

# PARTNERS IN COMMUNITY FORESTRY

## 2024 CONFERENCE



# Growing Shade Equity in the Desert



PRESENTED BY:

**Nicole Gillett**

Urban Forestry Program Manager, City of Tucson  
[Nicole.Gillett@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:Nicole.Gillett@tucsonaz.gov)

# AGENDA

**Trees in the desert**

**Where we are...**

**Where we are going.**

Starting a new  
urban forestry  
program.

Growing the  
next urban  
forest.



# What is a tree in the desert?



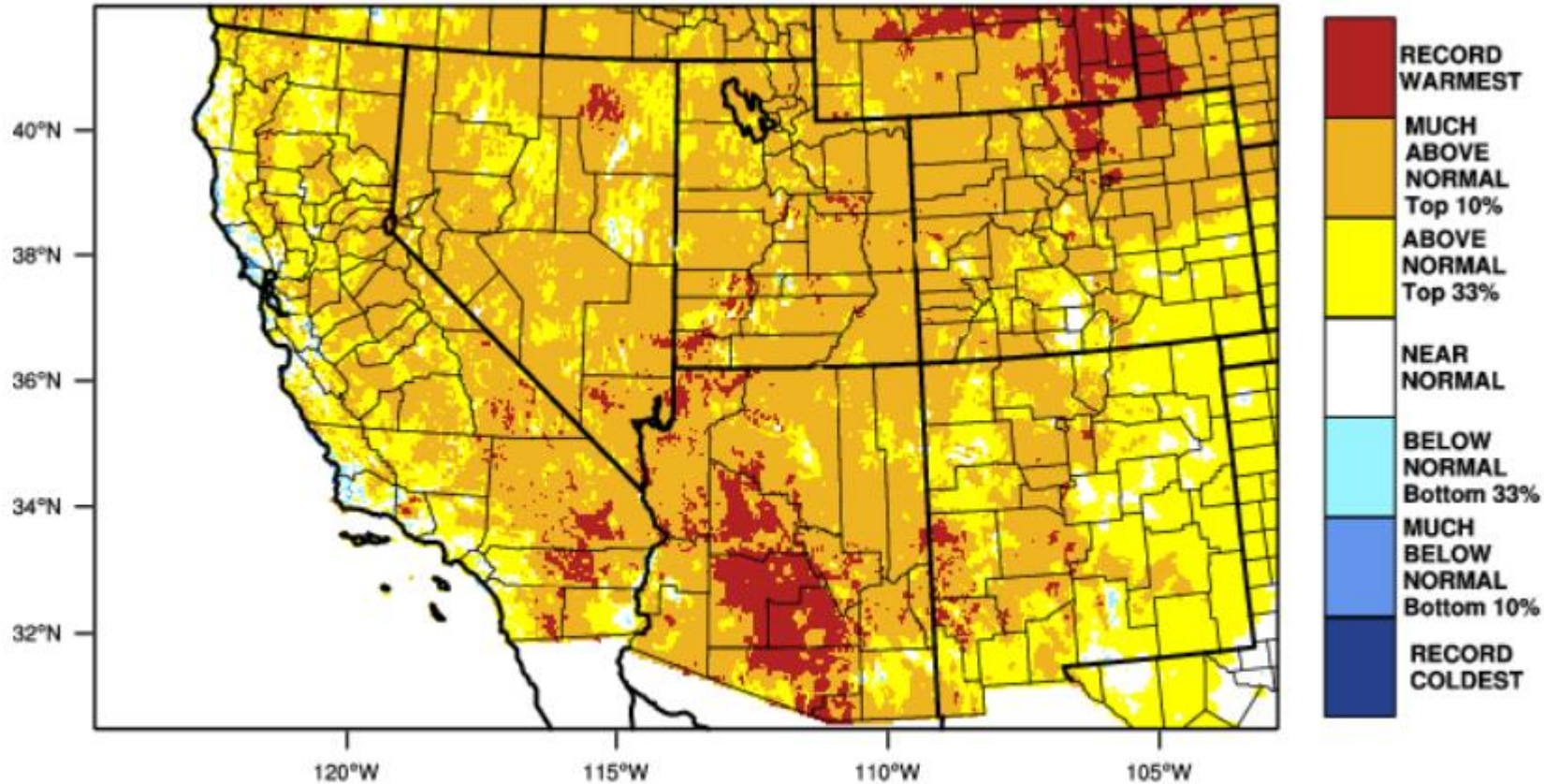






## Southwest - Mean Temperature

September 2024 Percentile



WestWide Drought Tracker - U Idaho/WRCC Data Source - PRISM (Prelim), created 16 OCT 2024

