

'Your Voice' Environment Committee

Meeting 2 Agenda

October 8, 2014

5:30 – 7:30 PM

We're in the INTRODUCTION STAGE

Our purpose is to give a **Project Overview** and have **Open Discussion**

Schedule	Event	Presenter
5:30 pm	Welcome and Introductions	Bayer Vella
5:35 pm	Packet Review and Meeting Business Where to find info online Update on Economic Development Forum Review meeting materials Review revised schedule Review meeting summary notes	Elisa Hamblin
5:50 pm	Presentation and Discussion Background Information: Environmentally Sensitive Lands	Bayer Vella, All
6:30 pm	Discussion Environment Goals Sonoran Desert Resources Policies and Actions	Elisa Hamblin, All
7:10 pm	Homework and Next Steps	Elisa Hamblin
7:20 pm	Public Comment Period	Open to audience
7:30 pm	Adjourn	---

Notes:



MEETING 2 HOMEWORK

Please complete in preparation for the October 8, 2014 meeting.

We're in the INTRODUCTION STAGE

Our purpose is to give a **Project Overview** and have **Open Discussion**

In advance of the first meeting please dedicate some time to reviewing the packet materials and focusing your comments on the following items.

1. Please review the meeting summary notes and make note of any corrections that are needed.

2. Please review the goals section of the workbook and make comments here or in the workbook.

3. Please review the Sonoran Desert Resources section of the workbook and make comments here on in the workbook.

4. Considering the vision and guiding principles, do you think there are items missing from the sections you have reviewed in the workbook?

5. Do you have any other questions that you want to discuss at our next meeting? Please also let us know in advance at ehamblin@orovalleyaz.gov.



draft

'Your Voice' Environment Committee
Meeting 1 - September 23, 2014
Meeting Summary

We're in the INTRODUCTION STAGE

Our purpose is to give a **Project Overview** and have **Open Discussion**

Attendance:

Present:

Robyn Basken
Mike DeSantis
Tim Falter
Ellen Guyer
Bob Milkey
John Scheuring
Casey Streuber
Bob Swope
Fred Wayand

Absent w/ notice:

Helen Dankwerth
Jack Evert
Pat Spoerl

Absent w/o notice:

Raymond Caryl
Rick Davis
Christopher Fox

Welcome

- Bayer Vella welcomed everyone and thanked them for giving up their personal time to attend
- An overview of the evening agenda was provided to the members
 - ✓ Emphasis was given that tonight's meeting focus was on the big picture of the Committee's work ahead
 - ✓ Tonight was a time for all Committee members to interact allowing the opportunity to conclude where the members are at with their ideas on the Committee topic areas
 - ✓ The purpose and future use of the workbook was explained to members – meat of the Committee is to develop recommendations on goals, policies and plan of actions for each topic area
- Bayer provided members with a quick history of the **'Your Voice, Our Future'** Project to date – from the development of the Public Participation Plan with the support of the General Plan Scoping Committee to the communications planning with the backing of the Communications Advisory Committee and up to the **'Your Voice'** Volunteers who played an enormous roll in Phase I – Community Outreach. Now at Phase II – Community Decision Making

Introductions

- Round table – members were asked to introduce themselves and share their background, specialty and/or why they are interested in being on the Committee
 - ✓ Observations gleaned were that we have a committee made up of members who have a broad spectrum of professional experience and skills that will be shared; and, most members have common interests of preservation and conservation.

Charter and Expectations:

- Bayer briefly covered key items of the charter and Committee members' expectations
 - ✓ Staff's role is to provide nonbiased facilitation and keep meetings moving and to be productive



- ✓ Members were reminded that they should feel comfortable to speak up – all ideas will be heard
- ✓ It was stressed to members the importance of their understanding of discussion items; and if they do not understand, to please speak up and say so
- ✓ Members were advised that this is not a lecture experience but rather an interactive experience
- ✓ It is expected of members to take Committee ownership and keep the community focus when working
- ✓ Meetings will start and end on time

Presentation and Discussion

- Project Schedule was highlighted as to where we are
- Even though this is the Environment Committee, members were reminded of both the Community and Development Committees as there is overlap between all committees – striving for balance
- The Community Academy purpose was explained and members were encouraged to attend if possible, especially the October 16, 2014 class ‘Environmental Stewardship and Conservation’
- Within the meeting packet, the **‘Your Voice, Our Future’** Background Report was emphasized as this provides baseline information. Members were asked to read it before their next meeting – October 8
- Members were asked to help enforce the Charter to ensure meetings keep progressing and are productive – this is not just for staff to enforce
- Environment Committee’s bottom line is to be **thorough, productive and collaborative**
- Environment Matters! Surveys say so
- Community voices resulted in the endorsed Vision and Guiding Principles for Oro Valley’s future growth and development needs – the last phrase of the Vision Statement (... an extraordinary natural environment and scenic views.’ speaks to the Environment Committee
- Working within the framework of the Vision and Guiding Principles the Environment Committee will make recommendations on goals, policies and plan of actions for the following topic areas: Sonoran Desert Resources, Water Resources, Cultural Resources and Clean Environment
- Using a scorecard to stay true to the community voices and for tracking progress was briefly reviewed

Committee Brainstorm Exercise 1

- Round table – the following statements/questions were posed to the Committee members
 - ✓ Think of the things or places you enjoy and/or love about Oro Valley
 - ✓ Think about the sights, sounds and your feelings that are associated with the things and places you enjoy and love about Oro Valley
 - ✓ What jumps out that you heard from the above discussion statements you believe is important to the Committee’s work
 - ✧ The statements were posed one at a time and working around the table, responses were freely given by all members
 - ✧ Common themes from all responses: preservation; emotional attachment to Town, keep in mind the water and environment resources when planning for future development

Committee Brainstorm Exercise 2 – Purpose of exercise is to learn where your committee members are at with each topic

- Bayer placed the Environment Committee’s topic areas, (Sonoran Desert Resources, Water Resources, Cultural Resources and Clean Environment) on the sticky wall, while asking members to think about their feelings, emotions, senses, thoughts from everything they heard in the prior exercise, and ponder if and how they tie into the Vision and Guiding Principles



