

The background of the page is a collage of nature photographs. At the top, there are two horizontal strips: the left one shows a close-up of a tree branch with green leaves, and the right one shows a tree trunk with a thick layer of moss or lichen. Below these, the main body of the page is covered by a semi-transparent overlay of a garden scene. In the foreground of this scene, there is a large, dark, spiky plant, possibly a yucca or agave. In the background, there are various green plants, a white garden chair, and a wooden fence. The overall color palette is dominated by greens and browns, with a touch of white from the chair and fence.

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND WATER RESOURCES

“The Town recognizes the importance of water in its ability to maintain a highly desirable desert environment. The Town will continue to pursue opportunities to ensure an adequate water supply by staying vigilant and engaged in the regulatory process and with the water suppliers.

Air quality, noise reduction, drainage control and preservation of natural resources continue to be critical in ensuring the health and safety of our residents and the continuation of Paradise Valley as a destination resort community.”

Town of Paradise Valley
Visioning Committee 2011

FORMAT PAGE

6. Environmental Planning and Water Resources

6.1 Environmental Planning

Environmental Planning considers the overall environmental implications of the general plan, with a specific focus on natural features and vegetation, air quality, and water quality. The Town's limited remaining development potential and the goals, policies, and implementation measures of this Element, as well as those in the Water Resources Element of this Plan, combine to ensure that local air and water quality and the Town's natural features and vegetation will not be adversely affected by development within the Town.

GOAL EP 6.1.1

Vegetation and Wildlife. To protect the Town's native plants and animals and maintain the Town's visual landscape.

Policies

- EP 6.1.1.1 **Native Landscaping.** The Town shall require the use of landscaping as defined in the Town's Landscape Design Guidelines on all Town-owned properties, and promote the preservation and protection of natural vegetation and wildlife areas through the use of indigenous and compatible landscaping on private properties, especially along street frontages.
- EP 6.1.1.2 **Desert Restoration.** The Town shall strongly promote the restoration of indigenous Sonoran Desert vegetation in areas that have been disturbed or scarred by development, neglect, or improper use, especially on hillsides or in washes. The Town shall promote restoration practices that minimize potential wildfire hazards
- EP 6.1.1.3 **Mature Landscape Preservation.** The Town shall require new development and redevelopment to preserve mature indigenous and compatible landscaping on-site where feasible.
- EP 6.1.1.4 **Community Involvement.** The Town shall promote community volunteerism and stewardship to help identify, protect, rehabilitate and maintain the area's natural resources.
- EP 6.1.1.5 **Maximum Feasible Preservation.** The Town shall monitor new development and redevelopment to ensure the maximum

feasible preservation of native plants and wildlife and existing vegetation.

- EP 6.1.1.6 **Resource Preservation.** The Town shall encourage new development to preserve on-site natural elements that contribute to the community's native plant and wildlife species value and to its aesthetic character.

Goal EP 6.1.2

Community Trees. Manage and increase the Town's inventory of trees as an environmental, economic, and aesthetic resource to improve residents' quality of life.

Policies

- EP 6.1.2.1 **Tree City USA.** The Town shall continue to participate in the Tree City USA program, sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters.

- EP 6.1.2.2 **Manage and Enhance.** The Town shall continue to plant new indigenous and compatible trees, ensure new developments have sufficient rights-of-way width for tree plantings; manage and care for all Town-owned trees including training, maintenance, removal and replacement.

- EP 6.1.2.3 **Tree Dedication.** The Town shall create and promote a program that allows property owners and builders to dedicate surplus trees from their properties that they cannot accommodate on site for use on Town-owned property.

- EP 6.1.2.4 **Urban Heat Island Effects.** The Town shall continue to promote planting indigenous and compatible shade trees with substantial canopies, and require site design which uses trees to shade, where feasible, parking facilities, streets, and other facilities to minimize heat island effects.

- EP 6.1.2.5 **Shade Tree Planting Program.** The Town shall continue to provide indigenous and compatible trees along major and minor arterials within the Town as part of right-of-way improvement projects.

Goal EP 6.1.3

Visual Resource Preservation. Maintain and protect significant visual resources and aesthetics that define the Town of Paradise Valley.

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Policies

- EP 6.1.3.1 Protect Scenic Views.** The Town shall continue to seek to protect views from public places to Camelback Mountain, Mummy Mountain and Phoenix Mountain Preserve with deference to private property rights.
- EP 6.1.3.2 Visually Complimentary Development.** The Town shall encourage new development and redevelopment be located and designed to visually complement the natural environment/setting.
- EP 6.1.3.3 Standards for SUP Development.** The Town shall require that Special Use Permit developments not create major adverse impacts on the town's natural and semi-urban landscapes.
- EP 6.1.3.4 Lighting.** The Town, through its Dark Sky Ordinance, shall minimize outdoor lighting that is inappropriately directed excessive, or unnecessary.
- EP 6.1.3.5 Glare.** The Town shall require, through development design features, new development avoid the creation of excessive glare that makes seeing difficult due to the presence of reflected sunlight or artificial light such as floodlights.