Site Reference: [Western Regional Climate Center](#)

ALERT TOP STORY TOPICAL

### Tucson marks 109th day of triple-digit heat so far this year, a record

Erika Wurst Oct 10, 2024 Updated Oct 21, 2024

'We need more shade': US's hottest city turns to trees to cool those most in need

KGUN 9 > NEWS > COMMUNITY INSPIRED JOURNALISM > MIDTOWN & DOWNTOWN NEWS

Even desert plants have been feeling the record heat



# Where we are -

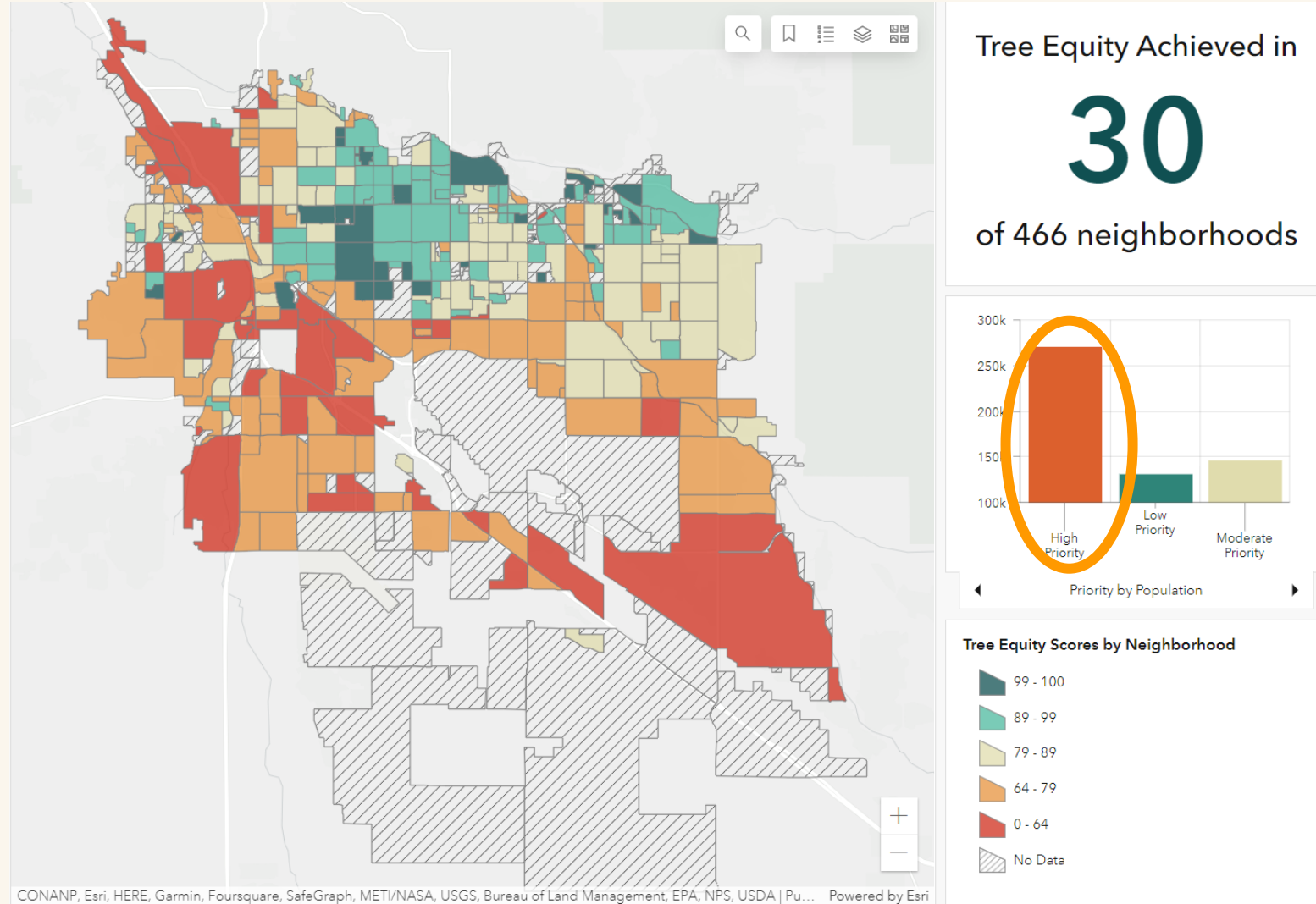
Planting the first urban  
forestry seed





# Tree Equity

Most city residents live in our high priority areas





So what is a tree in the desert?