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- ✓ Bayer then requested that each member take a piece of paper and write down six (6) key points/take away items that the group touched upon in their prior exercise that they believe should go under one of the topic areas on the sticky wall – can be one word, a statement, etc.
 - ✧ Members then picked two key points from their individual list that were most clear to them and placed them under the topic on the wall they believed best fit their thought
 - ✧ Next using the remaining key points on their list, members picked two points the were most different from the first two chosen and placed them under a topic area on the wall
 - ✧ Finally, members placed their last two remaining key points on the wall
- ✓ Working collaboratively, Committee members read and discussed all individual key points under each topic area and came to agreement on item belonging within the topic area and whether or not to place the items within a subgroup or as a standalone item under main topic (see sticky wall statements' attachment)
 - ✧ This exercise provided the Committee members the chance to work together and provoked productive thinking among them
- ✓ A different member summarized the common themes for each topic area
 - ✧ Cultural Resources: preservation, who will have accessibility to historic places
 - ✧ Sonoran Desert Resources: preserving and conserving wildlife with growth, emphasis on keeping scenic beauty, growth and protection
 - ✧ Water Resources: strategies for conservation for years to come; storm water is a water resource and it is important how it's managed
 - ✧ Clean environment: keep air and environment from pollutants; education on how to do recycling
- Both exercises demonstrated that all members are closely thinking the same towards the topic areas
- A list will be created from the sticky wall exercise (see sticky wall statements' attachment) and will continue to grow as the Committee works – this is the beginning of recommending policies and actions

Workbook and Homework

- Bayer provided the purpose of the Environment Committee Workbook and highlighted aspects of it for the members, i.e., scorecard on page 2, definition of goal, policy and action on page 3
- When member questioned where the draft ideas had originated, Bayer explained they were derived through the Vision and Guiding Principles, Town Staff, Town General Plan – Focus 2020, Town Zoning Code and other cities/towns' best practices
- Committee members need to be judicious how action items are phased as we do not want them to be too restrictive; but, to be aspirational
- Homework was assigned
 - ✓ Members are to go through workbook
 - ✧ Emphasis on goals and Sonoran Desert Resources
 - ✓ Background Report
 - ✓ Members are to focus on context – do we align with community; not on wording

Action Items

Members should read the *'Your Voice, Our Future'* Background Report before their next meeting – Oct 8.
If possible, attend Community Academy – Oct 16.



Statements were placed in groups through the collaboration of all committee members in attendance.

Clean Environment

Group 1:

- How can we foster a sense of ownership of the Oro Valley environment?

Group 2:

- Preserving the dark night skies
- Light pollution
- Keep skies clear and dark

Group 3:

- Ensure that potential impacts to the environment are objectively analyzed

Group 4:

- Native desert habitat to sustain desert life along roadside and desert riparian corridors (clean of invasives – including BG, FG and Bermuda grass and weedy natives such as desert broom and burro plants)

Group 5:

- Enjoyment for families

Group 6:

- Promote recycling and environmental responsibilities
- Maximize recycling

Group 7:

- Clean air; clean public space
- Atmospheric pollution

Water Resources

Group 1:

- Encourage conservation by example
- Water conservation is only vaguely understood by the general public; need for public education

Group 2:

- Wildlife habitat

Group 3:

- Water resource management will drive what is possible in our community
- Plan for provision of resources for the future

Statements were placed in groups through the collaboration of all committee members in attendance.

Group 4:

- Reduce water consumption, conserve the resource, identify alternative source, encourage use of reclaimed water
- Find creative ways to be more efficient with water resources
- Water conservation

Sonoran Desert Resources

Group 1:

- Importance of maintaining and enhancing natural beauty, views and desert life
- Scenic beauty

Group 2:

- Wildlife habitat
- Preserve riparian areas and washes
- Wildlife conservation, habitat protection

Group 3:

- Grow with minimal impact on wildlife
- Interstate development needs with wildlife needs

Group 4:

- Preserve open space, minimize degradation, preserve natural drainage corridors

Group 5:

- Expand accessibility to natural desert areas

Group 6:

- Our “rural” heritage provides a nearly unvarnished Sonoran landscape that “emotionally” connects our citizens to Oro Valley

Group 7:

- Landscape codes preserve native vegetation
- Control of non-native plants populations

Group 8:

- Wildlife safety education
- As we develop a younger population, opportunities for children to interact with and learn from the environment will become more important

Statements were placed in groups through the collaboration of all committee members in attendance.

Group 9:

- Growth
- Maintaining site lines for mountain views

Group 10:

- Amplifying our natural environment with a thoughtful built development is possible

Cultural Resources

Group 1:

- Historic resources are not directly listed in the guide lining principles. We should not lump this in with “cultural resources” but keep it separate so it doesn’t get lost

Group 2:

- Historic resources – whatever to preserve and make available to the public or whether to keep them unblemished – big debate – where do we stand?
- Keeping cultural resources maintained and available to the public
- Accessibilities to and preservation of Native American sites
- Preservation for the future

Group 3:

- Educate the public in order to increase appreciation of resources

Environment Committee Meeting

September 23, 2014

Homework Notes – Meeting 1



1. What can you and the Environment Committee do to support the community vision?
 - a. We can continue to implement measures of conservation to protect the Sonoran Desert.
 - b. Vision – opportunities for quality living/extraordinary natural environment & scenic views. Environment Committee needs to identify measures to protect those features that define our natural environment's views (open space, wildlife & vegetative habitats, visually – important areas).
 - c. Review the General Plan - 2005 and Focus 2020 then see how they can be adhered to for Oro Valley to have "natural environment and scenic view" with "recreation" opportunities.
 - d. Listen thoughtfully to community direction and weight our responses/suggestions within the General Plan accordingly.
 - e. Develop and justify the detail of the environmental considerations that are necessary to provide a sustainable community for the long-term. This work should address, among other topics land use, water resources, visual impacts, and landscaping.
 - f. How to develop policies to promote the conservation of our natural resources.
 - g. Carefully listen and dialogue on where we have been and where we are going.

