



COUNCIL MINUTES

January 18, 2024

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Study Session in the lower-level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on January 18, 2024, at 7:30 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Francisco Heredia
Jennifer Duff
Mark Freeman
Alicia Goforth*
Scott Somers
Julie Spilsbury

COUNCIL ABSENT

John Giles

OFFICERS PRESENT

Christopher Brady
Holly Moseley
Jim Smith

(*Participated in the meeting through the use of video conference equipment.)

Vice Mayor Heredia conducted a roll call.

Vice Mayor Heredia excused Mayor Giles from the entire meeting.

1. Review and discuss items on the agenda for the January 22, 2024, Regular Council meeting.

All of the items on the agenda were reviewed among Council and staff and the following was noted:

Conflict of interest: None

Items removed from the consent agenda: None

Environmental Program Supervisor Lauren Whittaker introduced Parks, Recreation and Facilities Management Assistant II Haylie Smith and displayed a PowerPoint presentation on Item 5-b, **(Approving and authorizing the City Manager to accept funds of \$1,061,626.00 for non-functional turf removal at City of Mesa parks through a grant agreement with the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona. (Citywide))**, on the Regular Council meeting agenda. **(See Attachment 1)**

Ms. Whittaker provided an overview of the Water Conservation Grant Fund, created in 2022 and was awarded to the City of Mesa (COM). She emphasized that the grant specifically targets water conservation projects and programs throughout the state of Arizona. (See Page 2 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Smith discussed the removal of non-functional turf at 54 park locations in the COM. She explained non-functional turf is grass that is not currently used for any type of recreational purpose or community events. She presented a before and after photo comparing the turf that runs along the block wall infrastructure at the park and the after photo demonstrates the concept of the project to remove a six-foot strip of turf along the barrier of the City's parks and replacing the turf with granite and cement curbing. She reviewed the benefits of the turf conversion project, which aligns with the City's Climate Action Plan goals and its commitment to water stewardship and reducing water usage. (See Pages 3 and 4 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Smith illustrated park locations that will undergo the conversions. She noted all the park locations are east of the eastern canal since they rely primarily on the Colorado River water for irrigation, which is the water source that is being targeted by the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA). (See Page 5 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Whittaker advised that the grant application was reviewed in August of 2023 and approved by the WIFA Board in September of 2023. She provided the tentative schedule with a completion date of February 2026. (See Page 6 of Attachment 1)

In response to multiple questions from Councilmember Somers, Ms. Whittaker replied that the measurable reduction in water will equal 17-acre feet annually and includes relocating some sprinkler heads if necessary to reduce over spraying.

In response to a question posed by Councilmember Freeman, Ms. Smith responded that the decomposed granite (DG) will be used along the perimeter, and the project will conserve water, as well as reduce the impact to neighbor's block walls.

In response to a question from Councilmember Freeman, Ms. Whittaker replied that the work will be performed by a third-party contractor.

In response to multiple questions from Councilmember Spilsbury, Ms. Smith explained the purpose of the curb is to help with landscaping, maintain a boundary around the basins, and make lawn maintenance easier. She explained that the DG is not intended to be a walking path and will not be maintained as a walking path. She informed the Council that she would provide a copy of the conversion map.

Councilmember Freeman commented that the curbing has helped direct the sprinkler system away from the masonry fences and minimize damage.

In response to a question from Vice Mayor Heredia, Mr. Brady replied that the Transportation Department has examined medians and other rights-of-way that the City is responsible to maintain and has changed those to zeroscape to make it easier to maintain.

Vice Mayor Heredia thanked staff for the presentation.

In response to a question from Vice Mayor Heredia regarding Item 4-g, **(Three-Year Term Contract with Two Years of Renewal Options for Repair and Refurbishment Services for Metal Bins and Roll-Off Containers for the Solid Waste Department (Citywide))**, on the Regular Council meeting agenda, Solid Waste Director Sheri Collins commented that the City has partnered with the East Valley Institute of Technology (EVIT); however, high schools have not been contacted, and she will explore incorporating high school students.

2-a. Hear a presentation, discuss, and receive an update on a new city program for Community Clean Up.