# Urban Forestry + Climate Action





# Community Forest Action Plan



## TUCSON COMMUNITY FOREST Action Plan



*Major funding provided by the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management's Urban and Community Forestry Program and USDA Forest Service.  
These institutions are equal opportunity providers.*

- Stakeholder working group
- Partner funding
- Guiding plan and principals
- Education and outreach materials
- Species list
- COT Tree Best Practices and Standards
- Code updates
- Procurement updates
- Internal next steps





Regina Romero, City of Tucson Mayor

Fátima Luna, Climate and Sustainability Advisor,  
Office of Tucson Mayor Regina Romero

Nicole Gillett, Tucson Urban Forestry Program Manager

Community Forest Action Plan Working Group members and  
City of Tucson Landscape Advisory Committee members (at right)



Katie Gannon, Executive Director, Tucson Clean & Beautiful, Inc./Trees for Tucson  
Ann Audrey, Forest Action Plan Contractor, Tucson Clean & Beautiful, Inc.  
Staff and Volunteers, Tucson Clean & Beautiful, Inc.



Major funding provided by the Arizona Department of Forestry and  
Fire Management's Urban and Community Forestry Program and  
USDA Forest Service. These institutions are equal opportunity providers.

***Tucson Community Forest Action Plan Outreach Working Group***

- Antonio Ramirez, Communications Director, Ward 1 Council member Lane Santa Cruz
- Meg Johnson, Garden District Neighborhood Association and Alvernon/Grant Initiative
- Oscar Medina, Director, Prescott College Tucson Center
- Erick Meza, Sierra Club Borderlands program
- Nelda Liliana Ruiz Calles, Community Organizer with Regeneración
- LoriAnne Barnett Warren, Program Manager, Urban and Community Forestry, Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management

***Tucson Community Forest Action Plan Standards Working Group***

- Katie Bolger, Chief of Staff, Ward 3 Councilmember Kevin Dahl
- Ursula Schuch, Ph.D., School of Plant Sciences, University of Arizona
- Deborah Munoz-Chacon, Owner, Sonoran Oasis Landscaping
- Oscar Medina, Director, Prescott College Tucson Center
- Cori Dolan, Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management's Urban and Community Forestry Program

***City of Tucson Landscape Advisory Committee***

- Ron van Ommeren, Chairperson, Ecologist/Wildlife Habitat Specialist, Westland Resources
- Darbi Davis, Vice-Chairperson, Neighborhood Representative, Red Bark Design
- Nichole Casebeer, Other Representative, Tucson Clean & Beautiful
- Rebeca Field, Landscape Architect, Kimley-Horn: Planning and Design Engineering
- Alison Meadow, Urban Planner/Architect, UA—Arizona Institutes for Resilience
- Jennifer Moscato, Neighborhood Representative, Wheat Design Group
- Flor Sandoval, Water Conservation Specialist, Sonoran Environmental Research Institute
- Kasy Schug, Horticulturist/Arborist, Tucson Electric Power
- Nick Shipley, Business Community, Civano Wholesale Nursery
- Committee Coordinator, Irene Ogata, Urban Landscape Manager, Tucson Water, Conservation and Stormwater Resource

***Additional thanks***

Thanks to the City of Tucson staff and to community members  
who contributed their valuable time to assist this process, provide guidance  
and review the draft Tucson Community Forest Action Plan.

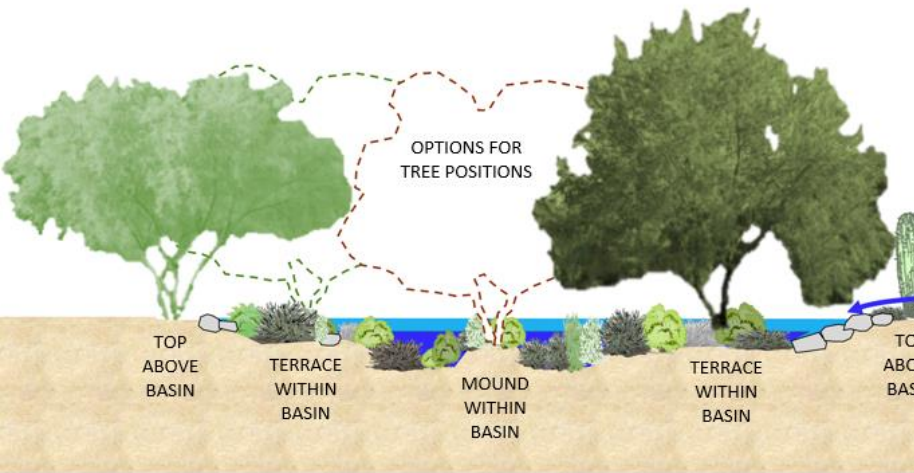




Roots of tree planted next to a curb cut basin grow to access soil moisture under the basin