2. What are the most important guiding principles for the Environment Committee's work, and why?
 - a. Conservation, whether it be water or the surrounding environment conservation allows us to continue living and growing with minimal effect on the environment.
 - b. Ensure interesting & scenic beauty & environment. Promote conservation of natural resources. These two principles will ensure the community identity as a "special place".
 - c. #2, 3, 11 but historical resources not directly mentioned.
 - d. Protect what we were given and implement the consensus of the community.
 - e. (1) Promoting conservation – long term sustainability of our town. (2) Ensuring identity of scenic beauty – main attraction to living in Oro Valley. (3) Providing recreation opportunities – outdoor recreation opportunities are important to understanding and respecting our environment.
 - f. Understand the external factors influencing the environment of Oro Valley together with the community's vision for the future of the town.
 - g. Ensure integrity of scenic beauty and environment – our desert wildlife, vegetation & open spaces are an important part of life in our community. Promote conservation of natural resources – to ensure sustainability of resources for the future.
 - h. Know 2005 plan. Consider new opportunities and threats. Listen and dialogue.

3. How can you imagine implementing the vision and guiding principles in your work?
 - a. By simply working to protect the desert while accommodating the requirements of human life.
 - b. Turn them into questions to be asked of each goal we articulate.
 - c. Work with the Planning Department to ensure that "green space" is provided in "multi" housing and that when zoning variations are given they do not conflict with General Plan.
 - d. My main focus will be in finding ways the community can grow in a responsible way that emphasizes the core environment that brought us all here.
 - e. I think the bulk of the task will be to interpret the vision and how it should lead to intelligent planning for the Oro Valley environment and natural resources as we confront new challenges.
 - f. Use above guiding principles to help develop novel ways to recharge aquifer and provide structure for community outreach to raise awareness of environmental issues & how the community can contribute.
 - g. Small topic work teams that meet outside of these general meetings.

Environment Committee Meeting

September 23, 2014

Homework Notes – Meeting 1



4. What do you think are the most visible positive environmental results of the last General Plan?
 - a. The expansion of trails and scenic roads because the public sees them.
 - b. Environmentally - Sensitive Lands Ordinances (ESCO) policy 11.2.7; Flood Plan Management Ordinances; Steam Pump Ranch.
 - c. ESL
 - d. The hillside development zone and riparian area conservation.
 - e. Sticking to the area I know best, the implementations of renewable water sources to a degree that our current use of groundwater has been reduced to an amount that approaches a sustainable level.
 - f. Preservation of the Sonoran Desert/maintenance of connected open space.
 - g. Adoption and implementation of ESL

5. Think to the future, what kind of results would you like to see from this next General Plan? What are the big goals for your work?
 - a. I would like to see an expansion of the old and more focus on the wild life conservation.
 - b. > More definitive open space acquisition program to create adequate buffer for ESL. > Greater emphasis on water conservation – build on existing program. > Identify appropriate measures to protect historic/cultural resources – overlay district. > Greater emphasis on objective environmental impact analysis during GP development and later during proposed development review. > Create process to ensure continued updating of biological resourced database (Policy 11.2.5).
 - c. Making SPR completion a priority.
 - d. Gray water capture – solar incentives for businesses – planting requirements (not just cactus) to replace ground given to concrete; asphalt more availability of recycle receptacles.
 - e. My biggest goals are on emphasis on environmental sustainability with new developments and opportunities for the community to enjoy our natural environment responsibility.
 - f. I would lie to assure that the next General Plan provides a foundation for flexible response to future environmental issues.
 - g. Provide a plan for the provision of natural resources to expanding Oro Valley and come up with ways to involve community in conservation efforts.
 - h. Finding ways to preserve and enhance the preservation of natural landscapes and habitats.

6. What questions do you have that you want to discuss at our first meeting? Please also let us know in advance at ehamblin@orovalleyaz.gov.
 - a. What is the limit to which we can create policy for conservation?

Your Voice, Our Future: Environment Committee Schedule

Outreach work continuing through all phases of the project include: YourVoiceOV.com web updates, Town of Oro Valley web updates, email announcements, stakeholder and organization meetings as well as broad news and media publications for events.

STAGE	PURPOSE	DATE	TOPICS
KICK-OFF	Orientation	Aug 27	Welcome & Introductions Team Building Project Overview, Expectations and Next Steps
INTRODUCTION	Project Overview Open Discussion	Mtg. 1: Tues. Sept 23	1. Welcome 2. Packet Review 3. Charter and Expectations 4. Presentation – Vision & Guiding Principles 5. Discussion 6. Homework and Next Steps
REVIEW GOALS & POLICIES	Identify Issues and Opportunities Generate Ideas and Directions Feedback and Revisions	Mtg. 2: Weds. Oct 8	1. Meeting Business 2. Presentation – Background Information (Environmentally Sensitive Lands Ordinance, etc.) 3. Discussion – Environment Goals; Sonoran Desert Resources 4. Homework and Next Steps
		Mtg. 3: Weds. Oct 22	1. Meeting Business 2. Presentation 3. Discussion – Water Resources 4. Homework and Next Steps
		Mtg. 4: Tues. Nov 4	1. Meeting Business 2. Presentation 3. Discussion – Cultural Resources 4. Homework and Next Steps
		Mtg. 5: Mon. Nov 17	1. Meeting Business 2. Presentation 3. Discussion – Clean Environment; Community & Development 4. Homework and Next Steps
RECOMMENDATION	Feedback and Revisions Endorsement	Mtg. 6: Thurs. Dec 4	1. Meeting Business 2. Discussion – Environment, Community & Development 3. Tentative Recommendation 4. Homework and Next Steps
		Mtg. 7: Tues. Dec 16	1. Meeting Business 2. Discussion on Final Draft 3. Final Recommendation
OTHER COMMITTEES	Review and Recommendations	Dec '14 – Mar '15	Community Committee (First committee meeting Thursday, December 11, 2014)
		Jan – Apr 2015	Development Committee (First committee meeting Wednesday, January 14, 2015)
COMPILATION	Bring together materials Publish Draft	May – Aug 2015	Project staff will work with each committee to form final recommendations and combine all components with other supporting info to create the <i>Your Voice, Our Future Plan</i>
FINAL PLAN	Adopt Plan	Sept 2015	Planning Commission Briefing
		Oct 2015	Planning Commission Hearing
		Nov 2015	City Council Hearing
		Dec '15 – Oct '16	Public Engagement – Did we get it right?
	Accept Plan	Nov 2016	Public Vote on <i>Your Voice, Our Future Plan</i>



Survey: Share with us! Comments for the Environment Committee

Question: Check out the meeting packet under the "topic details". Do you have any comments for the Environment Committee to be shared at their first meeting on 9/23/14?

does Oro Valley have to own land for it to be considered "protected open space?" I know the state and federal government own plenty of acres worth of land within and around OV and I wonder how the Town might go about partnering with those and other groups to set aside and protect prioritized open space areas.

