

# BMPs: Sustainable Desert Community Parks

Prepared for Lisa Estrada, City of Peoria



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# Project Context

- New **\$30 million** multi-use **Community Park**
- **Early** design process + chosen location
  - opportunity for strategic implementation of sustainability principles
- Buy-in from leadership
- Intra-city competition

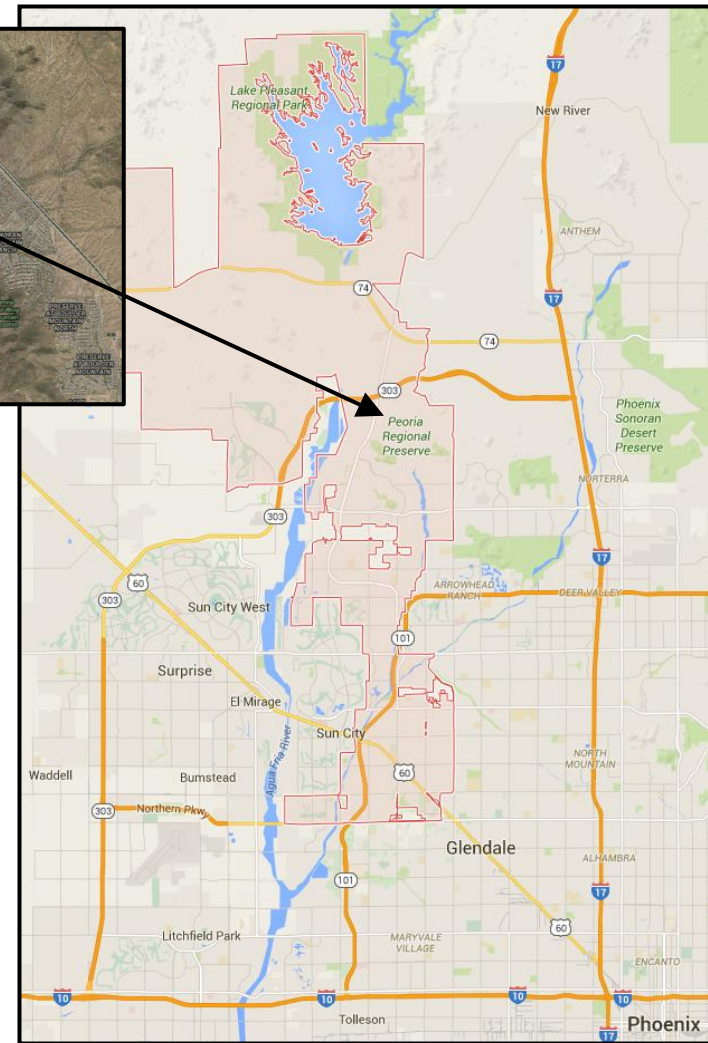
*“As these communities grow, the need grows for more parks and places to gather and play.”*  
- **Mayor Carlat**

*“Our amazing quality of life is what attracts people.”*  
- **Mayor Carlat**



# City of Peoria

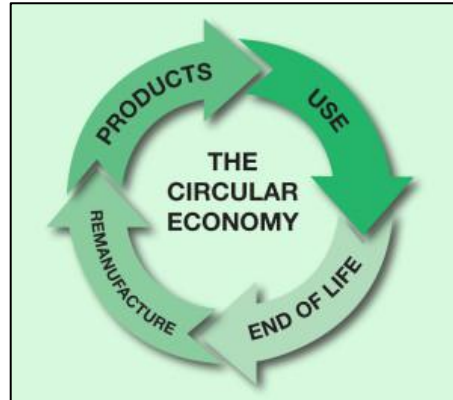
- 174.4 sq mi
- Pop: 166,900 (**growing**)
- 26% under 18
- 14.3% 65+ (**increasing**)
- Homeownership rate of 71%
- Park: 457.5 acres, ~80 dedicated to facilities





# Guiding Principles: Park Design & Operations

- Design for **all** ages and capabilities.
- Plan for increased **population**, **heat**, and **drought**.
- Purchase with **end** of product **life** in mind.
- Utilize **durable**, local, **recycled**, and **non-toxic** materials
- Create a **unique** park to **attract** citizens, tourists, and media.



# Park Design & Landscaping

- Low water + maintenance reqs
- Chemical-free: protect water + kids
- Green infrastructure
- Community gardens + edible forests
  - education + food + social resilience
- Artistic + low impact shade
  - partnerships!