Solid Waste Director Sheri Collins introduced Community Engagement Supervisor Cynthia Ezcurra and displayed a PowerPoint presentation. **(See Attachment 2)**

Ms. Collins provided an overview of the current programs for community cleanup that are offered by the COM. She advised that the proposed future Community Cleanup Program is an expansion to the current programs, and she reviewed the steps for implementation. (See Pages 2 and 3 of Attachment 2)

Ms. Collins discussed the process of securing the solid waste trucks to operate the community cleanup roll-off containers. She presented an image of the new containers and logo, which are bright yellow in contrast to the white community cleanup roll-off containers. She noted in order to support the program, two additional support staff positions will be required. (See Page 4 of Attachment 2)

Ms. Ezcurra explained that the expansion program will begin in areas that have not participated in the neighborhood cleanup program for the last five years, and discussed areas that would benefit from the program. She reported the goal is to ensure that the program is successful, residents understand the program, and containers are not overloaded. She indicated containers will be monitored throughout neighborhoods. (See Page 5 of Attachment 2)

Ms. Ezcurra shared the locations of containers for the neighborhood cleanup programs in the last five years. She stated the map also identifies the best locations to place containers for neighborhoods that have not participated in the program. (See Pages 6 through 8 of Attachment 2)

Ms. Ezcurra mentioned that the neighborhood selected will receive a postcard in advance informing them of the arrival of the containers. She highlighted the QR code on the postcard provides a link to the website with additional information regarding the program and other disposal options for household hazardous waste. She commented that the Council will be informed of the dates and locations of the neighborhoods where the expansion will take place. (See Pages 9 and 10 of Attachment 2)

In response to multiple questions from Councilmember Spilsbury, Ms. Collins remarked that Code Compliance will be informed of the neighborhoods for the expansion program and will continue to monitor code violations based on when dumpsters are placed. She reported on research related to the scheduling of dumpsters for neighborhoods, and the required investment involved. She noted that other cities who have implemented the scheduling of dumpsters have recommended that Mesa avoid doing so, and some have expressed interest in learning about Mesa's programs.

In response to a question from Councilmember Spilsbury, Ms. Ezcurra reported that the City will begin the expansion program in low-to-moderate income areas, and it is intended to eventually be implemented in all Mesa neighborhoods. She noted the expansion program is a way to educate residents to avoid contaminating or overloading containers and ensure everyone utilizes the program.

Responding to a question from Councilmember Goforth, Ms. Ezcurra explained that the program will run Monday through Friday with four containers out at a time.

In response to a question from Councilmember Duff, Ms. Collins advised that currently the COM has approximately 2,200 containers for the neighborhood cleanup program. She indicated that the new approach would allow staff to monitor the containers and learn the behaviors to determine the needs of the community. She confirmed that the City will use the four yellow containers to start the program and expand more as staff learns the behaviors of the community. She stated that the City is aware of the wait list of approximately nine months for containers which the expansion program will help to alleviate.

Mr. Brady advised that the neighborhood cleanup program is supported by a fee paid by all residents as part of the solid waste fee, while the expansion program is supported by the General Fund.

In response to a question from Councilmember Somers, Ms. Collins confirmed that the COM has an agreement with Republic Services and Salt River Landfill that allows residents to dispose of bulk items if they provide their water bill to show they are a Mesa resident.

Responding to multiple questions posed by Councilmember Freeman, Ms. Collins replied that the neighborhood cleanup program fee of 53 cents per month is included in the solid waste invoice. She explained that the expansion program is separate from the neighborhood cleanup program and staff has worked internally to streamline the processes for communication on the neighborhood cleanup program.

In response to a question from Councilmember Freeman, Mr. Brady explained that once areas are identified, Councilmembers will be notified to inform residents in their Districts about the cleanup programs. He emphasized the first priority belongs to low-to-moderate income neighborhoods who do not always have the opportunities or resources, and to determine what works best. He mentioned that as budgets allow, the City would like to continue to expand the program to be successful and provide a citywide approach in the future where every neighborhood is on a schedule.

Discussion ensued relative to other neighborhood programs provided by the COM.

In response to multiple questions from Councilmember Goforth, Ms. Collins explained the numbers of containers distributed daily currently, as well as the pilot program for the expansion.

Ms. Collins clarified that the City's 2,200 containers are not utilized daily in Mesa's neighborhoods. She commented that the City only has eight containers on a street at a time, and the City leases containers on the commercial side to contractors for construction projects and cleanup.

Vice Mayor Heredia thanked staff for the presentation.

3. Acknowledge receipt of minutes of various boards and committees.

3-a. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting held on November 8, 2023.