The General Plan Significant Resource Area is a valuable tool for guiding development and making sure that the beauty and natural Sonoran Desert is maintained and remains a part of the Town image. Let's keep this tool so future Generations will have what we enjoy and treasure today about Oro Valley.

The Town is SMALL and the Beauty is BIG here in Oro Valley!

Comments

Number of Comments 0

Hamblin, Elisa

From: janders4access@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 12:38 PM
To: Hamblin, Elisa
Cc: Your Voice OV
Subject: 9/23 meeting comments

Good Afternoon,

I would like to understand what we can do to ensure our community animals and pets are incorporated into the Your Voice community vision?

The residents of Pima County clearly are seeking a more humane community as evidenced by responses like; the bond survey, prop. 415, support of TNR (trap neuter return) for community and feral cats, movement toward a no kill model for shelter animals, support of adoptions over commercial pet stores, and, recently making their voices heard to ensure the passing of the partnership between Best Friends Animal Foundation, Pima Animal Care Center and Petsmart Charities (resulting in the unanimous favorable vote by the county Board of Supervisors), and so forth.

Oro Valley needs to ensure that its residents, the vast majority who have companion animals, are considered in any plan for the community. Recognizing that OV relies on Pima Animal Care Center (PACC) to handle animal enforcement, we still need to ensure the concerns and needs of our residents are heard and addressed. At my adoption site at Petco in OV, I help our community residents by addressing their urgent needs for the welfare of their animals. We can do better in this area by ensuring we provide information, resources, activities and classes to our community - most of which are at no cost. We would be doing a great service to our residents and our merchants as well as attracting more merchants, creating more sources of employment and continuing to improve our economic development.

I am a co-founder of No Kill Pima County, a long time Oro Valley resident, and a partner with two of our communities local merchants, PETCO and ACE Hardware. I would like to ensure our community is not excluded from the opportunity of playing a strong leadership role in the continued march toward a more humane community. Is there a Task Force or Committee established for Community Animals? If not, I would like to propose that this be considered and determine how we can move this forward to make it actionable.

Guiding principles for the Environment Committee's work include ;

- Inclusive, collaborative, open and transparent with the community and stakeholders in all that it does.
- Ensure diverse representation from all stakeholders including animal welfare and community animals (domestic and wild).

Mayor Hiremath supported the license payment to PACC, to support the spay and neuter program. This was an important and understated decision made by Mayor Hiremath. We need to ensure our town not only takes a leadership role in a compassionate community model, not just in Pima County, but in the US and also be recognized for doing so.

I look forward to hearing any thoughts on this.

Jeanette Regan Anders
520-979-2282
jregan@nokillpimacounty.org

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE WORKBOOK

Please note: this is the same version that was handed out at the first meeting



INTRODUCTION

During Phase 2 – ‘Let’s Think’ of the *Your Voice, Our Future* project, three topic-specific committees will be working to develop goals, policies and actions for the community’s plan. This work will guide actions and decisions for the Town’s future over the next ten years.

What is the workbook?

The workbook is a tool for committees to use. It’s designed to be friendly, offer ideas and help you dive into your work. All the answers aren’t in this document, instead it represents some ideas that are supported by the community’s vision and guiding principles.

How should I use it?

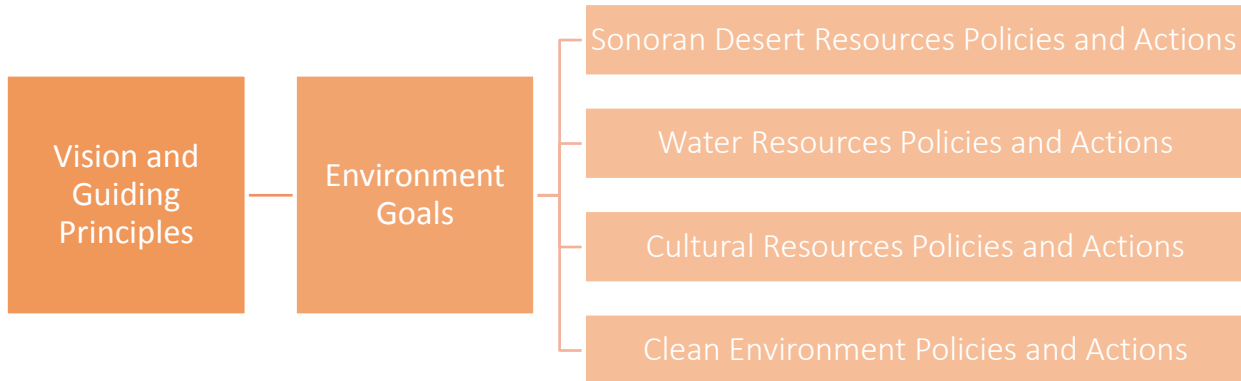
Read it – mark it up – make notes and bring your ideas to the committee meetings! This plan can’t be built without the unique contributions every committee member and this workbook should help you bring your ideas into one place. Together we can build something that truly directs a positive future for the community.



ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE WORKBOOK

How is the workbook organized?

The information in the workbook was examined through the lens of the endorsed vision and guiding principles. The goals offer big directions and the policies and actions take the next step.



Throughout this workbook you will see references to the Vision and Guiding Principles referenced after every goal, policy and action in parentheses. This is a way to track how we’re lining up with what the community told us what important. The key for these Vision and Guiding Principles codes can be found in the key below.

