

Community Academy: Environmental Stewardship

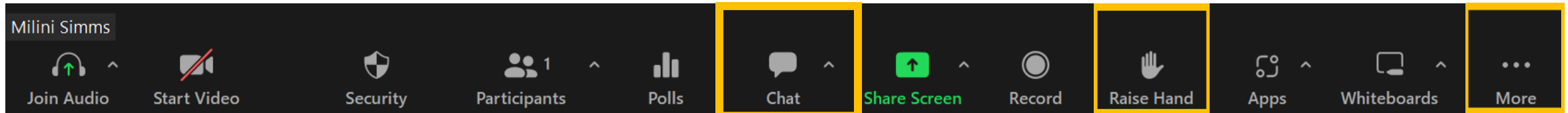
Class 6
October 22, 2024



Town of Oro Valley

Online Participation

- ▶ To participate during the meeting, please raise your virtual hand or use the chat feature.
- ▶ Zoom controls are located at the bottom or type of your screen (depends on device). If you cannot see the “chat” or “raise hand” icon, click on the “More” icon to see both.
- ▶ Videos may be on but please mute yourself unless you have a question or comment.



Phone

Raise Hand: *9

Unmute: *6

Problems with Zoom?

Call Rene Olvera at 520-229-4939

Town of Oro Valley
www.orovalleyaz.gov



27th Annual Oro Valley's Community Academy



Town of Oro Valley

Date	Class
Thurs., October 3	Welcome & Oro Valley 101
Tues., October 8	OV's Path Forward: Cultivating Residents Vision for the Future
Thurs., October 10	Keeping the Lights On: Town Finances
Tues., October 15	Rooftops and Retail: Economic & Commercial Development
Thurs., October 17	Planning for OV's Future: Managing Town Growth
Tue., October 22	Balancing Growth and Nature: Environmental Stewardship
Thurs., October 24	Connections Through Recreation: Parks & Recreation
Mon., October 28	Water Resource Planning: Water Utility
Wed., October 30	Roadway and Stormwater Management: Public Works
Mon., November 4	Public Safety: Oro Valley Police Department & Town Courts
Wed., November 6	Graduation at Town Council and Celebration Dinner



► Participants who attend at least ½ the classes will graduate

Visit orovalleyaz.gov often for class resources.

Questions? Contact Alex Chavez at achavez@orovalleyaz.gov or 520-229-4814

Graduation



Town of Oro Valley

- Graduation certificates will be handed out during the November 6th Council meeting.
 - Near the beginning of the agenda but after call to the audience.
 - Graduates and their family members may leave the meeting after certificates are handed out.
- Following graduation, a celebratory dinner will be held on Town campus.

On the sign-in sheet, please let us know if you are going to attend graduation and/or the celebratory dinner so we can plan accordingly. **Must know by October 28.**





Oro Valley has an award-winning approach to protecting Saguaros



Views are not protected in OV.



TRUE

Oro Valley has an award-winning approach to protecting Saguaros



FALSE

Views are not protected in OV.



Tonight's Presentation

Bayer Vella, Planning and Zoning Administrator

- Protecting the Environment
- Environmentally Sensitive Lands (ESL)
 - Conservation Subdivision Design
 - Native Plants
 - Views
 - Hillsides
 - Cultural Resources
- Looking Ahead





Protecting the Environment and Views

10-year plan vision statements:

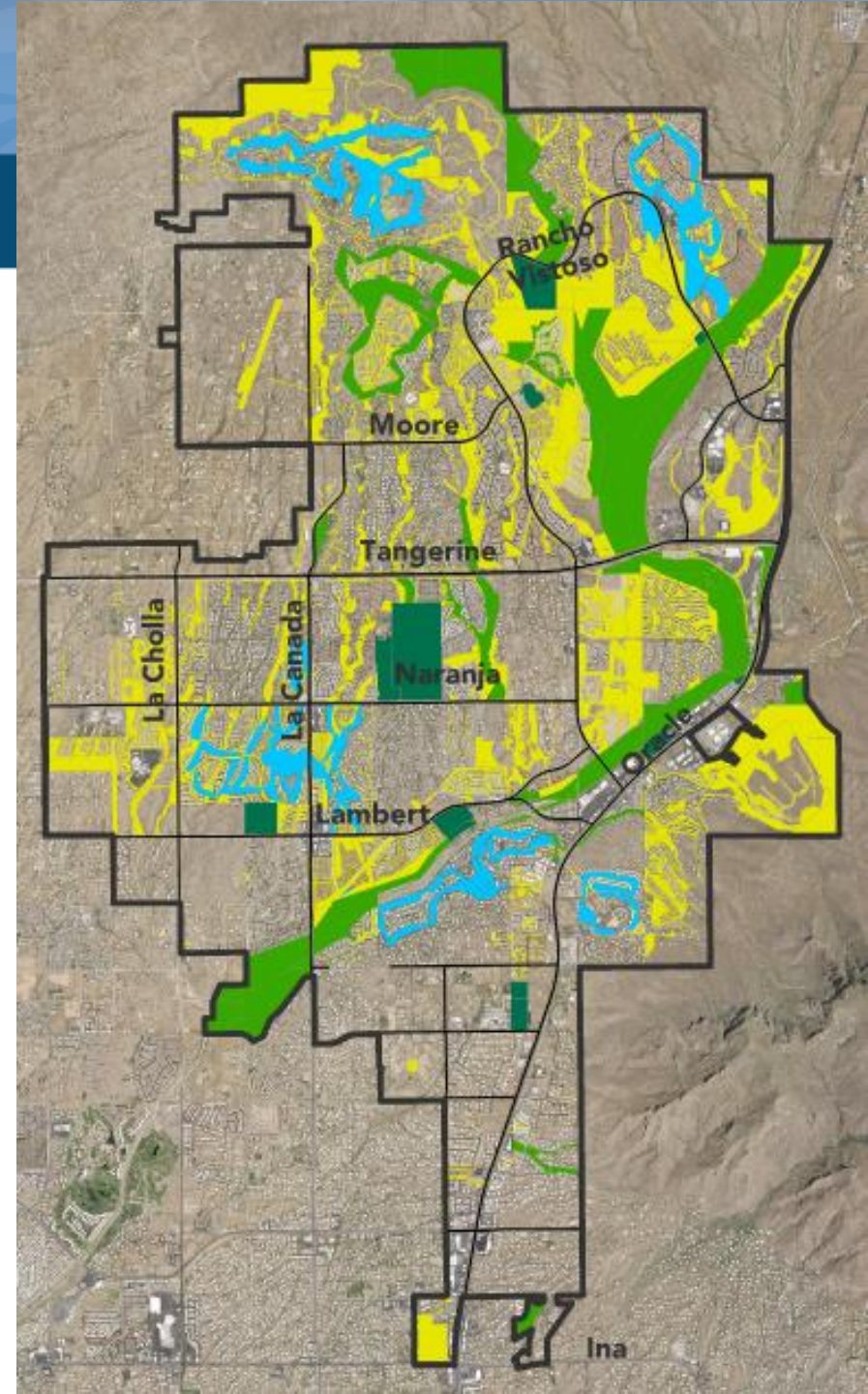
- 1990: *Maintain natural community character through constant **public attention to environmental values**, use compatibility and restraint in the construction of built forms for human activity. **Maintain the delicate environmental balance for all living things in Catalina/Tortolita foothills; preserving natural openness of mountains, deserts and washes**; preventing further degradation of, and restoring air, water and scenic attributes for future generations' benefits.*
- 2003/2005: *To be a well-planned community that uses its resources to balance the needs of today against the potential impacts to future generations. Oro Valley's lifestyle is defined by the highest standard of **environmental integrity**, education, infrastructure services, and public safety. It is a community of people working together to create the Town's future with a government that is responsive to residents and ensures the long-term financial stability of the Town.*
- 2016: *Oro Valley strives to be a well-managed community that provides all residents with opportunities for quality living. Oro Valley will keep its friendly, small-town, neighborly character, while increasing 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**.*
- 2026 DRAFT Vision: *Oro Valley is a community that provides all residents with more services, amenities, and opportunities for high-quality living. The Town meets the community's expectations through strategic and intentional improvements. The Town maintains its unique character by **prioritizing public safety, natural beauty, scenic views**, outdoor living, and a strong sense of community.*

