City. Relates to residential development pressures and planning.
- [2021-23 City of Buckeye/US Bureau of Reclamation Hassayampa River Study](#) – Assessing Low Impact Development for Stormwater Management. City and USBOR studied use of low-impact development (LID) features for stormwater management on the west side of the White Tanks within and above developed areas. Goal was to develop an LID Handbook and conceptual groundwater manual.



Rio Reimagined **BUCKEYE** Community Profile

PROJECTS

- **PRIORITY:** 40 Acre Pilot Project¹ – restoration efforts challenging to date. Goal is to design and install public trailhead on city-owned parcel for passive and active recreation.
 - DFFM funded original salt cedar project; then stinknet infestation treatment in 2023.
 - City staff are hoping to include in future CIP. Site is managed by the Community Services Dept. Funded by DFFM.
 - Buckeye grants manager in Finance Dept. looking at funding for 40-acre site. Received funds for a Brownfield Assessment Report, which is now completed.
 - Late 2023 – RFP for recreation programming along the Gila River, with 40-acre trailhead, trails connectivity to regional parks.
- Groundwater Supply: Opportunity for brine wetland projects. City contact: Water Services Department.

ASSETS / INFRASTRUCTURE

- Wastewater Treatment Plant - major infrastructure asset adjacent to Gila River. Stormwater capture onsite with Spreading Recharge basin (MCFCD interest).
 - Buckeye Levee is a city manager initiative—not in Buckeye but in the planning area. \$800K study with MCFCD identified 7 options. Hybrid option (Levee + restoration) was selected. USACE didn't prioritize it for funding. Would have reduced the flood plain by 4000 acres. O&M funding was the challenge. Federal funding dried up along with promises of support.
 - MCFCD has identified opportunities for multiple GI strategies (2023)
 - [2023 USACE \(WRDA\) funded design and construction of infrastructure improvements at the plant.](#)
- [Robbins Butte Wildlife Area](#). Owned and managed by AZGFD. State activity: invasive species removal & native planting; burrowing owl habitat; interpretive trail signage; Maricopa Trail alignment with MC. Aerial footage of RBWA: <https://youtu.be/xQ9VCVD-pyU>
 - 2021: AZGFD was researching biochar pilot, using tamarisk cuttings, and a kiln at Robbins Butte, using prison labor to run it. DFFM was in discussion.
- Hidden Lake - a 120-acre privately owned event venue, with a 60-acre lake, between downtown Buckeye and Gila River. Flooded and severely damaged in early 2023 with dam releases- now closed. City remains highly interested in recreational development around the lake.

RESOURCES/MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS OF INTEREST

- 2021 Interest in applying for [Regional Conservation Partnership Program](#) (RCPP) through NRCS: agricultural producers critical as they will put lands forward for conservation. Strategy to use restoration projects and BWCCD.
- [City of Buckeye Interactive Maps](#)

¹ Identified as possible opportunity for USACE Silver Jackets Program—invasive species removal



Rio Reimagined **BUCKEYE** Community Profile

- LGRC Mapping of Reaches: Buckeye is primarily in Reach 3 & 4. In Reach 3, there is high agriculture use. Active pumping by BWCCD. High level wildlife values due to marsh habitat. Priorities: Recreation assets and access to river. Reach 4 is currently mostly natural riparian conditions in need of invasive species removal, which would create open water & recreation opportunities.



Rio Reimagined **GOODYEAR** Community Profile

PLANS/STUDIES

- [El Rio Vision](#) (1999): Avondale, Buckeye, Goodyear & Maricopa County convened as the El Rio Partnership to create the El Rio Vision – encompassing 17.5 miles – to address flood risk, identify multi-use opportunities, and restore riparian habitat. This effort produced several plans to implement the El Rio Vision, including the [El Rio Watercourse Master Plan \(2006\)](#), [El Rio Design Guidelines and Planning Standards \(2015\)](#), and the [Vegetation Management Plan \(2016\)](#).
- [2023 Parks & Recreation Master Plan](#)
- [Goodyear General Plan 2035](#)
- [El Rio Confluence Lake Concept](#) – Feasibility Study
 - [El Rio Confluence Lake Concept Stakeholder Meeting 11 19 2020 \(youtube.com\)](#)
- [Bullard Wash Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan](#)