Roots of trees positioned next to a long stormwater harvesting swale grow to access soil moisture under the swale



Trees can be positioned on raised mounds within basins, on raised terraces within basins, or adjacent to basins above the water inundation level where tree roots can grow under the basin to access soil moisture



Palo Fierro (*Olneya tesota*) en un parque



Uña de gato (*Senegalia greggii*) en un espacio de reunión



Mezquite terciopelo (*Prosopis velutina*) en una zona residencial



Sauce del desierto (*Chilopsis linearis*) en un estacionamiento



Foothill palo verde (*Parkinsonia microphylla*) en complejo de oficinas



Ebano (*Ebenopsis ebano*) en un edificio escolar

*Elija entre una rica paleta de árboles resistentes al clima y especies del sotobosque para dar sombra y refrescar Tucson durante años.*

**Tarea 6.1 Plantar una variedad de árboles resistentes al clima y plantas del sotobosque para maximizar la sombra, la frescura, la belleza y otros beneficios**

**Zonas de plantación sugeridas**

- ✓ Edificios residenciales (unifamiliares, plurifamiliares)
- ✓ Edificios no residenciales
- ✓ Centros escolares
- ✓ Parques y otros espacios públicos
- ✓ Zonas de plantación de corredores de transporte
- ✓ Estacionamientos

**Dónde no plantar**

- Bajo cables aéreos

**Características de los árboles de bajo consumo de agua**

- Nativo de los desiertos de Sonora y Chihuahua
- Tolerante al sol, al calor y a la sequía
- Grandes y amplias copas
- Formas de tronco múltiple y tronco único
- Larga vida, de 100 a 1000 años
- Apoyan a los polinizadores urbanos y a la fauna silvestre

**Necesidades de agua**

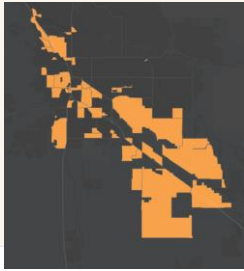
- Bajo consumo de agua
- Proporcione riego de establecimiento
- Para un crecimiento y una sombra máximos, proporcione aguas pluviales y de recolección



# Where we are going -

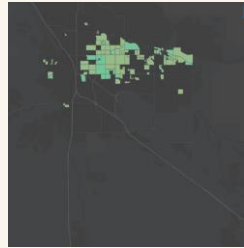
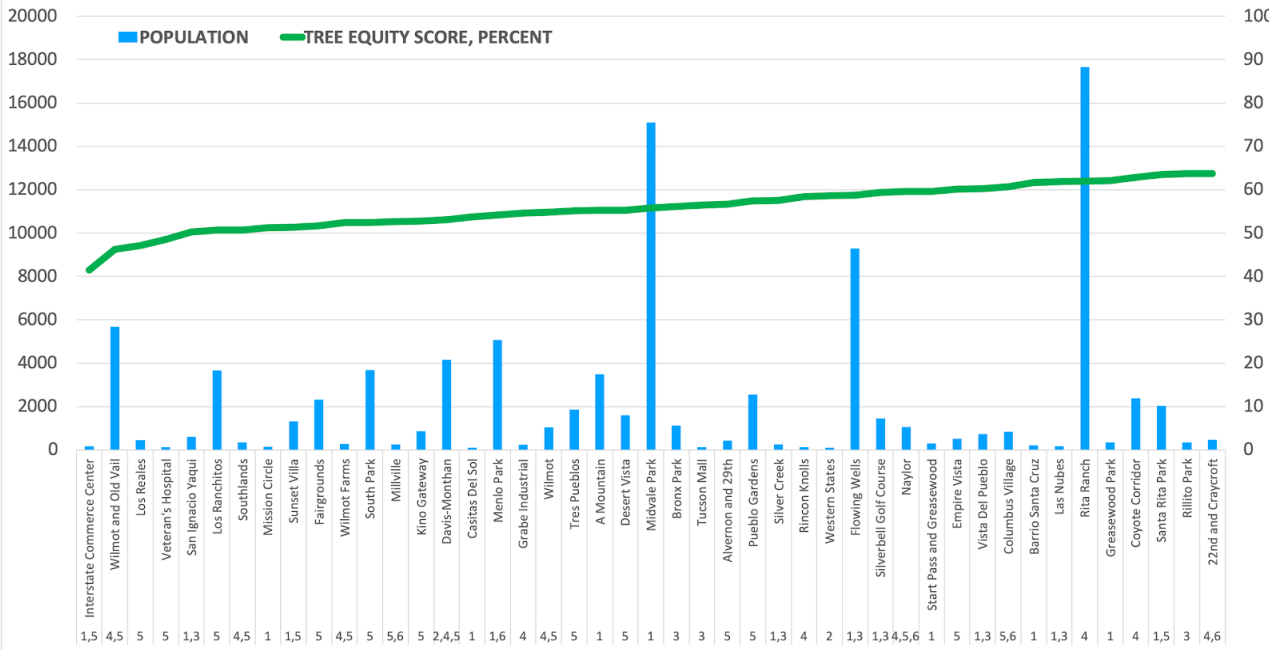
Growing the next generation





