



The Arizona We Want 2.0

City of Buckeye 2014



CITY OF BUCKEYE'S RESPONSE TO THE ARIZONA WE WANT GOAL 1



Education

Prepare Arizonans of all ages for the 21st century workforce.



WHAT CITIZENS WANT?

- Graduate high school students who are “college-career” ready.
- Align graduation requirements to national and international standards.
- Customize education to meet student goals.

Key Gallup Findings:

- 19% of Arizonans rate their community highly for the quality of its public schools.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN BUCKEYE, AZ?

- Buckeye has 9 public school districts and charter schools, and growing.
- The Litchfield District is the #1 elementary school district in Maricopa County.
- Buckeye Elementary School District is the fastest growing school district in Maricopa County.
- Verrado was named a top high school in Arizona by Newsweek and received the A+ School of Excellence Certification.
- Liberty Schools offer two STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) schools, and an international baccalaureate candidate school, and is being converted to a center for agribusiness and equine education.
- Foothills Elementary School in Sun City Festival was featured in the May 2013 Time magazine for it's use of a cutting edge adaptive learning system for math instruction called *knewton*.
- Saddle Mountain's Tartesso Elementary School has implemented 11 afterschool programs to extend the learning day, including Lego robotics, surf and chess club, odyssey of the mind, fitness club, good news club, art club, virtual field trip club, dance club, among others.

- Recreation works with surrounding colleges to offer topic talks to group of teens regarding college prep, college readiness (e.g. SAT info, ACT info, financial Aid info, college info).
- The Buckeye Public Library has completed the first year of the Read to Succeed Program which partnered with Buckeye Elementary School and tutored at-risk, below reading level first grade students that are now at reading level.
- Read On Buckeye is a community effort between the city, school leaders, community, and faith leaders. This group is responsible for creating awareness for increasing literacy, particularly from ages 0-5. Building bridge ways for kids entering school, preschool to elementary school bridges.
- Last year we collaborated with AZ SciTech for the first time in Buckeye history to promote S.T.E.M. in Buckeye.

NEXT STEPS FOR BUCKEYE, AZ

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

- West-MEC new Buckeye campus 2015.
- Estrella Mountain Community College extending campus.
- Teacher hands-on paid internships to teach customize education for city jobs.
- Strategic outreach targeting charter, private, and public educational institutes and facilities to expand offerings in concert with targeted economic development targets.
- Entrepreneurial and business education efforts to grow, retain and attract businesses to Buckeye.
- Collaborate with other west valley cities to streamline small business development programming.



Job Creation

Create quality jobs for all Arizonans.



[Click here for video](#)



WHAT CITIZENS WANT?

- Increased job opportunities.
- Job training programs for Arizonans of all ages.
- Lower business taxes.
- More investments in renewable energy.

Key Gallup Findings:

- 96% of Arizonans do not rate their community highly for economic conditions.
- 76% do not believe the next generation will have a higher standard of living than we have today.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN BUCKEYE, AZ?

- Mayor Meck sends a weekly e-blast with west valley job openings.
- Most robust pipeline of economic development prospects.
- New Tesla Supercharger Station which is a key facility in the I-10 Corridor between Tucson and Los Angeles.
- IGA with City of Phoenix turning a landfill into a solar field with the creation of APS jobs.
- Continuous partnerships with Luke Air Force base and Palo Verde Nuclear for job creation ([see VIDEO here](#)).
- Implementing a Business Retention & Expansion program to facilitate assistance for business owners, developers, and key stakeholders.
- 13 new business locates in 2014 through June 30.
- 800 new jobs and over 60 new businesses since 2011.
- Over 70,000 square feet of new commercial construction took place over the past year.

- Economic Development Catalyst Program helped rehabilitate 3 downtown businesses.
- Sales taxes continue to increase while most cities in the State are witnessing flat or decreasing sales tax revenue.
- Lowest sales tax of any city in Maricopa County for single ticket purchase items costing \$2,000 or more.
- Water and Sewer Infrastructure investment and expansion has yielded additional sites for industrial / commercial development.
- The Buckeye Educational Center (Buckeye's EMCC campus) provides convenient access to academic, job training and community education courses. Course offerings for traditional and non-traditional age students range from college credit, degree-seeking pathways, to short-term job training programs, and noncredit community education classes.

NEXT STEPS FOR BUCKEYE, AZ

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

- Actively pursuing 62 active prospects with potential job creation of 14,478 and capital investment of over \$7.5 Billion.
- City will see it's first car dealership in 2015 with the possibility of a full scale Auto Mall with I-10 visibility.
- Aggressive pursuit of retail, hotel, medical, and professional service businesses to locate on shovel ready sites along or adjacent to Interstate 10.
- Formation of a nonprofit adjunct organization – Public / Private partnership to help economic development efforts.
- Legislative initiatives to continuously improve Buckeye's competitiveness in the regional landscape in order to land high value, high impact projects.
- Buckeye has partnered with Center for Entrepreneurial Innovation and Seed Spot to bring in entrepreneurship training opportunities.



Environment & Water

Protect Arizona's natural environment, water supplies and open spaces.