PROJECTS

- Priorities identified in March 4th 2024 AG 1:1 meeting (updated December 2024)
 - Trail McDowell Road south to Lower Buckeye Parkway (Ballpark Village) - 50059 - Bullard Wash Trail - Extension to Ballpark. In-Design. Construction Fall 2026 – Winter 2027. There may be funding constraints which might cause phasing to be required if other funding sources are not identified. City anticipates a mix of bond funding and budget requests when budget is adopted for FY26 in June 2025. Will know in June 2025 if grant funding might be needed. Too early in process as of 2024-12-16 to know the grant needs/impact.
 - Bullard Wash Trail —Lower Buckeye Parkway to the Gila River connection (not planned)
 - Multi-use path on Estrella Bridge—northbound and southbound grade separated pathway.
 - Capital Improvement Project underway. 42026 - Estrella Parkway, Vineyard Avenue to MC85 – Spring 2026 – Summer 2028 (Completion). City funded.
- RIO Vista Trailhead – east of Bullard Avenue along Vineyard.
 - No trail to connect trailhead to, so no need at this point.
 - There is an existing trailhead with minimal improvements that was done as part of the pilot project. No future enhancements needed until regional trails are closer to this location.
- Rio 1900 (Formerly known as [King Ranch](#))
 - Private development which contemplates the development of a trail corridor along the south bank of the Gila River, from Estrella Parkway on the east to the western city limits/project limits.
- [Brine Wetlands Pilot Project](#) (status?)
 - This project is not feasible. The pilot did not have the intended results.



Rio Reimagined **GOODYEAR** Community Profile

- New pipeline in the works to take brine water from the 157th Avenue Wastewater Treatment Plant west to Palo Verde Nuclear Plant as a means to free up additional wastewater plant capacity.

ASSETS/INFRASTRUCTURE

- [Maricopa County Estrella Mountain Regional Park](#) – recreation / education / events / Pollinator Garden project. EMRP Master Plan planned for 2025.
- [Phoenix Goodyear Airport](#) – owned and operated by City of Phoenix since 1968 as a general reliever airport. Located north of Gila River at 1658 South Litchfield Road. [2018 Airport Master Plan](#) completed.
- [Entertainment District: Goodyear Ballpark](#) (Cactus League Spring Training facility).
 - The Ballpark Village area is within 2-miles of the banks. The Bullard Wash Trailhead extension will connect the Ballpark to Goodyear's Downtown (GSQ) which is located near 150th Drive and McDowell Road (approximately 2-miles north of Goodyear Ballpark).
- [Estrella Parkway Bridge - Widening project](#)
- [Hidden Lake](#) - 120 acre privately owned event venue, with a 60 acre lake, between downtown Buckeye and Gila River. Flooded and severely damaged in early 2023 with dam releases- now closed. City remains interested in recreational development around the lake.



Rio Reimagined MESA Community Profile

ACTION REQUESTED BY JANUARY 10, 2025

1. Please confirm whether the information below for the City of Mesa is complete. Please add any missing information and additional context as-needed in either track changes or comments. **For example, how can we capture all of the recent existing conditions analysis and potential for Rio Reimagined work priorities that the City has compiled in recent months?** For any item listed without a link, please provide a link (if available) or provide a PDF attachment. Once this list is deemed complete, we will begin drafting summaries for each plan, project, etc. for your review.
2. Please identify where there may be funding needs related to the river corridor for the City of Mesa (using comment bubbles and/or track changes). Any plan, project, etc. identified as needing funding will be included in the Urban Waters Federal Partnership work plan update.

PLANS/STUDIES

- [Mesa 2050 General Plan](#)
 - Place Types include Parks/Open Space, Rural Residential and Industrial
 - No Specific strategies on Rio Reimagined, but Placetypes support Rio related Projects
 - As the Action Plan is developed (anticipated September 2025), specific actions related to Rio Reimagined may be included
- Mesa [Climate Action Plan](#)
 - The [Mesa Climate Action Plan \(MCAP\) Implementation Plan](#), Appendix B (link: https://issuu.com/cityofmesa/docs/mesa_climate_action_plan-compressed?fr=sNGQ00TixODixOTA), describes the MCAP Aspirational Goals: Carbon Neutrality, Renewable Energy, Waste Diversion, and Climate-Ready Community. Six focus areas organize Targets and Strategies – Energy, Air Quality, Urban Heat Mitigation, Water Stewardship, Materials Management, and Sustainable Food Systems.
 - Strategies will evolve over time as new technologies are developed and as new Strategies are developed. The MCAP Implementation Plan is an easy to use guide and reference.
- – any specific references to RIO or river-related activity that should be captured?
- [Parks, Recreation, and Commercial Facilities Comprehensive Plan](#)

EXISTING PROJECTS

- **West Mesa River Heat Action Grant – 2020-22**, urban forestry project funded by AZ Dept of Forestry and Fire Management Grant, secured by Rio Reimagined.
 - Washington Escobedo neighborhood – culturally significant neighborhood with legacy leadership.