Goal EP 6.1.4

Air Quality. Reduce noise pollution, air pollution, and improve air quality by promoting alternative transportation, reduced emissions vehicles and equipment and discouraging cut-through traffic in order to improve air quality in the Town and the region.

Policies

- EP 6.1.4.1 No Refuse Burning.** The Town shall prohibit burning refuse.
- EP 6.1.4.2 Alternate Transportation.** The Town shall promote walking, bicycling, car pooling, and public transit as alternatives to the use of the single-occupant automobile.
- EP 6.1.4.3 Fleet Operations.** The Town shall continue to evaluate the purchase of low-emission vehicles for the Town's fleet and the use of available clean fuel sources for trucks and heavy equipment for the provision of Town services based on operating requirements and financial feasibility.
- EP 6.1.4.4 Reduced Emissions for Town Operations.** The Town shall promote reduced idling, fuel consumption, trip reduction, routing for efficiency, and the use of public transportation, carpooling, and alternate modes of transportation.

EP 6.1.4.5 Reduced Noise and Air Pollution. The Town shall continue to be proactive in the protection of its airspace from noise and air pollution caused by commercial, private and military air traffic over the Town.

EP 6.1.4.6 Zero-Emission and Low-Emission Vehicle Use. The Town shall encourage the use of zero-emission vehicles, low-emission vehicles, bicycles and other non-motorized vehicles, and car-sharing programs by requiring sufficient and convenient infrastructure and parking facilities in new SUP developments to accommodate these vehicles.

EP 6.1.4.7 Consideration for Reduced-Emission Equipment. The Town shall give consideration to contractors using reduced emission equipment for Town construction projects and contracts for services (e.g., garbage collection), as well as businesses which practice sustainable operations.

6.2 Water Resources

Water Resources addresses a broad range of issues related to water, including water supply, water quality, wastewater, and drainage/flood control. These issues are addressed in goals, policies, and implementation measures that will ensure that the Town will have sufficient supplies of good quality water to address the Town's future development needs. The administration of these goals, policies, and measures will require continued cooperation among the Town, its residents, and local water service providers.

Goal WR 6.2.1

Water Supply. To ensure the adequacy of the Town's water supply and to support improvements to the water supply.

POLICIES

WR 6.2.1.1 Water Supply Assessment. The Town shall encourage the water service providers to regularly undertake assessments of currently available and forecasted water supplies for their service areas and customers.

WR 6.2.1.2 Meeting Future Water Needs. The Town shall encourage the water service providers to analyze how future growth will be adequately served by the legally and physically available water supply and/or to plan to obtain additional water supplies, while ensuring that new or expanded services do not adversely affect existing water users.

WR 6.2.1.3 Ensuring Efficient and Adequate Operational Conditions. The Town shall encourage the water providers to

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continually make available water in the distribution system for water pressure for direct customers use and for fire suppression.

WR 6.2.1.4 Renewable Water Resources. The Town shall work with the Arizona Corporation Commission and/or water service providers to encourage the local water providers use renewable water resources, other than groundwater, to supply water to the Town's residents.

WR 6.2.1.5 Water Conservation. The Town shall encourage water conservation for new and existing developments through the use of water-conserving fixtures and devices, conversion and installation of desert adapted landscaping, and other conservation techniques.

WR 6.2.1.6 Water Delivery and Supply. The Town shall continue to pursue documentation and understanding of water pressure and delivery, working with the Town's providers. The documentation should also identify future demand, available water sources, state of delivery system, and fire safety concerns.

Goal WR 6.2.2

Water Quality. To ensure the adequacy of the Town's water quality and support improvements to the water quality.

WR 6.2.2.1 Coordination with Service Providers. The Town shall coordinate with the water service providers to undertake improvements to the pressure and quality of water where necessary.

WR 6.2.2.2 Septic Systems. The Town shall cooperate with the Maricopa County Department of Environmental Services to ensure that new on-site wastewater storage and treatment systems (i.e., septic systems) do not jeopardize the local groundwater supply.

WR 6.2.2.3 Groundwater Recharge. The Town shall encourage the preservation and restoration of the area's washes to assist in natural groundwater recharge.

WR 6.2.2.4 Stormwater Management. The Town shall participate in Phase II of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) stormwater program.

Goal WR 6.2.3

Flood Control/Drainage. To ensure the safe and economic control of stormwater in the Town.