WHAT CITIZENS WANT?

- Water management plans for all regions of Arizona—statewide, regional and municipal.
- Policies that balance population growth with preserving open space.

Key Gallup Findings:

- Of 14 features, Arizonans rate the state's natural beauty, outdoor parks and trails as its greatest assets.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN BUCKEYE, AZ?

- Expanding water capacity to increase economic development opportunities.
- Working with major utility providers to ensure development sites have necessary utilities in place for high demand, industrial users.
- Designing Phase I improvements to Skyline Park, an 8,675 acre mountain preserve in the south White Tank Mountains.
- Preparing consistent planning standards for development occurring adjacent to the Gila River in conjunction with Avondale, Goodyear, and Maricopa County. Additionally, the group will identify pilot projects with conceptual designs and cost estimates consistent with the El Rio Watercourse Master Plan.
- Establishing a non-profit White Tank Mountains Conservancy with Verrado DMB taking the lead that involves several organizations. The Conservancy will focus on 5 core areas: 1) Stewardship & Conservation, 2) Volunteerism, 3) Advocacy, 4) Regional Planning & Tourism, and 5) Research & Education

- Preparing the Gila River Restoration Program, which will focus on 4 core strategies to preserve the Gila River through Buckeye's municipal planning area, including a specific area plan, sand & gravel policies, a restoration plan for the river, and an in-lieu fee program to provide implementation funding.
- Updating Buckeye's 2005 Parks, Trails & Open Space Master Plan that will detail the vision for its green spaces over the next 10 years.
- Working with Maricopa County Parks and Recreation on the alignment of the Maricopa Trail through Buckeye's municipal planning area.
- Named Solar City U.S.A and Tree City U.S.A.

NEXT STEPS FOR BUCKEYE, AZ

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

- Construct Skyline Park access road and Phase I improvements to include trailheads, camping sites, picnic areas, and an environmental education programming area.
- Begin a trail inventory and prioritized list of improvements to existing trails in Skyline Park.
- Incorporate parks and open space standards into the City's Development Code and General Plan.
- Seek funding for first leg of the canal trail from Miller Road east to Baseline Road in downtown Buckeye.



Infrastructure

Build a modern, effective transportation system and infrastructure.



WHAT CITIZENS WANT?

- Mass transit systems that connect communities throughout the urban regions of the state.
- New highways and roads to reduce congestion.
- Improvements in airports and rail systems to support trade.
- Statewide high-speed broadband.

Key Gallup Findings:

- 22% of Arizonans rate their community highly for its highways and freeway system.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN BUCKEYE, AZ?

- Actively reviewing streets/roadways and freeways to ensure preservation and/or expansion of active roadways.
- Buckeye is cooperating with ADOT and neighboring cities to help the completion of Loop 303.
- Buckeye is reviewing the Google Fiber City Checklist to prepare for Google's next round of roll outs.
- Constructed first Park and Ride allowing mass transit access from Buckeye to Phoenix.
- Increase in bus routes from Ajo to Phoenix.
- Comprehensive Pavement Management Plan for the greater than 1,000 lane miles of roadways throughout Buckeye.

- Working with ADOT and FAA to grow Buckeye Municipal Airport, leveraging nearly \$10 million in grants over the past ten years.
- A bus route rerouted through the Watson area to increase ridership in the areas most needed

NEXT STEPS FOR BUCKEYE, AZ WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

- Solution for high pressure natural gas to serve industrial / rail corridor.
- Transportation Master Plan for all 600 square miles of Buckeye.
- Widening of I-10.
- Future I-11.
- SR 30 multi-modal & utility corridor
- Increase bus routes and rail.
- Strategic Infrastructure solutions for natural gas to coincide with additional infrastructure investment in water and sewer capacity and growth.



Healthcare

Provide health insurance for all, with payment assistance for those who need it.



WHAT CITIZENS WANT?

- Health insurance that is publicly available to all Arizonans with payment assistance for those who need it.
- Healthcare discounts for people who adopt healthy lifestyle behaviors.
- More doctors and healthcare professionals to provide primary healthcare services.

Key Gallup Findings:

- Only 23% of Arizonans rate their community highly for accessible healthcare.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN BUCKEYE, AZ?

- Significant interest in medical professional office and service delivery expansion: Urgent Care & West Valley ER.
- The City of Buckeye Fire Department is partnering with Banner Estrella Hospital to start a pilot program directed at reducing re-admittance costs (primarily re-admittances occurring within the first 30 days of the initial hospitalization).
- This partnership will reduce re-admittance costs for the Banner Estrella facility
 - Under the Affordable Care Act, re-admittance within 30 days from the initial hospitalization is free to the patient. *To be phased in January 2015.*

- The primary goals of the Buckeye Fire Department during this pilot program are: to achieve and present proven prevention accomplishments gained by this pilot program, expand the Fire Department's current public health care role and gain trust within local communities, expand revenue, manage call volume, utilize fire station locations to benefit of citizens, ACOs, and the Fire Department and gain control in an ever-changing healthcare system.
- This should reduce the number of re-admittances thereby reducing Banner Estrella's re-admittance costs as well as provide opportunities for the City of Buckeye Fire Department to provide primary healthcare services to Buckeye citizens and to gather value-added data for determining an appropriate fee structure in 2015.