Open Space

- Roughly 30% of OV land is open space

Legend – Private and Public Open Space

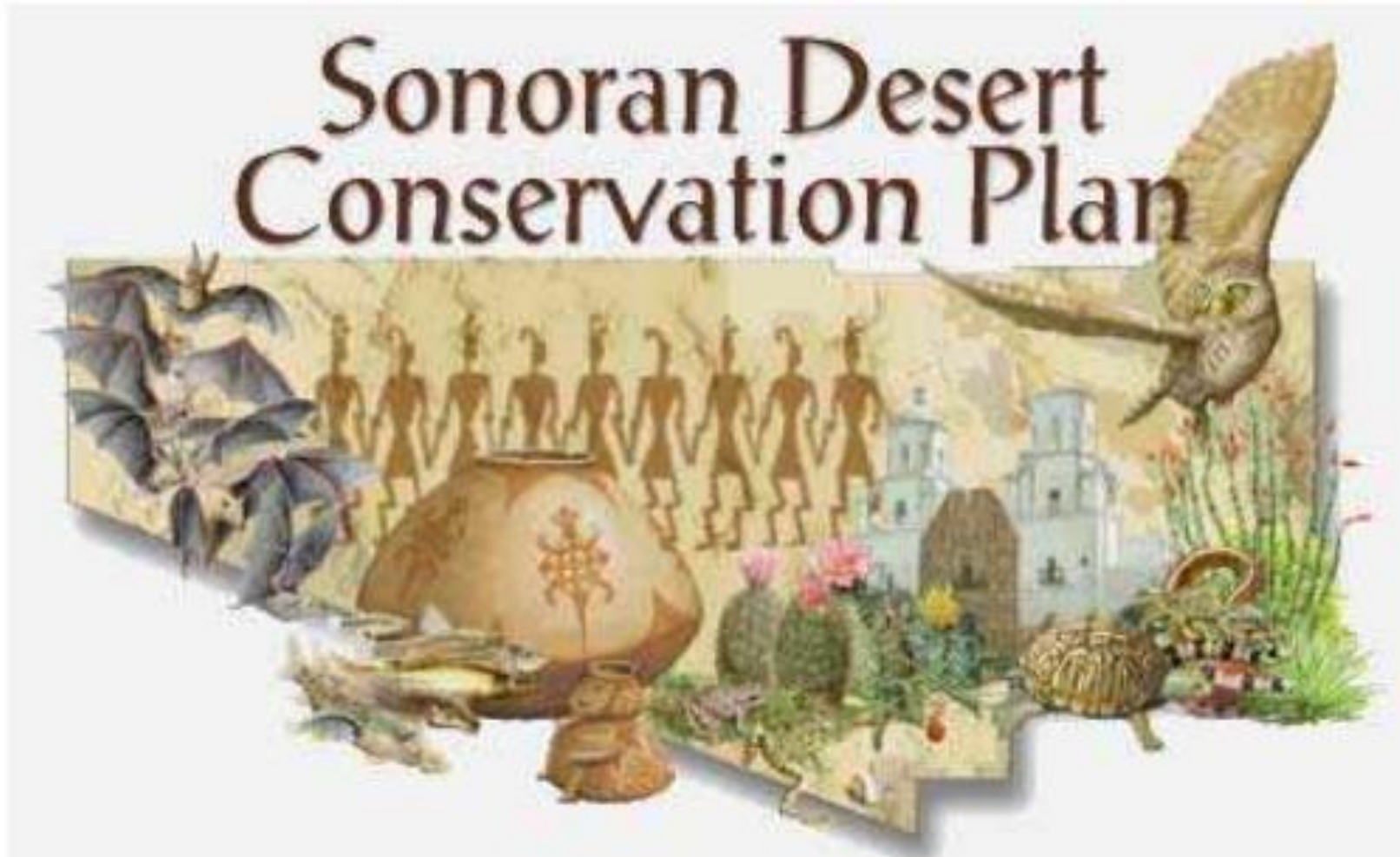
Symbol	Type of Open Space	Percent
	Private and HOA Open Space or Common Area	51%
	Publicly owned natural open space	31%
	Private and public golf courses	12%
	Public Parks	6%
Total		100%



Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan

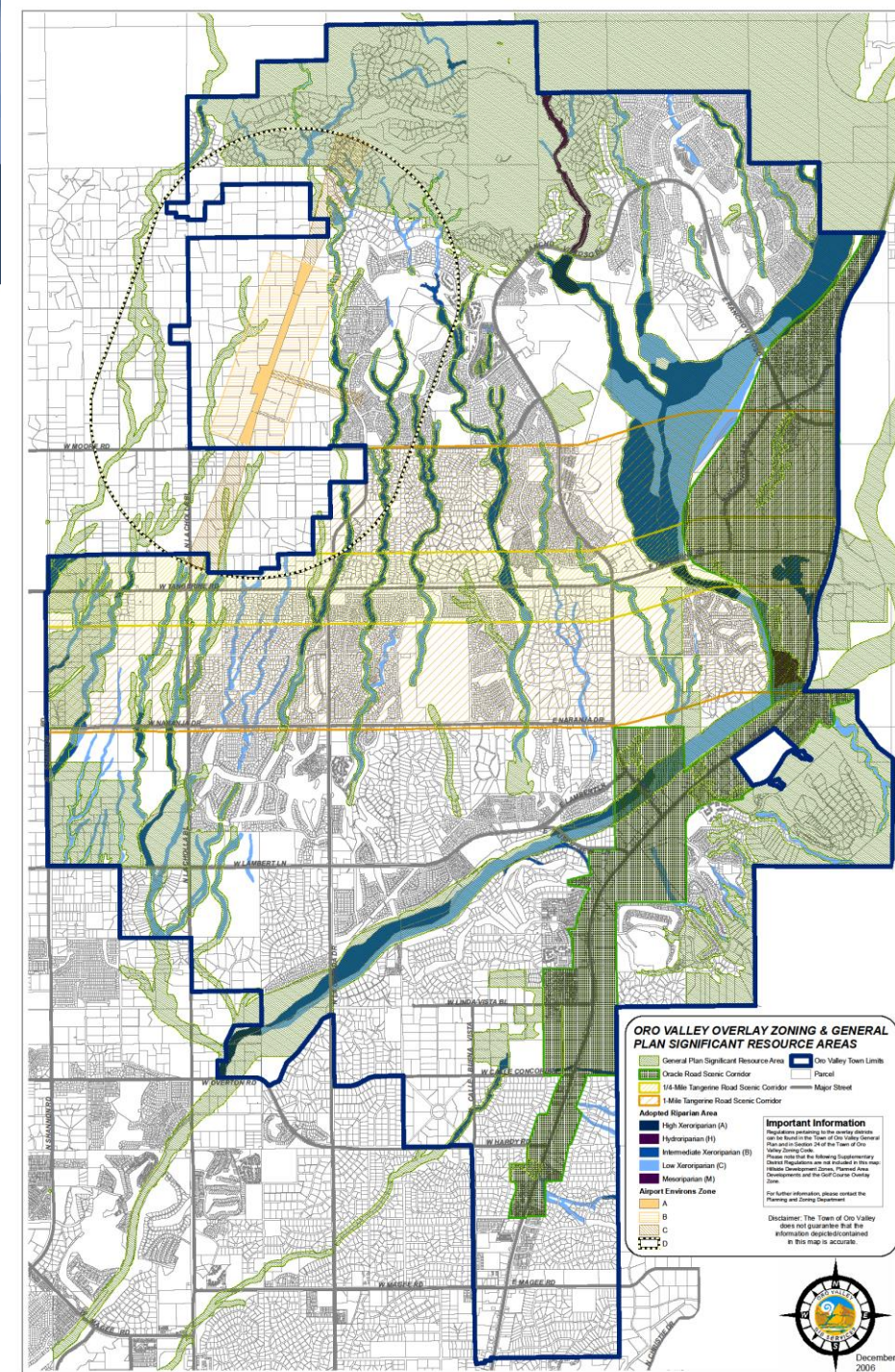


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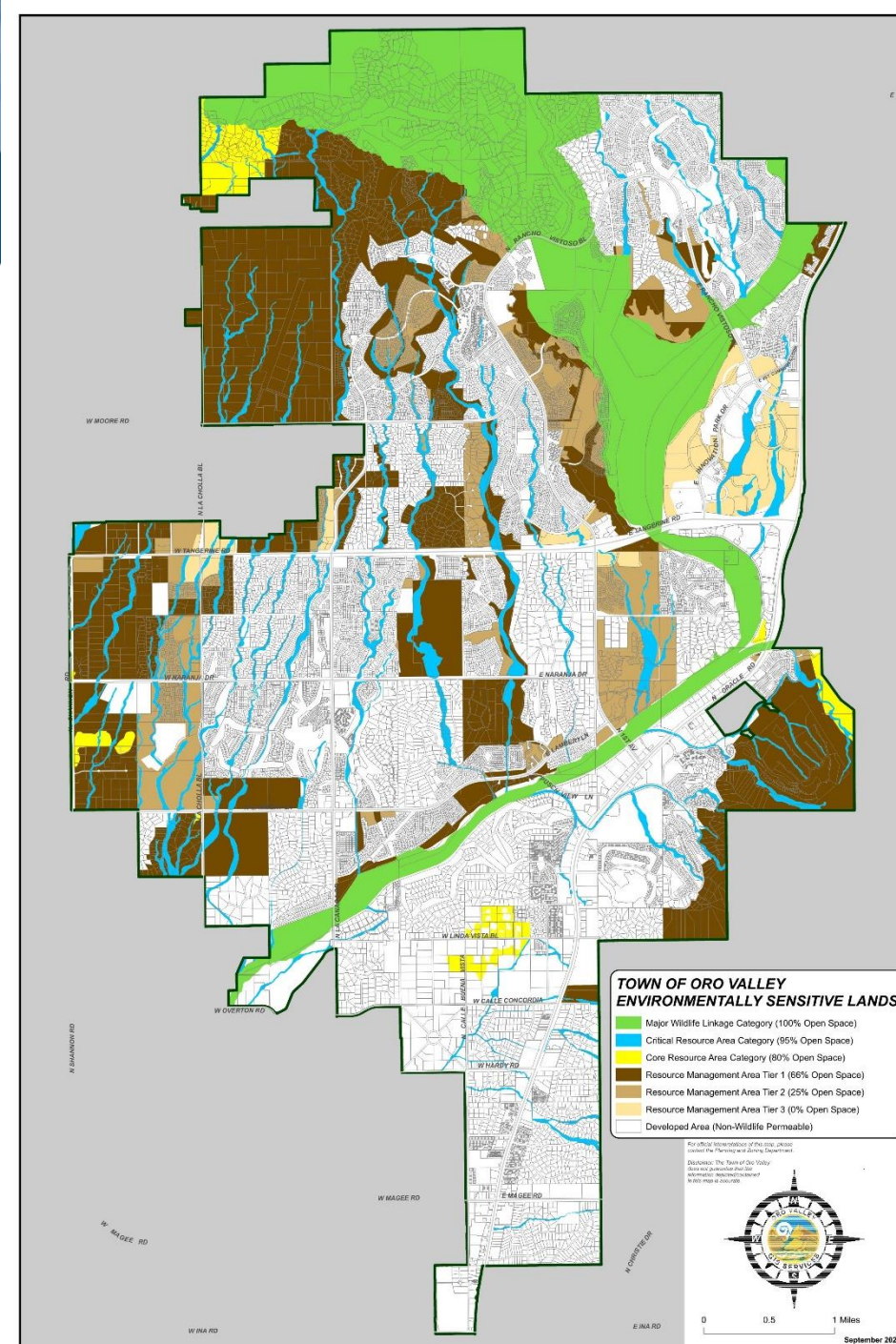
Significant Resource Map: Prior to 2011

- Significant Resource Map: Washes and other environmental resources
- Code requirements:
 - Riparian Habitat Overlay District
 - Tangerine Road Scenic Corridor
 - Oracle Road Scenic Corridor
 - Cultural Resource Standards
 - Hillside Development Standards
- Washes and steeply sloped areas were conserved. Open space requirements were exceedingly low and not based on habitat conservation principles.



Environmentally Sensitive Lands (ESL): Post 2011

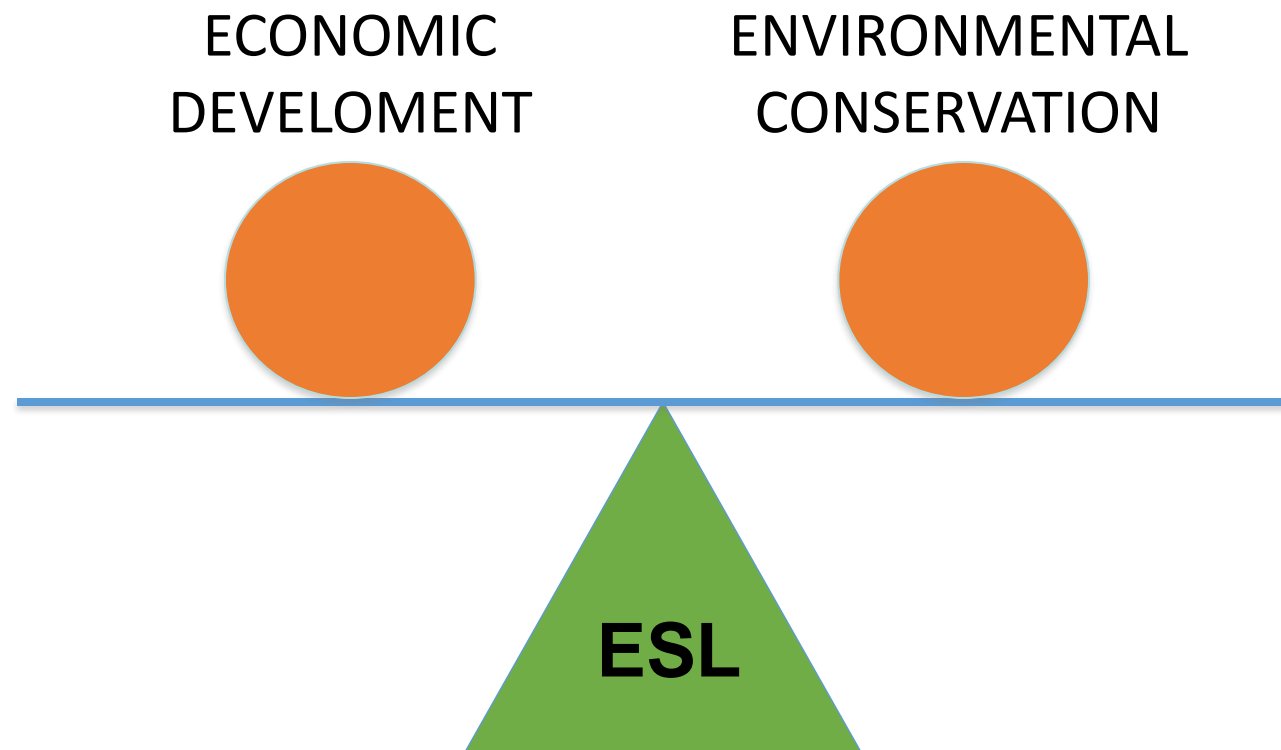
- ▶ Meet several goals and policies from the 10-year plan
 - ▶ Conserve the Sonoran Desert and heritage
 - ▶ Preserve land values
 - ▶ Implement community planning and design expectations
 - ▶ Protect lives and property
 - ▶ Utilize and equitable regulatory approach
- ▶ ESL Map
 - ▶ Based on Pima County's Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan
 - ▶ Updated with habitat specialist and experts
- ▶ Applicable to rezoning projects or opt-in



Balanced Approach



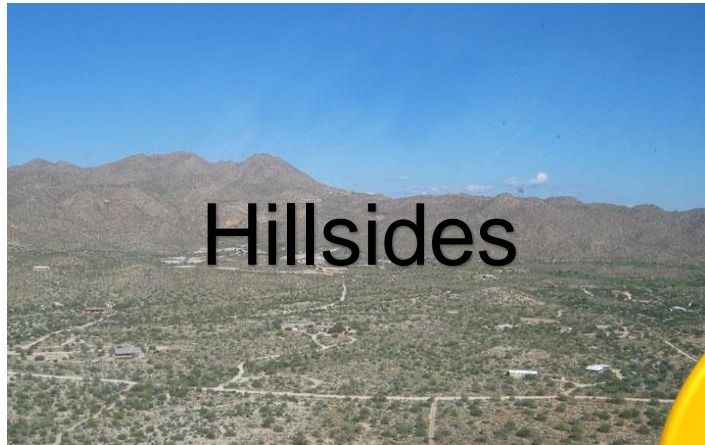
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Aspects of ESL