Rio Reimagined **MESA** Community Profile

- Bonneville Environmental Foundation sent \$10K of Meta funding to Arizona Sustainability Alliance for their urban forestry curriculum teacher training of Mesa Public
- **Growing the Next Generation of Tree Stewards Grant – 2024-2029**, urban forestry education and planting projects funded through IRA by US Forest Service, through Trust for Public Land (pass-through agency). Partners:
 - Mesa Public Schools – elementary, junior high, and high schools located in disadvantaged neighborhoods identified in the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool CEJST. Several schools are within RIO project boundaries.
 - Arizona Sustainability Alliance – Project lead, non-profit, and contracted project manager.
 - The Nature Conservancy – supporting NGO.
 - Trust for Public Land – Partner and pass-through funding agency.
 - The City of Mesa – Potential update to the Mesa Zoning Ordinance related to tree canopy for private development
- **Urban Community Forestry Regional Grant through ASU – 2024-2029**. urban forestry education and planting projects funded through IRA by US Forest Service, led by ASU. Workshops to be held in Mesa neighborhoods. Neighborhoods may be in RIO project area.
- **Mesa Youth Climate Action Fund** projects, funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies. Microgrants of \$1,000 - \$5,000 for youth to implement climate projects. Several projects were completed and are planned within the RIO project boundaries.

ASSETS/INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Mesa Water Reclamation Plant** – discharge treated effluent to Salt River (south bank), significant habitat created; opportunity for public access to site to enjoy wildlife and foster a shared understanding of how to create and care for healthy riparian areas. Release of effluent may change in the future.
- **Mesa Water Reclamation Plant** - biogas capture project. Phase 1, Flare to Fuel, construction nearly complete, captures biogas generated at the plant, treats biogas to pipeline quality, and injects it into natural gas pipelines for designated reuse by Mesa's Solid Waste vehicles (trash trucks). Phase 2, Food Waste to Energy, in design, will recover food waste, add to anaerobic digesters to increase biogas production. Link to information: <https://www.mesaaz.gov/Government/City-Projects/Food-Waste-to-Energy> Funding for implementation needed. Opportunity for community education on waste reduction, waste recovery, and the circular economy.



Rio Reimagined **MESA** Community Profile

- [Riverview Park](#)- opportunities to connect programming, events, educational signage, etc. to Rio Reimagined – opportunity presented by this asset has not formally been discussed with the City at this point. Interest by some community members in adding permanent and temporary public art, enhanced walking paths (Nick Willis, former Chair, Mesa Museum & Cultural Advisory Board, referred by Tim Boyle). Board would be good contact for RIO projects.
- [Rio Salado Path](#) is mentioned on page 98 shared-use pathway along the Salt Riverbank for walking, running and bicycling. It now connects Riverview Park, Sloan Park and Mesa's Riverview shopping center to Tempe Town Lake.
- [Usey Mountain Regional Park](#) - large regional Maricopa County Park in Mesa, on the south side of Salt River. Opportunities for RIO events, pollinator garden, educational signage, recreational access. Adjacent to Tonto National Forest.
- Mountain Visa Trail- Currently under construction located at 3932 N. Recker Road and improvements include a one mile, 10-foot earthen trail with three shaded lookout nodes, a 1/8(+/-) foot ADA concrete sidewalk loop with botanical garden, and a small 6 parking space lot.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Urban Forestry program: The “Million Trees” Initiative | Trees Are Cool is an urban heat mitigation program that has received multiple grants and is a Council priority. More information in the “Projects Needing Funding” section below. Note: Tiger Mountain Foundation and AZSA are both active non-profits working with Mesa on urban forestry
<https://www.mesalistens.com/trees-are-cool>;
<https://mesaaz.maps.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?webmap=4541ce84d7a443e098b75403c67b60a9>
- Note: RAIL CDC is a strong CBO for community development and small business support in Mesa.
- Meeting with members of City Council: Freeman / Duff / Heredia, with Nana present, to discuss priorities and interests for RIO
 - Trailhead at Tyler Farms subdivision- Val Vista & SR 202