Code V&GP Phrase

Code	V&GP Phrase
V-1	Well-managed community
V-2	Opportunities for quality living
V-3	Friendly, small-town character
V-4	Access to daily services
V-5	Access to employment
V-6	Access to recreation
V-7	Strong sense of community
V-8	High regard for public safety
V-9	Extraordinary natural environment
V-10	Extraordinary scenic views
GP-1	Focus on community safety and maintain low crime
GP-2	Ensure integrity of scenic beauty and environment
GP-3	Keep the unique community identity as a special place
GP-4	Create a complete community with a broad range of shopping, dining and places to gather
GP-5	Minimize traffic and increase ways to get around Town
GP-6	Manage how we grow and maintain high design standards
GP-7	Grow the number of high quality employment opportunities
GP-8	Ensure Oro Valley is a family-friendly community
GP-9	Support and build on high quality of schools
GP-10	Provide more parks, recreation and cultural opportunities for all ages
GP-11	Promote conservation of natural resources
GP-12	Maintain financial stability

Oro Valley’s Vision

To be a well-managed community that provides all residents with opportunities for quality living. Oro Valley will retain its friendly, small-town character, while increasing access to daily services, employment and recreation. The Town’s lifestyle continues to be defined by a strong sense of community, a high regard for public safety and an extraordinary natural environment and scenic views.

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE WORKBOOK

What do I need to know?

Asterisks*

Indicates the source is the current Town General Plan, Focus 2020, or the adopted Town Zoning Code.

Statements with a () afterwards

Indicate a relationship to another chapter or a reference to the vision and guiding principles.

Goal:

The desired result or the envisioned future. A goal answers the question “what does the Town strive for?”

Policy:

Identifies a course of action to help achieve the goals.

Action:

Indicates the specific actions to take in order to fulfill both the policies and the goals.

How will this fit into the final plan?

The work of this committee will feed into the final plan, along with the work of the other two committees.

1. Introduction

- a. How this plan was created: process, vision and guiding principles, state requirements
- b. How to read this plan: organization and plan content
- c. How this plan goes to work: implementation measures

2. How to use this plan: plan administration

- a. Amendment criteria

3. Environment

Topics include: Sonoran Desert Resources, Water Resources, Cultural Resources and Clean Environment

4. Community

Topics include: Economy, Complete Community and Town Services, Facilities and Buildings

5. Development

Topics include: Land Use and Design, Development and Growth Areas and Infrastructure

6. Conclusion

7. Appendices

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE WORKBOOK

3.1 Discussion and Overview

[Placeholder - text to be developed]

Community priorities represented in this chapter

Explanation of legal requirements – topics that must be covered as part of State elements

3.2 Environment Goals

Following is a list of goals that support the achievement of the long-term vision for the environment.

Listed in order of the appearance of topics in this chapter.

All goals have a relationship to the goals found in other chapters

The Town of Oro Valley strives for . . .

- 3.2.1 The conservation, protection, and restoration of environmentally sensitive lands, natural resource areas and habitat and lands with high scenic value.* (V09)
- 3.2.2 A high quality, safe and reliable water supply which meets long-term needs for humans and the natural environment. (GP11)
- 3.2.3 The preservation of significant and historical sites, properties and resources that enhance community character and heritage. (GP10)
- 3.2.4 High environmental quality including meeting or exceeding all standards for air and water quality in Oro Valley. (V09)
- 3.2.5 Balanced and responsible use of resources in order to protect and conserve resources for the current and future benefit of the community. (GP11)

WHAT IS A GOAL?

*The desired end
result or the
envisioned future!*

*Questions - comments - ideas -
concepts that are important to me*

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE WORKBOOK

3.3 Sonoran Desert Resources Policies and Actions

Oro Valley highly values its open space, natural resources and views. This section outlines policies and actions to conserve and protect these resources.

Suggested POLICY

- 3.3.1 Identify, preserve, manage and maintain an integrated and connected open space system that protects Oro Valley's natural resources, and provides enjoyment for residents. (COMM) (V10)

ACTION ideas

- 3.3.1.1 Develop and implement a program for the acquisition, management, and maintenance of public natural open space in cooperation with other agencies and Pima County.* (V09)
- 3.3.1.2 Create public use agreements for natural resource areas with homeowners associations, property owners and public agencies and with developers as part of future development requirements.* (V10)
- 3.3.1.3 Develop and adopt a trails plan which establishes long-term strategies for system and natural resource connections as well as trail development, management and upkeep. (GP10)
- 3.3.1.4 Create a system, including public and private contributions, for posting regulatory and/or informational signs along community trails and near natural areas.* (GP10)
- 3.3.1.5 Monitor and manage public use of significant biological and visual resources in designated natural areas within the community to prevent their degradation.* (GP02)

Suggested POLICY

- 3.3.2 Provide natural open space connections between significant natural resource areas.* (DEV) (GP10)

ACTION ideas

- 3.3.2.1 Develop a plan that connects environmentally sensitive lands as development occurs. (GP10)
- 3.3.2.2 Identify preservation and connection strategies between significant natural resource areas, including Tortolita Mountain Park, Arroyo Grande and Catalina State Park. (GP10)

Questions - comments - ideas - concepts that are important to me

The most meaningful phrase on this page to me is

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE WORKBOOK

Suggested POLICY

3.3.3 Conserve Oro Valley's natural resources in a comprehensive manner. (V09)

ACTION ideas

- 3.3.3.1 Implement the Town's Tree Master Plan, that considers the benefits of trees in relation to overall community welfare, while making plans for infrastructure, facilities and development. (GP11)
- 3.3.3.2 Pursue measures to maintain night sky visibility.* (GP02)
- 3.3.3.3 Explore the designation of dedicated Town staff to support natural resource goals and policies. (V09)
- 3.3.3.4 Provide training and resources to Town employees and volunteers in coordination with community programs in order to protect natural resources. (V09)

Suggested POLICY

3.3.4 Conserve healthy native vegetation during the development process. (DEV) (GP11)

ACTION ideas

- 3.3.4.1 Utilize the Town's Save-A-Plant program for protection of healthy native vegetation.*(DEV)(GP11)

Suggested POLICY

3.3.5 Provide information to the public supporting environmental goals as a means to protect and conserve resources. (GP11)