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ESL Layers

Cultural
Resources



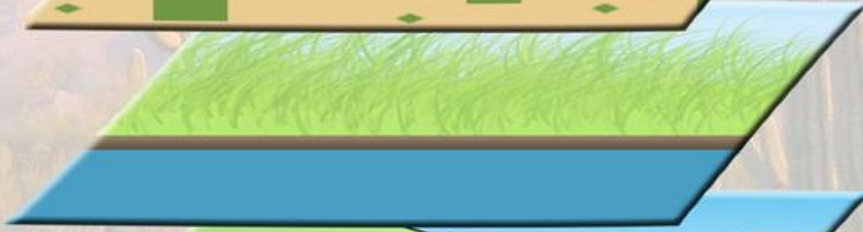
Flood
Plain



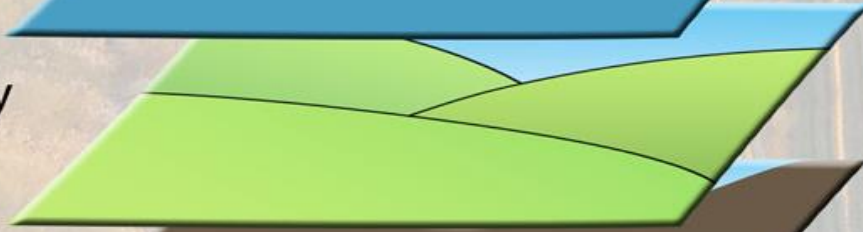
Significant
Vegetation



Riparian
Habitat



Topography
(Hillsides)



Open Space
Standards



Natural Environment Layers

Oracle
Overlay


Tangerine
Overlay




Built Environment Layers


ESL Conservation Categories and Standards

 100% Open Space
(Major Wildlife Linkage)

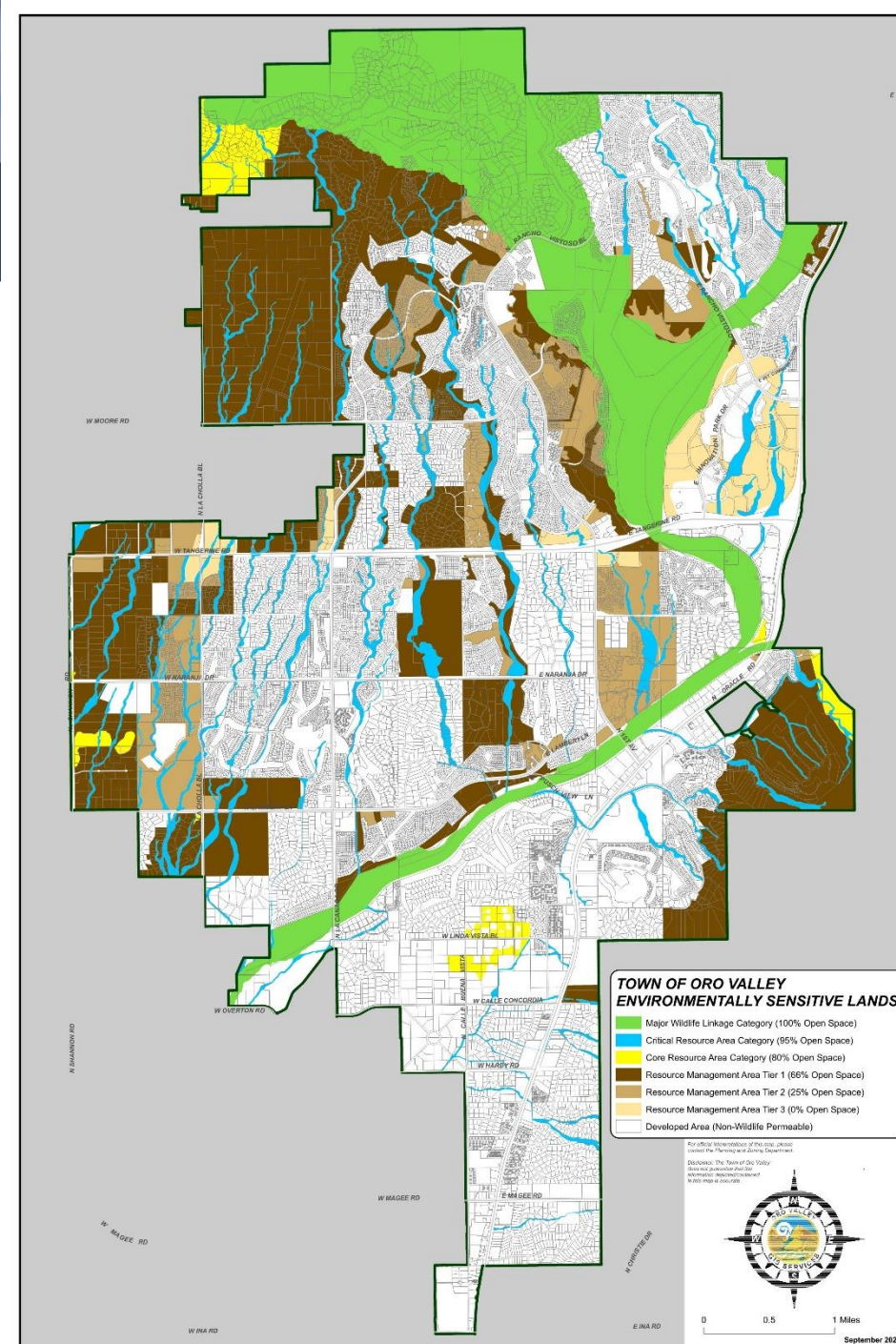
 95% Open Space
(Critical Resource Area)

 80% Open Space
(Core Resource Area)

 66% Open Space
(RMA Tier 1)

 25% Open Space
(RMA Tier 2)

 Developed



Flexible design options

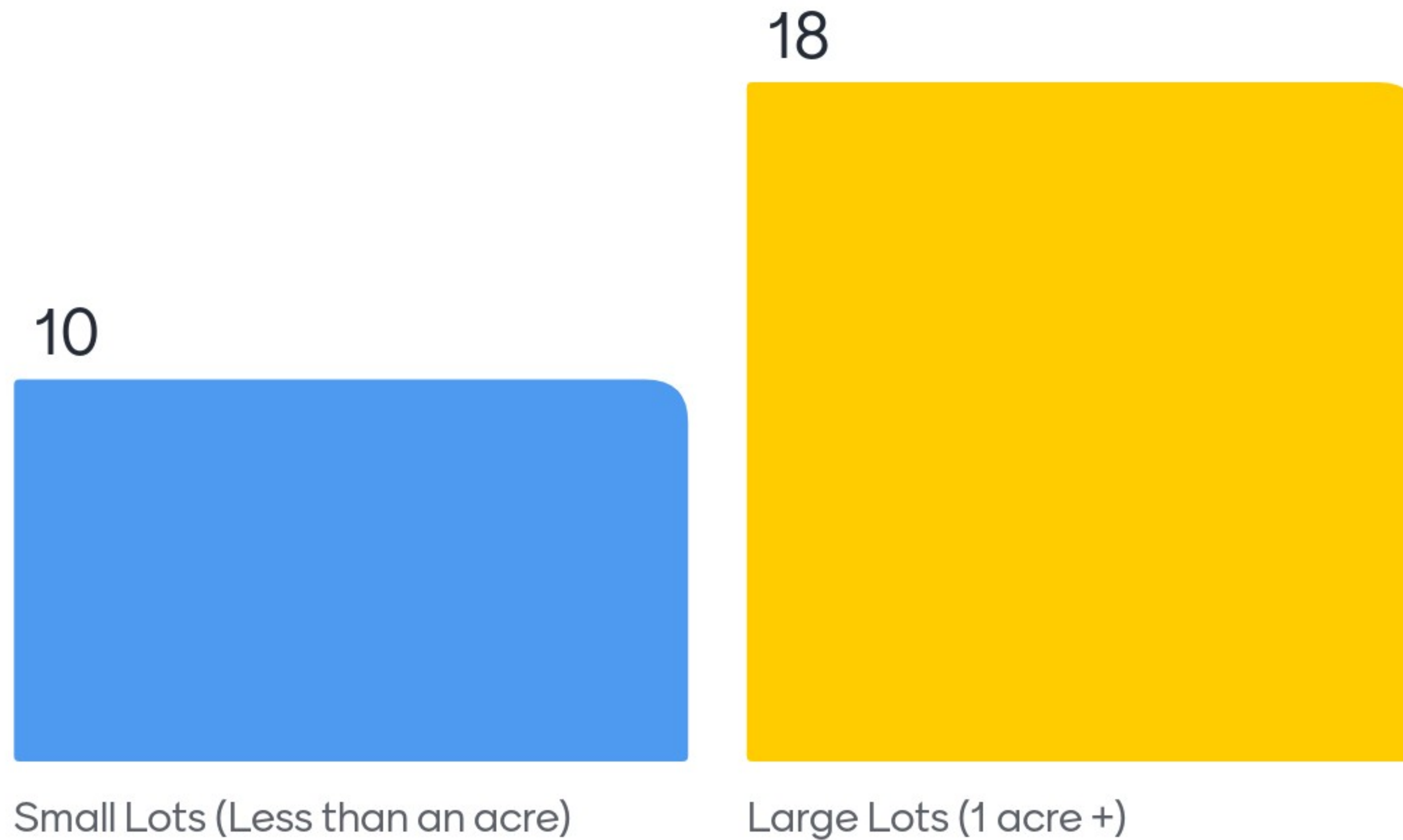


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- Setbacks
- Landscape buffers
- Minimum lot size
- Parking
- Building Heights
- Development Process
- Native Plant Salvage
- Mixed Use
- Recreation Area Credit
- Grading
- Density



Which is better at providing wildlife corridors?

