

ARIZONA

Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management

To promote environmental equity in Arizona, the Department of Forestry and Fire Management's Urban and Community Forestry program directs resources to underserved populations to engage communities and increase their access to green space. A project in the City of South Tucson addresses these issues well as it is an economically disadvantaged community with less than a single acre of designated park property. The City of South Tucson's Greenway project connects municipal, state, and nonprofit partners to increase local tree canopy, engage the community in beautification events, and connect the public to larger areas of green space.

The City of South Tucson is an economically disadvantaged community, with up to 46.2% of residents living below poverty. The City of South Tucson has limited green space of less than a single acre of park property. Per the Trust for the Public Lands (TPL), only 1% of South Tucson's city land is used for parks and recreation, compared to the national median of 15%.

In 2010, underserved community residents from the City of South Tucson came together in a series of meetings to offer their support for a new trail project along the abandoned El Paso and Southwest (EP&SW) railroad track that would help address the lack of access to green space. Subsequently, the El Paso & Southwestern Greenway Master Plan (Greenway) was completed and adopted by the City Council in 2012. The Greenway envisions a continuous non-motorized, active transportation vegetated corridor connecting the City of South Tucson (population 5,652), to the City of Tucson's (population 545,975) downtown. The Greenway will also connect City of South Tucson residents to over 128 miles of

Pima County multi-use trails for improved alternative transportation and recreational opportunities.

Through its Community Challenge Grant program, the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management has partnered with the City of South Tucson and Tucson Clean and Beautiful to conduct bilingual outreach through community events, connect with schools and support Youth Tree Leaders, and plant native trees along the Greenway.



(Left) Volunteers, community members, and partners help plant trees for the South Tucson Greenway project. Photo: Tucson Clean and Beautiful

(Right top) About 65 trees will be planted by the completion of the project. Photo: Tucson Clean and Beautiful

(Right bottom) The South Tucson Greenway project includes tree planting and beautification events. Photo: Tucson Clean and Beautiful