ACTION ideas

- 3.3.5.1 Develop a program that identifies and promotes public actions and education opportunities for natural, water and cultural resources protection and conservation.* (GP11)

Suggested POLICY

3.3.6 Protect scenic corridors, public park viewsheds, and the distinctive visual character of Oro Valley.* (GP02)

ACTION ideas

- 3.3.6.1 Support scenic resource regulations to conserve scenic views to including the ridgelines, hillsides, peaks and foothills of the Santa Catalina, Tortolita, and more distant mountain ranges that contribute to the Town's valued scenic character.* (GP02)
- 3.3.6.2 Monitor and revise scenic resource regulations as needed to enhance community-wide goals. (GP02)

*Questions - comments - ideas -
concepts that are important to me*

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE WORKBOOK

Suggested POLICY

3.3.7 Enhance, protect, create and restore native biological habitats, especially along washes and wildlife corridors, in order to benefit plant and wildlife species and provide protection from flood risk.* (V09)

ACTION ideas

3.3.7.1 Provide support to programs or groups which strive to reduce invasive species. (GP11)

Suggested POLICY

3.3.8 Maintain the natural qualities of creeks, washes, groundwater basins and recharge areas to protect the integrity of wildlife habitat, allow for wildlife movement and enhance the safety of the built environment.* (V09)

ACTION ideas

3.3.8.1 Develop plans and provide resources to reduce soil erosion by slowing storm runoff and increase infiltration of stormwater into the groundwater supply.* (DEV) (V09)

Suggested POLICY

3.3.9 Protect and enhance contiguous areas of key habitats and environmentally sensitive lands within the Town.* (GP11)

ACTION ideas

- 3.3.9.1 Review and amend the zoning code as needed to buffer parks, trails and trailheads from incompatible uses.* (V09)
- 3.3.9.2 Periodically evaluate for effectiveness and update the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Ordinance (ESLO) to incorporate best practices on an as needed basis.* (DEV) (V09)
- 3.3.9.3 Inventory and actively pursue opportunities to restore degraded areas that contain remnants of essential or key habitat areas as defined on the Environmentally Sensitive Lands map.* (V10)

Questions - comments - ideas - concepts that are important to me



ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE WORKBOOK

Suggested POLICY

3.3.10 Encourage development project designs that connect wildlife habitat areas, avoid disturbing significant wildlife habitat and minimize the overall impacts on wildlife habitat areas. (DEV) (V09)

ACTION ideas

- 3.3.10.1 Periodically evaluate the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Ordinance for effectiveness and update design guidelines and standards to incorporate best practices on site and building design.* (DEV) (V09)
- 3.3.10.2 Maintain a plant palette for use in all landscape plans which encourages drought-tolerant native vegetation.* (DEV) (GP11)
- 3.3.10.3 During the review process require new development that is adjacent to or containing riparian areas or wildlife and plant habitat to link these systems to other nearby riparian areas, habitats, existing or planned trails, and regional natural open space areas.* (V09)
- 3.3.10.4 Maintain a current and accurate database of biological resources, including maps that identify the locations of specific habitats, and lists of special-status species, to ensure environmentally compatible development.* (V09)
- 3.3.10.5 Buffer washes, riparian areas, vegetation, designated natural open space and environmentally sensitive lands from flood risk and degraded habitat that may result from development encroachment. (DEV) (V09)

Questions - comments - ideas - concepts that are important to me

*WHAT IS A
POLICY?*

*It identifies a course of
action to help achieve
the goals!*

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE WORKBOOK

Suggested POLICY

3.3.11 Provide for the safe movement of wildlife near manmade features which may potentially disconnect wildlife corridors.*
(DEV) (GP06)

ACTION ideas

- 3.3.11.1 Identify preferred wildlife routes. (GP11)
- 3.3.11.2 Develop standards for roadway design which allow for wildlife to move below or across roadways and incorporate appropriate spacing and wildlife friendly fencing. (GP06)
- 3.3.11.3 Develop structural design standards which allow for appropriate wildlife movement and incorporate appropriate spacing and wildlife friendly fencing. (GP06)

Suggested POLICY

3.3.12 Strive to protect the public from the threats of flood and risks of stormwater surges. (V02)

ACTION ideas

- 3.3.12.1 Provide resources to channelize watercourses where appropriate to minimize safety threats. (V09)
- 3.3.12.2 Provide resources to maintain watercourses to avoid clogged channels caused by impediments. (V09)

Questions - comments - ideas - concepts that are important to me



ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE WORKBOOK

3.4 Water Resources Policies and Actions

This section addresses policies and actions to protect water resources.

Suggested POLICY

- 3.4.1 Ensure water resource reliability for water utility customers. (V01)

ACTION ideas

- 3.4.1.1 Coordinate measures to protect groundwater resources with watershed plans and planning efforts with appropriate water utilities and jurisdictions. (GP11)

Suggested POLICY

- 3.4.2 Ensure water quality for water utility customers that meets or exceeds federal and state regulatory requirements. (V01)

ACTION ideas

- 3.4.2.1 Coordinate with appropriate public safety agencies to provide for safe and secure water resources.
- 3.4.2.2 Continue to support the Oro Valley Water Utility and its efforts to monitor water quality. (V02)
- 3.4.2.3 Continue to implement the water quality sampling program in accordance with Arizona Department of Environmental Quality regulations. (V02)
- 3.4.2.4 Continue to review and submit water plans in accordance with Pima County Department of Environmental Quality regulations. (V02)
- 3.4.2.5 Implement the Water Utility Energy Efficiency Program to replace existing pumps and electric motors with more energy efficient equipment. (V02)

Questions - comments - ideas - concepts that are important to me



ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE WORKBOOK

Suggested POLICY

3.4.3 Promote the long-term conservation of water resources through multiple means including multi-jurisdictional and regional planning. (GP11)