# Everyone can play!

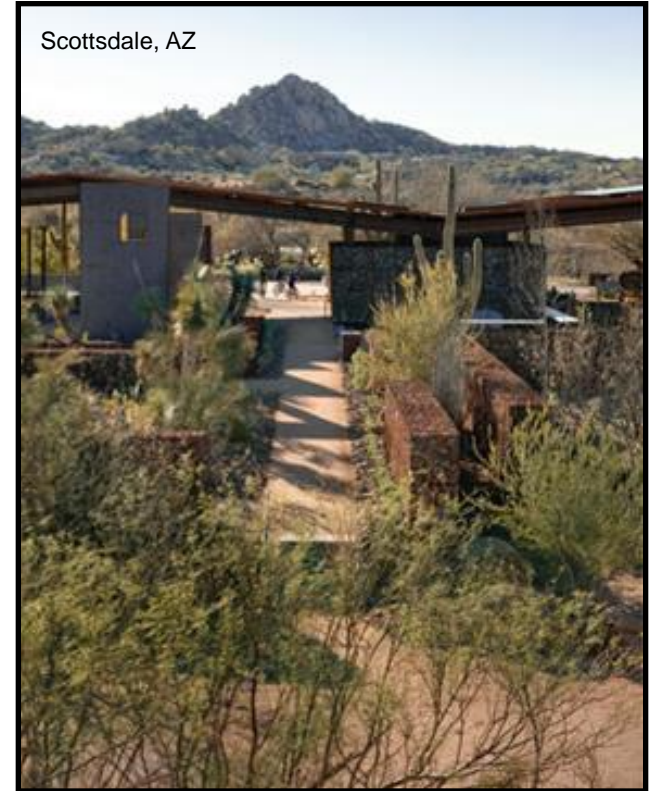
- Mixed ages + varied mobility
- Heat-resistant materials:
  - local + recycled content + natural + end-of-life
- Good parks have options
  - adventure parks/ track
  - obstacle course
  - elderly equipment
  - chess tables
  - name that native plant game: Braille + English + Spanish
  - bird watching





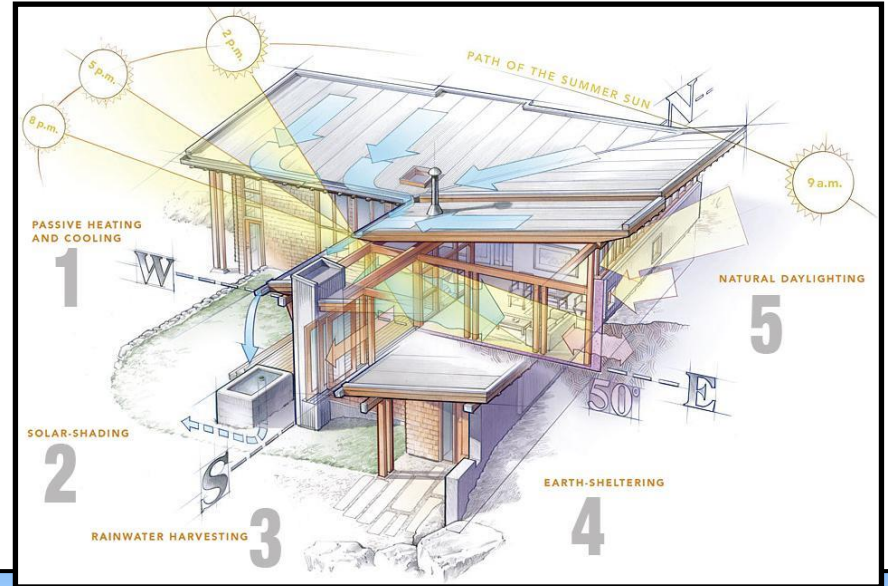
# Accessible Gatherings

- Electrified stage: concerts + events
- Reservable picnic areas
- Solar-powered reusable water stations
- Recycling bins + signage
- Accessibility: bus + bike + ADA
- Shaded + solar power enabled bus stops



# Facilities

- Materials:
  - ethically sourced
  - reclaimed
  - low/ no VOCs
- Passive heating/cooling
- Living Building Challenge





# Key Recommendations

- Meaningfully engage citizenry
- Ensure easy accessibility for all residents
- Plan for future demographic and climatic shifts
- Purchase with end of product life in mind
- Embrace creative innovation in park design



**Thanks! Questions?**

