

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

3rd most populated county in Arizona

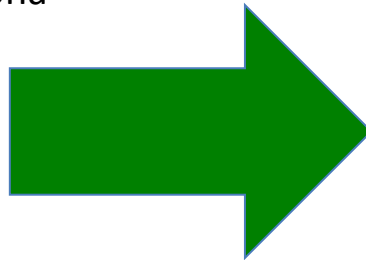
5000+ sq. miles

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

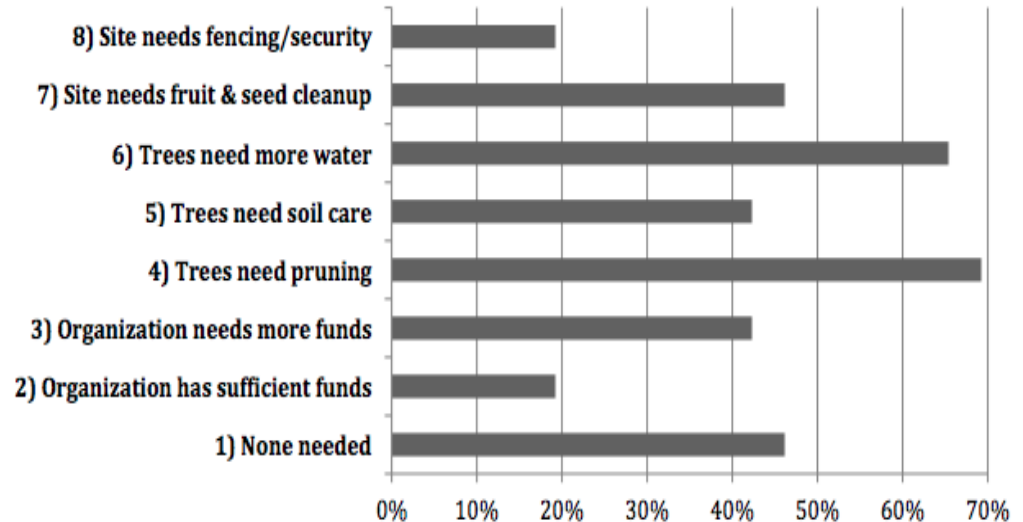
Harvesting Strategies

- 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
- Garners 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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