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The New Tucson Green Times Southwest

Healthy Lifestyles for Contemporary Living

October 15 - November 15, 2010

Green infrastructure funding available for neighborhoods

Tucson, Ariz. – Watershed Management Group (WMG) is soliciting applications for its Neighborhood Leaders program, a unique training opportunity where neighborhood groups can learn to design, develop and install green infrastructure practices through funded projects in their own neighborhoods.

Green infrastructure (GI) refers to practices that mimic or enhance natural processes to retain and use stormwater. This approach seeks to address common urban environmental issues through strategies like water harvesting, removal or shading of impermeable surfaces, urban forestry, bicycle and pedestrian improvements, and the creation or enhancement of greenways, parks, and wildlife corridors.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, “forward-thinking communities in water-limited regions are increasingly recognizing green infrastructure as a cost-effective approach not only to stormwater management, but to water conservation as well.”

Green infrastructure provides a number of environmental, economic and social benefits, including beautification, reduced flooding and infrastructure maintenance costs, and water quality and habitat improvement.

The Neighborhood Leaders program, which starts in January 2011, will offer participants training in how to design, install and maintain GI practices by doing so in their own neighborhoods. Participants will learn by working directly with WMG staff to install the GI features through volunteer workshops.

Sample projects that groups may take on include retrofitting parking lots (such as of a local church, school, or business) with vegetated basins, building traffic circles or medians that calm traffic and use rainfall to irrigate street-shading trees, or improving vacant lots with vegetated water harvesting features. WMG will provide funds in the range of \$3,000-\$10,000 to install projects in each neighborhood that participates.

To learn more about green infrastructure or the Neighborhood Leaders program, WMG is offering free workshops in Tucson on October 23, November 20, and December 4 that offer a presentation on GI approaches, a tour of existing GI sites, and short working sessions to learn how GI strategies can work for your property or neighborhood.

This fall, WMG can also arrange free sessions with neighborhood groups that want to learn more.

For more information, including specific times and locations of events, visit online: www.watershedmg.org/green-streets, or contact James MacAdam, 520-396-3266, james@watershedmg.org.

Just imagine!



PHOTO: James Patrick

By Gretel Hakanson

The New Southwest – October 2010

What do you value about Tucson? What do you like about living here? What are the things you cherish most and why? If you could change anything about Tucson, what would it be? These are a few of the questions that Imagine Greater Tucson (IGT) wants to ask you.

IGT is an independent, non-partisan, community-based effort initiated by Keri Silvyn, and dedicated to protecting and enhancing our quality of life in the greater Tucson region. With a focus on long-term planning, IGT will facilitate a collaborative visioning process to create a shared vision for the region and then make that vision a reality.

Silvyn, a partner in the Lewis and

The inspiration behind imagining Tucson's future and then making it happen, Keri Silvyn, a partner in the Lewis and Roca law firm and one of the initiators of Imagine Greater Tucson, stands by her office window overlooking downtown Tucson.

Roca law firm, saw that a community-wide voice had been missing throughout most of Tucson's planning and growth for decades, and looked for a way to bring that whole voice and complete vision into Tucson's future.

The steps in IGT are designed not to steer directions, but to gather opinions. From researching similar organizations in cities such as Austin, Denver, and Salt Lake City, Eileen Fagan, director of IGT, says, “The process empowers the public by inviting them to voice what they want to see in the region, what they want to be preserved and what they want enhanced in the region. There are no

boundaries on that.”

In addition to relying on public input, the no boundaries aspect is what makes IGT unique. IGT does not focus on any one area or element of society. As a result, there are no restrictions on the solutions.

IGT's effort will consist of three phases: talk, think, action. The first phase, talk, involves gathering information from the public via surveys and facilitated “conversations.” Phase two, think, consists of analyzing that data and, along with more public input, determining the vision or preferred scenario for the future. Phase three,

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Health Alert: FDA to approve untested GMO salmon

The first genetically engineered (GE) meat approved for human consumption might soon be on its way to a supermarket near you – a fast-growing salmon developed by the AquaBounty Technologies.

If AquaBounty's GE salmon is approved for sale, the FDA might decide to put it right next to normal salmon in the meat case, without any special labeling. Consumers would be none the wiser.

We deserve to know if the meat on our plate is genetically engineered or not. Companies and FDA officials shouldn't keep us in the dark about the foods we eat or feed to our families.

No labeling is a dangerous precedent to set for genetically modified foods. Recent drug recalls have shown that just because the FDA approves something doesn't mean it's safe in the long term. Any adverse effects of genetically modified meat on

people might not show up until it's already been consumed by a large number of Americans. And by then it is too late. Without labeling, it will be even harder to recognize and track problems that might be caused by GE foods.

AquaBounty Technologies' own scientists are telling the FDA that its GE salmon is perfectly safe.

But there's no way they can prove these claims, and we can't dump unlabeled GE salmon into

the food supply on the word of the company that stands to make a profit.

The FDA is being heavily lobbied by AquaBounty Technologies about its forthcoming decision, and now needs to hear from concerned consumers whether GE salmon should be labeled or not.