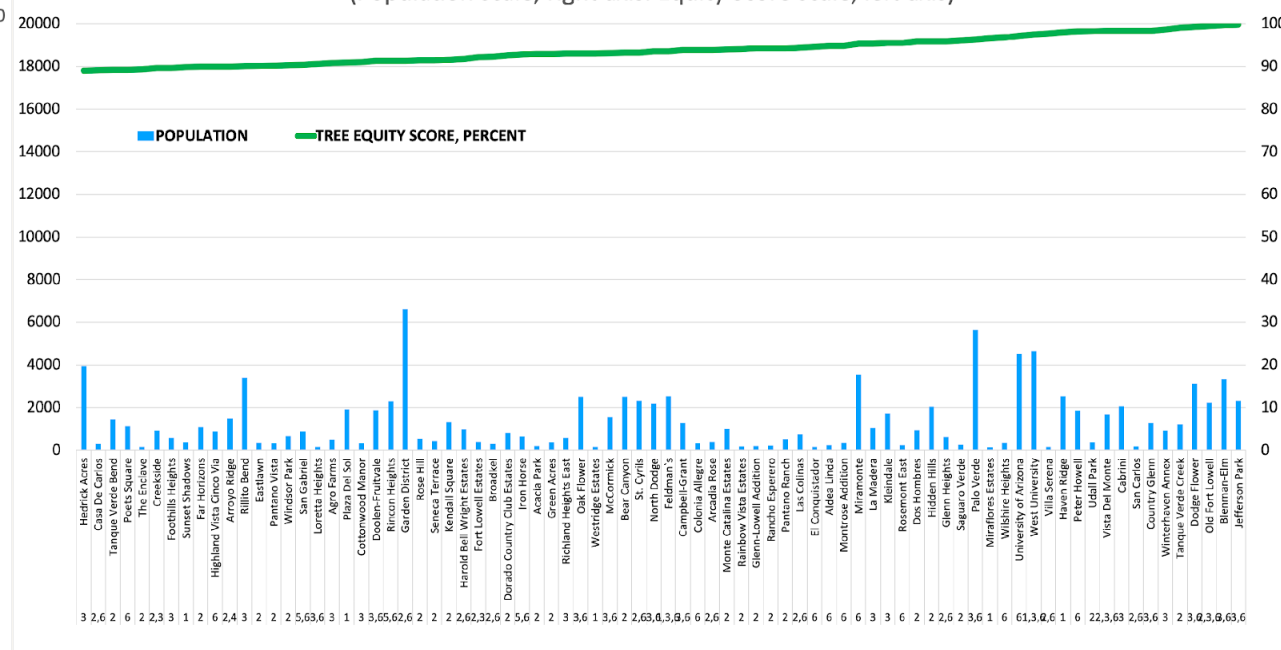
**HIGH PRIORITY PLANTING AREAS > 100 PEOPLE**  
 95,120 Population  
 96 Square miles  
**42% COT land area**

TES: High Priority Planting areas > 100 People  
 (Population scale, right axis. Equity Score scale, left axis)