- WR 6.2.3.1 Flood Control.** The Town shall manage flood control and drainage facilities to have minimal impact on natural washes and their associated habitat.
- WR 6.2.3.2 Drainage and Retention.** The Town shall encourage the preservation and restoration of the area's washes to ensure that their natural drainage and stormwater retention functions are maintained.
- WR 6.2.3.3 Wash Maintenance.** The Town shall require Town property owners to properly maintain wash corridors on privately-owned land, and shall require appropriate easements for such purposes as a condition of development.
- WR 6.2.3.4 Wash Restoration.** The Town shall encourage property owners to restore or improve washes on their property to a natural state.
- WR 6.2.3.5 Regional Coordination.** The Town shall cooperate with the flood control efforts and regulations of neighboring municipalities and to coordinate with regional, state, and national flood control authorities.
- WR 6.2.3.6 On-Site Retention.** The Town shall continue to require adequate on-site retention for new development and redevelopment and require the provision of appropriately-sized facilities to retain and transport stormwater.

6.3 Implementation Measures

The Environmental Planning and Water Resources Element sets forth broad goals and policies related to planning for the conservation of the environment and water resources within the Town. Implementation requires translating these broad statements to specific actions, systematically evaluating progress, and active community participation.

The following implementation measures have been identified for Environmental Planning and Water Resources and serve as a basis for the performance evaluation of Town staff, leadership and other Town volunteers in the execution of the General Plan.

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Table 6-3.1 Environmental Planning and Water Resources Implementation Program		2012-2015	2016-2020	2021-2030	Annual	Ongoing
1. Desert Protection and Restoration The Town shall revise the Native Plant Preservation Ordinance to preserve and protect natural vegetation and wildlife areas, mature trees and landscaping, and to promote the restoration of indigenous Sonoran Desert vegetation that has been disturbed or scarred and on new developments. In addition, the Town shall strictly monitor new development and redevelopment through site inspections to ensure the maximum feasible protection of native plants.		X				X
Implements Which Policy(ies)	EP 6.1.1.1, 6.1.1.2, 6.1.1.3, 6.1.1.5, 6.1.1.6					
Responsible Party(ies)	Town Council with support of Town Manager					
2. Community Involvement The Town shall recruit volunteers as part of an annual event to identify, protect, rehabilitate, and maintain the area's natural resources.		X			X	
Implements Which Policy(ies)	EP 6.1.1.4					
Responsible Party(ies)	Town Manager with support of Development Services Department					
3. Tree City USA The Town shall continue to apply for the Tree City USA designation on an annual basis. The Town shall ensure that all Tree City USA requirements are met before the submitting the application every year.						X
Implements Which Policy(ies)	EP 6.1.2.1					
Responsible Party(ies)	Town Manager					

Table 6-3.1 Environmental Planning and Water Resources Implementation Program		2012-2015	2016-2020	2021-2030	Annual	Ongoing
<p>4. Trees</p> <p>The Town shall continue to plant indigenous and compatible trees along major and minor arterials as part of right-of-way improvement projects in sufficient areas to allow for growth, and shall manager and care for all Town-owned trees including training, maintenance, removal and replacement.</p>		X				X
Implements Which Policy(ies)	EP 6.1.2.2, 6.1.2.5					
Responsible Party(ies)	Town Manager with support of Development Services Department					
<p>5. Tree Dedication Program</p> <p>The Town shall create and promote a tree dedication program that encourages property owners and builders to donate surplus trees from their properties that they cannot accommodate for use on Town owned property.</p>		X				
Implements Which Policy(ies)	EP 6.1.2.3					
Responsible Party(ies)	Town Manager with support of Development Services Department					
<p>6. Urban Heat Island Reduction</p> <p>The Town shall revise the Zoning Ordinance to require site design which uses trees to shade parking facilities, streets, and other facilities to minimize the heat island effect.</p>		X				
Implements Which Policy(ies)	EP 6.1.2.4					
Responsible Party(ies)	Town Manager with support of Development Services Department					
<p>7. Scenic View Protection</p> <p>The Town shall explore ways to protect views from public places to Camelback Mountain, Mummy Mountain, and the Phoenix Mountain Preserve with reasonable deference to private property rights.</p>		X				
Implements Which Policy(ies)	EP 6.1.3.1					
Responsible Party(ies)	Town Manager					