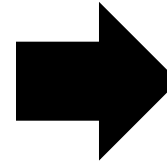
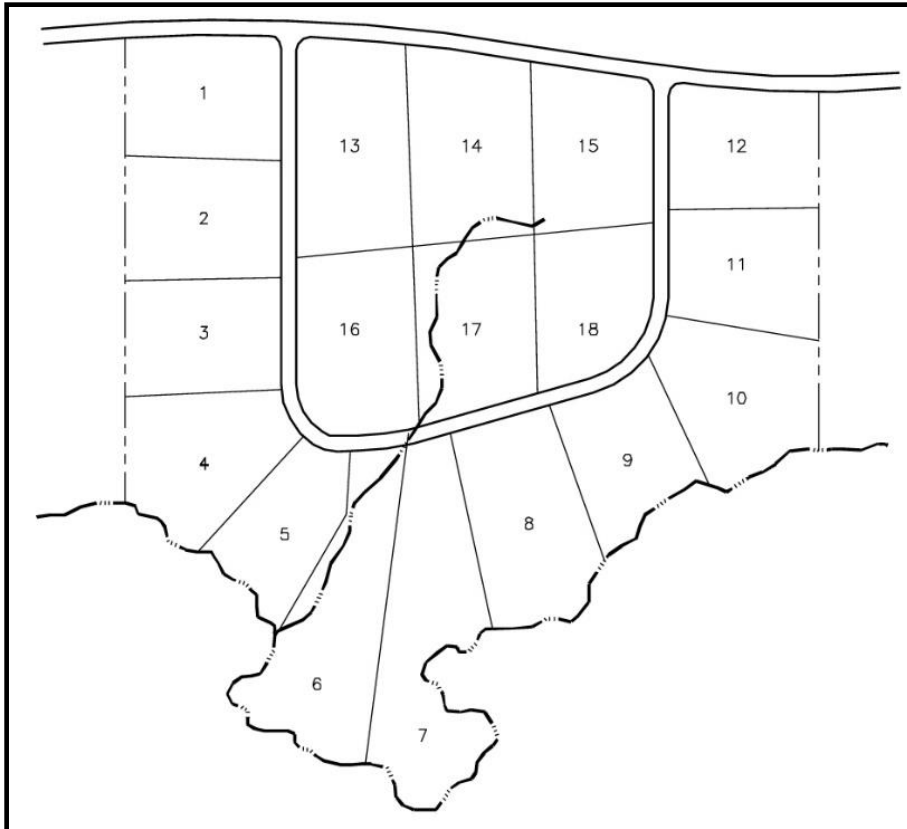


Conservation Subdivision Design



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Typical Subdivision Design



Conservation Subdivision Design

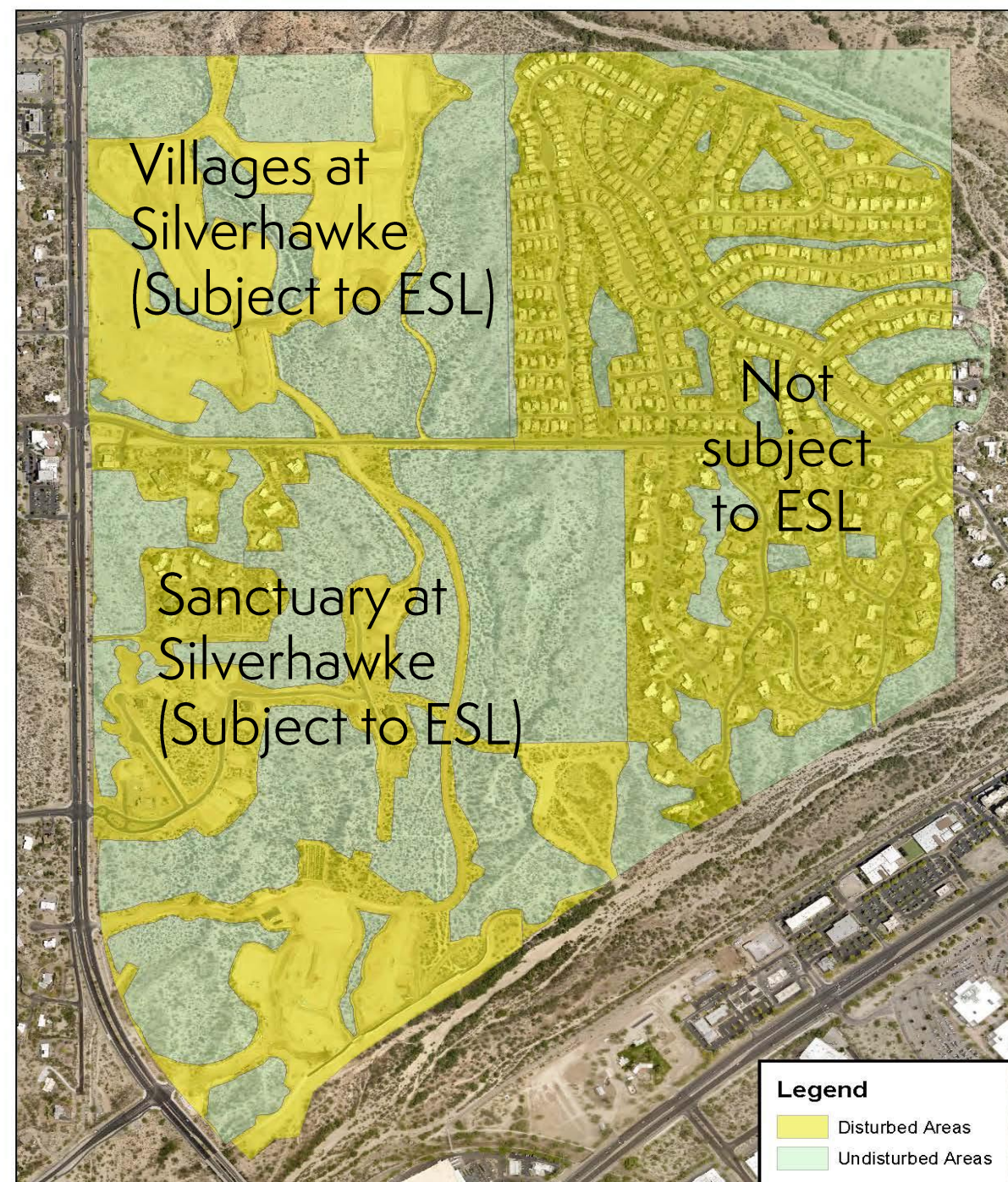


Conservation Subdivision Design

- Villages at Silverhawke
 - 59% open space
- Sanctuary at Silverhawke
 - 67% open space

More than just the numbers:

