

**Assignment 3**  
**Enhancing urban/suburban open spaces with sustainable strategies:**  
**Recreating an sustainable urban forest for Valley of the Moon**

This project focuses on re-creation of an urban forest in the historical property, Valley of the Moon (<http://www.tucsonvalleyofthemoon.com/>), located in the Rillito Bend Neighborhood (RBNA). It is a historical site that has appealed to visitors of all ages. Enhancements need to be low maintenance since the site is currently maintained by volunteers. The main focus of the project is exploration of opportunities for water harvesting and vegetated areas that will enhance gathering spaces, circulation, and the sense of mystery throughout the site. Overall, this design will create an appealing urban forest for the site and neighborhood that is low maintenance.

The site is in close proximity to the Rillito River and six washes flow from north of Prince Rd. toward the River. This flow provided irrigation for a fairly established mesquite urban forest in the heart of the neighborhood. More recently, development has disrupted the natural flow of water through the neighborhood. This, along with road improvements, increased paving, and removal of native trees has eliminated some of the natural riparian areas. RBNA neighbors wish to preserve the natural vegetation of the neighborhood and support the enhancement of the remnant urban mesquite forest.

Your program should include the following elements:

- Water harvesting strategies
  - The design must consider captured rainwater use and limited hand-irrigation for establishment of plantings.
- Low maintenance landscape.
  - Utilize Sonoran Desert plants as recommended by the Water Conservation Alliance of Southern Arizona.
    - Native mesquites (*Prosopis velutina*) will be the major tree type.
    - Chuparosa, Desert Hackberry, Fairy Duster, Jojoba, Shrubby Senna, Agave, Brittlebush, Desert Spoon, Globe Mallow, Turpentine Bush are some other suggested materials for understory.
- Design of circulation patterns/trails throughout the site, based on the addition of vegetated areas.
- Creation and suggested materials for one gathering area within the site.

**Requirements:**

Digital presentation board (36" x 42") including: 1) program (approx. one paragraph), 2) master plan of the entire site, 3) 10" scale landscape plan (planting plan with general specifications for other design elements) for one gathering area within the site, and 4) 3 details: 2 perspectives (1/8" scale), and a section (1/8" scale)

**You may work with a partner or individually on this project.**

**Schedule:**

Site visit  
Site layout to scale, concept plan reviews  
Preliminary plan reviews  
Final plan reviews 60%  
Final plan reviews 85%

**Presentations: Due in Dropbox: 11:59 p.m. (November 16)**

**October 7**  
**October 26**  
**October 28**  
**November 2**  
**November 16**  
**November 18**