ACTION ideas

- 3.4.3.1 Use Central Arizona Project water for recharge to build long-term storage credits for future use. (GP11)
- 3.4.3.2 Use reclaimed water for irrigation of areas such as parks and golf courses to reduce the Town's dependence on groundwater resources.* (COMM) (V09)
- 3.4.3.3 Support the construction of reclaimed water and Central Arizona Project water infrastructure to maximize alternative water resource supply and delivery and provide for a diverse water supply portfolio.* (DEV) (GP11)
- 3.4.3.4 Contribute to and/or participate in partnerships with other jurisdictions to build a conveyance system to increase the use of Central Arizona Project water and treated wastewater.* (DEV) (V09)
- 3.4.3.5 Create programs that utilize Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) technology across user groups that encourage self-monitoring and facilitate improved water management practices through early leak detection. (Gp11)
- 3.4.3.6 Continue to provide water audits, public education and incentive programs to reduce residential water consumption and increase conservation. (GP11)

Suggested POLICY

3.4.4 Utilize alternatives to groundwater to the maximum extent feasible to attain sustainable groundwater production rates and reduces groundwater level declines.* (GP11)

ACTION ideas

- 3.4.4.1 Develop plans for the use of alternative sources of water for potable and non-potable uses, including rainwater, gray water, reclaimed water, effluent, and Central Arizona Project water. (DEV) (V09)

Questions - comments - ideas - concepts that are important to me



The most meaningful phrase on this page to me is

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE WORKBOOK

Suggested POLICY

3.4.5 Protect aquifer recharge areas and wellheads, especially those used to provide public water supplies.(GP11)

ACTION ideas

- 3.4.5.1 Monitor well sites to ensure there is no inflow from surface water runoff or drainage. (V09)
- 3.4.5.2 Implement sustainable irrigation standards which may incentivize the use of rainwater harvesting techniques.* (V09)

3.5 Cultural Resources Policies and Actions

This section addresses policies and actions to preserve cultural resources.

Suggested POLICY

3.5.1 Preserve archaeological, cultural, and historic resources within Oro Valley.* (DEV) (GP10)

ACTION ideas

- 3.5.1.1 Pursue grants and other funding mechanisms to provide for the protection and preservation of cultural resources or resources of value to local culture.* (V09)
- 3.5.1.2 Identify significant cultural resources, including people, events, and activities and establish a management plan for the preservation of archaeological, historical, and cultural resources within the Town.* (COMM) (GP10)
- 3.5.1.3 Mitigate the potential effect of development projects on significant prehistoric and historic resources during the planning and design processes.* (ENV) (V09)
- 3.5.1.4 When opportunity exists, trade or purchase properties of significant cultural resource value that enhance the history of Oro Valley. (GP06)
- 3.5.1.5 Encourage the preparation of cultural resources assessments by a qualified archaeologist or historian for new development projects.* (ENV) (GP06)

Questions - comments - ideas - concepts that are important to me



ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE WORKBOOK

Suggested POLICY

3.5.2 Provide appropriate public access to and education about Oro Valley's archaeological, cultural, and historic resources in order to enrich the sense of community. (GP10)

ACTION ideas

- 3.5.2.1 Create park and recreational programs and activities which raise community awareness and support of local historic resources. (COMM) (GP08)
- 3.5.2.2 Require interpretive elements related to historic and cultural resource sites be planned for in public use areas and private developments during the development review process.* (DEV) (GP06)
- 3.5.2.3 Develop an ad-hoc committee to revisit the Steam Pump Ranch Master Plan and identify revisions and next steps for the property. (GP06)
- 3.5.2.4 Create a plan for the placement of interpretive elements related to historic and cultural resource sites in existing Town facilities and properties.(DEV)(GP10)

Suggested POLICY

3.5.3 Build and maintain partnerships with federal, state and local agencies and community organizations to preserve, rehabilitate and celebrate historic and culturally significant Town structures and places. (GP03)

ACTION ideas

- 3.5.3.1 Explore potential agreements with public and private entities to ensure appropriate use and preservation of cultural and historical resources for future generations. (GP10)

*Questions - comments - ideas -
concepts that are important to me*

**WHAT IS AN
ACTION?**
*It indicates the specific
actions to take to
fulfill the policies and
the goals!*

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE WORKBOOK

3.6 Clean Environment Policies and Actions

The section addresses policies and actions related to creating and maintain a clean environment.

Suggested POLICY

- 3.6.1 Encourage pollution prevention, waste minimization and recycling in all sectors of municipal, business, institutional and residential operations throughout the Town. (COMM) (V09)

ACTION ideas

- 3.6.1.1 Develop an Oro Valley awards program to recognize sustainable practices in the private sector. (GP11)
- 3.6.1.2 Establish development incentives for projects demonstrating an exemplary commitment to sustainability. (DEV) GP06)
- 3.6.1.3 Collaborate with the private sector to offer recycling stations and clean composting sites throughout the Town. (V09)
- 3.6.1.4 Explore the creation of a Town-wide recycling program. (V09)

Suggested POLICY

- 3.6.2 Strive to protect the public from the threats of stormwater and potential negative impacts of containments from runoff. (V02)

ACTION ideas

- 3.6.2.1 Enforce stormwater controls to prevent aquifer pollution and the erosion or siltation of washes.* (V09)
- 3.6.2.2 Develop public education materials on the impacts of urbanization and potential public actions to minimize the negative effects on the environment and stormwater quality. (GP11)
- 3.6.2.3 Continue to support community programs such as the Buffel Busters and Adopt-A-Roadway/Trail/Wash programs to support Town efforts for stormwater management. (V09)

*Questions - comments - ideas -
concepts that are important to me*



ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE WORKBOOK

Suggested POLICY

3.6.3 Lead efforts which contribute to regional reduction in air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. (DEV) (V09)

ACTION ideas

3.6.3.1 Negotiate agreements with transit providers and organizations with large fleets of vehicles to utilize “green” fuel and reduce emissions/air pollution. (V09)

3.6.3.2 Work to protect air quality by creating programs to control construction dust and encourage the use of natural gas, multimodal transportation, rideshares and renewable resources. (V09)

Suggested POLICY

3.6.4 Increase energy savings through gains in efficiency, conservation and use of renewable resources throughout the community. (V09)

ACTION ideas

3.6.4.1 Adopt the most up-to-date International Code Council (ICC) Energy Conservation Code in concert with regional jurisdictions and stakeholders. (DEV) (V09)

3.6.4.2 Create programs that incentivize the use of clean alternative energy in business, institutional and residential settings in order to enhance environmental quality. (V09)

3.6.4.3 Review, identify and address Town polices and ordinances that are potentially detrimental to renewable energy production. (V09)

3.6.4.4 Work collaboratively with regional partners to create and maintain web-based information portals such as Solar One Stop, uniform renewable energy standards, submittal requirements, electronic permitting, and inspection procedures. (V09)

3.6.4.5 Assess emerging renewable technologies for potential application in Oro Valley. (V09)

3.6.4.6 Create programs to increase awareness of the substantial energy involved in water delivery in order to reduce consumption of energy and water resources. (DEV) (V09)

*Questions - comments - ideas -
concepts that are important to me*

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE WORKBOOK

For your committee's consideration: other related goals, policies and actions

The **Community Workbook** includes goals, policies and actions related to the economy, complete community and Town services, facilities and buildings. Policies and actions related specifically to the Environment Committee are included here.