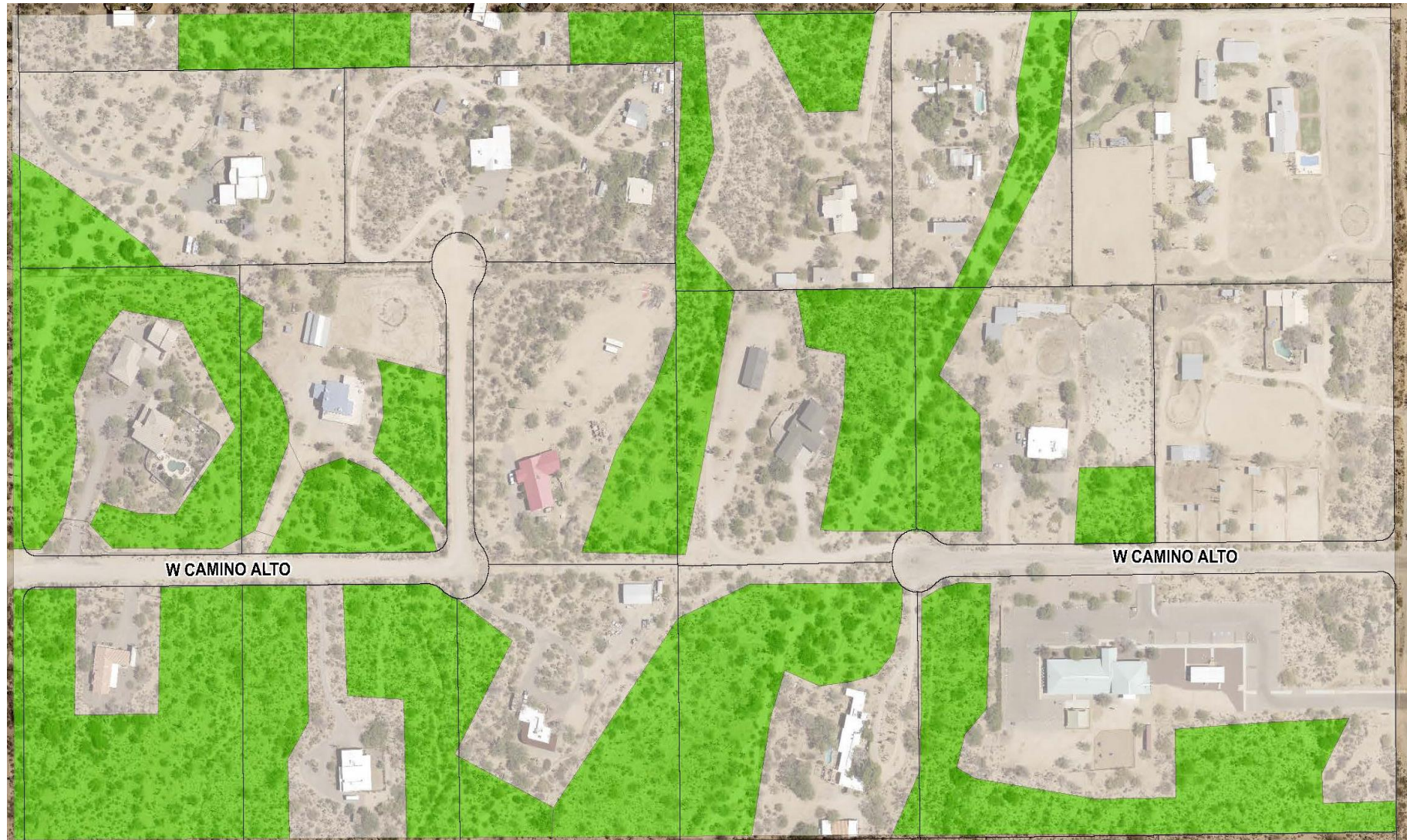
- Open space connectivity is key aspect of ESL.





Open space connectivity

Town of Oro Valley





Open space connectivity

Town of Oro Valley



On average, ESL results in 37% more open space than prior requirements.