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Table 6-3.1 Environmental Planning and Water Resources Implementation Program		2012-2015	2016-2020	2021-2030	Annual	Ongoing
8. Visually Complimentary Development The Town shall develop incentives to encourage new development and redevelopment to be located and designed to visually compliment the natural environment and setting.		X				
Implements Which Policy(ies)	EP 6.1.3.2					
Responsible Party(ies)	Town Manager with support of Development Services Department					
9. SUP Development The Town shall revise the SUP ordinance to require SUP developments not create major adverse impacts on the Town's natural and semi-urban landscapes.		X				
Implements Which Policy(ies)	EP 6.1.3.3					
Responsible Party(ies)	Town Manager with support of Development Services Department					
10. Lighting and Glare The Town shall examine the existing Dark Sky Ordinance, and if necessary, make revisions to minimize outdoor lighting that is inappropriately directed, excessive or unnecessary. In addition, the Town shall create and implement development design standards to eliminate excessive glare created by reflected sunlight or artificial light.		X				
Implements Which Policy(ies)	EP 6.1.3.4, 6.1.3.5					
Responsible Party(ies)	Town Manager with support of Development Services Department					
11. Improved Air Quality The Town shall continue to prohibit the burning of refuse. In addition, the Town shall create a promotional campaign to encourage walking, biking, car pooling and alternative transportation as alternatives to the automobile in order to improve air quality. The Town shall also work with the FAA and airports to protect the airspace from noise and air pollution caused by air traffic.		X				X
Implements Which Policy(ies)	EP 6.1.4.1, 6.1.4.2, 6.1.4.5					
Responsible Party(ies)	Town Manager with support of Development Services Department					

Table 6-3.1 Environmental Planning and Water Resources Implementation Program		2012-2015	2016-2020	2021-2030	Annual	Ongoing
<p>12. Reduced Air Emissions</p> <p>The Town shall require an analysis of a low emissions vehicle option when purchasing new vehicles for the Town's fleet and if it is financially feasible, preference should be given to the low emissions vehicle option. In addition, the Town shall provide employee incentives for reduced idling, trip reduction, carpooling, and other alternatives that reduce air emissions. SUP developments shall be required to provide the infrastructure necessary to accommodate low emission vehicles, car-sharing options, and other alternative modes of transportation.</p>		X				
Implements Which Policy(ies)	EP 6.1.4.3, 6.1.4.4, 6.1.4.6					
Responsible Party(ies)	Town Manager with support of Development Services Department					
<p>13. Reduced Emission Equipment for Town Contracts</p> <p>The Town shall give consideration to contractors and service providers who use reduced emission equipment for Town construction projects and service contracts.</p>		X				
Implements Which Policy(ies)	EP 6.1.4.7					
Responsible Party(ies)	Town Manager with support of Development Services Department					
<p>14. Water Supply</p> <p>The Town shall continue to pursue opportunities for an adequate water supply by staying engaged in the regulatory process and with the water suppliers. The Town should focus on water supply, meeting future water needs, ensuring efficient and adequate operational conditions, utilizing renewable water sources, and encouraging water conservation.</p>		X				X
Implements Which Policy(ies)	WR 6.2.1.1, 6.2.1.2, 6.2.1.4, 6.2.1.4, 6.2.1.5					
Responsible Party(ies)	Town Manager with support of Water Utility Committee					

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Table 6-3.1 Environmental Planning and Water Resources Implementation Program		2012-2015	2016-2020	2021-2030	Annual	Ongoing
15. Water Quality The Town shall work with the water providers to undertake improvements to the pressure and quality of water in the Town. In addition, the Town shall work with the Maricopa County Department of Environmental Services to ensure septic systems do not compromise the groundwater supply and the Town shall continue to comply with Phase II of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) storm water program. The Town shall continue to encourage the preservation and restoration of washes to assist in natural groundwater recharge.		X				X
Implements Which Policy(ies)	WR 6.2.2.1, 6.2.2.2, 6.2.2.3, 6.2.2.4					
Responsible Party(ies)	Town Manager with support of Development Services Department					
16. Flood Control/Drainage The Town shall continue to manage flood control/drainage facilities to have minimal impact on washes. At the same time, the Town shall encourage the maintenance, preservation, and restoration of the washes to maintain the natural storm water retention function.						X
Implements Which Policy(ies)	WR 6.2.3.1, 6.2.3.2, 6.2.3.3, 6.2.3.4					
Responsible Party(ies)	Town Manager with support of Development Services Department					
17. Regional Coordination The Town shall continue to cooperate with the flood control effort and regulations of neighboring municipalities and with regional, state, and national flood control authorities.						X
Implements Which Policy(ies)	WR 6.2.3.5					
Responsible Party(ies)	Town Manager with support of Development Services Department					
18. On-site Retention The Town shall continue to require on-site retention for new development and redevelopment and require the provision of adequately sized facilities to retain and transport storm water.						X
Implements Which Policy(ies)	WR 6.2.3.6					
Responsible Party(ies)	Town Manager with support of Development Services Department					
19. Water Delivery and Supply The Town shall work with the water providers to obtain documentation and understanding of the existing water infrastructure's delivery system, pressure levels, and condition while also identifying future demand needs, available water sources and fire safety concerns.		X				X

Table 6-3.1 Environmental Planning and Water Resources Implementation Program		2012-2015	2016-2020	2021-2030	Annual	Ongoing
Implements Which Policy(ies)	WR 6.2.1.6					
Responsible Party(ies)	Town Manager					