It was moved by Councilmember Spilsbury, seconded by Councilmember Duff, that receipt of the above-listed minutes be acknowledged.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Heredia–Duff–Freeman–Goforth–Somers–Spilsbury
NAYS – None
ABSENT – Giles

Vice Mayor Heredia declared the motion passed unanimously by those present.

4. Current events summary including meetings and conferences attended.

Vice Mayor Heredia and Councilmembers highlighted the events, meetings and conferences recently attended.

5. Scheduling of meetings.

City Manager Christopher Brady stated that the schedule of meetings is as follows:

Monday, January 22, 2024, 5:15 p.m. – Study Session

Monday, January 22, 2024, 5:45 p.m. – Regular meeting

6. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 8:31 a.m.



FRANCISCO HEREDIA, VICE MAYOR

ATTEST:



HOLLY MOSELEY, CITY CLERK

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Study Session of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 18th day of January 2024. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.



HOLLY MOSELEY, CITY CLERK

lr
(Attachments – 2)



PRCF Non-Functional Turf Removal WIFA Grant

January 18, 2024

Lauren Whittaker, Sustainability Programs Supervisor

Haylie Smith, Management Assistant II



Water Conservation Grant Fund

- \$200M in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for water conservation projects or programs

- Administered by Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA)

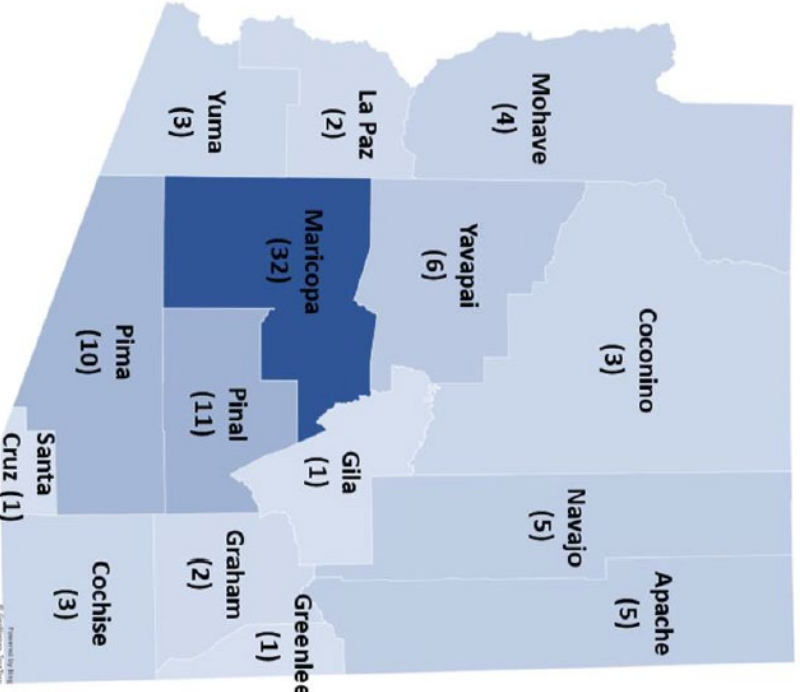
- Grants up to \$3M with 25% total project match required



**WATER
INFRASTRUCTURE
FINANCE AUTHORITY
OF ARIZONA**

WCGF – December 2023

Approved Applications – as of December 20, 2023





Non-Functional Turf Removal

- Remove 6-foot strip of turf adjacent to infrastructure
- Turf and irrigation will be replaced with granite and curb
- 54 parks/basins = 5 acres



Benefits

- 5.75M gallons water saved annually
- Reduced irrigation and mowing maintenance
- Anticipate reduction in complaints and damages to infrastructure