Significant Vegetation

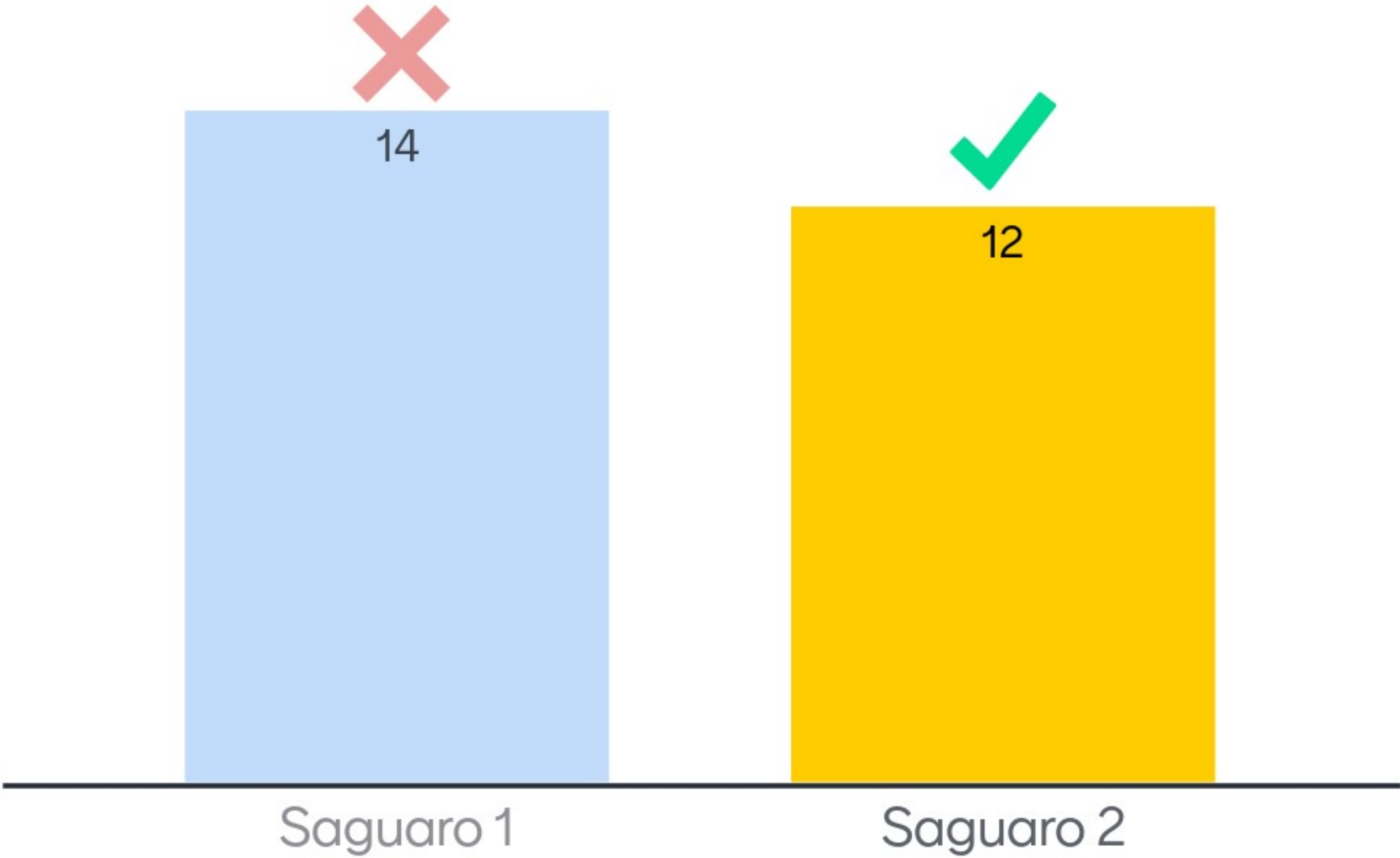


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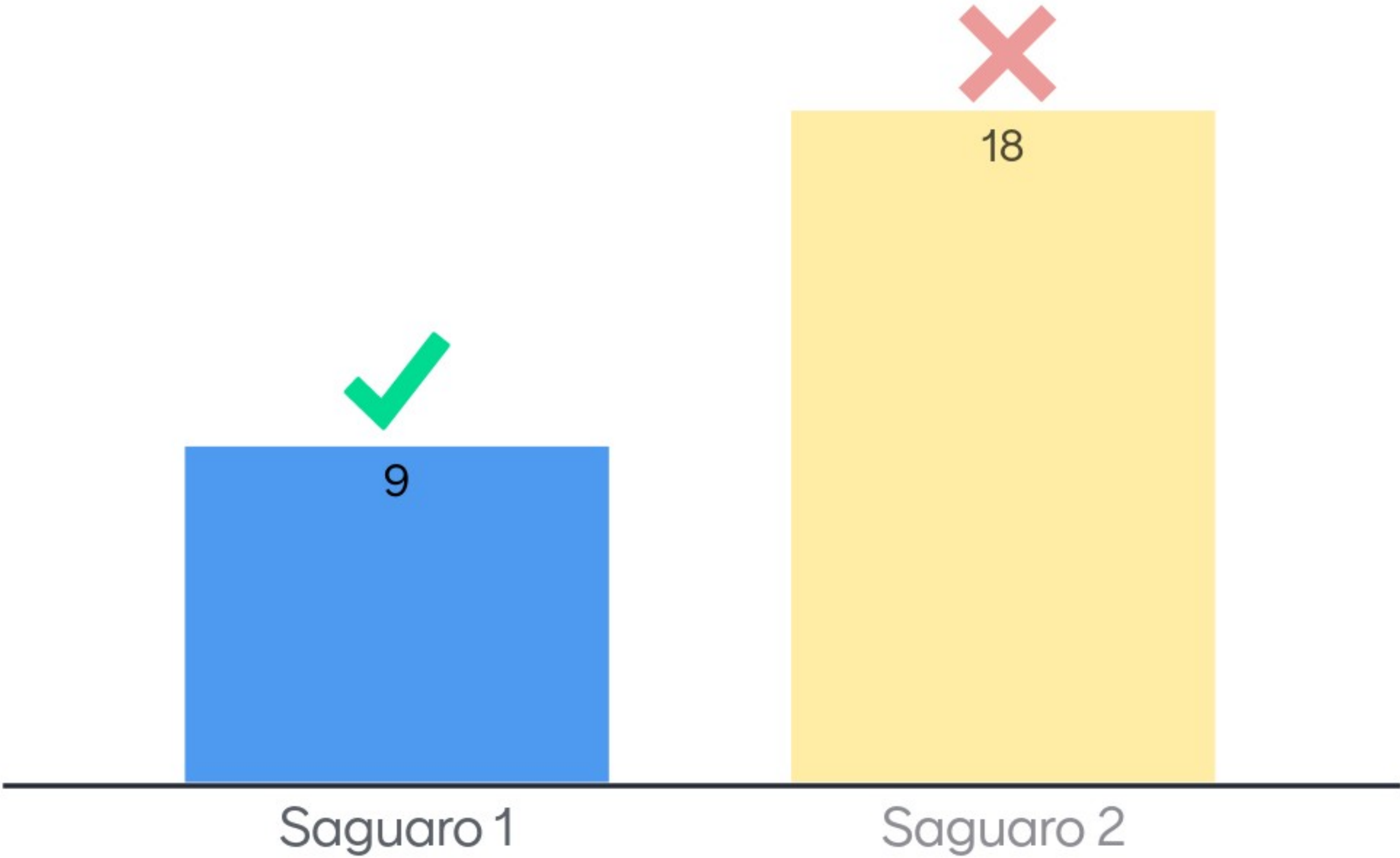
- Native plants are identified with a treatment plan, prior to all new developments
- Healthy significant vegetation must be preserved in place, transplanted or mitigated
 - Heritage saguaros 24 feet or taller with 2 or more arms
 - Saguaros 15 feet tall with 2 or more arms must be preserved in place or transplanted
 - Palo Verde, Ironwood, and Velvet Mesquite trees that are 12 feet or taller with a 12-inch caliper



Which saguaro is unhealthy?



Which saguaro is unhealthy?



Saguaros

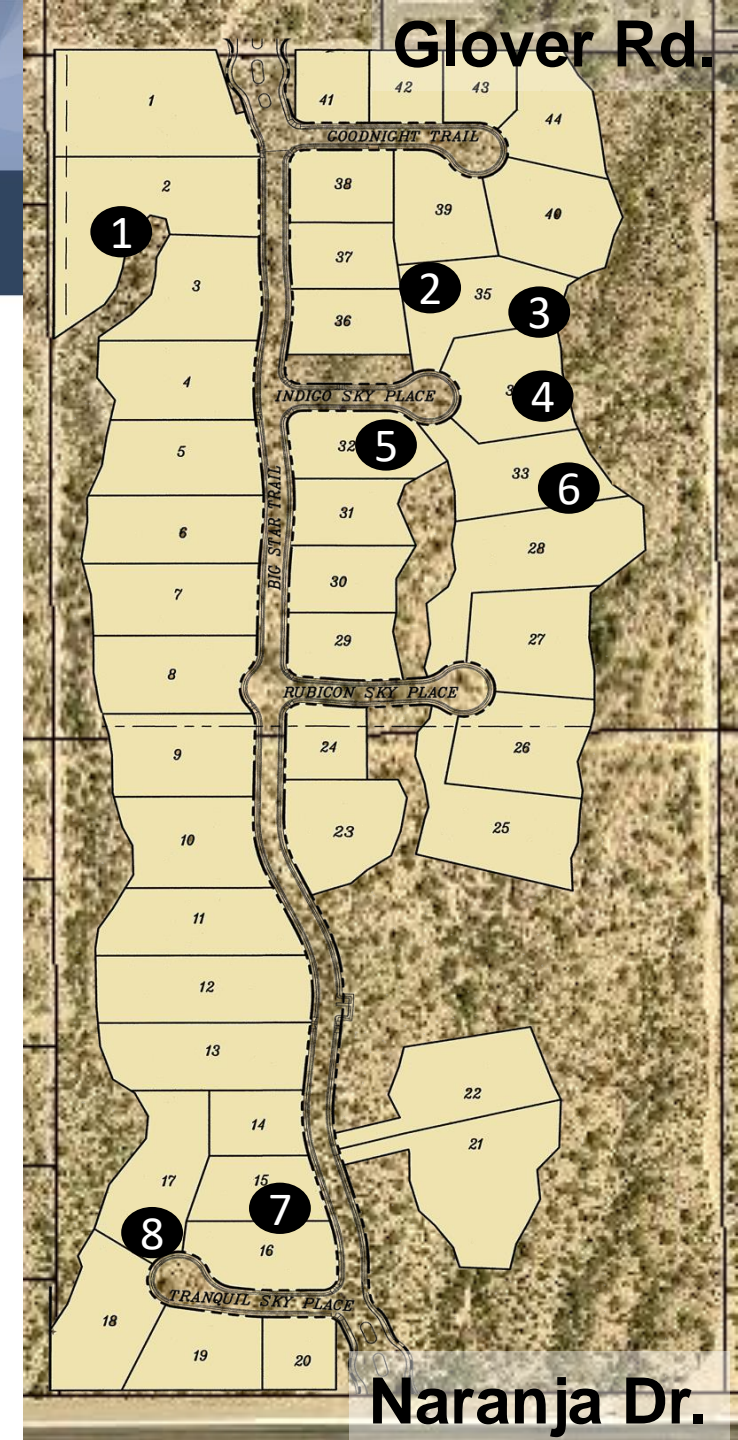
- Signs of an unhealthy saguaro:
 - Leaning 5 degrees or more (perpendicular relative to the ground immediately below)
 - Presence of sizable arm(s) in serious decay (rotting) or evidence one or more has fallen
 - Evidence of necrosis (black and wet liquid on the plant)
 - Holes or damage by wildlife in areas that are vital to overall structural support
 - Severe sunburn
 - Rotting that does not form into a hard callous (usually black in color)

Minor damage, blemishes, aesthetics, or unusual shape are not factored for removal.



Case Study: Saguario Viejos

- 2014: 44-lot subdivision design approved
- 2016: Subdivision never built. Approval expired.
- 2018: Previous design re-approved in 2017.
 - Lot lines and grading limits relocated to preserve or transplant saguaros
 - All 7 healthy heritage saguaros preserved in place
 - Over 287 smaller saguaros (98%) were transplanted within the subdivision





- Oracle and Tangerine Scenic Corridor Overlay Districts
- Restricts building heights and increasing landscape standards along both roadways to protect views



Hillsides

- ▶ Significant peaks and ridges are protected
- ▶ Restricts the amount of grading allowed on parcels with steep slopes
- ▶ Encourages permanent protection through conservation easements



Cultural Resources

- All sites must be researched and surveyed for cultural resources
 - Cultural resource professional
 - Review of AZ & Town inventories, national and local criteria
- Identified cultural resources
 - Evaluated for significance
 - Treatment plan, if applicable, considered by HPC, PZC and Town Council