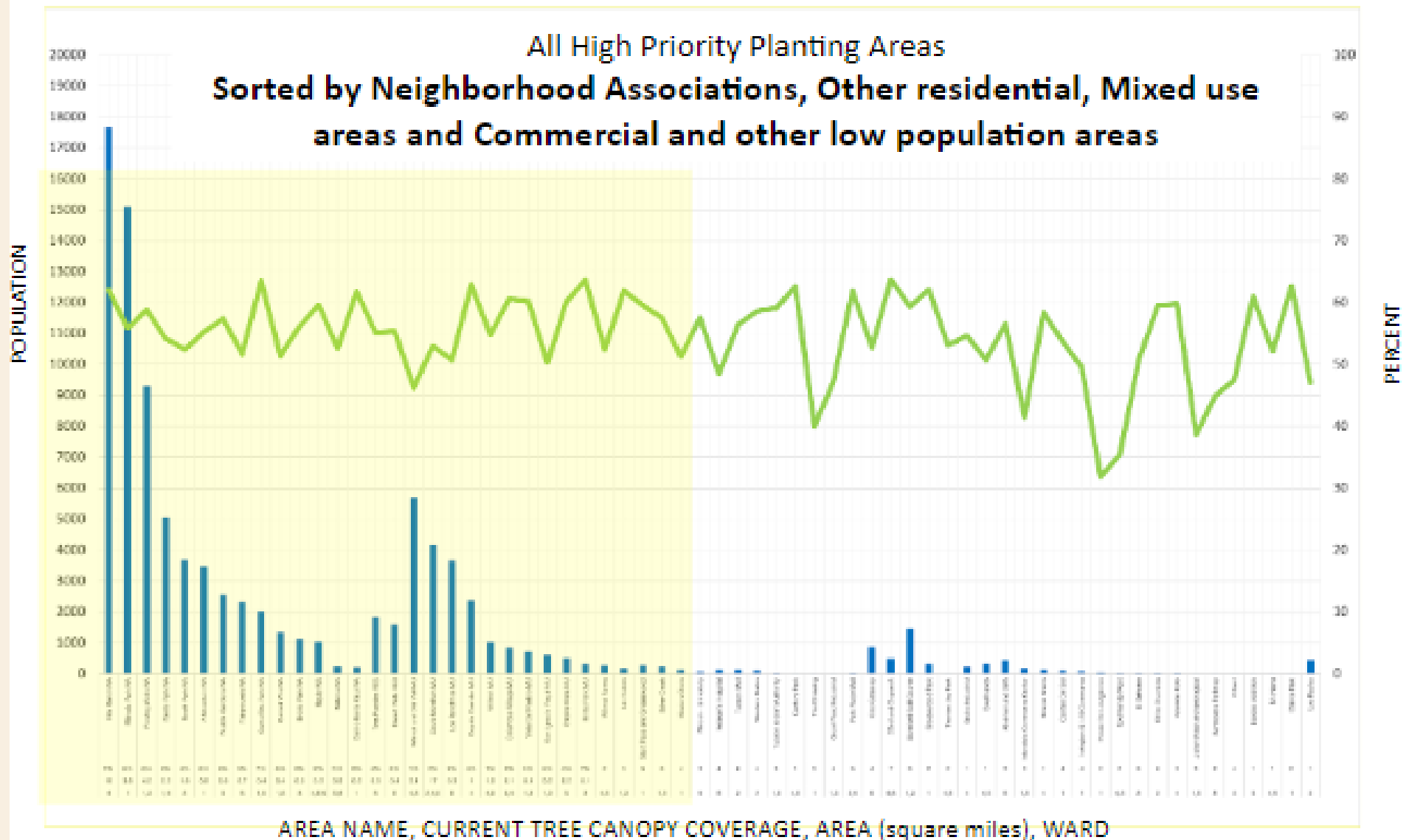
**LOW PRIORITY PLANTING AREAS > 100 PEOPLE**  
 130,816 Population  
 24 Square miles  
**10% COT land area**

TES: Low Priority Planting areas > 100 People  
 (Population scale, right axis. Equity Score scale, left axis)





## All High Priority Planting Areas Sorted by Neighborhood Associations, Other residential, Mixed use areas and Commercial and other low population areas









# GROW TUCSON



Listen and create



Train and install



Learn and maintain



# Thank you.



Nicole Gillett

[Nicole.Gillett@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:Nicole.Gillett@tucsonaz.gov)

# CEUs

For ISA CEUs, record the code to the right for each session.

Post conference, you can submit all Your CEU codes within the Conference app.

Sign-in sheets for Society of American Foresters (SAF) CFE credits are available at the registration desk post conference.

## Growing Shade Equity in the Desert

Speaker: Nicole Gillett



**PP-24-884**  
**.75 A, M, MS**