Suggested POLICY 4.4.3 Link existing and planned neighborhoods with parks and open spaces by incorporating path and trail facilities. (GP10)

ACTION ideas to be developed during Community Committee process.

Additional policies and actions may be added to this list as preliminary work continues.



The **Development Workbook** includes goals, policies and actions related to land use and design, development and growth areas and infrastructure. Policies and actions related specifically to the Environment Committee are included here.

Draft GOAL 5.2.1 A quality built environment fostered through the harmonious design and integration of landscape, architecture, and open space and conservation elements. (ENV) (GP06)

Draft GOAL 5.2.5 Environmental stewardship, natural resource protection and energy efficiency in land use planning, and in transportation planning, design, construction and management. (ENV) (V02)

Draft GOAL 5.2.7 Integration of the built and natural environments to provide for safety, resiliency and an enhanced natural environment.* (ENV) (GP06)

Suggested POLICY 5.3.1 Promote land use practices that reduce energy consumption, improve air quality, and conserve and protect groundwater and natural resources. (ENV) (V02)

ACTION idea 5.3.1.1 Develop land use guidelines that discourage sprawl, preserve open space and result in walkable neighborhoods. (ENV, COMM) (V02)

Suggested POLICY 5.3.3 Coordinate land use and transportation planning to ensure neighborhoods, retail and employment areas are supported by a variety of transportation options. (GP05)

ACTION idea 5.3.3.1 Create a land use plan for high density development along existing or planned transit corridors to minimize vehicle trips and improve overall air quality.* (ENV) (GP05)

Suggested POLICY 5.3.5 Promote compact development techniques and opportunities such as clustering, transfer of development rights, and density bonuses in order to preserve environmentally sensitive land areas and minimize development impacts on natural rolling terrain.* (ENV) (GP06)

ACTION idea 5.3.5.1 Continue to regulate through development controls, flexible design options, conservation subdivision design and clustering of

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE WORKBOOK

developments to ensure conservation of environmentally sensitive land areas.* (ENV) (GP06)

ACTION idea 5.3.5.2 Promote existing incentives and flexible development options to ensure land use intensity and density can be achieved in harmony with conservation goals*. (ENV) (GP06)

Suggested POLICY 5.3.12 Encourage new development and redevelopment projects to be LEED certified (or similar) green buildings and to serve as models for the community. (ENV) (GP06)

ACTION ideas to be developed during Development Committee process

Suggested POLICY 5.3.13 Enhance the character and role of physical and visual corridors such as trails, transit lines, major streets and significant public views. (ENV) (V10)

ACTION idea 5.3.13.2 Require all new development and improvements to existing development during the review process to maintain and/or enhance the character and quality of views from and along scenic corridors and public parks.* (ENV) (V10)

Suggested POLICY 5.3.14 Encourage water conservation and retrofitting programs for new and existing structures and landscaped areas.* (ENV) (GP11)

ACTION idea 5.3.14.1 Develop ways to educate homeowners associations and commercial property owners on water conservation and the Town's commercial landscape code. (V02)

Suggested POLICY 5.3.15 Continue to encourage the use of water smart landscape design by limiting the use of decorative water features, encouraging the use of native drought-tolerant plant species and increasing the use of water harvesting.* (ENV) (GP11)

ACTION ideas to be developed during Development Committee process

Suggested POLICY 5.3.17 Promote outdoor lighting that enhances safety, circulation, and aesthetics without creating light and glare impacts to adjacent properties or reducing public enjoyment of the night sky.* (V10)

ACTION idea 5.3.17.1 Continue to support efforts to minimize light pollution and adhere to the night skies initiative. (ENV) (V10)

Suggested POLICY 5.5.5 Provide for safety, efficiency and environmentally sensitive design in storm water systems. (V08)

ACTION idea 5.5.5.1 Design major wash crossings to be hydraulically efficient (100-year base flood) and environmentally sensitive with minimum physical or visual disruptions or impacts to riparian areas and wildlife habitat.* (ENV) (V08)

ACTION idea 5.5.5.2 Require detention facilities and/or velocity reduction when necessary to maintain existing storm water runoff flows and velocities in natural drainage systems.* (GP11)

ACTION idea 5.5.5.3 Rehabilitate and enhance Town-owned natural drainage systems, water detention and retention basins, and other infiltration areas for multiple benefits including storm water management. (ENV) (GP11)

ACTION idea 5.5.5.4 Evaluate all public and private development projects during the review process to determine the effects of the projects on on-site and downstream drainage patterns and associated ecological systems.* (ENV) (GP11)

ACTION idea 5.5.5.5 Reexamine current land use designations for areas susceptible to flood damage and rezone as appropriate in order to avoid the inappropriate development of lands and provide for adequate drainage and reduction of flood damage.* (ENV) (V08)

ACTION idea 5.5.5.6 Evaluate storm water management policies and if possible align with water conservation strategies. (V01)

Suggested POLICY 5.5.8 Enhance the Town's community identity through roadway design and develop a hierarchy of streets that differentiate the character of key streets and intersections. (V07)

ACTION idea 5.5.8.2 Develop street standards for four-lane or larger roadways to include landscaped medians with only native vegetation, no permanent irrigation and water harvesting where appropriate.* (ENV) (GP05)

Additional goals, policies and actions may be added to this list as preliminary work continues.