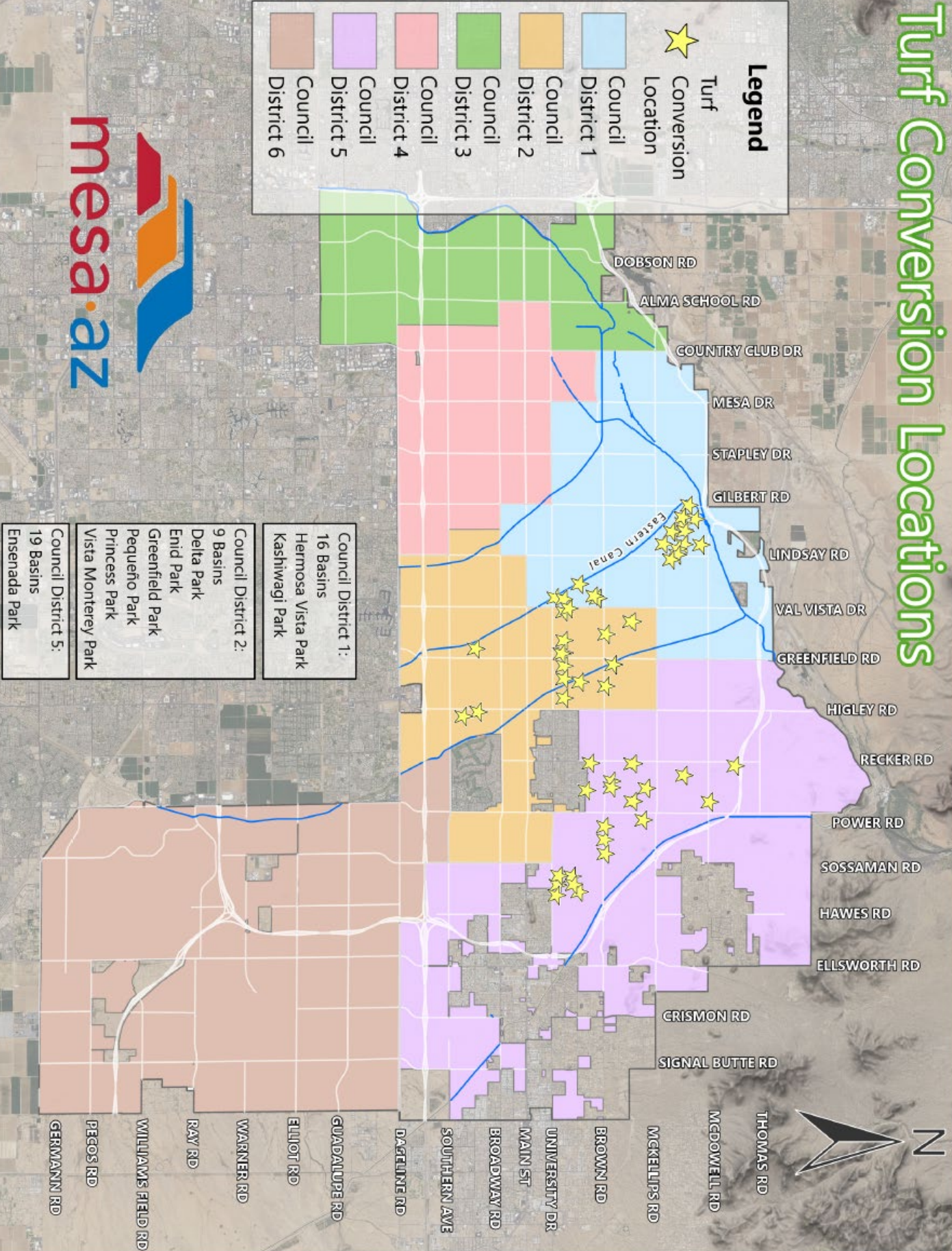




Turf Conversion Locations

Legend

- ★ Turf Conversion Location
- Council District 1
- Council District 2
- Council District 3
- Council District 4
- Council District 5
- Council District 6





Grant Amount: \$1.06M

Estimated City Contribution: \$354K (PRCF Operating Expenses)

Estimated Project Total: \$1.4M

Tentative Timeline:

- Council Approval Jan 22, 2024
- Execute Agreement Feb 2024
- Conversions Begin July 2024
- Conversions Completed Feb 2026



Questions?