PROJECTS NEEDING FUNDING

- **Tree Equity/Urban Forestry program:** Encourage outdoor recreation, activate the Salt River corridor by increasing tree canopy cover, and support the “Million Trees” Initiative | “Trees Are Cool” program.
 - Trees shade pedestrians along our streets, reduce urban heat, reduce energy use by cooling buildings, improve air quality by absorbing air pollutants, help control stormwater runoff, support biodiversity, enhance neighborhoods, encourage outdoor activities, and sequester carbon. This project includes working with the community to



Rio Reimagined **MESA** Community Profile

identify places for new trees, enhancing the community's connection to the River, and planting new trees.

- Important elements of this project include robust engagement that activates the community, seeks input, offers support, and shares information about how to plant and care for trees.
 - The intended outcomes are increased tree canopy cover, reduced urban heat, enhanced neighborhoods, and increased outdoor recreation within the Salt River corridor.
 - Focused locations for the initiative are low tree canopy areas as identified by the American Forests Tree Equity Score Analyzer Tool (<https://www.treeequityscore.org/analyzer>) and the Tree Planting Priority Map (<https://www.mesalistens.com/treesarecool>).
 - Non-profits and community contacts play a key role in implementing this project.
 - The Rio Reimagined Team assistance: identify funding opportunities.
 - Adopted Plan: Mesa Climate Action Plan
- **Healthy Riparian Habitats Project:** Mesa is known for recognizing the importance of riparian areas for the quality of life for its residents and celebrates the opportunity to protect and enhance natural environments. This project is envisioned to be a partnership with SRPMIC and members of the local community to protect and restore riparian habitats that provide sanctuary for wildlife, offer educational opportunities for students, and create spaces for people to connect with and enjoy nature.
 - Success is envisioned to include bringing community members, local advocates, subject matter experts, and environmental organizations together to define what is needed to encourage healthy riparian habitats in this area and what steps can be taken in this area.
 - Outcomes for this project include a shared understanding of how to create and care for healthy riparian areas, increased healthy riparian habitats, and increased wildlife along the river.
 - Rio Reimagined Team assistance: identify funding opportunities and organizations that can find and analyze potential project locations; facilitate partnership with SRPMIC community, and convene diverse community stakeholders.
 - Adopted Plan: Mesa Climate Action Plan
 - **Greening the Salt River Corridor with Green Stormwater Infrastructure/Rainwater Harvesting.** Transform the river corridor into a model of sustainable water management by integrating green stormwater infrastructure (rainwater capture) that enhances water quality, supports biodiversity,



Rio Reimagined **MESA** Community Profile

and improves the resilience of the ecosystem. Through innovative solutions, create natural functional spaces that manage stormwater, restore habitats, and enrich the community's connection to the river.

- Mesa's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) permit issued by Arizona Department of Environmental Quality requires retrofit projects that reduce contaminants in stormwater before it reaches the Salt River system. Mesa sees the value in creating nature-based stormwater retrofit projects that capture rainwater for beneficial use by plants. These retrofits will be based on proven strategies that improve stormwater quality and stormwater quantity attributes.
- Outcomes for this project are scalable, replicable nature-based stormwater retrofit projects that can be used throughout the community.
- Potential sites within the Salt River corridor include natural or open space that can be enhanced to create complete riparian habitats or weigh stations for wildlife, near the river.
- Rio Reimagined Team assistance: identify funding opportunities and organizations that can find and analyze project locations, convene diverse community engagement, conduct research that demonstrates the effectiveness of various retrofit projects, and analyze site feasibility.
- Adopted Plan: Mesa Climate Action Plan
- **Food Waste to Energy (FW2E).** Transform waste management by diverting food waste from landfills. Implement a program that collects local food waste at the source, adds waste to the water reclamation plant's anaerobic digesters, captures renewable natural gas, also called biogas, produced during the treatment process, treats biogas to pipeline quality, then injects biogas into existing natural gas pipes. The City's solid waste collection vehicles (trash trucks) are powered by natural gas. The process significantly reduces carbon emissions, creating a powerful carbon sink to support a sustainable, low-carbon future.
 - Phase 1, Flare to Fuel, construction is nearly complete. The first phase captures biogas generated at the plant, treats biogas to pipeline quality, and injects it into natural gas pipelines in the area for designated reuse in City's Solid Waste vehicles.
 - Phase 2, Food Waste to Energy, is in design. The Project will enhance biogas production by adding food waste.
 - Link to information about Mesa's Food Waste to Energy Project: <https://www.mesaaz.gov/Government/City-Projects/Food-Waste-to-Energy> Funding for implementation needed.