NEXT STEPS FOR BUCKEYE, AZ WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

- Recruit specialty medical services, senior care, and additional services for residents
- The primary goals of the Buckeye Fire Department during this pilot program are: (1) to achieve and present proven prevention accomplishments gained by this pilot program; (2) expand the Fire Department's current public health care role and gain trust within local communities; (3) expand revenue; (4) manage call volume; (5) utilize fire station locations to benefit of citizens, ACOs, and the Fire Department; and (6) to gain control in an ever-changing healthcare system.



Young Talent

Make Arizona “the place to be” for talented young people.



WHAT CITIZENS WANT?

- Quality jobs.
- More “places” where young people can gather.
- Protection for the environment.
- Culture of openness and opportunity for all.

Key Gallup Findings:

- Only 6% of young Arizonans believe their community offers good job opportunities.
- 19% rate their community highly for its nightlife; 20% believe it’s a good place to meet people.
- 42% give high marks to Arizona’s open spaces.
- Young Arizonans believe leaders need to be “willing to listen.”

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN BUCKEYE, AZ?

- Partnered with ASU master design class for ideas about Buckeye’s future growth.
- Starting entrepreneurial and business germination programming for Buckeye residents and businesses in concert with new Sundance Library.
- The Recreation Division is currently working with Maricopa County Youth Workforce program and Arizona Call-A-Teen to provide work experience for youth workers along with career readiness training.
- We currently offer a junior lifeguard program which allows youth who are not old enough to work the chance to obtain lifeguard training and volunteer experience working at our aquatic center alongside trained and professional staff.

- The Buckeye Public Library provides English as a Second Language (ESL) tutoring to adult students to assist with furthering their educational goals of reading and writing in English.
- We are working with youth to not only provide opportunities to volunteer, but to learn the importance of community involvement and building relationships.
- Partnering with the Three C’s Leadership Prep Academy, a local non-profit on a youth mentorship program at Recreation Center and Smash Bullying Campaign at the Spring 2014 Buckeye Demolition Derby. Three C’s stands for Character Development, Career Preparation, Community Involvement.

NEXT STEPS FOR BUCKEYE, AZ

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

- Add Entrepreneurial programs and co-working space in new economic development center.
- Work with Mayor and City Council on forming a Youth Advisory Council.
- Host Leaders In Training program for youth looking to get involved and volunteer in programs.
- Working with schools for youth-led business groups to focus on marathon giving students experience in marketing, selling, event planning and sponsorships.
- Create a vibrant and technology friendly dedicated space for teens to gather in the new branch library that will open in early 2015.

CITY OF BUCKEYE'S RESPONSE TO THE ARIZONA WE WANT GOAL 7

Civic Engagement & Community Involvement

Empower citizens and increase civic engagement.



WHAT CITIZENS WANT?

- Increasing citizenship participation in all aspects of citizenship.
- Leaders who understand complex issues and work across party lines.
- A deeper sense of community connection.
- More “neighborliness.”

Key Gallup Findings:

- 10% of Arizonans believe that elected officials represent their interests.
- 24% believe the next generation will have a better standard of living than we have today.
- 25% believe Arizona is a good place to meet people.
- 37% believe they are treated with respect at all times in their community.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN BUCKEYE, AZ?

- Staff and Council involved in Buckeye Leadership and Leadership West.
- Police citizen engagement programs like: GAIN, neighborhood meetings, block watch, citizen academies, public safety fairs.
- Award-winning School Resource Officer program.
- Embraced community leadership volunteer opportunities through our work with Council appointed advisory boards, non-profit agencies and citizen volunteers of all ages.
- The city engaged volunteers who provided over 16,000 hours of service in the community in FY 14.
- Currently utilizing a committee with local residents serving on committee for Buckeye's first marathon.

- In the process of a complete technology refresh for the city in order to provide more services to the public, including transparency for government transactions.
- Engage in traditional media, social media, and e-newsletters through many departments for optimal reach of communications to our residents.
- The Mobile Events Unit was created to connect the community. The unit travels to different Buckeye neighborhoods to provide programs in the areas of Health and Wellness, Nature and Outdoors, and Cultural Arts.
- Buckeye has been named a Playful City USA for three years in a row.
- Organized community cleanups south of entrance to Skyline Park with 1,500 hours of volunteer hours contributed and 68,000 pounds of trash removed.

NEXT STEPS FOR BUCKEYE, AZ WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

- More fully utilize and engage our Friends of the Library, Friends of Recreation and Historical Society Organizations.
- Develop an Arts & Cultural Program by partnering with the West Valley Arts Council that will utilize the 17,000 sq. ft. new branch library space that will open early 2015.
- Engage active adults through Senior and Law Enforcement Together (SALT).
- Adding a marathon, fitness in the park and farmer's market events as part of the Let's Move! Initiative, focusing on health and wellness for our community and making major strides towards getting residents active.
- Provide opportunities for public involvement and input in the update to the Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan.