

Public Meeting on General Plan Elements Complete...What's Next?



If you have been a faithful follower of the Coolidge General Plan 2025 process you will know that the City has completed the seven public meetings covering each of the Growing Smarter Elements required by the Arizona Revised Statutes for Cities having a population over 10,000 persons. So what's next you ask? The City Growth Management Department will now begin to develop an outline of the General Plan 2025 content which will include both written and graphical information on each of the plan elements together with a set of goals, objectives, policies and imple-

mentation strategies. It is said "a picture is worth a thousand words" and the Growth Management Staff's goal is to assemble a heavily illustrated document that is easy to comprehend and will be a useful planning tool for current and future decision makers.



City Staff will use the monthly Planning Commission meetings to present the progress of the Plan and to invite public participation and comment throughout the remainder of the General Plan 2025 process. The Planning Commission meetings are Wednesday evening following the first Sunday of each month at 7:00pm in the City Council Chambers located at 911 S. Arizona Boulevard.

The public is encouraged to attend and participate in this community planning activity.

Get Involved! General Plan Event Calendar:

2013

- January 15:** Kick-off Meeting/Land Use
- February 7:** Circulation
- March 7:** Open Space
- April 4:** Growth Areas
- May 2:** Cost of Development
- June 6:** Water Resources
- July 11:** Environmental Elements
- August 7:** Land Use Draft
- September 4:** Circulation Draft
- October 9:** Open Space Draft
- November 6:** Growth Areas Draft
- December 4:** Water Resources Draft



City of Coolidge
Department of Growth Management
(520) 723-6075



2014

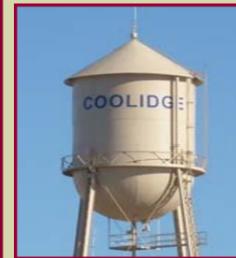
- January 8:** Environmental Draft
- February 5:** Development Cost Draft
- March:** Begin 60 Day Review Process
- May 5:** 60 Day Review Ends
- May 7:** Planning & Zoning Commission Hearing @ City Council Chambers
- May 14:** Planning & Zoning Commission Hearing @ Coolidge Library
- June 9:** City Council Review
- June 23:** City Council Adoption
- June 23:** Begin 120 Day Waiting Period
- November 4:** VOTE!!

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CITY OF COOLIDGE GENERAL PLAN

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Planning Meeting
September 4 @ 7:00pm
City Council Chambers



2025-The Future Today

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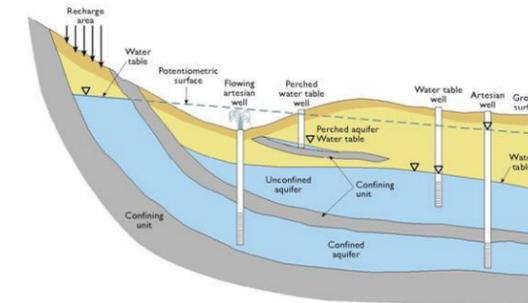
AUGUST 2013

The Impact of Growth on Our Environment

As years pass, and the development of Coolidge slowly changes the landscape around us, we must always consider the impact of growth on our natural environment. This was the topic discussed at the July General Plan 2025 public meeting. Growth Management Director Rick Miller and Geographic Information Specialist Tim Hansen prepared an outline of the important environmental concerns that should be addressed in the General Plan 2025 Update.

The management and preservation of natural resources is an important consideration in the planning process. Ground and surface water quality, air quality, soils conditions, geologic hazards, wildlife habitat must all be maintained at a high level to insure a safe, healthy and enjoyable environment for the current and future Citizens of Coolidge.

GROUNDWATER



The 1980 Arizona Groundwater Code recognized the need to aggressively manage the state's finite groundwater resources to support the growing economy. Areas with heavy reliance on mined groundwater were identified and designated as Active Management Areas (AMAs). The City of Coolidge planning area boundary is located within the Pinal AMA and is subject to regulations in the Groundwater Code.