Rio Reimagined **MESA** Community Profile

- Outcomes for this project include waste diverted from the landfill, reduced carbon emissions, and implementation of a financially sustainable program.
- The Rio Reimagined Team assistance: Identify federal or regional program funding.
- Adopted Plan: Mesa Climate Action Plan
- Future Mesa Trail. The location for the trail connection from McKellips and 76th St to Granite Reef Dam. Determining the alignment and access agreements needed to establish a Northeast Regional Trail. There could be trail connectivity with Maricopa Trail, Hawes Loop Trails, canal shared-use paths, and City parks. Currently working on a feasibility study for alignment and only have funding for the study.



Rio Reimagined **TEMPE** Community Profile

PLANS / STUDIES

- [2019 Climate Action Plan](#) & [2022 Climate Action Plan Update](#): The CAP and its update provide a framework for Tempe's path to a sustainable and resilient future by measuring and reducing greenhouse gas emissions and climate impacts. It includes an emissions inventory, reduction goals, and prioritized actions, offering cost-effective solutions that align with other city goals and priorities.
- [Arts and Culture Plan 2015](#) The Tempe Arts and Culture Plan, launched in 2014, reflects a new community vision that builds on past achievements and leverages current opportunities. Its defining feature is broad engagement, bringing together residents, artists, businesses, government, schools, and the University to enrich and advance Tempe's cultural life.
- [Apache Boulevard Redevelopment Plans | City of Tempe, AZ](#) The City of Tempe is redeveloping four parcels along Apache Boulevard to expand affordable housing, with concepts that could add up to 500 rental and homeownership units. Plans also incorporate parking, open space, and commercial space.
- [Character Area 2 Planning Process](#) Starting in early 2025, the final of 8 character areas follow the western edge of Tempe from Rio Salado south to Baseline Road. Each area plan is firmly rooted in placemaking principles and design guidelines.
- [Character Area 3 Plan: Downtown Tempe/Rio Salado/ASU/NW Neighborhoods](#) The Character Area 3 Design Guidelines and Placemaking Principles, developed through extensive public outreach, provide a cohesive vision for the area's future with particular emphasis on the Rio Salado Town Lake section.
- [Preserves Management Plan | City of Tempe, AZ](#) The plan sets a high-level vision for managing and maintaining Tempe's preserves, outlining objectives, recommendations, success criteria, and implementation considerations.
- [Rio Salado and Beach Park Master Plan](#) In 2018, Tempe adopted the Rio Salado and Beach Park Master Plan, a long-term vision for both sides of Tempe Town Lake between Priest Drive and Rural Road. The plan outlines recommendations for programming, infrastructure, access, and land and water use, presented through maps and overlays that reflect community input. While it serves as a blueprint for the next 20 to 30 years, no funding is attached to the proposed ideas.
- [Streetcar Feasibility Study](#) Began in May 2018, concluded in 2020 (going to Tempe and Mesa Councils after November 2024 Prop 479 vote). The study evaluated corridors in a two-tier process to prioritize the top 5 corridors. [Tempe Tomorrow General Plan 2050](#) The general plan is Tempe's primary policy document, setting a 30-year vision for how the community will grow and change. It guides decisions on development, land use, transportation, economic development, cultural and recreational amenities, sustainability, and overall quality of life. Required by state law to be updated every 10 years, the plan is created with input from residents, businesses, and stakeholders. Tempe Tomorrow: General Plan 2050 is the city's current effort to craft a forward-thinking, sustainable, and inclusive roadmap for the future.
- [Urban Forest Master Plan | City of Tempe, AZ](#) The UFMP reviews the current state of Tempe's



Rio Reimagined **TEMPE** Community Profile

urban forest, sets a vision for a healthy and sustainable future, and outlines strategies to build green infrastructure that cools streets, cleans the air, mitigates climate impacts, and enhances neighborhoods. It also details an integrated approach to engage residents, organizations, businesses, and City departments in sustaining an urban forest that supports community health and vitality.

