



# Storm *to* Shade

City of Tucson Green Stormwater  
Infrastructure Program

Arizona Stormwater Funding Workshop  
September 29, 2022

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Administrator



# City of Tucson Stormwater Funding Landscape

- Lead agency - Department of Transportation & Mobility (DTM)
- Program history –
  - Late 90s – MS4 program, Tucson Stormwater Management Study/Plan
  - Staffing/funding levels, early 2000s-today
- Funding sources –
  - City general fund
  - Groundwater protection fee
  - Roadway capital projects – RTA, Federal/State
  - Pima County Regional Flood Control District



# Meanwhile....

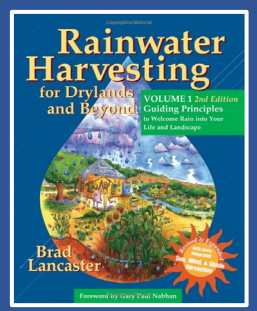
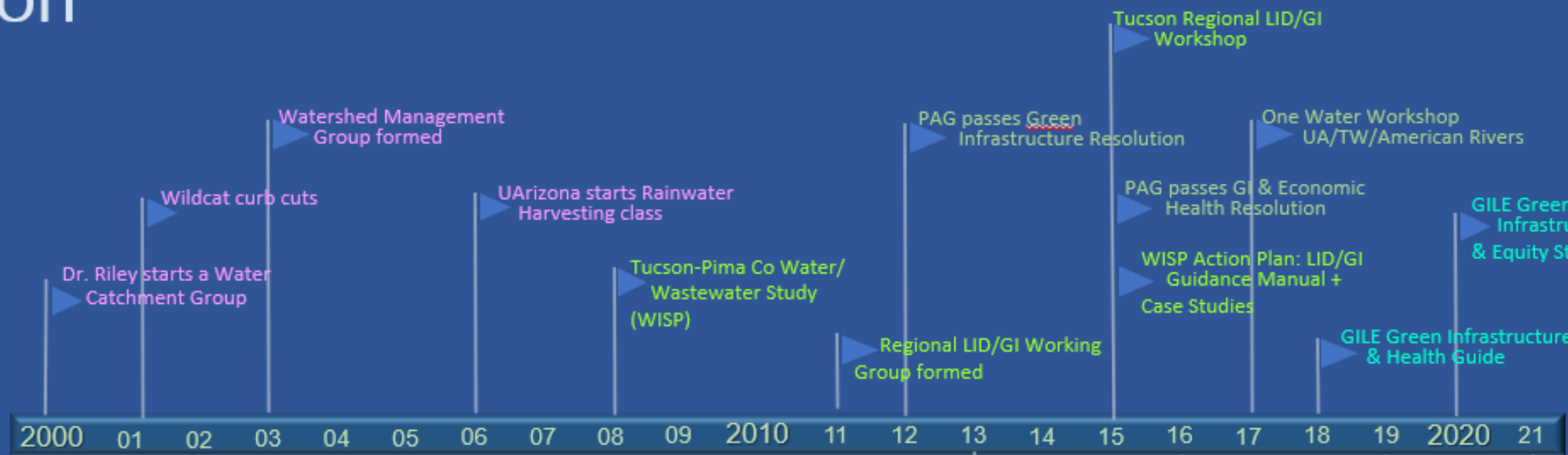
Active Rainwater Harvesting