It's up to the FDA to keep our food supply safe, and it's up to us to let the FDA know where consumers stand on GE foods:

Online: sign the petition to the FDA under the Take Action section at www.change.org.

Write a letter to the FDA: Food and Drug Administration 10903 New Hampshire Ave Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002

Call the FDA: 1-888-463-6332.

Source: change.org

Imagine Greater Tucson: a visioning in process

Continued from page 1

action, will be developing and implementing strategic plans to make that vision a reality.

Although IGT has been planning and working behind the scenes for about 18 months, the official kick-off of phase one happened on September 30. From now through next spring, IGT will be working to meet as many residents as possible through area events such as festivals, fairs and farmers markets. IGT has also begun scheduling interactive conversations with neighborhoods, businesses, organizations, associations and other groups in living rooms, board rooms and meeting spaces – to create a dialogue which will ultimately result in a common set of values.

“The beauty of the visioning process is that we don’t know what [the common values are] going to be because it comes down to identifying that through public involvement,” Fagan says. “People may say what they value in a lot of different ways but the core values usually come back to 10 or 12 things. We’re not as different as we think we are. That’s one of the things the visioning process brings out: It shows what we do have in common and what we all do want for the region.”

Sophisticated modeling software will factor in regional geographic information and be used to ensure geographic coverage, then will analyze the data and boil it down to a common set of values. Phase one will also culminate with a status quo scenario.

Fagan says the status quo scenario will tell us what the region will look like, “if we keep going along the way we’re going, if we keep making decisions the way we’re making them and we keep doing what we’re doing. [It will tell us] in 20, 30 or 40 years, if just left to the region’s devices, this is what the region will look like.”

Phase two is essentially a study of trade offs. It will compare the shared values that resulted from the visioning process with the status quo scenario. The modeling software will create three to four scenarios based on the common values, then the public will be invited to review and comment on these scenarios. As a result, Fagan says, “We will start to understand what do we want and what we are willing to trade off for that.”

The final result of phase two will be a preferred shared vision for our future that’s based on statistics and objectively determined. Public input, along with the modeling software, will be instrumental in shaping that final vision which will ultimately reflect the real vision of Tucson’s diverse population.

Determining how to get there and creating action plans to make that vision a reality will be the focus of phase three. “What we’ve seen from other visioning processes is elected officials, heads of associations and organizations – anyone who is able to influence or make decisions that impact the region – will then be involved in these action plans as it’s appropriate. They will fully understand that these action plans were developed by their constituents, by the people of the region.”

IGT plans to work in synergy with the other area organizations that are working to make Tucson a better place. “There are a lot of other plans in Tucson that are good plans. We’re not trying to circumvent those plans; we understand what’s involved in those plans,” Fagan says. “When it comes to our action plans and the strategy, those plans may be very applicable so we are not reinventing the wheel.”

Fagan says the public has been supportive and recognizes the value of long-term planning around a common set of values. In fact, the Tucson Young Professionals donated \$20,000 to IGT. “That just shows what the young people want. The young people



Eileen Fagan, director of Imagine Greater Tucson

want something different here and they believe in this process,” says Fagan.

While awaiting nonprofit status, the effort is an incubator under the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona. IGT received initial funding from Pima Association of Governments and will continue to rely on public and private funding.

“[IGT’s process] shows the power of people having a vision and aligning themselves to make that vision a reality. It’s really us understanding where we want to go and planning how to get there,” Fagan says.

Silvyn is pleased that her part of the visioning process is now underway.

To participate and make your voice heard, visit IGT’s website at www.imaginegreaterucson.org, take the survey, join the mailing list, attend a conversation (see the online calendar), volunteer and/or donate funds to the cause.

Author: Gretel Hakanson is a local freelance writer.



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- Organic Gardening Magazine

Farmers Markets

TUCSON & SOUTHERN ARIZONA MONDAYS

Marana Farm Stand, 3-6pm year round. 12375 N. Heritage Park Dr. (Tangerine exit west off I-10). Sara Rickard, 622-0525, ext. 241.

TUESDAYS

Community Food Bank Farmers Market, 8 am-Noon, year round. 3003 S. Country Club Rd. (between Ajo & 36th St.) Sara Rickard, 622-0525, ext. 242.

Farmers Market at Park Place Mall, 1-6pm, year round. South courtyard by Food Court at Mall, 5870 E. Broadway Blvd. (between Craycroft & Wilmot). Ed Dubois, 603-8116.

WEDNESDAYS

Downtown Mercado, 8am-2pm, year round. South lawn of Joel D. Valdez Main Library, 101 N. Stone Ave. Willow, 339-4008.

Green Valley Village Farmers & Artisans Market, 10am-2pm (Oct. - Apr.); 8:30am-12:30pm (May-Sept.). Esperanza & I-19 (Exit 65). Exit I-19 to the west take immediate left turn to enter the Green Valley Village shopping center. (Entrance is between Texaco gas station & Compass Bank. Annie Duncan, 520-490-3315.

