Growing Connections to Achieve Goals: Tree and Shade Plan Resources

Alix Rogstad
UCF Program, Arizona State Forestry
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Tree City USA Program

Highlights:

• National program
• Started in 1980
• Key Partners
  – USDA Forest Service
  – National Association of State Foresters
  – State Forestry Departments
  – Arbor Day Foundation
  – Local communities
• ~3,400 recognized communities nationally
• 135M+ people live in recognized communities
Program Standards:
1. Tree Board or Department overseeing urban forestry activities
2. Tree Care ordinance
3. Annual investment of $2/capita
4. Arbor Day observation and proclamation
Program Benefits:

- Establishes a framework for action
- Educational activities and opportunities
- Increased public awareness
- Community pride and engagement
- Fosters partnerships
- Financial assistance
Tree City USA Program

Arizona Stats (2012)

- 24 Communities in Program
  - 98% retention rate
  - 64% of AZ residents live in Tree Cities
  - Largest: Phoenix (1.4M)
  - Smallest: Quartzsite (3,600)
  - Total Investment: $25,013,489
  - Average UCF Investment (per TCUSA Com): $1,042,229
  - Annual investment per TCUSA resident: $6.21
### Valley of the Sun (2012)

- Avondale : $15.84
- Buckeye : $2.01
- Chandler : $5.20
- Gilbert : $30.18
- Glendale : $2.16
- Litchfield Park : $97.85
- Mesa : $3.34
- Paradise Valley : $2.00
- Peoria : $2.17
- Phoenix : $3.64
- Scottsdale : $4.18
- Tempe : $3.15

### Comparisons (2012)

- Tucson : $5.37
- Albuquerque NM : $4.89
- Las Vegas NV : $2.74

[Image: Tree City USA Program]
Tree City USA Program

Why it’s Important:

• Increase property values (8-20%)
• Increase commercial rental rates (3-7%)
• Shoppers willing to pay more for goods in areas with trees (10-12%)
• Storm water storage savings of $4.7B nationally
• Annual air quality savings of $49.8M nationally

All of this could mean increased budgets (taxes and savings).
Tree City USA Program

Why it’s Important:

• Per tree annual net benefit:
  – Small tree $1 – $8
  – Medium tree $19 – $25
  – Large tree $48 – $53

• Example Benefits:
  – One tree over 16 years
  – Small for 3 years = ~$9
  – Medium for 5 years = ~$105
  – Large for 8 years = ~$408
  – Total for 16 years = ~$522 (~$32.60/yr)

Just 5,000 trees in your community may be worth ~$165K annually!
GI: Funding Resources

Funding Options
- Stormwater fees
- Loan programs

Private
- Foundations
- Local philanthropists
- Donors

Public
- Federal
- State
GI: Funding Resources

Funding Options

• Stormwater fees
  – Generates a revenue stream to pay for building and maintenance
  – Stormwater utility to collect fees (managed separate from general funds)
  – Can develop discount programs that encourage GI

• Loan programs
  – EPA’s Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)
  – Used where stormwater fees are impractical
  – Variety of state and federal loan programs to finance GI projects
  – Loan interest may be as low as 0%
  – No matching requirement
  – Usually paid off over 20 years or useful life of project
GI: Funding Resources

Water Environment Research Foundation (WERF)
http://www.werf.org/liveablecommunities/index.htm
GI: Funding Resources

Grant Programs

• Variety of sources – federal and state
• Available in limited amounts
• Support GI projects
• Generally fund small, local projects
• Not sufficient to fund large, multi-year programs

➢ Not a reliable, long-term source for funding sustainable GI programs or policies
GI: Funding Resources

EPA – Clean Water Act Section 319 Grants
http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/cwact.cfm
GI: Funding Resources

Transportation Enhancement Activities

http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/transportation_enhancements/
GI: Funding Resources

HUD Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)
GI: Funding Resources

Catalog of Federal Funding Sources for Watershed Protection

https://ofmpub.epa.gov/apex/watershedfunding
### Arizona State Forestry – Community Challenge Grants

**2012 Community Challenge Grant Program**

The Community Challenge Grant Program focuses on activities to encourage and promote citizen involvement in supporting long-term and sustainable urban and community forestry programs at the local level. Local and tribal governments, non-profit organizations, and public sector agencies are eligible to apply for grants in this program. The deadline for this grant is Closed.

**2013 Wildland Fire Hazardous Fuels Grant Program**

The Wildland Fire Hazardous Fuels (WFHF) grants focus on hazard fuel reduction and community protection. Priority projects are adjacent to National Forest and Bureau of Land Management lands in Arizona and emphasize protection of identified communities at risk of wildland fire. Fire departments, local governments, educational institutions, and non-profit organizations are eligible to apply for grants in this program. The deadline for this grant is April 26, 2013.

**2013 Western Wildland Urban Interface Grant Program**

The Western Wildland Urban Interface Grant Program focuses on hazard fuels reduction, information and education, and community and homeowner action. Fire departments, local governments, educational institutions, and non-profit organizations are eligible to apply for grants in this program. The deadline for this grant is Closed.

**2012 Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant Program**

The Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Program focuses on fire management and prevention activities such as training, equipping, and organizing rural fire departments. Rural communities with a population of 10,000 or less are eligible to apply for grants in this program. The deadline for this grant is Closed.

[http://www.azsf.az.gov/grant_information/](http://www.azsf.az.gov/grant_information/)
GI: Funding Resources

CCG Project Categories

- Information and Education
- Planning
- Community and Natural Resources Mgmt
- Maintenance
- Demonstration Projects
- UCF Research
Example of ASF-Funded GI Project

- **ASU-Global Inst. of Sustainability**
- **Partners**
  - Arizona State University
  - Sustainable Cities Network
  - Cities of Phoenix, Glendale and Mesa
- **Project Objectives**
  - Increase stakeholder knowledge
  - Increase awareness of preserving, maintaining and expanding urban tree cover
  - Educate stakeholders on the effect of green infrastructure investment
  - Increase number of certified arborists in local cities
GI: Funding Resources

Example of ASF-Funded GI Project

- Watershed Management Group
- Partners
  - City of Phoenix
  - Local communities where programs and workshops are hosted
- Project Objectives
  - Conduct public workshops and education
  - Create demonstration sites
  - Establish green infrastructure designs
  - Develop green infrastructure policy to facilitate development of community-based, water sensitive urban forestry practices
Thank You

Alix Rogstad
AlixRogstad@azsf.gov
602.771.1427
Urban & Community Forestry Program,
Arizona State Forestry
Phoenix, Arizona