Passive Rainwater Harvesting

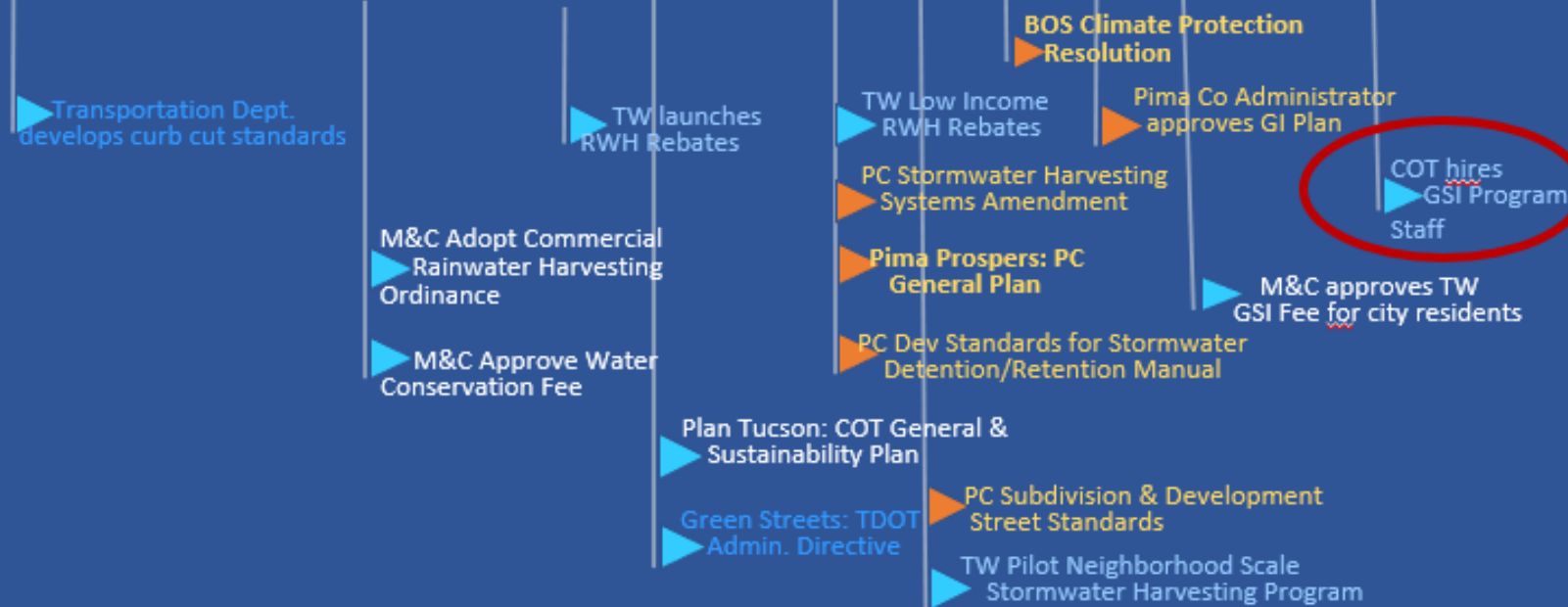


# Institutionalizing Rainwater Harvesting in Tucson



## Color Key

- Community/UArizona activity
- Tucson region LID/GI activity
- Regional PAG activity
- COT Transportation action
- COT M&C action
- Pima County BOS/Dept action
- COT TW actions
- National Green Infrastructure Leadership Exchange



# Key moments

- 2005 –Water Harvesting Guidance Manual
- 2010 – Commercial Rainwater Harvesting Ordinance
- 2010 – Rainwater Harvesting Rebates
- 2017 – Neighborhood Stormwater Grants
- 2018 – Stormwater white paper, 3 options:
  - “enhanced status quo”
  - Flat GSI Fee
  - Stormwater utility
- 2019 -2020 GSI Program Proposal & Implementation



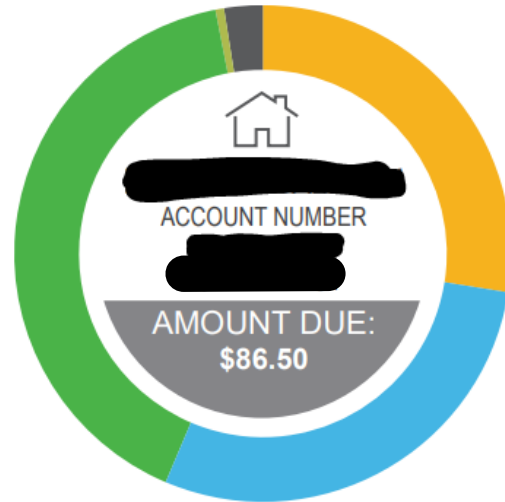
# Dedicated funding source

- Every City utility customer within City limits
- .13 cents per CcF of water consumed
- Average \$1/month per residential household
- \$3M annual program budget



## UTILITY SERVICES STATEMENT

Last Bill	Payments/Credits	Deposits	Adjustments	Balance Forward	Current Charges	Amount Due
\$97.83	-\$97.83	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$86.50	\$86.50
Bill Date	Service Period	Due Date	Auto Pay - Do Not Pay			
08/11/22	07/11/22 to 08/10/22	08/31/22				



A breakdown of utility services with icons and amounts:

- SEWER**: \$23.89 (Phone: 520-724-6609)
- WATER**: \$24.94 (Phone: 520-791-3242)
- ENVIRON. SVC.**: \$35.08 (Phone: 520-791-3171)
- GREEN STORMWATER**: \$0.39 (highlighted with a yellow circle)
- MISCELLANEOUS**: \$2.20 (Breakdown of charges on reverse)

METER # [REDACTED]



# Tucson's GSI Program shall...

**Storm to Shade**  
City of Tucson  
Green Stormwater Infrastructure Program

**What is GSI?**  
Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) directs stormwater runoff from streets, parking lots, and rooftops into landscaped areas where it infiltrates the soil to support vegetation.

**Find GSI at**

- ✓ Parks
- ✓ Greenways
- ✓ Neighborhood streets
- ✓ Bike boulevards
- ✓ Public parking lots
- ✓ Traffic circles

[climateaction.tucsonaz.gov](http://climateaction.tucsonaz.gov)

IMPROVES air quality ✓

SHADES and COOLS neighborhoods ✓

PROMOTES recreation & mobility ✓

ENCOURAGES pollinators ✓

IRRIGATES trees & plants ✓

CREATES habitats ✓

EXTENDS pavement life by reducing water on streets ✓

REDUCES flooding ✓

INCREASES soil moisture ✓

1. Establish a Capital Improvement Program to build GSI throughout the 6 Wards in the COT
2. Maintain existing and new GSI
3. Prioritize equity & vulnerable communities



# Where we are today

- MS4 + Floodplain programs still underfunded, slowly improving
- GSI Program helps:
  - Coordinating between City departments
  - Collaboration with Pima County Regional Flood Control District
  - Developing Asset Management model

- GSI Fee





# Maintenance Program

- 230 individuals trained
  - COT staff & community members
- 6 local GSI Mx contractors hired
- Interdepartmental MOUs underway
- EAM system under construction
- Site prioritization/selection process underway
- *GSI Mx Maintenance Pocket Guide* published & disseminated

<https://climateaction.tucsonaz.gov/documents/cotgis::gsi-maintenance-pocket-guide/explore>