THURSDAYS

Downtown Mercado, 8 am-2 pm, year round.

South lawn of Joel D. Valdez Main Library, 101 N. Stone Ave. Willow, 339-4008.

Santa Cruz River Farmers Market, 3-6pm (Oct. - April); 4-7pm (May - Sept.). Closed December. NE corner of Speedway Blvd. & Riverview (west of I-10 between Arizona School for Deaf & Blind and El Rio Neighborhood Center.) Sara Rickard, 622-0525, Ext. 242.

Sierra Vista Farmers Market, 11am-3pm, year round. NW corner of Carmichael and Wilcox, west end near Fort Huachuca’s Main Gate, downtown Sierra Vista, AZ. Valerie McCaffrey, 378-2973.

FRIDAYS

Broadway Village Farmers Market, 10am-2pm, year round. 2926 E. Broadway Blvd. (SW corner Broadway & Country Club). Ed Dubis, 603-8116.

NEW! Catalina Farmers Market, 10am-2pm. 77North MarketPlace, 16733 N. Oracle Rd., Catalina, AZ. Dawn Doubek, 520-825-4427.

NEW! Coronado de Tucson Farmers & Artisans Market, 8:30am-12:30pm. 15921 S. Houghton Rd., American Legion Post, Vail, AZ. Kenn Goldman, 870-1106.

El Presidio Mercado, 9am-2pm, year round. El Presidio Park, 160 W. Alameda St. (in plaza adjacent to Pima County Courthouse). Willow, 339-4008.

NEW! Tucson Farmers Market East, *Opening on Friday, Oct. 15*. 9am-1pm. Jesse Owen’s Park, 400 S. Sarnoff Dr. (just south of Broadway on Sarnoff). Manish Shah, Roxanne Garcia, 882-2157.

Tucson Green Art & Farmers Market, 9am-2pm (Oct. - April); 8am-1pm (May - Sept.) year round. NW corner of Catalina Highway and Tanque Verde Rd. Donna, 982-2645.

SATURDAYS

Bisbee Farmers Market. 8am-1pm (Apr-Aug); 9am-1pm (Sep-Nov). Vista Park in the Warren Section, Bisbee, AZ. Laura Smith, (520) 236-8409.

NEW! El Pueblo Farmers Market. (Starting Oct. 23). 9am-1pm, year round. SW corner Irvington Rd. & 6th Ave. in El Pueblo Park. Sara Rickard, 622-0525 x242.

Green Art & Farmers Market, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. NW corner of Tanque Verde & Catalina Highway (Chuy’s). Gay 449-1044 or Donna 982-2645.

Oro Valley Farmers Market, 9am-1pm (mid-Oct. to mid-April); 8am-Noon (Mid-

April to mid-Oct.) year round. Oro Valley Town Hall, 11000 N. La Cañada Dr. Manish Shah and Roxanne Garcia, 882-2157.

Plaza Palomino Food Faire, 10am-2pm (Oct.-April); 9am-1pm (May-Sept.). Year round. 2970 N. Swan Rd. (SE corner Swan & Ft. Lowell). Victor Navarro, 551-2020, or Thom Richardson, 826-3434.

Rincon Valley Farmers & Artisans Market, 9am-2pm (Oct. - April); 8am-1pm (May - Sept.). 12500 E. Old Spanish Trail. (4 miles east of Saguaro National Park/Rincon Mountain District). Laura Brumbelow, 591-2276.

St. David Farmers Market. 9am-Noon, May 1 - Oct. 30. 70 E. Patton (Hwy 80). Ron Millet 520-221-1074.

St. Philip’s Plaza Saturday Farmers Market, 9am-1pm, year round. St. Philip’s Plaza, 4280 N. Campbell Ave. (SE corner River & Campbell). Ed Dubis, 603-8116.

Tucson Green Art & Farmers Market, 9am-2pm (Oct. - April); 8am-1pm (May - Sept.) year round. NW corner of Catalina Highway and Tanque Verde Rd. Donna, 982-2645.

SUNDAYS

Patagonia Farmers Market, 9am-noon, March - Oct. Patagonia Community Garden, 4th Ave. and Smelter, Patagonia, AZ. Martha Kelly, 520-394-2752

Tucson Farmers Market Sundays at St. Philip’s Plaza, 9am-1pm (Mid-Oct. to mid-April); 8am-Noon (Mid-April to Mid-Oct.) year round. St. Philip’s Plaza, 4380 N. Campbell Ave. (SE corner River Rd. & Campbell.) Manish Shah, Roxanne Garcia, 882-2157.

SEDONA & NORTHERN ARIZONA FRIDAYS

Sedona Community Farmers Market. 8am-1pm (May to Oct. 15). Airport Mesa parking lot. Katrin Themlitz (928) 821-1133.

SUNDAYS

Sedona Community Farmers Market. Noon-4pm (Nov. to May). Airport Mesa parking lot. Katrin Themlitz (928) 821-1133

Flagstaff Community Market. 8am-Noon (May 30 to Oct. 10). Art and Heather Babbott, (928) 774-7781

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