Community CleanUp Program

Council Study Session Presentation
January 18, 2024

Sheri Collins, Solid Waste Director

Cynthia Ezcurra, Community Engagement Supervisor, Community Services



Community CleanUp Purpose

Solid Waste
Neighborhood
Clean Up Program

- Application Based
- Long Wait Time

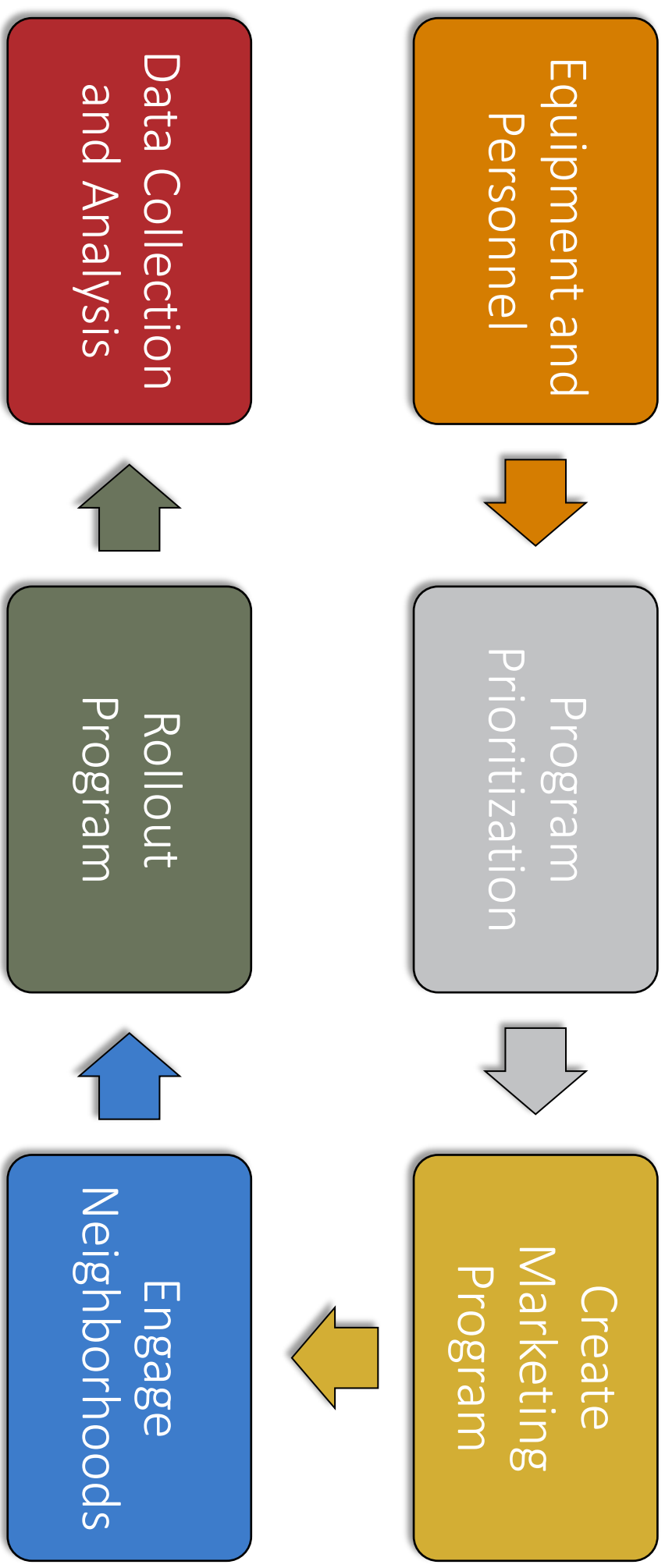
Code Compliance
Team Up Clean Up
Events

- One-Day Events
- Six Events Per Year

Community
CleanUp Program

- Expansion of current program

Community CleanUp Program Preparation





Community CleanUp Equipment and Personnel

- Solid Waste Truck
- Solid Waste Operator
- New Containers
- Program Assistant





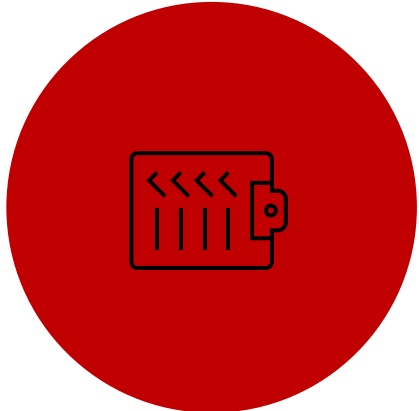
Community CleanUp Program Prioritization