In the Pinal AMA, where the economy is primarily agricultural, the management goal is to preserve that economy for as long as feasible, while

considering the need to preserve groundwater for future non-irrigation uses. The Pinal AMA is over 4,000 square miles consisting of five sub-basins. There are approximately 260,000 acres of non-indian farmland and over 800,000 acre feet of non-indian annual water use.

SURFACE WATER



The major drainages in the Pinal AMA include the Gila River, the Santa Cruz River, Aguirre Wash, Santa Rosa Wash, and Vekol Wash. Flows in the Gila and Santa Cruz Rivers recorded just downstream of the Pinal AMA result primarily from drainage and return flow from land irrigated mostly with groundwater. There is no recorded natural perennial flow in any of the other gauged drainages in the AMA though normally dry water-courses can quickly turn into raging streams after heavy monsoon storms.

Surface water from the Colorado River is also used in the Pinal AMA for agriculture use. The water is transported via the Central Arizona Project (CAP), a 336-mile aqueduct designed to carry about 1.5 million acre-feet of surface water annually from the Colorado River for use in Maricopa, Pinal and Pima Counties.



Continued Inside →

“Mother Nature may be forgiving this year, or next year, but eventually she’s going to come around and whack you. You’ve got to be prepared”
-Geraldo Rivera

NATURAL HAZARDS

There are two known natural hazard areas that can have an impact on development within the planning area; flooding along federally recognized floodplains, and fissures that can open up at the confluence of the base of mountain slopes and the flat deltas that extend out.



These hazards are well known and mapped and need to be avoided during the site development process.

WILDLIFE

As the City of Coolidge expands outward there is increased pressure on the wildlife occupying these developing areas. Care should be taken to re-locate vulnerable species that may be in the path of this expansion. Special consideration should be given to protect wildlife corridors that may exist to allow the migration of wildlife from one habitat to another without being landlocked.



These corridors are typically located in the larger riparian areas along natural washes. Pinal County and the Arizona Department of Game and Fish recently completed an assessment on wildlife connectivity and this assessment should be consulted when planning for development.



“For if one link in nature’s chain might be lost, another might be lost, until the whole of things will vanish piecemeal.”
-Thomas Jefferson

SOILS

The soils in the Coolidge planning area are typically fine, sandy or clay loams. These are fertile soils that have yielded edible and non-edible crops since the early native American ancestors established communities along the Gila River in ancient times.



Sand Silt Clay

“Earth is here so kind, that just tickle her with a hoe and she laughs with a harvest.” -Douglas Jerrold

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

Agricultural production continues to be a significant part of the local community and will continue to be so into the future. Cotton is the predominant crop but the area has produced watermelons, corn and alfalfa to name a few. The 2025 Land Use Plan illustrates a significant amount of agricultural land within the planning area.



AIR QUALITY

In 1967, the Pinal County Board of Supervisors established the Pinal County Air Quality Control District (PCAQCD) to provide for the local protection and regulation of air quality. The district has the primary responsibility for the administration of the County’s air quality program. Much of Western Pinal County was recently designated a non-attainment area for PM10 (dust particulates) by the federal government. The Pinal County Air Quality department is generally responsible for protecting the public’s interest in assuring that the air remains safe to breathe. This is accomplished through air quality standards which originate from federal, state and local laws and regulations.



“A small body of determined spirits fired by an unquenchable faith in their mission can alter the course of history.”
-Mahatma Gandhi

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Casa Grande Ruins National Monument was designated an archaeological preserve by the federal government in 1892 – the first such preserve in the United States. The City of Coolidge annexed the monument in 1983 and recent growth in the City of Coolidge has pushed up against the boundaries of this National treasure. A geographic information system (GIS) database has been developed for the areas adjacent to the monument as a planning and educational tool that should be consulted when planning a project to avoid archaeologically significant areas near the monument. Access to the GIS is through the National Parks Service, Casa Grande Ruins National Monument.



In 1990, the Arizona Legislature passed laws that protect human burials and associated objects on state, county and municipal lands and on private lands. On March 12, 2001, the Coolidge Mayor and City Council passed a Resolution describing how the City will enforce the Arizona state burial laws. Developers and public officials should contact the Arizona State Museum during the planning stage, long before planning construction.