- [Tempe Public Art Plan](#) Tempe Public Art seeks to build a distinct community identity by positioning Tempe as a vibrant, progressive destination. Its diverse collection of permanent and temporary works enhances the natural and built environment through placemaking, installations, and infrastructure improvements ([GIS Map](#)). A new planning effort now underway will address visual art in public spaces, including the river corridor, to guide the distribution and impact of artworks across the city.

PROJECTS

- [Apache Corridor Thriving Communities Grant work](#) The project proposal seeks to leverage the light rail in the Apache Corridor to promote equitable, place-based transit-oriented development. It aims to reduce traffic congestion and carbon emissions while fostering strong local economies.
- [Bike/ped bridge and upstream dam](#) The Tempe Town Lake Upstream Bridge will be a 0.2-mile grade-separated crossing west of McClintock Drive, connecting the north and south banks of Rio Salado. Designed for all users, it will link to regional path systems such as Indian Bend Wash and the Rio Salado Path, offering a low-stress, off-street route. The bridge will feature lighting, seating, public art, and full ADA accessibility.
- [Boat house project- Rio Salado Foundation](#) The Arizona Boathouse and Welcome Center, located next to the marina on Tempe Town Lake, will feature boat and equipment storage, lake access, meeting spaces, and offices. With state-of-the-art facilities, it will expand programs for local families and youth while also serving athletes from across the nation and world.
- [Implementation of Rio Salado and Beach Park Master Plan](#) New recreation and support amenities are being explored as part of the next steps for the Rio Salado Master Plan. Two opportunities were recently open, and the city is negotiating with Arizona Cycle Boats through a request for proposals to add passive on-water activities. This addition will complement existing concessions such as paddle boats, electric boats, and kayaks, as well as other recreational boating already available on the lake.

ASSETS / INFRASTRUCTURE

- [Escalante Multi-Generation Community Center](#) Since 1971, the Escalante Community Center has provided education, fitness, and recreation opportunities to the community. The 30,000-square-foot facility includes a pool with waterslide, gymnasium, fitness center, teen and youth spaces, senior center, public computers, and classrooms, and is located next to Escalante Park.
- [Clark Park Community Center](#) The new facilities serve as a year-round community hub with a heated pool and 17-foot spiral slide, four rooms for meetings and events, and a wide range of quarterly classes such as fitness, martial arts, childhood education, crochet, and yoga.
- [Eisendrath House](#) Built in 1930, the Eisendrath House is a Pueblo Revival adobe home restored through a partnership between the City of Tempe, the Rio Salado Foundation, the Historic Preservation Foundation, and community partners. Today, it hosts public programs offered by the Tempe History Museum, Tempe Arts & Culture, and their partners.
- [North Tempe Multigeneration Center](#) The North Tempe Multi-Generational Center, open since



Rio Reimagined **TEMPE** Community Profile

2006, offers recreation and services for all ages. The facility includes a fitness center, gym, public computers, youth and teen spaces, a senior center, and six classrooms. It provides a variety of classes, activities, and programs throughout the day and evening and operates through a partnership of public, private, and community organizations.

- [Rio Salado Community Facilities District](#) The City of Tempe established the Rio Salado Community Facilities District in 1998 so that nearby property owners who benefit from Tempe Town Lake help fund its construction and contribute to the ongoing operations and maintenance of the lake.
- [Tempe Center for the Arts](#) The Tempe Center for the Arts (TCA) is a cultural landmark on the edge of Tempe Town Lake and the centerpiece of the city's performing arts scene. Hosting over 200 programs annually, it features award-winning performances by national, regional, and local artists, provides a free art gallery, and serves as home to the Arizona Theatre Company and seven Resident Companies.
- [Tempe EnVision Center](#) The Tempe EnVision Center at 1310 E. Apache Blvd. is a community resource and resilience hub designed as a one-stop shop for employment, education, technology support, local food programs, emergency preparedness, health and wellness, and more. It serves as a central gathering place offering programs and services that strengthen resilience, wellbeing, and self-reliance, and was created in collaboration with the community to enhance residents' quality of life.
- [Westside Multigeneration Center](#) Since 2001, the Westside Multi-Generational Community Center has provided education and recreation for all ages. The 30,000-square-foot facility features early education services, after-school care, adaptive recreation, and senior programming, with amenities including the Cahill Senior Center, gymnasium, public computers, classrooms, and a nearby park with a splash pad.