AREAS THAT HAVE NOT PARTICIPATED
IN CURRENT PROGRAM IN 5 YEARS



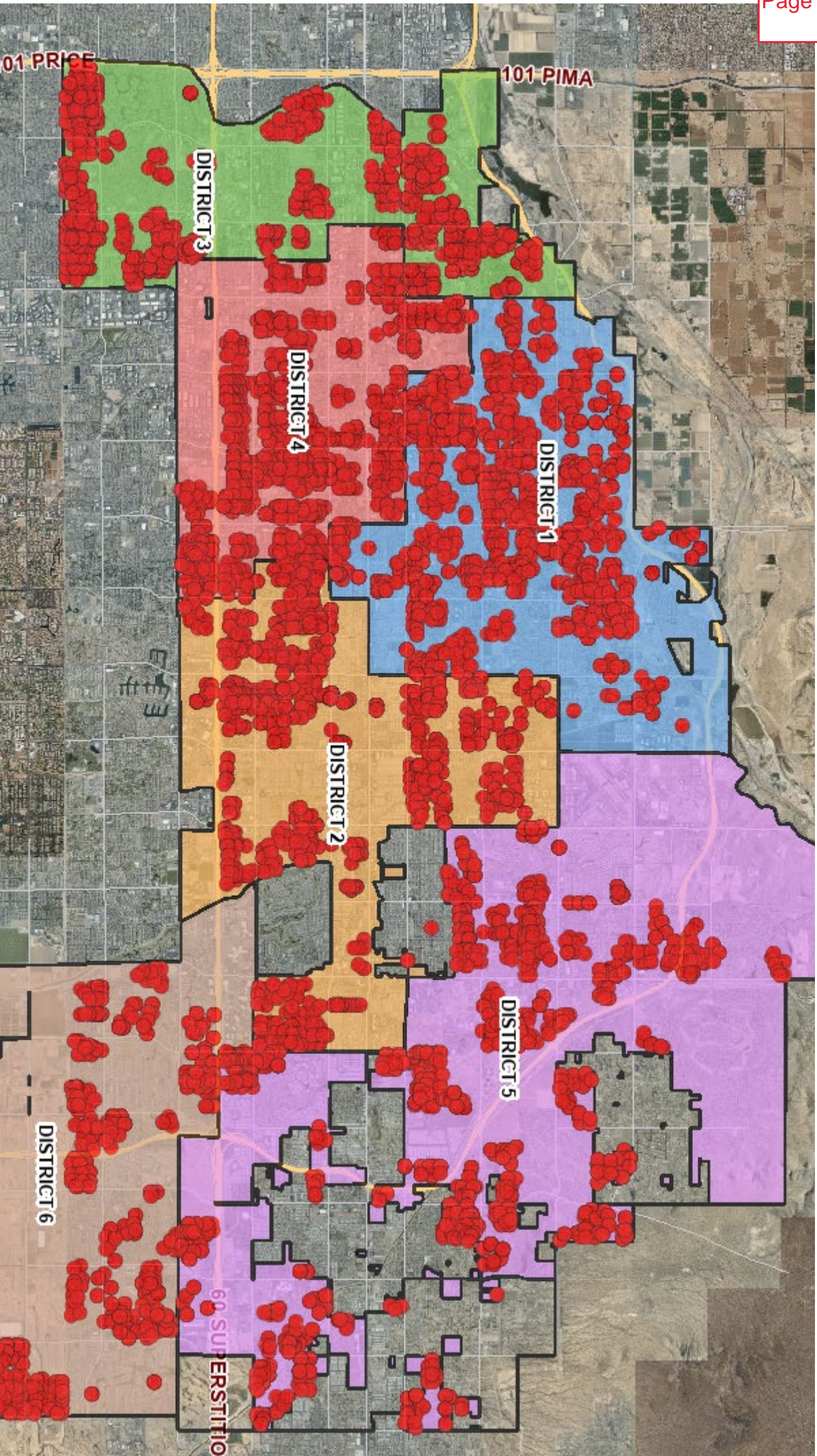
LOW TO MODERATE INCOME AND
OLDER NEIGHBORHOODS



OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCIES

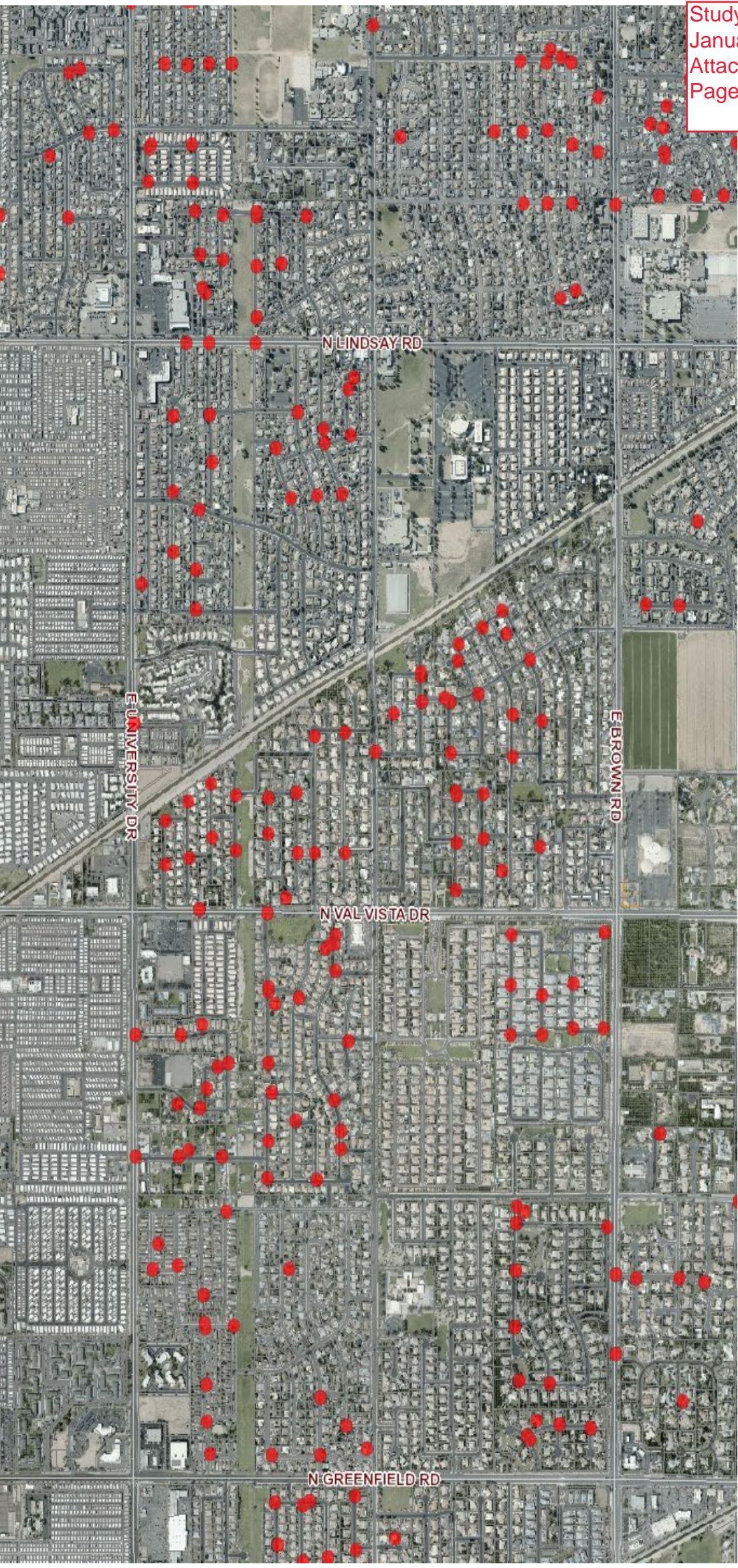


Current Program Use Within Last 5 years



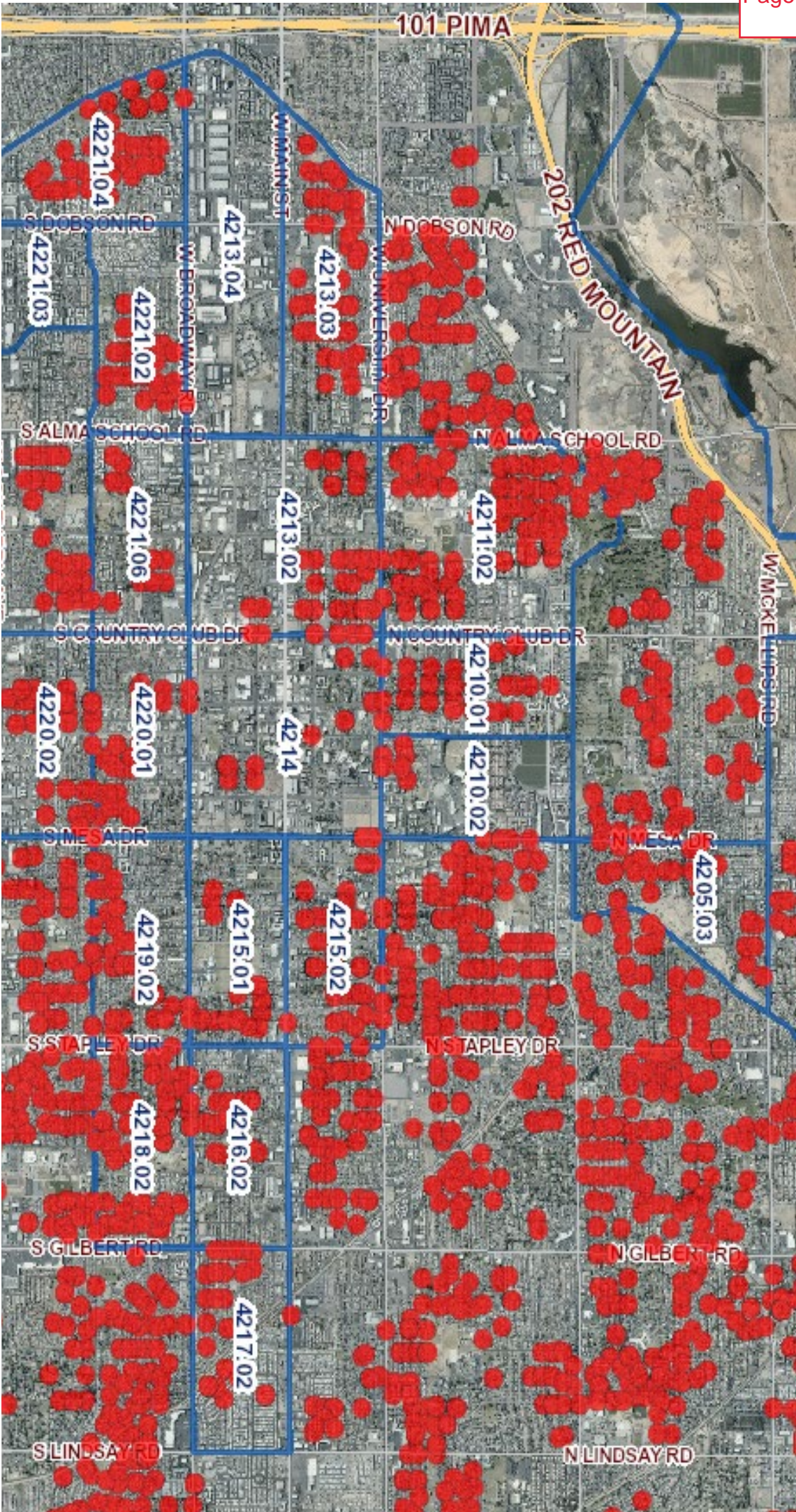


Current Program Use Within Last 5 years





Current Program Use Within Last 5 years





Community CleanUp Dumpsters are coming to your block
 Tendrá contenedores de residuos disponibles en su cuadra



[Date]

Dumpsters are available for free to dispose of household waste, yard waste, and other non-hazardous materials. Please follow the rules mentioned on the postcard before using them.

El uso de los contenedores es gratuito para residuos domésticos y de jardinería, así como otros desechos no peligrosos. Por favor siga las reglas incluidas en esta postal antes de usarlos.

Resident responsibilities for the use of Community CleanUp Dumpsters:

- Distribute waste evenly in the container.
- Don't overfill the container.
- Don't climb or open the container.
- Don't put commercial, tree removal, construction or remodeling waste in the container.
- Don't put prohibited items in the container.



Responsabilidades del residente para usar los Contenedores de residuos:

- Distribuya los residuos uniformemente en el contenedor
- No desborde el contenedor
- No suba o abra el contenedor
- No ponga desechos comerciales, de construcción, remodelación o de extracción de árboles
- No ponga desechos prohibidos en el contenedor

Questions? ¿Preguntas?

Monday to Thursday/Lunes a Jueves
 480-644-3705
communityengagementinfo@mesaaz.gov



**Prohibited Items
 Artículos prohibidos**

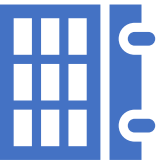


Community CleanUp
www.mesaaz.gov/communitycleanup





Community CleanUp Program



Launch

Spring 2024

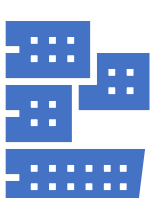


Focus

No participation in last 5 years

Older neighborhoods

Operational efficiencies



Future

Expand program over time

Citywide implementation