

Update from the Office of Heat Response and Mitigation

UHITS MEETING, FEBRUARY 8, 2022



Today's updates

- Heat response planning
- Hiring process
- **ARPA concepts**
- OHRM public engagement
- **UHITS institutionalization**



Heat response planning

- Presentation to CCI Subcommittee 2/2
- Inventory of 15 city programs and services
- Initial concepts for 2022 improvements
- Coordinated plan to Council in early April



Hiring process

- Final stages of hiring process for Urban Tree Program Manager
- Built Environment Specialist position is open, closes Feb. 14



American Rescue Plan Act & OHRM

- Four OHRM programs presented 1/11
- Favorable discussion with Council and staff (Sustainability, Neighborhood Services, Public Transit)
- \$11M home weatherization (incl. mobile homes)
- \$7.5M residential tree equity accelerator
- \$3M trees for schools
- \$3M shade structures in public ROW



Residential Tree Equity Accelerator

- **Increase tree canopy in low tree equity neighborhoods from 3.5% to 10.5%**
 - 200 homes in each of 25 neighborhoods
 - 4 trees per home – 20,000 trees total
 - 100 paid citizen foresters
- **NASA DEVELOP team helping create decision support tool**



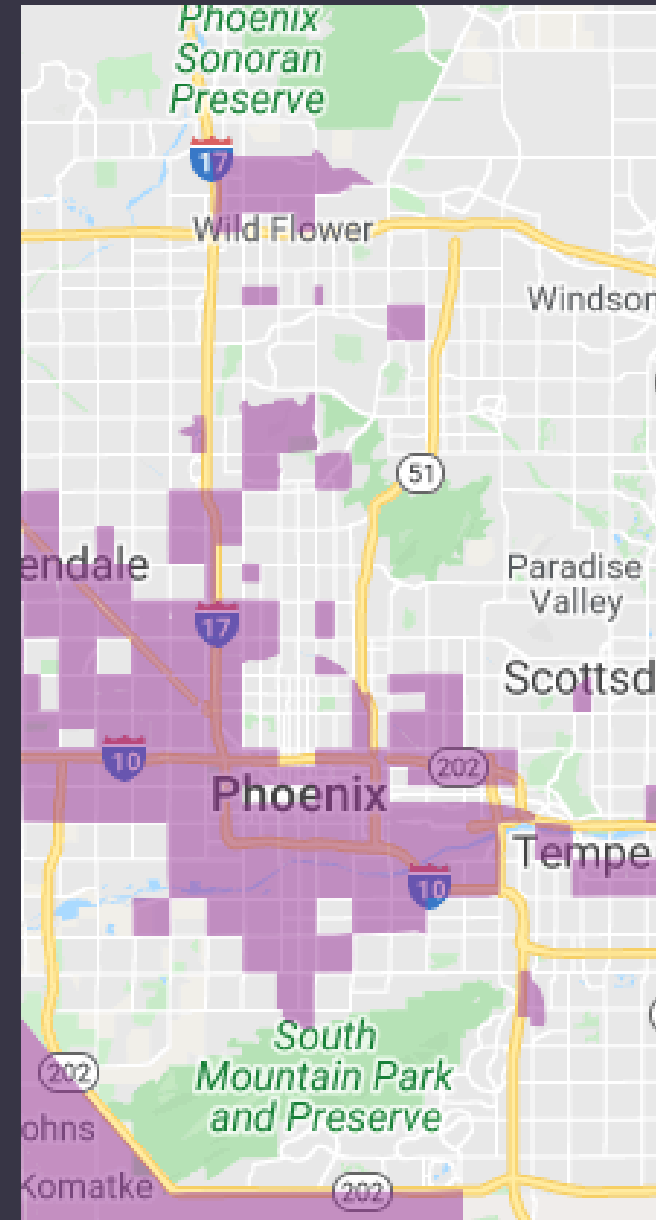
Residential Tree Equity Accelerator – Prioritization?

- Neighborhood = census block group (~2,000 people, ~500-700 homes)
- Constrain to neighborhoods in Qualified Census Tracts (50% or more homes w/ less than 60% of area median income)



Qualified Census Tracts

(U.S. Department of
Housing Office of
Policy Development
and Research)



Residential Tree Equity Accelerator – Prioritization?

- Constrain to neighborhoods with at least 50% single family/small multifamily
- Constrain to neighborhoods with minimum “plantable area” (parcel – building footprint)



Residential Tree Equity Accelerator – Prioritization?

- Sort remaining CBGs by average residential parcel tree canopy/tree density
- Use ranked list to identify 5 geographic clusters of 5 proximate CBGs for a total of ~20,000 eligible homes

Review initial candidates with UHITS + ?



OHRM Public & Stakeholder Engagement

- 10 of 15 VPC visits completed
 - Additional nursery visits and dialogue
 - Urban Forestry Roundtable w/ AZSA
 - Scheduling and supporting tree planting events
 - Social media accounts are live!
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- EQSC continues to evaluate future UHITS options



Institutionalizing UHITS Priorities

- **What annual staff expectations are desired?**
- All city staff complete annual performance reviews
- Expectations set collaboratively with supervisors

- Director
- Urban Tree Program Manager
- Built Environment Specialist
- Administrative Support





Discussion & Questions



Slides from previous presentations to reference as needed



Residential Tree Equity Accelerator

3.5%

Tree & shrub cover in 25
qualifying census block
groups in City of Phoenix

3X

10.5%

Tree & shrub cover in
average census block
group in City of Phoenix



Residential Tree Equity Accelerator (\$7.5M)



- New trees – 4 per residential address
- Dead tree removal
- Irrigation / supply grants
- Inventory and evaluation
- Events, multimedia, outreach (multilingual)
- **Paid Citizen Forester Corps**

