

# Urban Forestry: Edible Trees

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**Mission: Our goal is to develop a program that is diverse in its ability to encourage and facilitate people while maintaining the ability to evolve as time and extenuating circumstances occur.**

# Current Problems



- In urban environments natural growing plant species are rare. Low level of practicality: Aesthetics and Beatification
- How can we raise awareness and engage action simultaneously?
- Do we reap the full benefit that edible trees can provide?
- Which edible trees can be utilized most efficiently with statutes revolving around water and public property? (Also, weather constraints)
- Where can we find burdenless funding?

# Challenges We Still Face



(Parkway Forest in Toronto)

- Commercialization of plants in public parks is illegal.
- Where does ownership and management lie when dealing with Common-Pool Resources?
- Need for symbiotic relationship between community members and local governmental bodies (City Council and Forester)
- Application of Stewardship will require adjustment in local business owners

# Research Questions (Example: Pinal County)

## The County of Pinal Quick Facts

3<sup>rd</sup> most populated county in Arizona

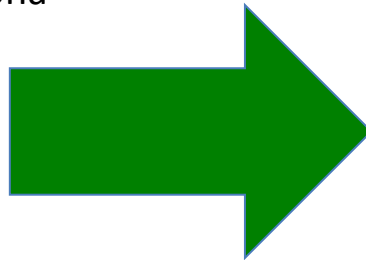
5000+ sq. miles

Mostly dry with food deserts

Large Indian Reservation

\$50,000 average household income

Water levels dropping all over the state of Arizona



**How can planting in this county aid the negative effects of food desert?**

**How do we engage the community (without a standard informative seminar)?**

**What type(s) of funding is necessary to keep costs down or even eliminated?**

**What water system needs to be implemented to ensure maximum efficiency and not over consumption?**

# Stakeholders

- Community Members

- importance of education
- community engagement
- policy on edible trees on public property

- Local Government

- Various bureaus that play a role in the management of urban forests
- Necessary to have a common goal for management

- Arizona State Forestry

- Stewardship
- facilitating a 'user friendly' program



# Survey Results

## Popular Trees

- Mesquite, Palo Verde, Citrus

## Concerns

- Lack of funding
- Unauthorized use

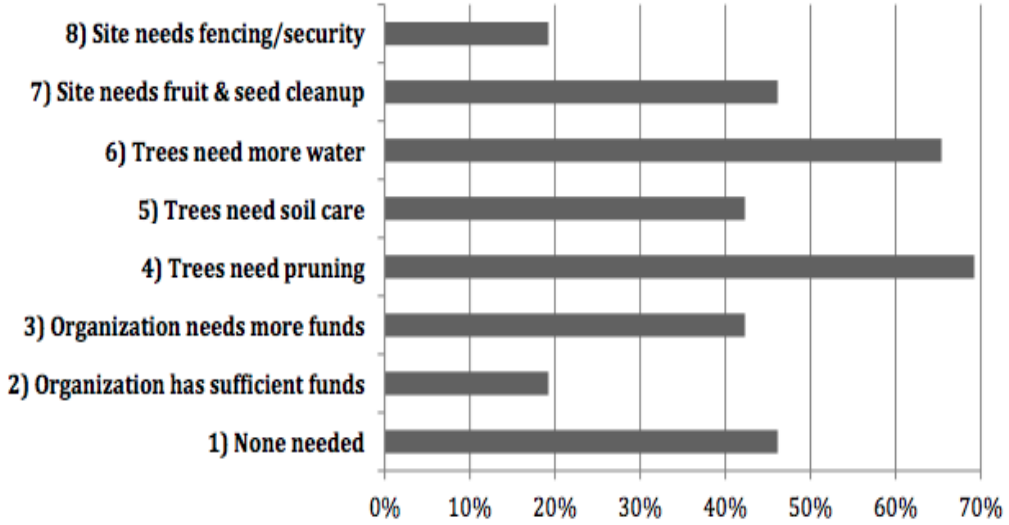
## Harvesting Strategies

- Community Harvests

## Aid

- Information on Trees
- Care and Harvest Resources
- Training for Harvest and Care

## Q8. CARE & MAINTENANCE NEEDS (26 Respondents)



(LEAF Network Survey, 2014)

# Current Policy

## Pinal County

- Landscape must be “low water use”
- Trees must be planted per 1000 square feet, minimum of %25 must be 24 inch box trees
- All plants used for stormwater retention must be native and drought tolerant unless used for recreation
- In order to harvest wild crops, it is necessary to obtain a floodplain use permit.
- Any revegetation effort must match current vegetation or include drought resistant native plants.



**P I N A L ♦ C O U N T Y**  
*wide open opportunity*



# Case Study: Portland

- Water Concerns
  - Grey to Green Initiative: Portland's Clean Water Services were given permission by the EPA to irrigate existing trees
  - Utilization of stormwater
- Community Engagement
  - Non-profit organization; Friends of Trees
    - Bridging gap between government and community
  - 'Arbor Day Festival'

Clean Water  Services



(Portland Street Trees)



# Case Studies Cont.

- **Portland (cont.)**
  - Planting the Right Trees
- **Philadelphia**
  - Funding; “TreePhilly”, a non-profit applied for grant to donate trees to community
- **Grand Rapids**
  - Food Desert/Security; working on expanding fruit bearing tree availability which is maintained through a community orchard
- **Austin**
  - Community engagement; and existing culture of community involvement/”grassroots” spirit



# Potential Solutions

## Community-Based Social Marketing

- Builds a Network in Communities
- Increases Actions, not just Awareness
- Provide Events for Community Involvement



## Selling the Product: Farmers Markets

- Stimulates the Local Economy
- Gathers Support from Local Farmers
- Allows Community Access/Use of Products
- Provides Opportunity for Return on ASF Investment

# Urban Forest Template

- 1-2 Acre Plots of Land
- Graywater/Rainwater Drip System
- Plant Survivable Species
- Use Undeveloped or Recycled Land



# Funding the Project

- **Grants:**

- Governmental: FMPP-2015, USDA
  - Provides Funds to Programs that Promote Local Agriculture and Farmer's Markets. Up to \$100K
- Community/Corporate: Patagonia
  - Provides Funds to Environmental Grassroots Initiatives
  - Up to \$13K

- **Donations and Sponsors**

Questions?

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