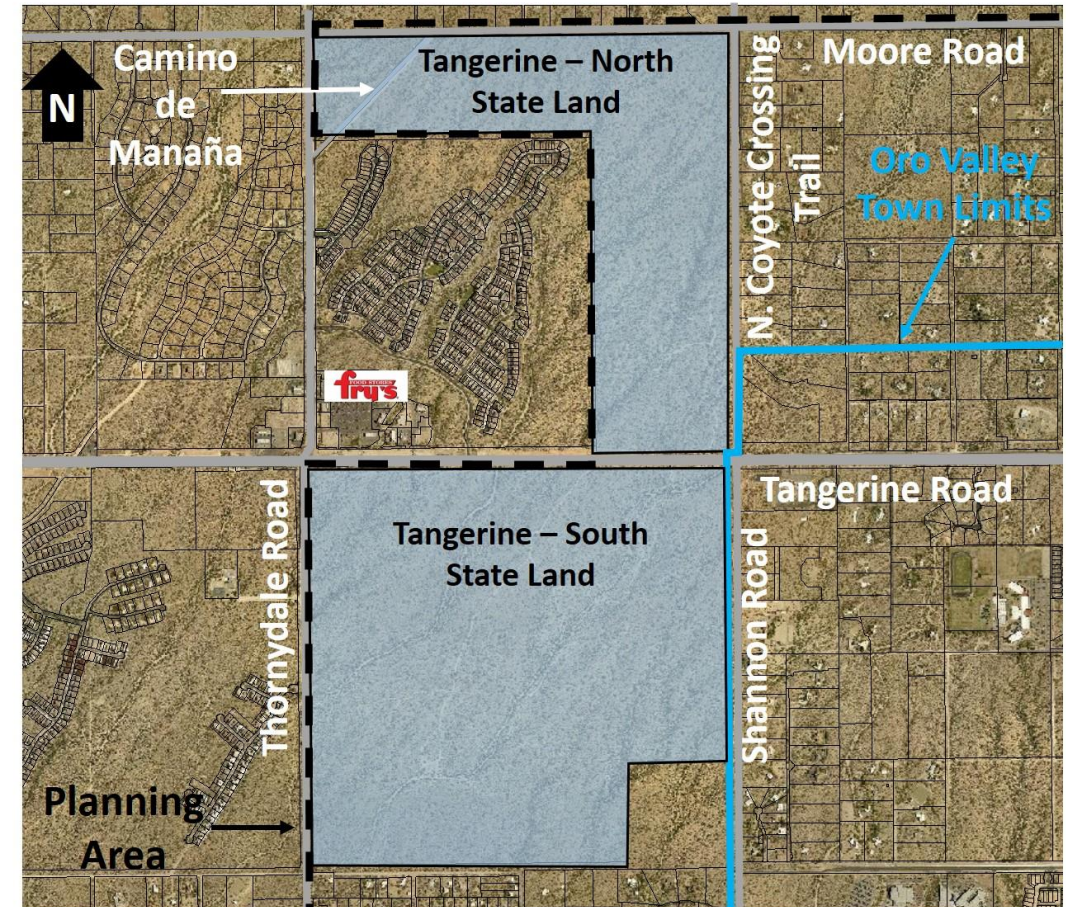


Looking Ahead



Town of Oro Valley

- Maintain and explore best practices to conserve existing habitats and wildlife corridors
- Examining the balance between open space, views, and development is an important aspect of the 10-year plan
- Mapping environment resources for potential annexations to ensure connectivity and habitat preservation.



State Land 880

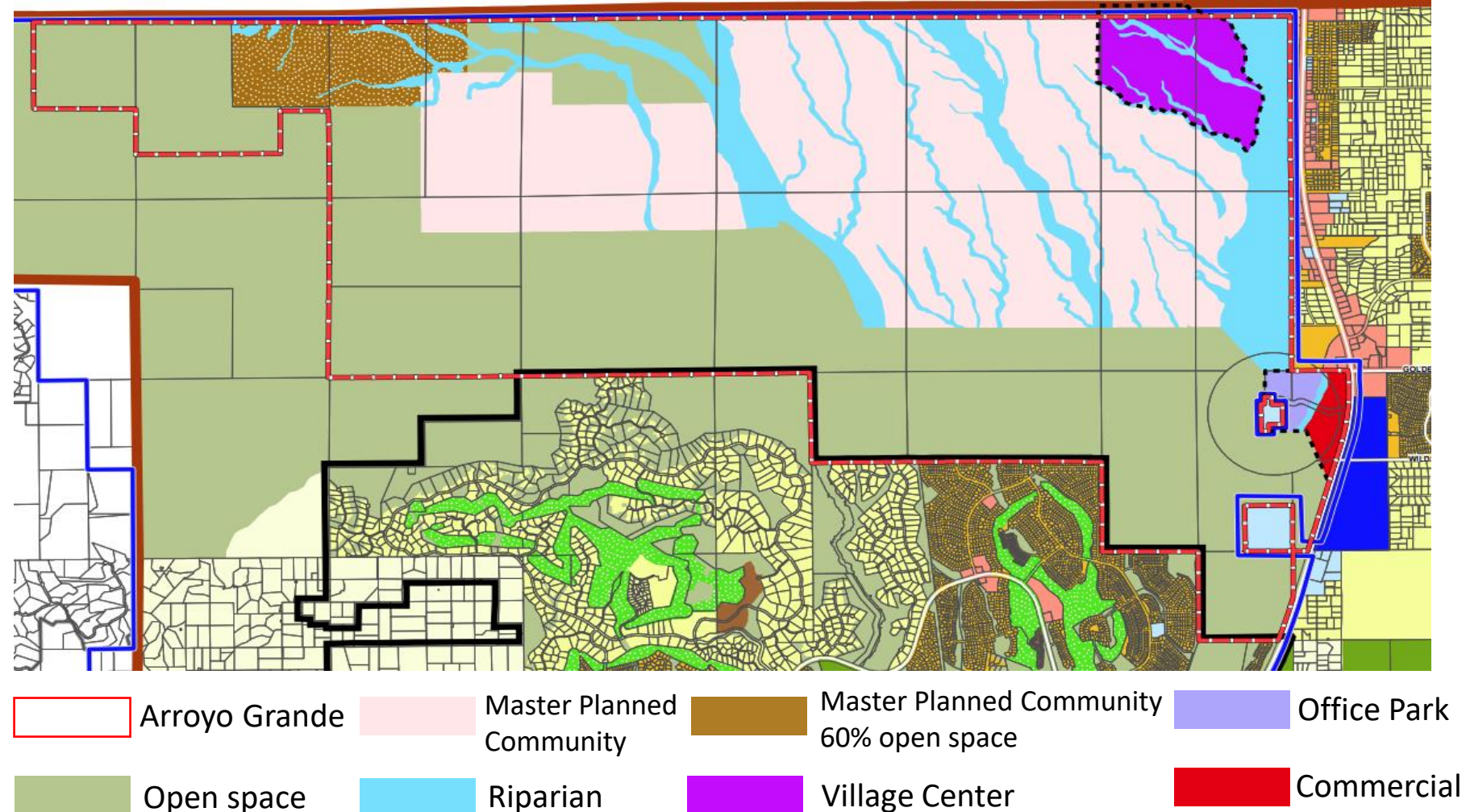


Arroyo Grande



Town of Oro Valley

- North of Sun City on west side of Oracle Road
- Property Size: 9,000 ac.
- Property owned by State Land Department
- Potential residential, commercial, employment uses





Environment and Views

- State required elements:
 - Environmental Planning
 - Conservation
 - Open space
- Goals, policies, and actions produce real results:
 - Environmentally Sensitive Lands
 - Better protection measures for saguaros



Draft Guiding Principle:

A high-level view of residents' priorities for the future

WHAT RESIDENTS SAID.....

80% OV should be described for its Desert and Mountain Views

- Natural beauty, scenic
- Maintain views
- Expand conservation areas

54% OV's biggest challenge: Protecting the Environment

- Protect native plants, like saguaros, and wildlife habitats
- More open space

DRAFT GUIDING PRINCIPLE: ENVIRONMENT & VIEWS

Preserve the scenic beauty and natural environment:

- Conserve the natural desert and mountain views
- Protect significant, native vegetation
- Maintain wildlife corridors
- Expand conservation areas
- Prioritize environmental resource conservation

Environment, Water, & Climate Resident Working Group



- Goals, policies, and actions to balance development with protecting environmental resources



Parks, Recreation, Trails:

More rec amenities and sports facilities



Development:

More restaurants, retail, and town center
More employment and housing options



Housing:

More townhomes, condos, etc.

Up Next



Town of Oro Valley

- ▶ Thursday – Connections through Recreation: Parks and Rec
- ▶ Watch the Where OV Plays video and/or read the associated background report
- ▶ To do: Let staff know if you can attend graduation

Visit orovalleyaz.gov often for class resources.

Questions?

Contact Alex Chavez at achavez@orovalleyaz.gov or 520-229-4814

